

BABLERS

Family TIMALIIDÆ

Vol. I., p. 217.

THE members of this family, the characters of which have been given in Volume I., constitute a very important and conspicuous element in the bird population of the Malayan hills, and are found in every kind of jungle, some frequenting the ground or low bushes and trees, and others the upper boughs of more lofty trees. In their associations and other habits they are equally varied, some being solitary or going about in pairs, while many are noisy and conspicuous birds, congregating in quite large parties of their own and other species.

All, however, are sedentary birds, never migrating, and in many cases inhabit an altitudinal zone that is strictly circumscribed.

The group includes several forms that are peculiar to the Malay Peninsula, at least so far as subspecies are concerned, though none are very markedly distinct. Their geographical affinities are about equally divided between species that are distinctly Himalayan, such as *Mesia* and *Siva*, and others that are distinctly Malaysian, such as *Rhinocichla*.

The classification of these birds is at present in a very inchoate state, and their real inter-relationships are little understood, and in many cases only guessed. The keys given both to sub-families and to their members are therefore very artificial, though it is hoped that they will serve the primary purpose of identification.

KEY TO THE MALAYAN SUB-FAMILIES OF TIMALIIDÆ

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|---|---|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 | { | Sexes alike in plumage | 2 |
| | | Sexes different in plumage; wing parti-
coloured; tail fairly long | <i>Liothrichinæ</i> , p. 178 |
| 2 | { | Wing more pointed; tarsi and feet less
powerful; strictly arboreal | <i>Sibiinæ</i> , p. 184 |
| | | Wing more rounded; tarsi and feet more
powerful, less strictly arboreal | 3 |
| 3 | { | Usually crested or with specialized head
plumage; very gregarious; larger birds,
with very powerful tarsi and feet | <i>Pomatorhininæ</i> , p. 188. |
| | | Not crested, or not conspicuously so, not
specially gregarious; smaller birds | <i>Timaliinæ</i> , p. 197 |

Sub-family LIOTHRICHINÆ

Shrike Babblers and Silver-ears

THE association of the various genera forming this group is not a very natural one, at any rate when considered from the standpoint of habits or from colour pattern, though the curious liability to fading of the plumage possessed by many forms is evidence of genetic relationship.

The green bulbuls and ioras, referred to this sub-family by some authors, must, however, in any event, be excluded, and retained in a separate family if they are not united to the other bulbuls, *Pycnonotidæ*. Very much more anatomical research remains to be accomplished before any final arrangement of these difficult groups can be profitably attempted.

All four species here described are strictly confined to the higher mountains.

KEY TO THE MALAYAN SPECIES OF LIOTHRICHINÆ

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| 1 | { | Tail about as long as wing, or not materially shorter | <i>Mesia argentauris argentauris</i> , p. 178 |
| | | Tail very decidedly shorter than wing | |
| 2 | { | Bill nearly as long as head, comparatively slender, lightly notched | <i>Cutia nipalensis cervinocrissa</i> , p. 180 |
| | | Bill much shorter than head, stout and strongly notched | |
| 3 | { | Larger, greyish or dull yellowish white beneath | } <i>Pteruthius flaviscapis æralatus</i> , p. 181 |
| | | Smaller, brighter yellow beneath; throat, chestnut in male | |

Mesia argentauris argentauris

The Silver-eared Mesia

PLATE 18 (*lower figures: upper, female; lower, male*)

Mesia argentauris, Hodgs., *Ind. Review*, 1838, p. 88 (Nepal); Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vii., 1883, p. 645; id. *P.Z.S.*, 1886, p. 352; Oates, in Hume's *Nests and Eggs Ind. Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1890, p. 160; Oates and Reid, *Cat. Birds' Eggs, Brit. Mus.*, iv., 1905, p. 62, pl. 4, fig. 10; Robinson, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, ii., 1909, p. 205.

Mesia argentauris argentauris, Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1922, p. 354.

Description.—*Adult male*.—A bright yellow loreal spot, rest of the lores, sides of the face and a stripe below the ear coverts, top of the head and nape, black; ear coverts and a large patch beneath them, silvery grey, brighter on the upper margin; hind neck with a broad collar of orange, shading into

a greyish back, mantle and rump, which are washed with greenish olive; longest upper tail coverts, crimson. Primaries and outer secondaries, brownish black, edged on the outer webs with orange, becoming paler yellow towards the tips of the primaries; the bases of the primaries and secondaries, deep shining crimson, forming a patch on the wing; inner secondaries, greyish; wing coverts as the back, but faintly edged with yellow; under wing coverts and axillaries, olive-grey, the edge of the wing bright yellow; primaries and secondaries, dusky on their inner aspect, edged with pale yellow on their inner webs. Tail feathers, blackish, darker towards the tips, the outer pairs edged with yellow on the outer webs, the centre pair dusky towards the base; beneath, paler, the shafts, whitish. Beneath, throat and breast, bright yellow, inclining to orange, sometimes with a suggestion of crimson; belly and flanks, dusky olive; thighs more greyish; under tail coverts, crimson.

Adult female.—Upper and under tail coverts deep orange, not crimson; patch at the base of the primaries more orange, less crimson.

Immature.—Like the adult female, but the head more brownish black, with a wash of dull yellowish green, the feathers often tipped or edged with whitish.

Note.—This species is very liable to fading both in life and post-mortem; the crimson and yellow become pale and less brilliant, the greenish flush on the mantle is lost, and the under surface becomes much paler.

Soft Parts.—Iris, brown; bill, deep yellow, inclining to orange; feet, wax-yellow.

Dimensions.—Total length, 6·7 to 7·2 in.; wing, 2·9 to 3·2 in.; tail, 3 to 3·3 in.; tarsus, 0·9 to 1 in.; bill from gape, 0·6 in.; culmen, 0·45 to 0·5 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—From the northern border to Southern Selangor, on the mountains only; Pahang.

Extralimital Range.—Very widely spread along the Himalayas to Assam, south to Manipur, Burma and the Shan States to Tenasserim and Peninsular Siam. Replaced in China, Tonkin and South Annam by representative subspecies and in the mountains of Sumatra by a very brilliant bird, *Mesia a. laurinae*, with a deep crimson breast.

Nidification.—Not recorded in the Malay Peninsula. In the Himalayas the species breeds in May and June, building a cup-shaped nest, in low scrub and forest, a few feet from the ground. The clutch is three or four in number, the eggs somewhat oval and only slightly glossed; the ground-colour is whitish, with small and irregular spots and streaks, usually in a zone near the larger end, of reddish or purplish. The average size is given as 0·83 by 0·63 in. (*Baker*).

Habits.—This bird is found on nearly every mountain of any height in the Malay Peninsula, excluding those of "insular" type, such as Kedah Peak and Mount Ophir, but not below 3000 ft., ascending to the summits. It prefers gullies and fairly open spaces, not heavy or dark jungle, nor is it found on lofty trees, but in scrub and brushwood, and especially amongst recently fallen timber. Sometimes seen in pairs, it more commonly associates in small flocks, usually of eight or ten individuals, but occasionally very much larger. It is a lively and sprightly little bird, not in the least shy, but rather the

reverse, and incessantly in motion, searching the twigs and branches for ants and other insects, on which it mainly lives, though fruits and berries are also eaten. The note is a persistent, chirping twitter, not very loud, but very distinct, and I have never heard the bird whistle.

Note.—The birds inhabiting Tenasserim, Peninsular Siam, the main range of the Peninsula and Gunong Tahan are rather duller coloured than those from the Himalayas, but not sufficiently so to merit a name. Those from Gunong Tahan, taken as a series, have the ear coverts darker than any others, while the Larut Hill birds are the brightest.

The male bird figured is from Gunong Kerbau, Perak, 5000 ft. ; a freshly moulted bird, shot in March. The female is from Gunong Tahan, 5300 to 6000 ft., shot in June, in somewhat older feather, and in part illustrates the effect of fading, both in life and post-mortem.

Cutia nipalensis cervinocrissa

The Malayan Cutia

Cutia cervinocrissa, Sharpe, *P.Z.S.*, 1888, p. 276 (Gunong Batu Puteh, 4000 ft. ; Perak) ; Ogilvie-Grant, *Fascic. Malay., Zool.*, iii., 1906, p. 80 ; Robinson, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, ii., 1909, p. 205.

Description.—*Adult male.*—A band from the lores through the eye, broadening on the sides of the neck and joined by a narrow line on the nape, black ; top of the head, blue-grey ; upper scapulars, clay-brown ; mantle, back and upper tail coverts, orange-chestnut, deepest on the upper tail coverts. Wing coverts, black, with a glossy black edging. Primaries and secondaries, black, minutely tipped with white, all except the outermost, edged with greyish blue towards the base, becoming more extensive inwardly, and forming a patch on the wing. Axillaries and under wing coverts, white, with a blackish patch on the outer ones, the edge of the wing, white ; inner aspect of the wing, slaty, with a diagonal bar of white, formed by edgings to the inner webs. Tail feathers, black, washed with blue and narrowly tipped with white, the centre pair with the region of the shaft orange-chestnut on the basal half. Beneath, cheeks, throat and breast, silky white ; the flanks with black bars, becoming much broader and distinct on the lower flanks ; middle of the abdomen, tips of the flank feathers, thigh and under tail coverts, deep buff, deepest on the latter.

Adult female.—Like the male, but the stripe through the eye dark maroon-brown, and the mantle and back with the ground-colour dark clay-brown, merging into the rufous chestnut of the upper tail coverts, each feather with a black shaft stripe broadening towards the tip. Beneath, with the black barring of the flanks very distinctly heavier.

Soft Parts.—Iris, brown or light brown ; bill, slate, darker on culmen ; feet, chrome ; “claws, white” (*Wray*).

Dimensions.—Total length, 6·5 to 7·5 in. ; wing, 3·3 to 3·6 in. ; tail, 2·2 to 2·5 in. ; tarsus, 1·05 to 1·2 in. ; culmen, 0·75 to 0·9 in. ; bill from gape, 0·9 to 1·05 in. Females are distinctly smaller than males.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—From South Perak to Southern Selangor, only at high altitudes. Peculiar to the Malay Peninsula.

Extralimital Range.—The typical form is found in the Himalayas, east to Assam and south to Manipur and Central Burma (Karen-nee), but not in Tenasserim. Another very distinct subspecies is known from French Indo-China.

Nidification.—Unknown.

Habits.—This is by no means a common bird and extremely local, though in one or two localities, especially between Semangko Pass and Fraser's Hill, it is at times fairly numerous. It is met with in parties of five or six up to a dozen or more, and I have seen it usually on low trees and fallen timber in fairly open spaces, frequently on the edges of land-slides, associating with *Mesia*, *Alcippe* and *Siva*. As Wray notes, and as is also the case with the other races, it is also found on high trees. Wray describes its call as "a loud whistling double note, repeated several times in succession"; I have never heard it.

Members of this genus are unknown in the Malayan Islands, and the present form is very widely isolated from its congeners. Though possibly correctly placed near *Pteruthius* the genus is a very distinct one, and an account of its nesting habits is much needed, as well as specimens in spirit for anatomical purposes.

Pteruthius flaviscap̄is æralatus

Tickell's Shrike Babbler

Pteruthius æralatus, Tickell, *Journ. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, xxiv., 1855, p. 267 (Tenasserim); Sharpe, *Cat. P.Z.S.*, 1887, p. 440; Hartert, *Nov. Zool.*, ix., 1902, p. 576.

Pteruthius æralatus æralatus, Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1922, p. 333.

Pteruthius flaviscap̄is æralatus, Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam.*, v., 1924, p. 303.

Description.—*Adult male.*—The feathers of the head very full, forehead, nape, lores, sides of the head and ear coverts, glossy black; a broad white stripe on each side of the crown, behind the eye; upper surface, dark grey, the tail coverts tipped with black, and the longest ones almost black. Wing coverts, black; primaries and outer secondaries, blackish brown, externally edged with glossy black, somewhat truncate at their tips, which are pure white, sharply defined; inner secondaries, golden ochre on their outer webs, mainly chestnut on the inner ones, which are tipped with black; inner aspect of the wing, dark fuscous, the inner webs of the primaries edged with white, broader towards the base, axillaries and under wing coverts, greyish blackish towards the edge of the wing, which is white; tail feathers, glossy white. Under surface, greyish white, usually separated from the black of the sides of the head by a narrow pure white line; middle of the abdomen and the

under tail coverts a pure white; the flanks generally more or less flushed with rosy or pale pink, apparently somewhat fugacious.

