

# WARBLERS

## Family SYLVIIDÆ

Vol. I., p. 245.

THIS family has a fair number of species domiciled on the hills of the Malay Peninsula, while, in addition, several others, mostly willow-warblers, are either winter residents or birds of passage, about which further information is required.

The classification of the family, as a whole, is in a state of flux, and many of the Malayan resident forms are very aberrant, and have been usually regarded as true flycatchers, such as the genera *Seicercus* and *Abrornis*. Others again, like *Suya* and *Franklinia*, have perhaps claims to be included in that polymorphic family *Timaliidæ*, or even to be regarded themselves as of family rank. For the present, however, I have thought it best to treat all the species dealt with in the following pages as warblers, therein following Mr Stuart Baker (*Faun. Brit. Ind.* (2nd ed.), vol. ii., 1924, pp. 382-527).

### KEY TO THE SPECIES HERE DESCRIBED

- |   |   |  |   |   |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | { | Tail of ten feathers . . . . .   | 2 |   |
|   | { | Tail of twelve feathers . . . . .  | 5 |   |
|   | { | Tail very much graduated, longer than wing, the feathers usually pointed and disintegrated . . . . . |   | <i>Suya waterstradti</i> , p. 237                     |
| 2 | { | Tail nearly square or rounded, shorter, or but little longer than wing . . . . .                     | 3 |   |
|   | { | Bill short and curved . . . . .  |   | <i>Abrornis superciliaris schwaneri</i> , p. 239      |
| 3 | { | Bill long, flattened and straight . . . . .  | 4 |   |
|   | { | Head, paler rufous, little or no white on outer tail feather . . . . .                               |   | <i>Phyllergates cucullatus thais</i> , p. 241         |
| 4 | { | Head, deeper rufous, with more white on outer tail feather . . . . .                                 |   | <i>Phyllergates cucullatus cinereicollis</i> , p. 240 |
|   | { | Tail graduated . . . . .   | 6 |   |
| 5 | { | Tail rounded or nearly square . . . . .  | 8 |   |

- |    |   |   |   |    |
|----|---|---|---|----|
| 6  | { | With no green tinge above ; head<br>not chestnut . . . . .  | <i>Franklinia rufescens</i> , p. 242                    |    |
|    |   | Back and mantle greenish ; head<br>chestnut-rufous . . . . .  |   | 7  |
| 7  | { | Beneath, greyish ; throat usually<br>black ; the flanks greenish yellow                                   | <i>Orthotomus a. atrigularis</i> , p. 241               |    |
|    |   | Beneath, buffy white ; the flanks<br>not greenish yellow  | <i>Orthotomus sutorius maculicollis</i> ,<br>p. 242     |    |
| 8  | { | Crown more or less chestnut . . . . .   |   | 9  |
|    |   | Crown not chestnut . . . . .  |   | 10 |
| 9  | { | Beneath, bright chrome-yellow . . . . .   | <i>Seicercus montis davisoni</i> , p. 246               |    |
|    |   | Beneath, entirely grey ; under tail<br>coverts white  | <i>Seicercus castaneocephs youngi</i> ,<br>p. 247       |    |
|    |   | Beneath, grey ; flanks and under<br>tail coverts yellow . . . . .   | <i>Seicercus castaneocephs butleri</i> , p. 248         |    |
| 10 | { | With a marked median stripe on<br>crown . . . . .   |   | 11 |
|    |   | With no median stripe on crown . . . . .  |   | 13 |
| 11 | { | Colour, beneath, bright yellowish<br>green ; first primary longer ; wing<br>bars absent or not pronounced | <i>Seicercus trivirgatus parvirostris</i> ,<br>p. 245   |    |
|    |   | Paler beneath, first primary minute ;<br>wing bars generally conspicuous                                  |   | 12 |
| 12 | { | Darker greenish above, more<br>yellowish beneath  | <i>Phylloscopus inornatus inornatus</i> ,<br>p. 243     |    |
|    |   | More yellowish above, greyish be-<br>neath ; under tail coverts, clear<br>pale yellow                     | <i>Acanthopneuste occipitalis coronatus</i> ,<br>p. 243 |    |
| 13 | { | Slightly smaller, first primary very<br>short and narrow  | <i>Acanthopneuste borealis borealis</i> ,<br>p. 245     |    |
|    |   | Slightly larger, first primary longer<br>and broader, extending well be-<br>yond the primary coverts      | <i>Acanthopneuste borealis xanthodryas</i> ,<br>p. 245  |    |

*Suya waterstradti*

**The Tahan Hill Warbler**

*Suya waterstradti*, Hartert, *Nov. Zool.*, ix., 1902, p. 568 (Gunong Tahan) ;  
Ogilvie-Grant, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, iii., 1908, p. 23.