Adult female.—Quite different from the male. Upper surface, including the sides of the head, dull greenish grey, the head greyer. The primaries brownish, the outer ones and the secondaries with narrow, hoary edges to the outer webs, the inner ones and the outer secondaries with broader dull green ones. Innermost secondaries with the inner webs dull chestnut. Centre tail feathers, greenish; remainder, mostly black, greenish on the outer webs and with white tips, broadest on the outer pairs. Beneath, dull pale greyish buff, whiter on the middle of the belly and with a faint rosy flush on the flanks.

Immature.—Young birds of both sexes do not appear to differ materially from the adult females.

Soft Parts.—Iris, chestnut; bill, black on culmen, remainder plumbeous; feet, pale flesh; claws, dark. Davison records the iris of birds from Tenasserim as varying considerably—slaty grey, pale greenish blue or deep brown. Wray records those of the Perak bird as “brown,” but the “Skeat Expedition” as “slate-colour”; those of the nearly allied Sumatra bird by myself and Jacobson as blue or grey, and of the Annam form by Kloss as grey. The differences may be due to age or sex or, possibly, to post-mortem changes; further information is much desired.

Dimensions.—Total length, about 6 in.; wing, 3 to 3·2 in.; tail, 2·1 to 2·3 in.; tarsus, 1·05 to 1·2 in.; bill from gape, 0·8 in.; culmen, 0·6 in. Females are usually slightly, but not materially, smaller than the males.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—From the northern border south to Southern Selangor; always at some elevation.

Extralimital Range.—The hill ranges of Burma and Siam; south from the Yunnan border to Tenasserim. Closely allied races are found in Java, Borneo, Sumatra, the mountains of French Indo-China and South China.

Nidification.—Of this form, unknown. Allied races build in high trees and lay pinkish white eggs without gloss, the ground-colour white or pinkish white, with purplish brown specks and spots, usually congregated near the larger end.

Habits.—Though widely distributed over all the higher hills of the Peninsula in the southern portions, never found much below 3000 ft., this handsome bird is nowhere common, and is apt to escape notice, as it generally feeds on high trees. It is usually found in pairs, very rarely in small parties, and feeds on a mixed diet of fruit, seeds and insects. Males have the habit of perching on exposed boughs, with the head sunk and the feathers bunched out in the attitude of a robin on a frosty day. I have never seen it on or even very near the ground. Davison says its note is a double whistle. I cannot say that I associate the bird with any special call.

Note.—Birds from the more southern parts of the Peninsula are very variable in the colour of the under parts of the male, which range from almost white to a very dark slaty grey, in this respect approaching the bird from the mountains of Sumatra which has been named *Pt. æ. camaranoi*. The white line bordering the throat is also a very variable feature.

*Pteruthius ænobarbus tahanensis***The Tahan Shrike Babbler**

Pteruthius tahanensis, Hartert, *Nov. Zool.*, ix., 1902, p. 576 (Gunong Tahan, 5000 to 7000 ft.); Ogilvie-Grant, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, iii., 1908, p. 22; Robinson, *op. cit.*, ii., 1909, p. 205.

Pteruthius melanotis tahanensis, Rothschild, *Nov. Zool.*, xxxiii., 1926, p. 280.

Description.—*Adult male.*—Upper surface, greenish; extreme forehead rather more yellow; nape, in very adult specimens, somewhat greyish. Lesser upper wing coverts as the back; median and greater series, glossy black, with broad white tips, forming a double bar on the wing. Primaries, brownish, outer webs narrowly edged with dull green, becoming paler towards the tips; secondaries, brownish green, sometimes faintly tipped with whitish; inner aspect of the wing, fuscous, the inner webs edged with whitish, the edges broader towards the base, forming a diagonal bar, axillaries and under wing coverts and edge of wing, silky white, with a faint yellow tinge; middle pair of tail feathers as the back; the remainder mainly black, with white tips increasing outwardly, and narrow white edgings on both webs. Lores, blackish, a white ring round the eye, and a black patch behind it; a broad, grey-blue stripe commencing above and behind the eye; ear coverts, dark green, their terminal halves yellowish, bordered behind by a blackish line. Beneath, chin, upper throat and malar region, ochraceous rufous, this colour abruptly terminated; rest of the under surface bright yellow, greener on the flanks, the bases of the feathers, grey; thighs, grey, the feathers broadly tipped with yellow.

Adult female.—The wing bars deep salmon-buff, not white; the black on the sides of the face absent; the throat very much paler ochraceous and the rest of the under surface whitish, with only a faint tinge of yellow.

Immature.—Still whiter beneath than the adult female, the ochraceous of the throat almost absent, and the grey postocular stripe reduced in extent.

Soft Parts.—Iris, dark brown; bill, bluish lead-colour, paler at the tip; feet, pinkish flesh; soles, orange.

Dimensions.—Total length, about 5 in.; wing, 2·4 to 2·6 in.; tail, 1·6 to 1·8 in.; tarsus, 0·75 in.; bill from gape, 0·45 in.; culmen, 0·35 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—South Perak to Southern Selangor; Pahang, only in the mountains.

Extralimital Range.—The form described is peculiar to the Peninsula. Allied races occur in the Himalayas, over the whole of Indo-China, in Java, somewhat doubtfully in Sumatra, but not in Borneo.

Nidification.—Unknown.

Habits.—The only place where this bird is at all abundant is on the Plateau in Gunong Tahan, between 5000 to 6000 ft. It has been met with sparingly at Fraser's Hill and on Cameron's Highlands, but does not descend below about 4500 ft. In habits it closely resembles the preceding species, but

frequents lower trees and bushes, in gullies and in fairly open country, usually in pairs or family parties. On Tahan it was very tame and inquisitive, but I have never heard any very distinctive note.

Sub-family SIBIINÆ

Sibias, Sivas and Yellow-crests

Vol. I., p. 218.

THIS section of the family *Timaliidæ* is essentially Himalayan and Indo-Chinese, though a few genera extend into the Indo-Malayan regions, where they are nearly always found at considerable elevations. They are, as a group, very arboreal in habit, with slender tarsi and weak feet, and are usually found in small flocks. They make cup-shaped nests in trees and lay spotted eggs.

The four Malayan species are all found in the mountain zone to which three are confined.

KEY TO THE MALAYAN SPECIES OF SIBIINÆ

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|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | { | Tail very long, nearly twice the wing in length | <i>Sibia picaoides wrayi</i> , p. 184 |
| | | Tail shorter than, or not greatly exceeding, the wing | 2 |
| 2 | { | Tail distinctly shorter than wing, the feathers normal; dull, greenish yellow above, with a conspicuous crest | <i>Erpornis xantholeuca interposita</i> , p. 185 |
| | | Tail slightly longer than wing, the feathers obliquely truncated at tip; crest not conspicuous | 3 |
| 3 | { | Dull brown above; throat uniform; wing feathers edged with blue | <i>Siva cyanouroptera sordidior</i> , p. 186 |
| | | Yellowish grey above; throat cross-barred; wing feathers edged with orange | <i>Siva strigula malayana</i> , p. 187 |

Sibia picaoides wrayi

The Malay Long-tailed Sibia

Sibia wrayi, Ogilvie-Grant, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club.*, xxv., 1910, p. 98 (Batang Padang Mountains, South Perak).

Sibia simillima (Salvad.), Sharpe, *P.Z.S.*, 1886, p. 352; *id. op. cit.*, 1888, p. 274; Butler, *Journ. Straits Branch, Roy. Asiat. Soc.*, No. 32, 1899, p. 13.

Sibia picaoides simillima, Hartert, *Nov. Zool.*, ix., 1902, p. 567.

Description.—*Adult.*—Sexes alike. Tail, very long and much graduated;

dark slaty grey, becoming paler and browner on the rump and upper tail coverts. Wing coverts, primaries and secondaries, sooty brown, the four outer secondaries with a white spot on the base of the outer webs, bordered with pale lavender-grey towards the base; inner aspect of wing paler, the edges of the primaries whitish on the inner web, axillaries, pale brownish grey. Under surface, grey, darker on the throat and breast, paler on the abdomen and under tail coverts, but with little or no drabby tint on the flanks. Tail feathers, brownish, the centre pair paler, sometimes with whitish brown shafts, all with broad ashy grey tips.

Immature.—Not apparently different from the adults, but with shorter tails.

Soft Parts.—Iris, reddish brown, chocolate-brown, sometimes scarlet (?); bill, black, yellowish at the gape in younger birds; feet, slaty or plumbeous.

Dimensions.—Total length, 12 to 13 in.; wing, 4.7 to 5 in.; tail, 8 to 9.5 in.; tarsus, 1.15 to 1.25 in.; bill from gape, 1 in.; culmen, 0.75 in.

Nidification.—Not recorded in Malaya. The Himalayan form builds a nest of moss in high trees. Eggs ascribed to the species are like blackbirds' eggs, greyish or greenish blue in ground-colour, freckled with pale reddish brown.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—From North Perak to Southern Selangor, and in Pahang, but only in the mountains. Not apparently in Peninsular Siam.

Extralimital Range.—The bird described is peculiar to the Malay Peninsula. The typical race occurs from the Himalayas, through Assam to the Shan States and Northern Tenasserim. Another subspecies occurs in Sumatra.

Habits.—Very abundant on all the hills of the Malay Peninsula, in the main range, the Larut Hills, and on Gunong Tahan and Benom in Pahang, where, however, it is not so noticeable. It is exclusively arboreal in its habits and is met with on the branches of the taller trees, not so much in brushwood or undergrowth. It is usually seen in parties of four or five, hopping from bough to bough, and searching the leaves, etc., for insects. Wray mentions parties of twenty or thirty, but I have never seen such large flocks as this. It is not at all a shy bird, though neither so noisy nor so inquisitive as the laughing or babbling thrushes. The note is little more than a rather shrill twitter, hardly a whistle, as Jerdon describes the call of the allied Indian bird. Butler syllabizes it as "*kree-kree-kree*."

Erpornis xantholeuca interposita

The White-bellied Herpornis

Vol. I., p. 218.

The small size, with the tail shorter than the wing and with the feathers not truncated, the strongly crested head, and the uniform, glaucous, greenish yellow coloration above, with greyish white under parts, will serve to distinguish this species. Total length, 4.7 to 5 in. It is common on most of the hills of the Peninsula, but only at the lower levels, being very rare above 4000 ft.

*Siva cyanouroptera sordidior***Wray's Dull Siva**

Siva sordidior, Sharpe, *P.Z.S.*, 1888, p. 276 ; Butler, *Journ. Straits Branch, Roy. Asiat. Soc.*, No. 32, 1899, p. 13 ; Ogilvie-Grant, *Fascic. Malay., Zool.*, iii., 1906, p. 80 ; Robinson, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, v., 1915, p. 106.

Siva cyanouroptera sordidior, Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam.*, v., 1923, p. 302.

Description.—*Adult.*—Sexes alike. Tail much graduated, the feathers strongly truncated at the tips ; feathers of the crown only slightly elongated. Whole upper surface, including the wing coverts, dull earthy brown, a little darker on the forehead, but with no streaks on the head and no blue tinge. Primary coverts and primaries, dark brown, the latter violet-lilac on the outer webs of the outer ones, the inner ones with hoary edges. Inner aspect of wing, brownish, with whitish edges on the inner webs of the primaries, axillaries, under wing coverts and edge of wing, white, with a creamy tinge. Tail, brown above, the centre feathers paler, the outer, darker, edged with blue towards the base ; beneath, with the outer pair almost entirely white on the inner webs, the other pairs with decreasing white tips and narrow white edgings on the inner webs. Sides of the head, brown, the lores pale, the ear coverts in many cases strongly streaked with fawn. Beneath, dull drabby white, with a faint tinge of yellowish ; thighs, dull grey.

Immature.—Not markedly different from adults, but with the forehead slightly mottled with whitish.

Soft Parts.—Iris, hazel ; “ white ” (*Wray*) ; bill, pinkish horn ; feet, brownish.

Dimensions.—Total length, about 6·5 in. ; wing, 2·4 to 2·6 in. ; tail, 2·9 to 3·1 in. ; tarsus, 0·9 to 1 in. ; bill from gape, 0·7 in. ; culmen, 0·55 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—In Peninsular Siam ; from North Perak to South Selangor and on the Larut Hills. Not obtained in Pahang.

Extralimital Range.—Confined to the Malay Peninsula. Numerous other local races are found in the hill ranges from the Himalayas to China and French Indo-China, but the species is not represented in the Indo-Malayan Islands.

Nidification.—Unknown ; allied forms make small cup-shaped nests and lay two to four bluish eggs, spotted and speckled with black and reddish brown.

Habits.—Though widely spread over the higher hills of the Peninsula, this is by no means a common bird, and readily escapes notice. It is rarely found below 3500 ft., and generally travels in pairs, or occasionally in small parties, together with several other species. Sometimes it frequents tall trees, but its favourite locality is the zone of rather stunted vegetation, with shrubs of very stiff, coriaceous leaves, which is found near the summits of the hills and on the ridges. This, perhaps, accounts for the bleached and abraded plumage in which very many birds are found. The food is mainly insects,

but occasionally berries. Flight is strong and very buoyant. There is no information as to its call, that of its near allies being, according to Dr Jerdon, a "lively chirrup."

Siva strigula malayana

The Malayan Chestnut-tailed Siva

PLATE 18 (*upper figures*)

Siva strigula malayana, Hartert, *Nov. Zool.*, ix., 1902, p. 567 (Gunong Tahan, 5000 to 7000 ft.).

Siva castaneicauda, Sharpe (*nec* Hume), *P.Z.S.*, 1888, p. 275; Bonhote, *P.Z.S.*, 1901 (1), p. 64; Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1922, p. 314.

Siva malayana, Grant, *Journ. Fed. Malay States*, iii., 1908, p. 25.

Siva strigula omissa, Rothschild, *Nov. Zool.*, xxviii., 1921, p. 40 (Gunong Kerbau); Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, xiii., 1927, p. 216.

Description.—Feathering of head very ample, forming a loose crest.

Adult.—Sexes alike. Above, greyish olive, the back with a greenish tinge; head and forehead with a strong yellowish olive wash, brightest on the forehead; the wing coverts like the back, but narrowly tipped with white, forming a bar on the wing. Primary coverts, lustrous black, forming a conspicuous patch. Primaries, blackish brown, the outer webs edged with bright orange, paler on the outer ones and towards the tips of the feathers; secondaries, greyish on the outer webs, deep black on the inner ones, with a broad, black tip to the outer web, edged at the tip and on the inner web with whitish. Inner aspect of the wing with the primaries dull fuscous, edged with white on their inner webs, axillaries and under wing coverts, greyish. Centre tail feathers, pale chestnut for their greater part, lustrous black at the tips, this being more extensive on the outer webs, next pair mainly black, edged with chestnut on the inner webs and with broader white tips; the remaining pairs almost entirely black, edged with white on the inner webs, and with successively wider whitish tips; outermost pair with the outer web edged with yellowish almost to the base. Lores, grey, a greyish white eye ring, ear coverts, blackish, faintly streaked with grey, and with a paler posterior border; a clear black stripe bordering the throat. Beneath, chin, yellowish orange; throat, with broad black and white transverse bars; rest of under surface greenish olive, including the under tail coverts; middle of the abdomen, bright wax-yellow; thighs, dark grey.

Immature.—There is little difference between immature and adult birds, except that the former are generally duller, the edges to the primaries not so bright, and the barring on the throat not so conspicuous and less regular.

Note.—This species fades with great rapidity both in life and in skin. In worn plumage the back becomes an almost clear grey, and the yellow and orange tints of the belly and wing become a dirty-white. It was the deeper yellow tint of comparatively fresh skins from Gunong Kerbau that caused

Lord Rothschild to describe birds from that locality as distinct from the original series from Gunong Tahan.

Soft Parts.—Iris, reddish; bill, horn-colour; feet, pale slate; “iris, dark brown; bill, brown, pale beneath; feet and legs, bluish grey” (*L. Wray*).

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—Along the main range from North Perak to South Selangor. At the northern end of the Larut Hills and on Gunong Tahan, and Gunong Benom in Pahang.

Extralimital Range.—The Malayan bird is peculiar to the mountains of the Peninsula. The typical form is found from the far west of the Himalayas to Eastern Assam, and other races have a wide range in Burma, south to Tenasserim, and in Yunnan.

Nidification.—Baker, under *Siva s. castaneicauda* (*q.v.*), mentions a single egg taken by Mr W. A. T. Kellow, in Perak, as measuring 0·72 by 0·52 in., without further particulars. Nests of the Himalayan form are cup-shaped structures made of moss and lined with roots, placed in high bushes or small saplings. The eggs, two to four to a clutch, are bright pale blue, with a few spots or specks of black, reddish or reddish brown (*Baker*). Those of the local bird will almost certainly be similar.

Habits.—This is one of the highest ranging birds in the Malay Peninsula, and is known from the extreme summits of all the highest mountains, and indeed hardly occurs below 5000 ft. On Gunong Tahan and on Benom, in Pahang, it is extremely common, but is much rarer on the main range and on the Larut Hills, where country suited to it is very limited in extent. It may be said to be entirely confined to the zerophytic zone, and is never found among tall trees. On Gunong Tahan this species, together with *Mesia argentauris*, and *Suya waterstradti*, probably constituted 90 per cent of the bird population above about 5500 ft. It flew in parties of six or eight, keeping close together, and, like many of the high-elevation birds, was singularly fearless. It frequented the stony, open slopes of the mountain-side, only sparsely clad with shrubs not exceeding ten feet in height, chiefly a tamarisk-like plant, *Bæckia frutescens*, on the seeds of which, together with insects, the birds largely fed. The bird was rarely seen in the gullies or near the ground amongst fallen timber, as in the case of the silver-ear. The note is a very low twitter.

The birds figured are a pair from Gunong Benom, Pahang, 6000 ft., shot in August 1925.

Sub-family POMATORHININÆ

Scimitar Babblers and Laughing Thrushes

Vol. I., p. 219.

THIS sub-family is a somewhat composite assemblage, and the position of certain genera associated with it, such as *Gampsorhynchus*, and especially *Eupetes*, requires anatomical investigation.

The habits of all, except *Eupetes*, which is silent and solitary, are very similar. They are noisy and inquisitive birds, travelling in flocks, and

inhabiting the undergrowth and brushwood. The eggs are usually blue or white, unspotted, with a high gloss.

The group, as a whole, is especially characteristic of the Himalayas and the Indo-Chinese mainland, and rapidly diminishes in number of species and relative abundance in the Indo-Malayan Islands.

In the Peninsula the majority of the known forms are confined strictly to the mountains, only three being ever found below about 1500 ft.

KEY TO THE MALAYAN SPECIES OF POMATORHININÆ

1	{ Feathers of the head very short and silky; neck much constricted . Feathers of the head normal; neck not constricted	<i>Eupetes m. macrocercus</i> , p. 189	
			2
2	{ Bill very much longer than head, much curved downwards . Bill not much longer than head, not much curved		3
			4
3	{ Uniform blackish brown above, larger Olive-brown above; flanks dark fuscous Head blackish; back and flanks rufous chestnut	<i>Pomatorhinus hypoleucus wrayi</i> , p. 190	
		<i>Pomatorhinus olivaceus fastidiosus</i> , p. 192	
		<i>Pomatorhinus montanus occidentalis</i> , p. 191	
4	{ Head and neck white all round; rictal bristles very highly de- veloped Head and neck not white all round; rictal bristles not specially de- veloped	<i>Gampsorhynchus rufulus saturator</i> , p. 192	
			5
5	{ Uniform blackish grey Crown, chestnut; lower surface dark grey Crown, dark maroon; lower surface dark brown	<i>Melanocichla lugubris</i> , p. 193	
		<i>Rhinocichla mitrata major</i> , p. 194	
		<i>Trochalopterum melanostigma</i> <i>peninsulæ</i> , p. 195	

Eupetes macrocercus macrocercus

The Malayan Eupetes

Malay Name.—Burong gëmbala këra(?) (the monkey's herdsmen).

This extraordinary bird, whose real affinities are quite unknown, may be recognized by its straight, somewhat flattened bill, long legs, with relatively short feet, and rich rufous plumage; the feathers of the head very short,

silky and adpressed. The sides of the head are glossy black, and there is a broad stripe of pure white feathers from behind the eye down the sides of the neck.

The species is widely spread throughout the Malay Peninsula, from Peninsular Siam southwards, and also occurs in Sumatra, with a slightly differentiated form in Borneo. Only occasionally, however, does it stray above the 2500 ft. contour, and its full description will, therefore, be found in a later volume.

In habits it is purely terrestrial, being found in heavy primeval jungle, usually in the vicinity of fallen timber.

Other birds ascribed to the genus, inhabitants of New Guinea, are very different in coloration, being blue, dull green or brown; usually with white throats, and with the feathering of the head more normal.

Skeletons and specimens in spirit, and also details of the nidification of this bird, are much desired.

Pomatorhinus hypoleucus wrayi

Wray's Scimitar Babbler

Pomatorhinus wrayi, Sharpe, *P.Z.S.*, 1887, p. 437 (Gunong Ijau, Larut Hills, Perak); Butler, *Journ. Straits Branch, Roy. Asiat. Soc.*, No. 32, p. 1899, p. 11; Ogilvie-Grant, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, iii., 1908, p. 30.

Description.—*Adult.*—Sexes alike. General colour above, dull sooty brown, darker on the head, more rufous on the rump and upper tail coverts; lesser wing coverts like the back, the greater ones, primaries and secondaries, a brighter brown, especially on the outer webs; under wing coverts and axillaries, sooty blackish grey; tail feathers, blackish, lighter reddish brown on the margins, with white shafts beneath. Lores and ear coverts, greyish brown, bordered behind and beneath by more reddish brown; behind the eye a stripe of black feathers, with white shaft stripes, broadening at the tips, expanding into a larger patch of similar feathers on each side of the neck. Beneath, chin, throat, breast and middle of the abdomen, white; the sides of the breast black, with wide arrow-shaped centres; the flanks grey, with narrow hair-line white shafts to the feathers; the lower flanks, under tail coverts and thighs, dusky blackish brown, the under tail coverts more rufescent.

Immature.—The general tone of the dark portions of the plumage is much more rufescent; the wing coverts have pale edges; the feathers of the patch on the sides of the breast are dully black, with the white centres only indicated, and the flanks less grey. Feathers of the centre of the breast more mottled, and edged with black.

Soft Parts.—Iris, brown; bare skin at back of eye, dull olive-green; bill, black, corneous at the tip; feet, dull lead-coloured, tinged with olive.

Dimensions.—Total length, 10 to 11 in.; wing, 3.9 to 4.1 in.; tail,

3·8 to 4·1 in. ; tarsus, 1·5 in. ; bill from gape, 1·7 in. ; culmen, 1·5 to 1·65 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—From Central Perak to Southern Selangor. Strictly confined to the mountains and peculiar to the Malay Peninsula.

Extralimital Range.—The Malayan bird belongs to a species which has several representatives, ranging from Manipur to Tenasserim and Tonkin, all of montane habitat, and rather local in geographical range. No member of the species extends to the Indo-Malayan Archipelago.

Nidification.—Unknown as regards the Malayan race. The Tenasserim form is described as breeding in the early part of the year, making a large, untidy nest of tendrils and roots, placed among bamboos. Two or three white eggs are laid, averaging about 1·18 by 0·9 in. The nidification of our bird is certain to differ in no material particular.

Habits.—Wray's scimitar babbler is widely spread throughout the mountains of the Malay Peninsula, on the Larut Hills, Cameron's Highlands, Fraser's Hill, on the main range and on Gunong Tahan, very rarely below 3500 ft., and generally higher. It is nowhere at all common. Usually met with in small parties of five or six individuals, often in pairs, but, as I am informed, very rarely solitary. The situations it affects are patches of dense undergrowth, overgrown with such bracken-like ferns as *Gleichenia* and *Dipteris*, which are known in Malay as *resam* ; dark damp gullies and the neighbourhood of fallen and rotten timber are also frequented, amongst which the birds search for food, which is almost exclusively animal, larvae of *Passalid* beetles and small mollusca bulking largely in it. Both Wray and Butler credit it with a loud and rather pleasing song. The only note I have heard it utter has been a double whistle, which rather reminded me of the call of a small owl.