**Description.**—*Adult.*—Whole upper surface, including the wing, a some-  
what dusky olive-brown, the edges of the primaries rather lighter ; inner  
aspect of wings, dusky, the inner edges of the quills buffy ; under wing coverts  
and axillaries, brighter buff. Tail as the back, but rather paler, the shafts  
white towards the tips, and the feathers, when unworn, fringed with whitish ;

lores and feathers near the eye, blackish, the latter faintly tipped with white; ear coverts, slaty, washed with olive. Beneath, white; feathers of the breast very broadly edged with black; flanks, thighs and under tail coverts, fulvescent brown.

*Immature.*—Tail feathers rather greyer and much broader; the breast lacking most of the heavy black edges to the feathers, greyish, not so pure white.

**Soft Parts.**—Iris, dark brown; bill, mostly black, brownish at the tip and at the base of the lower mandible; feet, brownish flesh-colour.

**Dimensions.**—Total length, 6·5 to 7 in.; wing, 1·9 to 2·2 in.; tail, 4 to 4·5 in.; tarsus, 0·7 to 0·8 in.; bill from gape, 0·6 to 0·65 in.; culmen, 0·5 to 0·55 in.

**Range in the Malay Peninsula.**—Confined, so far as is known, to the more barren, heath-like portions of Gunong Tahan, Pahang, from about 4900 ft. to the summit, 7186 ft.

**Extralimital Range.**—The Malayan bird seems to have no very close allies; it is certainly far removed from the Sumatran bird, *S. albogularis*, and from any of the species inhabiting the hills of Tenasserim, Yunnan and Indo-China.

**Nidification.**—Unknown.

**Habits.**—Together with the woodpecker, *Picus canus robinsoni*, this warbler shares the distinction of being absolutely confined to the higher levels of Gunong Tahan in Northern Pahang. On the barren and somewhat bare, heath-like expanses of that mountain, and on the knife-like ridges, thinly covered with low shrubs and trees, with stiff and leathery leaves, this warbler is, at times, one of the commonest of birds, flitting about the bushes in company with species of *Siva*, *Mesia* and *Pteruthius*, and climbing up the tall grasses and sedges which, with species of *Xyris*, occupy the flatter and damper spaces. The bird is generally seen singly or in pairs, and is very active among the grass and shrubs, though its flight is by no means strong. When among the bushes its tail is in constant motion, and is generally carried elevated above the back. It has, at times, a pleasant little song, but its usual note, especially when alarmed, is a shrill “*twee-twee*.” In the summer, during the dry sunny months, the species was extraordinarily abundant on the plateau, outnumbering all other species, but during the continuous mists and drenching rains of the north-east monsoon it almost disappeared from the more open spaces, taking refuge in the gullies and among the cliffs, heavily overgrown with stunted trees, densely draped in moss and lichen. Despite our utmost endeavours we were never able to find any traces of nests. The breeding season is certainly over by the end of May, when most of our visits to the mountains were paid.

*Abrornis superciliaris schwaneri***The Bamboo Flycatcher-Warbler**

*Abrornis schwaneri*, Blyth, *Ibis*, 1870, p. 169 (Borneo); Robinson, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, ii., 1909, p. 191.

*Cryptolopha schwaneri*, Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, iv., 1879, p. 403; id. *Ibis*, 1889, p. 203, pl. viii., fig. 2.

*Abrornis sakaiorum*, Stresemann, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club*, xxxi., 1912, p. 27 (Cameron's Highlands, Perak-Pahang boundary, 3000 ft.).

*Abrornis superciliaris schwaneri*, Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), ii., 1924, p. 495.