Pomatorhinus montanus occidentalis

The Malay Chestnut-backed Scimitar Babbler

This species, which is a good deal smaller than the preceding, but similar to it in general configuration, can be distinguished at once by its chestnut back and flanks, pure white under surface, and broad white stripe, extending from the nostril over the eye to the sides of the neck ; the great portion of the bill is wax-yellow.

It is found occasionally as high as 4000 ft., but normally between 1500 and 2500 ft., being very abundant on the Negri Sembilan hills, rarer in Perak and Selangor. It is a member of a Malayan group found in the Indo-Malayan Archipelago from Bali westwards, and does not extend north of Perak, and, in the literature on Malayan birds, is generally referred to as *Pomatorhinus borneensis*, from which it differs slightly.

It will be dealt with in detail in a subsequent volume.

*Pomatorhinus olivaceus fastidiosus***Hartert's Scimitar Babbler**

This species is very like the preceding, but is a little larger. The upper surface is dull grey-brown, with only a very faint rufous collar on the hind neck. There is a patch of rufous on the sides of the neck, but no rufous chestnut on the flanks, which are dull greyish.

This bird occurs only in Peninsular Siam, from the plains to some considerable height on the mountains of Nakon Sri Tammarat. It does not enter British territory and will be described at length in a later volume.

*Gampsorhynchus rufulus saturator***The Malay White-headed Babbler**

PLATE 15 (*lower figure*, adult male ; *upper*, immature male)

Gampsorhynchus saturator, Sharpe, *P.Z.S.*, 1888, p. 273 (Gunong Batu Puteh, South Perak) ; Butler, *Journ. Straits Branch, Roy. Asiat. Soc.*, No. 32, 1899, p. 11 ; Ogilvie-Grant, *Fascic. Malay., Zool.*, iii., 1906, p. 83.

Description.—Tail, graduated, as long as, or longer than, the wing. Gape with about six extremely long and stiff black wiry bristles, projecting forward.

Adult.—Sexes alike. Head and neck all round, pure white ; upper surface, sandy cinnamon, including the wing coverts ; a patch on shoulder, the bases of the primary coverts and the edge of the wing, white ; primaries, dark brown, the outermost with hoary edges to the outer web ; inner aspect of wing, dark fuscous, with salmon-buff edges to the inner webs of the primaries, axillaries and under wing coverts, pale golden buff. Tail feathers, sandy brown, becoming greyer and darker terminally, and tipped with white. Beneath, throat and upper breast, white, a patch of mingled blackish brownish feathers on each side of the breast ; rest of under surface, rich golden buff, tending to ochraceous ; middle of the abdomen and thighs, whitish.

Immature.—Head, variably mixed with brownish or blackish feathers on the occiput ; incomplete collar of blackish feathers on the neck, never meeting on the breast. White shoulder patch and bases to primary coverts absent. Tail somewhat darker, the white edges to the feathers more noticeable.

Note.—The plumage changes of birds of this genus are not understood, and it is possible that the birds take some time to attain what is here described as the fully adult livery. The great majority of birds of every race seem to be in the plumage described by myself and other writers as immature.

Soft Parts.—"Irides, bright yellow ; legs and feet, bluish ash, with tintings of flesh-colour in places ; claws, flesh-colour ; soles of feet, dull yellow ; bill, pale flesh-colour, dusky on the ridge below the nostrils" (*L. Wray*).

Dimensions.—Total length, 10 to 11 in. ; wing, 3·8 to 4·1 in. ; tail, 4·7 to 4·9 in. ; tarsus, 1·1 in. ; bill from gape, 0·85 in. ; culmen, 0·75 to 0·8 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—From South Perak to Southern Selangor, always in the mountains.

Extralimital Range.—The form described is peculiar to the Malay Peninsula; the typical race occurs in the Himalayas, east to Assam and south to Arakan, others are found in Central Burma, Tenasserim, and in French Indo-China.

Nidification.—Of the Malayan bird unknown. The Himalayan race, according to Stuart Baker, builds a shallow cup-shaped nest, bound together with cobwebs and lined with tendrils. The eggs, four in number, are of a yellow ground-colour, blotched and freckled with reddish brown, more so at the larger end. Average dimensions, 0·92 by 0·68 in.

Habits.—A rare and local bird which has, up to the present, been obtained only in three localities—on Gunong Kerbau, at 5000 ft., in the neighbourhood of Cameron's Highlands, and between the Semangko Pass and Fraser's Hill, where it is common. It is, in my experience, met with in small parties and flocks of up to a dozen individuals, usually on small trees and undergrowth, and more especially in bamboos, amongst which it clammers, with its tail held very stiffly at a slight angle above the body. The birds are mostly seen in early morning and late evening, and are not so noisy or inquisitive as the other babbling thrushes; their note, as Wray states, is a loud, shrill cry, rather like that of the kera monkey (*Macacus fascicularis*). The food is mainly insectivorous—caterpillars, beetles and stick-insects.

Note.—The systematic position of this curious bird is quite uncertain; both the type of egg laid and the possession of a distinct juvenile plumage is unusual in the group in which for the present it is placed, and the very remarkable rictal bristles are distinctive. Skeletons and specimens preserved in spirit are much needed.

The specimens figured, two-thirds natural size, are an immature (upper) and an adult (lower) male collected on the hills above the Semangko Pass, Selangor-Pahang boundary, between 2700 and 4500 ft., in January 1908.

Melanocichla lugubris

The Black Babbling Thrush

Ianthocinclia lugubris, Sal. Muell., *Nat. Tijd. Nederl. Ind.*, 1835, p. 344, pl. 5, fig. 2 (West Sumatra).

Melanocichla lugubris, Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vii., 1883, p. 451; Ogilvie-Grant, *Fascic. Malay., Zool.*, iii., 1906, p. 84.

Melanocichla peninsularis, Sharpe, *P.Z.S.*, 1888, p. 274 (Gunong Batu Puteh, Perak).

Malay Name.—Unknown. H. O. Forbes states that in Sumatra it is called *burong siang* (daylight bird), possibly because it is noisiest at an early hour.

Description.—*Adult.*—Sexes alike. Tail, strongly graduated, orbits and a large space behind the eye, bare. Frontal plumes and feathers, stiff, those of the hind crown rather lengthened. General colour, slaty black, darker on the head and neck, greyer on the under surface, and rather browner on the wings and tail.

Immature.—Distinctly browner and duller, especially on the mantle and wing coverts.

Soft Parts.—Iris, chestnut or brown; orbital and gular skin, dark slaty blue; bill, rich orange; feet, sage-green or sepia-brown or “grey, the edges of the scales yellowish”; claws, brown or brownish black.

Note.—In life and in freshly moulted plumage this bird has a beautiful, clear grey bloom, which is lost in worn feathering and after death, when the skin acquires a much more sooty tinge, which accounts for the fact that Dr Sharpe considered Malayan and Sumatran birds separable. No difference exists when equally fresh specimens are compared.

Dimensions.—Total length, 10 to 10·7 in.; wing, 4·8 to 5·2 in.; tail, 4·5 to 4·8 in.; tarsus, 1·35 to 1·4 in.; bill from gape, 1·15 to 1·2 in.; culmen, 1 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—Along the main range from North Perak to Southern Selangor.

Extralimital Range.—The mountains of Sumatra only.

Nidification.—Quite unknown.

Habits.—In the Malay Peninsula, so far as is known, this bird is confined to the mountains of the main range, very rarely below 3000 ft., and ranging upwards to well over 5000 ft. It is not found in the Larut Hills, nor does it seem to occur either on Gunong Tahan or Gunong Benom in Pahang.

The habits are those of the other babbling thrushes, and wherever it occurs it is fairly common in small parties of five or six individuals, usually among brushwood or on fallen timber, and on or near the ground, never in high trees. It is a noisy and inquisitive bird, with a harsh cackling note, varied by an occasional more musical whistle. I have known it to feed on fruit, notably raspberries, while Wray and Jacobson have recorded it as eating red ants and grasshoppers, so that its diet is evidently as varied as that of most of its relatives.

Rhinocichla mitrata major

The Malay Chestnut-capped Babbling Thrush

Rhinocichla mitrata major, Robinson and Kloss, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club.*, xl., 1919, p. 16 (Gunong Ijau, Larut Hills, Perak).

Rhinocichla mitrata, Sharpe, *P.Z.S.*, 1886, p. 352; Hartert, *Nov. Zool.*, ix., 1902, p. 562; Robinson, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, ii., 1909, p. 197.

Description.—Bill, long, slender and much compressed, curved downwards, the nostrils with a conspicuous operculum (lid). Tail, graduated; feet, very powerful.

Adult.—Sexes alike. Lores, frontal plumes, and a short inconspicuous stripe over the eye, dark purplish chestnut; crown, lighter chestnut-bay; the feathers of the forehead pointed and tipped with lavender; a spot of black at the base of the lower mandible and on the chin. Upper surface, including the wing coverts, clear bluish grey. Primaries, brownish black, edged

with pale grey on the outer webs, these edges becoming broad and pure white towards the base, forming a conspicuous white stripe on the wing. Inner aspect of the wing, dark fuscous, axillaries and under wing coverts, grey. Tail feathers, brownish black, with a strong greyish bloom, more blackish at the tip. Under surface, ashy grey, often with a brownish tinge; middle of abdomen and under tail coverts, ochraceous orange; thighs, grey, the feathers at the tibio-tarsal joint tipped with rufous chestnut.

Immature.—Not conspicuously different from the adults, but more brownish, the colours generally duller, the lavender-grey points to the feathers of the forehead much less conspicuous.

Soft Parts.—Iris, chestnut or red; naked skin round the eye, white, often with a slight livid blue tinge; bill, orange; feet, pale chrome.

Dimensions.—Total length, 8·5 to 9·5 in.; wing, 3·95 to 4·7 in.; tail, 4·6 to 5 in.; tarsus, 1·4 to 1·6 in.; bill from gape, 1·1 in.; culmen, 0·85 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—From the north of Perak to South Selangor, only in the mountains. Rare in Pahang. Peculiar to the Malay Peninsula.

Extralimital Range.—The closely related typical race is found in the mountains of Sumatra. A rather more distinct form, *R. m. treacheri*, inhabits the mountains of North Borneo.

Nidification.—That of the Malayan race is unknown. The nest of the Sumatran bird is cup-shaped, and constructed of fern stems and rhizomorphs, with an external covering of moss. The eggs, two in number, were pure white in colour and glossy in shape; they were blunt ovals and averaged 1·02 by 0·8 in. The egg of the Bornean race, on the contrary, is bright greenish blue, a colour which is more usual in the group.

Habits.—This is about the most conspicuous bird, of its size, in the mountains of the Malay Peninsula above about 3000 ft., except on Gunong Tahan, where, though it does occur, it is extremely rare. It is found in pairs, small or large parties, in all sorts of situations—on the ground, among fallen timber, in bracken and tangled scrubs, on low trees and bushes, and especially on taller trees covered with creepers. In all these situations it clambers about, looking, as most observers have noted, more like a large rat or squirrel than a bird, and often playing a game of follow-my-leader. Like all the babbling thrushes it has a noisy, scolding, chattering note, which is harsh and disagreeable; this is varied sometimes by a clear mellow whistle, rather like that of a drongo. The food is varied, mainly fruit and berries, but occasionally large cockroaches or other insects, and snails. Jacobson says that in Sumatra its representative does much damage in coffee plantations.

Trochalopterym melanostigma peninsulæ

The Malayan Laughing Thrush

Trochalopterym peninsulæ, Sharpe, *P.Z.S.*, 1887, p. 436, pl. xxxvii. (Gunong Ijau, Larut Hills); Robinson, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, ii., 1909, p. 197.

Description.—*Adult.*—Sexes alike. General colour above, dark reddish brown, brighter on the mantle, darker on the rump and upper tail coverts; lesser and median wing coverts as the back; greater coverts, bright maroon; primary coverts, glossy black, forming a patch on the wing. Primaries and secondaries, blackish brown or green-olive, with a golden tinge on the outer webs; inner secondaries, dark ashy, with blackish tips; inner aspect of the wing, slaty, the inner webs of the quills more ashy; under wing coverts and axillaries, reddish brown, the greater series slaty, with darker edges; tail, dusky brown, darker towards the tip, the outer feathers edged with golden, olive-green. Loes and superciliary stripe, black; sides of the head and ear coverts with a maroon wash; crown, deep chestnut-maroon; sides of the neck, dark ashy grey, converging on the nape; below, point of chin, black; upper breast, deep maroon-chestnut, becoming lighter and more brownish on the belly; flanks, deep brown; thighs and under tail coverts, dark sooty brown.

Immature.—Hardly different from the adult, but the crown duller; the grey patches on the sides of the neck not so distinct and more suffused with brownish.

Soft Parts.—Iris, yellowish or brown; bill, black; feet, brownish black, much paler brown in the females.

Dimensions.—Total length, 10 to 10.5 in.; wing, 3.9 to 4.2 in.; tail, 4.4 to 4.6 in.; tarsus, 1.4 to 1.6 in.; bill from gape, 1.15 to 1.25 in.; culmen, 0.95 to 1.05 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—Mountains of Peninsular Siam and from Northern Perak to Southern Selangor, along the main range. The Larut range in Perak, Gunong Benom and Gunong Tahan in Pahang.

Extralimital Range.—The bird described is peculiar to the Malay Peninsula. Represented in the mountains of North Tenasserim and the Shan States by a closely related but paler coloured bird, *T. m. melanostigma*, to which birds from Peninsular Siam are beginning to show an approach.

Nidification.—Unrecorded. Allied species make cup-shaped nests of leaves, bracken, etc., lined with roots and grass, and lay two to four thrush-like eggs, blue or bluish green in ground-colour, spotted and blotched with purplish or reddish brown.

Habits.—This is essentially a high-mountain bird, rarely found below 3500 ft., but ascending to over 6000 ft. It is rare on the Larut Hills, where it was first discovered by Mr Wray, but is common on every peak visited of the main range, south to Gunong Menang, Gasing, in Selangor, after which it is not found. On Gunong Tahan and Gunong Benom in Pahang it is also very numerous.

It is hardly a bird of the evergreen forest at all, but frequents the brush-wood, zerophytic zone, along the sides of ravines and gullies, sometimes in pairs, but more often in parties of four or five. It is often seen on the ground or near it, and never at any height in the trees. The food is mainly insectivorous, beetles, grubs, etc., found in tree branches or among moss and rotten wood, but Wray states that specimens obtained by him had

been feeding on large green seeds. The note, like that of other members of the genus, is a clear, melodious whistle, but when alarmed the bird gives utterance to a very discordant cackle.

This species is the southernmost representative of its genus, which is characteristically Himalayan or Indo-Chinese, and does not occur at all in the Sunda Islands.

Note.—Like many of the family, the plumage of this bird is very liable to fading, old skins and birds about to moult have the general colour—especially the edges of the primaries and the wing coverts—very much paler; the under surface is also more ferruginous brown, with the maroon tint of the breast almost absent.

Sub-family TIMALIINÆ

Brush Babblers

THIS sub-family comprises the remainder of the *Timaliidae*, and is exceedingly heterogeneous in character, though all the species comprised in it agree in being inhabitants of scrub or jungle, and in being strictly non-migratory. Some are ground-birds, as shown by their large feet and long tarsi, others are almost entirely arboreal, but all are birds of comparatively feeble flight. They are not noisy birds, like the last group, and some of them are credited with a musical song. Most species make large, untidy, more or less globular nests, and lay eggs that are variably spotted or blotched, but those of some are pure white.

The Malayan and Indo-Chinese sub-regions are the headquarters of the family, and over twenty species are known from the hills of the Malay Peninsula. Of these, some six are confined to comparatively high altitudes, another three may be described as submontane, while the remainder are lowland birds, having a wide distribution in Tenasserim and the Indo-Malayan islands. The peculiar species, which are not strikingly distinct, are more closely allied to continental forms than to birds inhabiting the islands.

Only those birds that are confined to, or specially characteristic of, the mountain zone are here described in full; the remainder will be included in Volume IV., which will be devoted to the birds of the lowland jungles.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF TIMALIINÆ HERE DESCRIBED

1	{	Feathers of the back and rump	
		very greatly lengthened . . .	<i>Macronus ptilosus ptilosus</i> , p. 212
2	{	Feathers of the back and rump	
		not so greatly lengthened . . .	2
2	{	With green or vivid yellow in	
		plumage	3
2	{	Without green or vivid yellow in	
		plumage	4

3	{	General colour, golden yellow; head streaked with black	} <i>Stachyridopsis chrysæa chrysops</i> , p. 210	
		General colour not golden yellow; head rufous brown, not streaked .		<i>Mixornis gularis</i> , subsp., p. 212
4	{	External aspect of wings not uniform; primary coverts black, in marked contrast to quills	} <i>Pseudominla castaneiceps soror</i> , p. 202	
		External aspect of wings uniform; primary coverts not glossy black		
5	{	Back and mantle neither spotted nor streaked		10
		Mantle streaked or squamated		6
		Mantle spotted with white		9
6	{	Throat, breast and belly uniformly streaked	} <i>Corythocichla b. leucosticta</i> , p. 214	
		Throat not streaked, white or buffy white		
7	{	Smaller, wing less than 2'2 in.; tail very short	} <i>Turdinulus epilepidotus granti</i> , p. 213	
		Larger, wing more than 3 in.; tail longer		
8	{	Larger, wing more than 3'8 in.; under parts black, transversely barred with white	} <i>Turdinus marmoratus</i> , p. 205	
		Smaller, wing less than 3'6 in.; under parts greyish, not transversely barred		<i>Turdinus macrodactylus</i> , subsp., p. 205
9	{	Smaller, head streaked; breast white	} <i>Kenopia striata</i> , p. 209	
		Larger, head not streaked; breast rufous		<i>Thringorhina striolatus guttatus</i> , p. 209
10	{	Crown distinct from nape		11
		Crown not distinct from nape		13
11	{	Crown, blackish, streaked with grey	} <i>Stachyris nigriceps davisoni</i> , p. 206	
		Crown, black, not streaked		<i>Drymocataphus capistratus nigricapitatus</i> , p. 205
11	{	Crown, dull rufous	} <i>Stachyridopsis r. poliogaster</i> , p. 209	
		Crown, rufous anteriorly, black posteriorly		
12	{	Larger, wing, 3'4 in. or over; feathers of crown darker, not tipped with black	} <i>Horizillas magna</i> , p. 201	
		Smaller, wing, 3'1 in. or under; feathers of crown paler, tipped with black		<i>Horizillas cinerea cinerea</i> , p. 201

13	{	Throat grey, uniform with abdomen	<i>Cyanoderma e. erythroptera</i> , p. 212
		Throat grey-and-white; abdomen rufous	<i>Stachyris poliocephala diluta</i> , p. 208
14	{	Throat black	14
		Throat white or buffy	15
14	{	Throat and breast glossy black, edged below with white	<i>Stachyris n. nigricollis</i> , p. 209
		Throat and breast dull black, not edged below with white	<i>Stachyris l. leucotis</i> , p. 208
15	{	A dark grey malar stripe, under surface clearer white	<i>Horizillas m. magnirostris</i> , p. 200
		No dark grey malar stripe, under surface greyish or pale buff	16
16	{	Tail very short, less than twice the tarsus	<i>Anuropsis m. malaccensis</i> , p. 212
		Tail longer, more than twice the tarsus	17
17	{	With a very distinct black superciliary stripe	<i>Alcippe n. peracensis</i> , p. 201
		With no black superciliary stripe	18
18	{	Forehead with pale shaft streaks	19
		Forehead without pale shaft streaks	20
19	{	Larger, wing about 3 in.; general colour, dull	<i>Malacocincla abbotti</i> , subsp., p. 199
		Smaller, wing less than 2·8 in.; general colour, bright fulvous buff	<i>Drymocataphus tickelli australis</i> , p. 204
20	{	Bill longer and coarser, a distinct grey eyebrow	<i>Malacocincla sepiaria tardinata</i> , p. 200
		Bill shorter and finer, no distinct grey eyebrow	21
21	{	Slightly smaller; below, greyish	<i>Alcippe cinerea cinerea</i> , p. 202
		Slightly larger; below, yellowish buff	<i>Alcippe poiocephala davisoni</i> , p. 202

Malacocincla abbotti olivacea

Strickland's Brown Babbler

Vol. I., p. 227.

Malay Name.—Murai bělukar.

Dull olive-brown, rather darker on the head, the feathers of the head and mantle with very narrow, pale shaft streaks; upper tail coverts and tail brighter. Beneath, chin, throat and breast, greyish white; lower breast, fulvous; middle of the belly, whitish; flanks, buffy brown, becoming more rusty on the anal region and under tail coverts. Total length, 6·5 in.

This species just reaches an altitude of about 2500 ft. in most localities. It is very common at Ginting Bidei in Selangor, and on the Negri Sembilan and Johore hills. In the north of the Peninsula the brighter typical form, *M. a. abbotti*, takes its place.

*Malacocincla sepiaria tardinata***Hartert's Brown Babbler**

Above, dark olive-brown, the rump brighter ; a dark grey stripe over the eye. Beneath, throat, breast and middle of the belly, dusky, the throat with ill-defined stripes ; lower breast with a fuscous collar ; sides of the breast, flanks and under tail coverts, rufescent. Total length, about 6.5 in.

This species is quite distinct from *M. abbotti olivacea*, described in Volume I., p. 227, though it is not easy to separate it therefrom, the best character being the grey stripe over the eye and the absence of pale shaft stripes on the feathers of the mantle. The general colour, too, is somewhat darker, and the size a little smaller.

It has been found in some numbers at Ginting Bidei in Selangor, at about 2300 ft., and also in the Perak mountains, but its exact distribution is difficult to work out, as it has been much confused with the other forms of the genus, but it is certainly a purely Malayan form, not ranging north of Patani, and with closely related races in the Indo-Malayan Islands.

*Horizillas magnirostris magnirostris***The Brown-headed Tree-Babbler**

Vol. I., p. 228.

Malay Name.—Merbah rimba.

General colour above, earthy brown, more rufescent on the lower back and upper tail coverts ; tail feathers, bright rusty chestnut, with slightly paler margins ; a ring of white feathers round the eye, with a narrow clear grey superciliary stripe above them. A very conspicuous dark iron-grey malar stripe on each side of the throat. Beneath, white ; the breast with an indistinct fulvescent collar and a few longitudinal streaks of ashy grey. Total length, about 7 in.

This bird, which is very common throughout the Peninsula in low-country jungle and on the lesser detached hills, ascends the mountains to a maximum altitude of about 3000 ft. We found it very common on Kedah Peak at rather below this altitude. Mr Seimund met with it on Gunong Kledang, and it is known from the Negri Sembilan hills, and from Mount Ophir and Gunong Pulai in Johore.

*Horizillas cinerea cinerea***The Smaller Red-headed Tree-Babbler**

Fore part of crown, rufous chestnut, the feathers tipped with black, the hind part sooty black ; mantle, back and external aspect of wings, olive-brown ; rump and tail, chestnut-red. Under surface, buffy white. Total length, about 6 in.

Occasionally straying as high as 2500 ft., and common near Ginting Bidei and Ginting Simpah, Selangor, but hardly known from any of the higher hills.

*Horizillas magna***The Larger Red-headed Tree-Babbler**

Like the preceding but larger, the feathers of the fore crown *not* tipped with black and rather darker. Below, throat and fore breast, with dusky grey streaks, a fuscous grey pectoral collar. Total length, 7 to 7.5 in.

Primarily a low-country form, rare above a level of about 1500 ft. It has, however, been obtained on Gunong Kledang, in Perak, by Mr Seimund, and on Bukit Tangga and other hills in Negri Sembilan. Members of this genus are very arboreal, and are found in small flocks on the lower trees and bushes of scrub and secondary jungle.