**Malay Name.**—Keliçap buloh (?).

**Description.**—Tail with ten feathers only.

*Adult.*—Sexes alike. Head, brownish ash; mantle and rump, brownish olive, tinged with green; rump and upper tail coverts, pale yellow; wing coverts and external aspect of wing, brown, with paler edges to the feathers, inner aspect of wing, dusky, the quills with yellowish white inner edges, the axillaries and under wing coverts a brighter yellow. Tail feathers, ochraceous brown, edged with olive-green, the inner webs of the two outer pairs cinnamon-buff; a white stripe from the nostrils to above the ear coverts; lores, blackish grey; ear coverts, lighter, an incomplete whitish ring round the eye. Beneath, throat and neck, white; rest of abdomen bright pale yellow; middle of the abdomen whitish.

*Immature.*—Not very different from the adults, the abdomen perhaps a rather duller yellow.

**Soft Parts.**—Iris, dark; bill, dark horn, blackish on culmen; feet, dull greenish or yellowish brown.

**Dimensions.**—Total length, 4 to 4.25 in.; wing, 2.1 to 2.3 in.; tail, 1.7 to 1.9 in.; tarsus, 0.7 in.; bill from gape, 0.55 in.; culmen, 0.45 in.

**Range in the Malay Peninsula.**—From rather north of the latitude of Penang south to Negri Sembilan, and in Pahang.

**Extralimital Range.**—Borneo and Sumatra; the Javan bird, *A. s. vordermanni*, differs considerably.

**Nidification.**—There are no records from the Malay Peninsula. The late Colonel Bingham obtained the nest and eggs of the typical *A. s. superciliaris* (which differs only in size and in slightly lighter coloration) in Northern Tenasserim, in March. The nest was built of fibres and bamboo leaves, and placed inside a bamboo which had been cut, but left standing. The eggs were three in number, pinkish white, with pinkish claret spots, and averaged 0.58 by 0.43 in. (*Baker*).

**Habits.**—Birds of this genus and those belonging to *Seicercus* occupy a position intermediate between the true warblers, typified by such birds as the chiff-chaff and the Arctic willow-warblers, and the flycatchers, with which they agree in the highly developed rictal bristles. The young birds are, however, almost identical in plumage with the adults, and not spotted or streaked as in young flycatchers.

The present bird is widely spread throughout the central parts of the Peninsula, but is almost confined to jungle where there is a good deal of tall bamboo. In altitude it ranges up to 4000 or 4500 ft., and is very common on Cameron's Highlands, at Fraser's Hill, and on the hills of Negri Sembilan, but not farther south. Its habits are those of the smaller flycatchers, and insects are largely caught on the wing. The note is high and acid.

*Note*.—*A. sakaiorum* (*loc. cit.*) appears to be an aberration in which the yellow pigment is absent, so that the whole plumage is more or less grey. No further specimens have been secured, but the present species is common in the locality in which Dr Stresemann obtained his original type.

Oates (*Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds*, i., 1889, p. 430) refers to a specimen of *A. superciliaris* from *Singapore*. On examination the bird proves to be this bird from *Selangor*, and from the writing on the label was probably collected by Captain Syers either in the neighbourhood of Kuala Lumpur or near the Bernam river on the north-west border of the state of Selangor.

### *Phyllergates cucullatus cinereicollis*

#### The Ashy-naped Warbler

*Phyllergates cinereicollis*, Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1888, p. 479 (Kinabalu, North Borneo); *id. Ibis*, 1889, p. 279; Ogilvie-Grant, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, ii., 1908, p. 23.

*Phyllergates cucullatus* (*nec* Temm.), Sharpe, *P.Z.S.*, 1887, p. 440; *id.* 1888, p. 273; Butler, *Journ. Straits Branch, Roy. Asiat. Soc.*, No. 32, 1899, p. 16; Hartert, *Nov. Zool.*, ix., 1902, p. 569.

**Description**.—Tail with ten feathers only; bill rather flattened, very straight and long; gape with three bristles on each side.