*Alcippe nipalensis peracensis***The Mountain Nun Thrush**

Alcippe peracensis, Sharpe, *P.Z.S.*, 1887, p. 439; Butler, *Journ. Straits Branch, Roy. Asiat. Soc.*, No. 32, 1899, p. 12; Robinson, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, ii., 1909, p. 201.

Description.—*Adult.*—Sexes alike. Head, nape and mantle, slaty grey, darker on the head; back, rump, wing coverts, external aspect of the wings and tail, pale brownish, more ferruginous on the rump and the edges of the tail feathers. Inner aspect of the wing, dusky, the inner edges of the primaries white; the axillaries and under wing coverts pale ashy brown; lores, ashy grey; sides of the face and a streak over the eye, darker grey; a pale grey ring round the eye; above the superciliary streak a clear, black stripe, extending well down the sides of the neck. Beneath, throat and breast, light ashy grey; sides of the body, under tail coverts and thighs, light brown, darker on the flanks.

Immature.—Differ from the adults in having the head and mantle duller grey, less defined from the back, black stripes much interrupted and less conspicuous; angle of gape, conspicuously pale yellow.

Soft Parts.—Iris, dark brown or reddish brown; bill, plumbeous or horn-colour, paler at the tip, yellowish on the edges of the mandibles; feet, yellowish flesh.

Dimensions.—Total length, about 6 in.; wing, 2.4 to 2.7 in.; tail, 2.5 in.; tarsus, 0.7 to 0.8 in.; bill from gape, 0.7 in.; culmen, 0.5 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—From Northern Perak to Southern Selangor and in Pahang.

Extralimital Range.—The form described is peculiar to the Malay Peninsula. Other races are found in the Himalayas, throughout Burma, and in French Indo-China and Southern China. The species is a continental one that has no representative in the Indo-Malayan Islands.

Nidification.—Not known. The typical Himalayan bird, *A. n. nipalensis*, builds a small, cup-shaped nest of grass and leaves, lined with finer grass,

placed in a bush near the ground. The eggs, two to four in number, are extremely variable, white or pink in ground-colours, with markings of light red, lilac-red or deep purple (*Baker*).

Habits.—One of the commonest of the hill birds, and found on every hill in the main range, the Larut Hills and in Gunong Tahan, and Benom in Pahang, from about 3000 to 5000 ft. or over, but not ranging so high as species of *Siva*. It occurs in parties of five or six, often associating with other species, such as *Sibia wrayi*, *Muscicapula westermanni* and *Stachyridopsis chrysops*, which pass in waves through the jungle, and then disappear for a time. The present bird is very tame, keeping to the lower boughs of trees and the taller shrubs and creepers, running along the outer twigs and searching them and the leaves for insects, etc., rather like a tit. It has a pleasant little song of four or five notes on a rising scale, followed by a drop, which is repeated at frequent intervals.

Alcippe cinerea cinerea

The Malay Nun Thrush

Vol. I., p. 226.

This species replaces the preceding at elevations below about 2500 ft., but is relatively a rarer bird. It can at once be distinguished by the absence of the black stripes running over the eye down each side of the neck. In habits it is precisely similar.

Alcippe poiocephala davisoni

Harrington's Tenasserim Nun Thrush

This species may also be mentioned, though its full description is deferred. It is a slightly larger bird than *A. c. cinerea*, and is browner above. The under surface is yellowish buff, deeper on the flanks, not grey or whitish. It occurs abundantly in the low country and hills of Peninsular Siam and Southern Tenasserim up to about 4000 ft., but has not been obtained, nor is it likely to occur, within British limits.

Pseudominla castaneiceps soror

The Malay Tit Babbler

Minla soror, Sharpe, *P.Z.S.*, 1887, p. 439, pl. xxxviii., fig. 1 (Gunong Ijau, Perak); Ogilvie-Grant, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, iii., 1908, p. 25.

Sittiparus castaneiceps soror, Hartert, *Nov. Zool.*, ix., 1902, p. 567.

Description.—*Adult.*—Sexes alike. Feathers of the crown somewhat narrowed and elongated. Mantle, back, rump and upper tail coverts, brown, with an olive tinge; the mantle with faint, pale shaft streaks; lesser and median coverts as the back, the external greater coverts, primary coverts and

bastard wing, glossy black, the edge of the wing yellowish white; primaries, blackish, the outer webs brownish, the two outer ones with hoary edges; the remainder with bright ferruginous chestnut towards the base; inner aspect of wing, dusky, the inner margin of the primaries whitish, axillaries and under wing coverts, silky white, faintly tinged with sulphur-yellow; tail feathers, dark brown, with more rufescent edges. Crown of head and nape, deep chestnut, the feathers with paler rufous mesial streaks, becoming whitish towards the forehead. Lores and a superciliary stripe extending down the sides of the neck, pale sulphur-yellow, bordered beneath from behind the eye by a broader black stripe; sides of the head, dull yellow, mottled with black; ear coverts, anteriorly, greenish yellow, posteriorly, blackish, streaked with yellow and bordered behind by a narrow yellowish patch; a short black streak on the jaw. Beneath, pale yellowish buff, whiter on the chest and middle of the abdomen; sides of the body and flanks, bright olive-brown; thighs, dusky, the feathers broadly tipped with white; under tail coverts, whitish, sometimes with small dark centres.

Immature.—The head not so bright a chestnut and the shaft stripes not so conspicuous. Very young birds have the under surface much more yellowish buff and the flanks a paler brown.

Soft Parts.—Iris, dark brown; bill, horn-colour; feet, brownish.

Dimensions.—Total length, 5 to 5.25 in.; wing, 2.4 to 2.5 in.; tail, 1.9 to 2.1 in.; tarsus, 0.8 in.; bill from gape, 0.5 in.; culmen, 0.4 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—From North Perak to South Selangor. The Larut Hills and Gunong Tahan in Pahang.

Extralimital Range.—The form described is peculiar to the Malay Peninsula. Closely allied races are found in Assam, Burma, Tenasserim and French Indo-China. The species is not represented in the Indo-Malayan Islands.

Nidification.—That of the Malayan form unknown. Davison describes the closely allied *P. c. castaneiceps* as breeding on Muleyit in Tenasserim at the end of February, and building a deep, cup-shaped nest of moss, worked into the moss of the tree-trunk in which it was placed, and lined with fibre and bamboo leaves—one nest was completely domed. Eggs were three in number and glossless, white in ground-colour, with very fine black spots, generally congregated round the larger end (*Oates*).

Habits.—This bird is widely distributed over most of the higher mountains of the Malay Peninsula, but has not yet been met with in Peninsular Siam nor south of Selangor, and hardly occurs below 3500 or 4000 ft. Nowhere is it really common. It is found in small parties, rarely more than seven or eight in number, on the lower branches of small trees and shrubs, usually near the summits of hills or the combs of ridges, where the vegetation has become dwarfed. It climbs about the boughs, searching them for insects in a tit-like manner, and being very active and incessantly in motion. It does not ever descend to the ground. The note of the allied forms is recorded as a "soft twittering," but I have no information on the present bird, nor have I myself heard any note.

*Dryocataphus tickelli australis***The Southern Tickell's Babbler**

Dryocataphus tickelli australis, Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, x., 1921, p. 205 (Ginting Bidei, Selangor).

Dryocataphus tickelli, Robinson, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, ii., 1909, p. 200; *id. op. cit.*, v. 1915, p. 140; Robinson and Kloss, *Ibis*, 1911, p. 60.

Pellorneum tickelli tickelli (part), Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.) i., 1922, p. 247.

Description.—*Adult.*—Sexes alike. Plumage soft and ample, especially on the flanks. Above, light brown, the forehead paler, with whitish centres to feathers, which become light hair-streaks on the crown. Wing coverts as the back, with slightly darker tips. Primaries, dull brown, the outer webs brighter brown; inner aspect of wing, brown, the primaries edged with pale buffy towards the bases, the under wing coverts and axillaries and edges of wing bright buff. Tail feathers as the primaries, but with more rufescent edges. Lores and the bases of the feathers over the eye whitish; face and ear coverts, fulvous, the latter with pale shaft streaks. Under surface, including thighs and under tail coverts, bright rufous buff, deepest on the flanks; the middle of the belly whitish, occasionally with very obscure darker streaks on breast.

Immature.—Apparently not different from the adult.

Soft Parts.—Iris, crimson or chestnut-red; bill, fleshy, plumbeous or darker on upper mandible; or, maxilla, brown, mandible, yellowish; feet, pinkish flesh or fleshy.

Dimensions.—Total length, 5·5 to 6 in.; wing, 2·5 to 2·8 in.; tail, 2·1 to 2·3 in.; tarsus, 1 to 1·1 in.; bill from gape, 0·75 in.; culmen, 0·65 to 0·7 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—From the central portion of Peninsular Siam, including Bandon and Trang, south to Southern Selangor, always in the mountains.

Extralimital Range.—This southern race reappears in the mountains of Southern Annam and in Cochin-China.

Nidification.—Of the Malayan form unknown. Bingham found the northern race breeding in Central Tenasserim. The nest was a domed one, built of dried bamboo leaves, lined with fine roots and placed in a cane bush about a foot from the ground. Baker states that the eggs are three or four in number. Texture, fine and close, faintly glossed, and in shape a broad blunt oval. The colour is a pale greenish grey, with numerous freckles and small blotches of pale reddish brown, and secondary markings of lavender and purplish grey scattered over the whole surface. Average dimensions, 0·8 by 0·62 in.

Habits.—Fairly common throughout its range, but not found below about 2500 ft. or above 5000 ft., occurring at lower elevations in the north of the Peninsula than in the south. It is one of several species that appears to be almost exclusively confined to jungle in which there is a considerable amount

of bamboo. It is almost entirely terrestrial and is rarely seen even on low branches, but scuttles about on the ground looking more like a small mammal than a bird, and not taking to flight if it can possibly avoid it. I have never heard a note. Baker says it is a soft rippling "*chir-chir*."

Note.—The northern form of this bird is found in the extreme north of the Peninsula, near the Burmese border, when it extends to Assam and eastwards to French Indo-China. It differs from the Malayan bird only in its duller, less intense coloration.

Dryocataphus capistratus nigricapitatus

The Malayan Black-capped Babbler

Head, black, a greyish white stripe from the nostril over the eye; rest of upper surface, reddish brown. Throat, white; remainder of lower surface, rusty red; darker on the flanks. Total length, about 6 in.

A common low-country jungle bird, found over the whole length of the Peninsula from its northern limits and in Southern Tenasserim and Sumatra. Of only accidental occurrence above 2500 ft. The description, in full, is deferred until a later volume.

Turdinus macrodactylus macrodactylus

The Large-footed Babbler

Above, dark brown, the feathers edged with black; those of the mantle with pale shaft stripes; a whitish loreal spot. Rump, wings and tail, more rusty brown. Beneath, throat, white; the feathers lightly flecked with black; sides of the neck, black, rest of under surface, greyish, irregularly mottled with whitish and generally with pale shaft stripes to the feathers. Flanks and under tail coverts, fulvous brown, brighter on the latter. Total length, 7.5 in. Almost entirely a low-country jungle bird, often found in swamp country, but occasionally on the hills. We have met with it on Bukit Tangga, Negri Sembilan, and at Ginting Bidei in Selangor, and Davison found it very common on Gunong Pulai in Johore.

Birds from Peninsular Siam, which are perhaps a little greyer beneath than the southern race, have been named by Hatchisuka *T. m. bakeri*.

Turdinus marmoratus

Mueller's Babbler

PLATE 16

Turdinus marmoratus, Wardlaw Ramsay, *P.Z.S.*, 1880, p. 15 (West Sumatra).

Myiothera loricata, Muell. (*nec* Licht.), *Nat. Tijds. Nederl. Ind.*, 1835, p. 348.

Turdinus loricatus, Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vii., 1883, p. 550; Robinson, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, ii., 1909, p. 199; *id. op. cit.*, iv., 1911, p. 239.

Description.—*Adult.*—Sexes alike. With long bristles above the gape. Above, including the wing coverts, primaries and tail, dark russet-brown, richer on the wings, rump and tail, and darker on the head; the feathers of the head, hind neck and mantle with black edges, producing a scaly effect; a whitish spot on the lores; ear coverts and a large patch on the sides of the neck, rufous ferruginous. Chin and upper throat, white; the feathers sometimes faintly tipped with black. Malar region, white, heavily barred with black. Beneath, the throat ringed with feathers, which are white at their bases, black on the terminal half; breast and belly, dull black, the feathers broadly edged with white and with wavy median bars of the same. Middle of the belly, flanks, under wing coverts and axillaries, thighs and under tail coverts, dark sooty brown, with a ferruginous tinge; the under tail coverts with faint yellowish edges and tips.

Immature.—Like the adult, but the feathers of the head, hind neck and mantle with rufous shaft stripes, broadening towards the tips of the feathers.

Soft Parts.—Iris, chestnut; bill, black; feet, black, often with a brownish tinge.

Dimensions.—Total length, about 8.5; wing, 3.9 to 4.1 in.; tail, 3 to 3.2 in.; tarsus, 1.35 to 1.5 in.; bill from gape, 1.15; culmen, 0.85.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—Only in Selangor, along the main range.

Extralimital Range.—Mountains of West Sumatra.

Nidification.—Quite unknown.

Habits.—Extremely little is known of this curious babbler, originally discovered in West Sumatra by Salomon Mueller, and also met with by Carl Bock, though neither Jacobson nor Kloss and myself came across it.

In the Malay Peninsula it has been found only on the Selangor main range, on Fraser's Hill, at Ginting Bidei, and on the hills south of that pass, at elevations between 2300 to 4000 ft.

It is almost exclusively a ground-bird, and lives principally on beetles, insects and grubs, though fallen fruit and berries also are said to be eaten. The specimens we have secured have been taken in dark damp jungle, generally in gullies or among fallen and dead timber, and the bird is usually solitary. The powers of flight, as denoted by its soft and rounded wing, are very limited. The feathers of the rump are very highly developed and form a thickened pad, more pronounced than in almost any other Timaliine or Pycnonotid bird.

The bird figured, about two-thirds natural size, is a male from Fraser's Hill, Selangor, 4000 ft., shot on 25th October 1909.

Stachyris nigriceps davisoni

The Malayan Grey-throated Babbler

Stachyris davisoni, Sharpe, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club*, i., 1892, p. vii. (foot of Gunong Tahan, Pahang); Hartert, *Nov. Zool.*, ix., 1902, p. 566; Grant, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, iii., 1908, p. 28.

Stachyris nigriceps, Sharpe (*nec* Hodgs.), *P.Z.S.*, 1887, p. 440; Oates and Reid, *Cat. Birds' Eggs, Brit. Mus.*, iv., 1903, p. 47.

Stachyris nigriceps davisoni, Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1922, p. 265.

Description.—*Adult.*—Sexes alike. Head, dull black; the feathers edged with grey, causing a streaked appearance; rest of the upper surface, including the wing coverts and rump, olive-brown. Primaries and tail feathers, dull brown, the outer webs edged with the colour of the back; inner aspect of wing, fuscous, the feathers, internally, edged with buffy, axillaries and under wing coverts, rufous buff, edge of wing, creamy buff. Lores and face and a streak behind the eye, dull grey; a ring round the eye, pale grey, lighter above and behind; ear coverts, bronzy yellowish brown; a short broad stripe from the gape, white. Beneath, chin and throat, mouse-grey, surrounded by a narrow margin of darker feathers; rest of the under surface, pale tawny rufescent, slightly paler in the middle of the belly, darker and more uniform on the flank, thighs and under tail coverts.

Immature.—Hardly distinguishable from the adults but duller below, the streaking rather less perceptible.

Soft Parts.—Iris, chestnut; bill, slate; culmen, black; feet, greyish brown, with a greenish cast.

Dimensions.—Total length, 5 to 5.5 in.; wing, 2.3 to 2.5 in.; tail, 2.5 in.; tarsus, 0.75 to 0.8 in.; bill from gape, 0.7 in.; culmen, 0.6 to 0.7 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—From the State of Perlis southwards to South Negri Sembilan and probably on the Johore hills. On Penang Island.

Extralimital Range.—The present form is peculiar to the Malay Peninsula, but the species, as a whole, is very widely spread from the Himalayas throughout the Indo-Chinese countries to French Indo-China and Yunnan, and in Borneo Sumatra and adjacent small islands, but not in Java.

Nidification.—Unknown in the Malay Peninsula. In the north of Tenasserim the almost indistinguishable *S. nigriceps dipora*, Oberholser, builds a domed nest of dry bamboo leaves lined with fine grass roots, the entrance being on one side (*Bingham*). It is generally placed on the ground among rubbish, often on a sloping bank, often among bamboos. The eggs are four or five in number, pure white and rather glossy (pale fawn before being blown). Average dimensions are 0.76 by 0.58 in. (*Baker*). The breeding season in Malaya probably commences in March or April.

Habits.—Throughout the Malay Peninsula, from Kedah southwards to the hills of Negri Sembilan, this little babbler is very common, mostly in thick jungle, ascending the hills to about 4000 ft., but not coming down to the coastal jungles. It is of doubtful occurrence in either Johore or Malacca, and is not represented in the immense collections made by Davison and Darling. There is very little to say about it that does not apply to many others of the smaller Timaliine birds. It is met with in pairs, occasionally in small parties, amongst the undergrowth and in the branches of small trees, but does not leave the shelter of the jungle, and is never seen on the ground. Food seems to be mainly, if not entirely, insectivorous, though birds are occasionally met with having the feathers of the breast and throat daubed with some glutinous seed.

Note.—North of the State of Perlis a possibly distinct subspecies is met with which, on average, appears to be more tawny and rufescent, especially on the flanks and edges of the primaries, than the southern bird described here. The differences are trivial and hard to perceive, except in large series, and may in part be due to the age of the feather and to post-mortem changes. The form has been named by Mr Oberholser *S. nigriceps dipora* (*Smithsonian Misc. Coll.*, 74, No. 2, 1922, p. 7: type from Trang), but in the opinion of Mr Kloss and myself the characters seem to have been accidentally transposed in Mr Oberholser's description.¹

A rather richer deeper-coloured bird occurs on Pulau Tioman, which has been named *S. n. tionis*.

Stachyris poliocephala diluta

The Malayan Grey-headed Babbler

With the head and throat dark grey, the feathers edged with white. Rest of upper surface, dull brown; below, bright rusty red. Length, about 6 in.

This species is a common lowland jungle bird, but its occurrence above a height of 2500 ft. is very rare and accidental. Hartert states that Waterstradt obtained it at 3000 and 4000 ft. on Gunong Tahan, but there is almost certainly some error in the labels. I obtained it on the same mountain at no higher than 1500 ft.

The bird will be fully described in a later volume.

Stachyris leucotis leucotis

The Malayan White-eared Babbler

Malay Name.—Kélichap bunga kantan(?).

A small, thick-set bird, with large heavy feet; lores and feathers of the forehead stiff and upstanding.

Head and nape, greyish, with a brownish wash; mantle, back, tail and external aspect of wing, rufous chestnut; the secondaries and wing coverts with pale buffy tips; a white stripe behind the ear and down the sides of the crown; a vertical white stripe behind the ears coverts and another of large guttate white spots on the sides of the neck, separated from the former by a broad black band, joined to the black of the chin and foreneck; breast and upper belly, dark grey, lower belly and flanks, deep rufous; under tail coverts, brown, with pale edges.

This babbler is strictly a ground-bird, ranging throughout the Peninsula in heavy jungle, but much more numerous in the south. We have obtained it at Ginting Bidei and in the Negri Sembilan hills, south to Gunong Angsi and Bukit Tampin, but it does not reach any higher altitude than about 2500 ft. Davison found it very abundant at the foot of Gunong Pulai in Johore.

¹ Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, xiii., 1927, p. 211.

*Stachyris nigricollis***The Black-necked Babbler**

Head, blackish grey; the forehead finely striped with white; a white stripe behind the eye and a white spot at the base of the mandible; mantle, back and external aspect of wings, maroon-chestnut; tail, dark brown. Beneath, throat and breast, glossy black, narrowly bordered beneath by white; lower breast and belly, grey; under tail coverts and flanks, reddish brown. Total length, 5 to 5.5 in. Wray is stated to have obtained this babbler in the Batang Padang mountains, South Perak, but we have found it common only in quite low-country jungle, often swampy.

*Thringorhina striolata guttata***Tickell's Spotted Babbler**

Above, rufescent brown, the head darker, the rump more rusty; the feathers of the mantle blackish, with white centres; a black-and-white eyebrow and a similar line below the ear coverts; beneath, throat, white; the rest of the under surface orange-chestnut.

This species is not known from the British portion of the Malay Peninsula, but is common in various parts of Peninsular Siam up to about 3000 ft. In habits it resembles birds of the genus *Stachyris*, but is less terrestrial than some, keeping largely to the lower branches of shrubs and small trees, though it is occasionally seen on the ground.

The bird will be described in detail and figured in Volume IV. of this work.

*Kenopia striata***The Striped Babbler**

Head and nape, black, with stripes and rounded spots of white; mantle and wing coverts, reddish, with broad elongate white stripes. Beneath, white; the flanks fuscous; a large patch on each side of the breast with the feathers broadly margined with black. Total length, 5.5 in.

Waterstradt obtained this bird at 4000 ft. on Gunong Tahan, and Wallace secured it on Mount Ophir. It is everywhere rather rare, but the majority of the specimens in our possession have been collected in low-country swampy jungle.

Very little is known of the habits, except that it is almost entirely terrestrial, frequenting thorny undergrowth.

*Stachyridopsis rufifrons poliogaster***Hume's Grey-bellied Babbler**

Stachyris poliogaster, Hume, *Stray Feath.*, ix., 1880, p. 116 (Gunong Pulai, Johore); Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vii., 1883, p. 599; Robinson, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, ii., 1909, p. 202.

Description.—*Adult.*—Sexes alike. Lores, a narrow frontal band, superciliary stripe and the sides of the head, grey, the ear coverts rather darker; head and nape, dull chestnut-red, faintly and irregularly streaked with black; back, rump and wing coverts, dull olive-brown; primaries and tail feathers, a brighter brown, edged with rufescent; inner aspect of wing, dull greyish brown, the primaries edged with whitish buff on their inner webs, under wing coverts and axillaries, white. Beneath, chin and throat, greyish white, with fine black shaft-lines to the feathers; a pale fulvous brown band across the breast; remainder of lower surface, thighs and under tail coverts, grey, paler on the middle of the abdomen.

Soft Parts.—"Iris, deep brown; lower mandible, fleshy pink; upper mandible, plumbeous brown; legs, feet and claws, dark fleshy, tinged with green" (*W. Davison*).

Dimensions.—Total length, 4·2 to 4·7 in.; wing, 1·9 to 2·1 in.; tail, 1·7 to 1·9 in.; tarsus, 0·6 to 0·7 in.; bill from gape, 0·7 in.; culmen, 0·45 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—From South Perak to Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Johore, usually at moderate elevations up to 3500 ft.

Extralimital Range.—Borneo and Sumatra, but the material available for comparison is very limited.

Nidification.—Quite unknown. Allied forms build an egg-shaped nest, with the entrance at the top, composed of bamboo leaves and roots, and lined with fine tendrils, usually placed near the ground, but not on it, in bamboo clumps. Eggs, four in number, pearly white in ground-colour, with faint specks and blotches, usually in a ring near the larger end. Some eggs are entirely white (*Baker*).

Habits.—This obscure little babbler is extremely rare throughout its range, and not more than a score of specimens are known. It is a bird of the undergrowth, occupying, apparently, a very limited zone of altitude, in all probability that of certain species of bamboos. My Dyak collectors, who alone have obtained the bird in the Malay Peninsula, say that it is found singly or in pairs, and not in flocks. They had no information as to its note. Other races are said to utter a clear and musical whistle.

Note.—In the extreme north of Peninsular Siam a very closely related bird is found, differing only in the paler rufous brown cap, and the more yellowish brown upper surface: Mr Stuart Baker has named it *St. rufifrons obscura*.¹

Stachyridopsis chrysæa chrysops

The Malay Golden-headed Babbler

Stachyris chrysops, Richmond, *Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington*, xv., 1902, p. 157 (Trang, Peninsular Siam).

Cyanoderma chrysæa, Sharpe, *P.Z.S.*, 1887, p. 440.

Stachyridopsis chrysæa assimilis, Hartert, *Nov. Zool.*, ix., 1902, p. 566.

¹ *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club*, xxxviii., 1907, p. 10 (Klong Bang Lai, Peninsular Siam).

Stachyris chrysæa bocagei (nec Salvad.), Robinson, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, ii., 1909, p. 202.

Stachyris chrysæa chrysops, Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1922, p. 267.

Malay Name.—Kelichap mas.

Description.—*Adult.*—Sexes alike. Extreme forehead, golden yellow, tending to orange; rest of head, less bright yellow, streaked with black; mantle, wing coverts, back and rump, yellowish olive-green; primaries, olive-brown, edged with bright yellow; internal aspect of wing, fuscous, the inner primaries edged with white on the inner webs, axillaries, under wing coverts and edge of wing, bright yellow; tail, greyish brown, edged with greenish. Lores to the eyes, blackish; ear coverts, dull yellowish. Under surface, bright yellow, brightest on the throat, nearly orange on the chin, duller olive-green on the flanks, thighs and under tail coverts.

Immature (half-grown).—Uniform olive-brown, without a trace of golden yellow.

Note.—In life this bird has the golden-yellow parts of an extraordinary brilliancy and purity, which fades with unexampled rapidity after death, the upper parts, especially the edges to the quills, becoming a dirty greyish green.

Soft Parts.—Iris, brown; bill, bluish; pinkish red at the base of the lower mandible; feet, greenish horn.

Dimensions.—Total length, 4 to 4.5 in.; wing, 1.9 to 2.1 in.; tail, 2 in.; tarsus, 0.75 in.; bill from gape, 0.6 in.; culmen, 0.45 to 5 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—From the Northern border to Southern Selangor and in Pahang, but only on the higher mountains.

Extralimital Range.—The form described is peculiar to the Malay Peninsula. Other races are found from the Himalayas to French Indo-China and in Sumatra. All are rather difficult to discriminate, except possibly in life, owing to the above-noted liability to rapid change of colour in skins.

Nidification.—Breeds on Fraser's Hill above the Semangko Pass about the end of January, but eggs have not, as yet, been obtained. The allied Himalayan race builds a small cup-shaped, or sometimes domed, nest, placed in bushes or bamboo clumps often quite close to the ground. The eggs are usually four in number, moderately glossy, and generally pure white, but occasionally faintly spotted.

Habits.—Fairly common on most of the higher hills of the Peninsula, but in the south rarely descending below about 3500 ft. It is met with in flocks of from five or six to twenty or more in number, amongst low bushes and dwarfed trees, near the summits of the hills and on ridges, and, like other hill birds, is very tame and fearless. Unlike species of *Stachyris*, with which genus it has been often associated, it is rarely, if ever, found on the ground. The food is almost entirely small insects, chiefly ants.

*Cyanoderma erythroptera erythroptera***The Red-winged Babbler**

Vol. I., p. 224.

Skin round the eye and on the sides of the neck, bare, of a silvery cobalt colour. Above, rich brown, the wing coverts rufous chestnut, the primaries and tail feathers rather duller. Beneath, dark grey; the middle of the abdomen paler; the flanks, thighs and under tail coverts washed with brown. Total length, about 6 in.

This species, a quite low-country bird, has been obtained by Mr Seimund on Gunong Kledang, and occurs on Bukit Tampin, Negri Sembilan, at about 1500 ft., and on the lower slopes of Mount Ophir. It frequents the lower boughs of the smaller trees and bushes, usually in rather dry jungle.

*Mixornis gularis pileata***The Malay Yellow-breasted Babbler**

Vol. I., p. 223.

Head, dark chestnut, the crown with shining shaft stripes; rest of the upper surface, pale rufous chestnut, richer on the wing coverts. Beneath, clear yellow; the throat and breast with thick black shaft stripes; flanks and under tail coverts, greyish olive-green.

Practically the same distribution as the preceding species, but possibly ranging a little higher. Mr Seimund found it common on Gunong Kledang.

*Macronus ptilosus ptilosus***The Malayan Fluffy-backed Babbler**

Distinguished from all other babblers of the group by the mass of greatly elongated disintegrated feathers springing from the back, blackish in colour, with conspicuously white shafts. General colour, fulvous brown; crown of head, bright chestnut; throat, black; bare skin round eye, and on sides of the neck, blue.

Wray records this common lowland babbler from the Batang Padang mountains, but its occurrence above about 1500 ft. is rare and accidental. It frequents low brushwood and undergrowth, occasionally descending to the ground.

*Anuropsis malaccensis malaccensis***Hume's Short-wing**

Vol. I., p. 221.

General colour above, russet-brown, greyer on the forehead; beneath, throat and middle of the belly, white; sides of the breast and flanks, tawny buff. Total length, about 5 to 5.5 in.; tail, very short, less than 2 in.

This bird has been fully described in Volume I. It occasionally strays up the hillsides to an altitude not exceeding about 3000 ft., above which height it seems to be replaced by *Corythocichla b. leucosticta*. It is, however, found in drier, more open jungle than that species.

*Turdinulus epilepidotus granti***The Malayan Wren-Babbler**PLATE 17 (*upper figures: left, female; right, male*)

Turdinulus granti, Richmond, *Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus.*, xii., 1900, p. 320 (Trang, Peninsular Siam); Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, v., 1914, p. 56.

Turdinulus humei, Hartert, *Nov. Zool.*, ix., 1902, p. 564; Robinson, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, i., 1905, p. 26.

Turdinulus epilepidotus davisoni (part), Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind.*, *Birds* (2nd ed.), i., 1922, p. 255.

Description.—Tail, very short, hardly emerging from the upper tail coverts.

Adult.—Sexes alike. Above, dull russet-brown, more rufous on the rump, darker on the head, all the feathers, except those of the rump, with darker edges, those of the mantle with fine, buffy white shaft stripes; wing coverts, like the back, but warmer, with small triangular buffy white tips. Primaries and secondaries, brown, the former with paler or rusty edges, the latter with minute buffy white tips; inner aspect of wing, dark brown; axillaries and under wing coverts, pale brown; tail feathers, dull brown, with rusty or paler edges. A whitish loreal spot; a stripe from behind the eye, creamy buff, bordered below by black; sides of the head, speckled, the feathers buff, with dark tips; ear coverts, greyish, the feathers behind and below them buff, with dark tips. Beneath, throat dirty-white, unmarked; the rest of the under surface pale buffy, the feathers broadly edged with brown, more marked on the sides of the breast, producing an obscurely striped effect; flanks, under tail coverts and thighs, a much warmer brown, almost unstriped.

Immature.—Young birds of this genus are difficult to discriminate from adults, and very young birds seem to be unknown, but from the large series before me it would appear that the depth and distinctness of the streaks on the lower surface increases with age.

Soft Parts.—Iris, brown, hazel or reddish brown; bill, plumbeous horn or black; the mandible grey; feet, brownish flesh.

Dimensions.—Total length, 4 to 4.5 in.; wing, 2.1 to 2.3 in.; tail, 0.85 to 1 in.; tarsus, 0.75 to 0.85 in.; bill from gape, 0.75 in.; culmen, 0.55 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—Throughout its whole length to South Johore, usually at moderate elevations, about 2000 ft., but as high as 4500 ft., and sometimes nearly at sea-level.

Extralimital Range.—The form described is peculiar to the Malay Peninsula, but a large number of closely allied forms are known from the Himalayas, throughout the Indo-Chinese countries, and from Java, Sumatra and Borneo, usually in hilly or mountainous districts.

Nidification.—Birds of this genus build fragile nests, ball-shaped, domed or partly domed, of leaves, etc., and they are always situated on the ground. The eggs are white, slightly glossy, and finely speckled with red or reddish brown. Baker gives the average dimensions of four eggs obtained by Mr W. A. T. Kellow, near Taiping, Perak, as 0.71 by 0.48 in.

Habits.—This little wren-like bird is extremely common in heavy jungle on the lower hills of the Peninsula, and though not particularly shy is difficult to see and observe, as it lives among dense undergrowth, fern, brakes or rocky places, and the like, at the edge of streams, into which it dives when alarmed. It goes about in pairs, and has a curious, chuckling note, varied by occasionally sharper tones. The food is mainly ants and ground-insects, often picked out from among dead leaves and underneath rotten logs.

The birds figured, four-fifths natural size, are a male (right) from Gunong Tampin, Negri Sembilan, 1500 ft., shot on 14th September 1913, and a female (left) from Chong Hill, Trang, Peninsular Siam, shot on 25th December 1909. The figure shows the feathers of the mantle rather too squamated.

Corythocichla brevicaudata leucosticta

Sharpe's Streaked Wren-Babbler

PLATE 17 (*lower figures*)

Corythocichla leucosticta, Sharpe, *P.Z.S.*, 1887, p. 438; Butler, *Journ. Straits Branch, Roy. Asiat. Soc.*, No. 32, 1899, p. 11; Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, v., 1914, p. 55.

Turdinulus striatus leucosticta, Hartert, *Nov. Zool.*, ix., 1902, p. 565.

Corythocichla brevicaudata herberti, Stuart Baker, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club*, xxxviii., 1917, p. 10 (Tung Song, Peninsular Siam).

Description.—*Adult.*—Sexes alike. Head, mantle, back and scapulars, ashy brown, the feathers boldly margined with black; rump and upper tail coverts, uniform brown; wing coverts, more brown, with small white tips. Primaries, russet-brown, with paler rufescent margins; secondaries rather darker, tipped with white; inner aspect of wing, ashy, axillaries and under wing coverts, greyish brown. Lores, sides of the head, ear coverts, and a superciliary stripe, dark grey. Throat and upper breast, greyish white, with broad, blackish streaks; rest of the under surface much more brownish; the stripes broader, but more indefinite; the flanks, middle of the belly, thighs and under tail coverts more rufescent brown.

Immature.—A half-grown bird is dark chocolate-brown; the mantle with pale hair-streaks, and the crown with slightly darker edges to the feathers; the wing coverts and secondaries have pale buffy spots at the tip; under surface with no trace of stripes; the throat dark grey; the remainder dark brown, more ferruginous on the under tail coverts and the belly.

Soft Parts.—Iris, carmine or chocolate-red; bill, greenish lead, black on the culmen; feet, brownish flesh.

Dimensions.—Total length, 5·7 to 6 in.; wing, 2·5 to 2·7 in.; tail, 1·9 to 2·1 in.; tarsus, 1 to 1·1 in.; bill from gape, 0·75 to 0·8 in.; culmen, 0·65 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—Throughout its length, as far south as Gunong Tampin; in Negri Sembilan and on the island of Tioman, whence birds are almost unseparable.

Extralimital Range.—The form described is peculiar to the Malay Pen-

insula. Closely allied races occur on the hills of the Indo-Chinese countries but not in the Indo-Malayan Islands.

Nidification.—Not known, but probably resembling that of *Turdinulus e. granti*. The eggs, of course, will be larger.

Habits.—This wren-babbler is very common throughout the Malay Peninsula, and, as noted, extends farther south than most of the strictly montane birds of the Peninsula. It is found at considerable elevations, as high as 6000 ft., in situations similar to those of *T. e. granti*, and, like it, usually in pairs. It is perhaps rather less of a skulker, and makes more use of its wings, though when hard pressed it, too, will take refuge among rocks and under boulders. The food is almost entirely animal, and besides insects and grubs, small molluscs are eaten. The bird has the curiosity of the wrens, and will approach the observer very closely if he remains perfectly still. I have even known one to perch on the end of a gun barrel.

Note.—The affinities of this group are not well understood, and it is quite probable that this species and the preceding should be regarded as true wrens and not as babblers at all. The young, as described above, very closely resemble those of *Pnoepyga*.

The birds figured, about four-fifths natural size, are: male (left) from Koh Khau, Trang, Peninsular Siam, shot on 13th January 1910; and female (right), from Maxwell's Hill, near Taiping, Perak, 3300 ft., shot on 10th May 1911.