*Adult*.—Sexes alike. Crown, orange-rufous; back of head and nape, dark ashy grey; mantle, back, rump, scapular, upper wing coverts and upper tail coverts, olive-green, rather brighter on the latter, which are tipped with pale yellow. Primaries and secondaries, brown, the outer webs edged with olive-green; inner aspect of wing, dusky, the quills edged with whitish on their inner webs; axillaries, under wing coverts and edge of wing, bright sulphur-yellow; tail feathers, brownish, washed with green. The outer pair sometimes, but not invariably, tipped and edged on the inner web with white. Lores, a stripe through the eye and the ear coverts, dark slaty grey, bordered above by a whitish superciliary stripe, which becomes greyish on the occiput. Throat, whitish grey, becoming darker on the breast. Flanks broadly sulphur-yellow, as also the under tail coverts; middle of the abdomen, hoary white; thighs, dull green.

*Immature*.—No very immature birds from Malaya are available, but in all the allied races the young have the head dark green or greyish green, more or less uniform with the mantle.

**Soft Parts**.—Iris, yellowish, hazel, or pale brown; upper mandible, black, lower, yellowish; feet, yellowish brown.

**Dimensions.**—Total length, 4.75 to 5 in. ; wing, 1.6 to 1.8 in. ; tail, 1.5 to 1.7 in. ; tarsus, 0.7 to 0.8 in. ; bill from gape, 0.75 in. ; exposed culmen, 0.55 to 0.6 in.

**Range in the Malay Peninsula.**—North Perak to Southern Selangor and in Pahang ; always at high elevations.

**Extralimital Range.**—Southern Malay Peninsula specimens are indistinguishable from those of this race originally described from Kina Balu. The typical race is confined to Java. Others are found in the Philippines, Celebes, and islands farther east. The bird from the Himalayas and Indo-China, *P. cucullatus coronatus*, differs more widely in having the whole of the inner webs of the two outer pairs of tail feathers white. It is found as least as far south as Muleyit in Tenasserim.

**Nidification.**—Not known. Somewhat doubtfully identified nests and eggs of the allied *P. c. coronatus*, brought to Mr Stuart Baker in Assam, closely resembled the nests of tailor-birds (*Orthotomus*), except that moss was used in the construction.

**Habits.**—Strictly confined to the higher hills but fairly common on most of them above about 3500 ft. The bird frequents the sides of ravines and cleared spaces overgrown with brushwood, and was fairly common on the Padang in Gunong Tahan. It lives on small insects, flies, etc., sought for amongst the bushes, and in all its habits closely resembles the common tailor-bird, including the call, which is a rattling note, endlessly repeated, “*trik trik trik.*”

*Note.*—The form occurring on the high hills of Peninsular Siam, Kao Luang, Nakon Sri Tammarat, from 5000 ft. upwards, which has been named *Phyllergates cucullatus thais*, needs no detailed description. It differs from the southern Peninsular bird in having the crown a lighter rufous orange, and in having more white on the inner webs of the outer tail feathers, in both these particulars showing an approach to the northern bird, *P. c. coronatus*.

Five specimens were obtained by Captain Pendlebury's party in March 1922, all near the summit of the mountain, in thick brushwood. The habits of this form are precisely those of other members of the genus.

### *Orthotomus atrigularis atrigularis*

#### The Malay Black-necked Tailor-Bird

Vol. I., p. 246, pl. 18 (*upper figures*).

Head and nape, chestnut-bay ; rest of the upper surface greenish, brighter on the tail coverts ; tail much graduated, yellowish green with paler tip. Beneath, chin and upper throat, ashy, streaked with black ; lower throat, black, with whitish streaks. Flanks, greyish, tinged with green ; under tail coverts, pale yellow. There is great variation in the black on the throat, which is usually more intense in birds from the more southern parts of the Peninsula and from Borneo. Females have the chestnut on the head much more restricted, hardly reaching beyond the eyes, and the black on the throat almost absent. Total length, about 4.5 in. ; wing, 1.7 to 1.8 in.

This tailor-bird does not ascend the hills in any great numbers to a height exceeding 3000 ft., though it is common at Ginting Bidei, and occurs in the neighbourhood of the Semangko Pass, but probably not as high as Fraser's Hill. Butler records the species from the Tea Gardens on the Larut Hills, and we have found it on Kedah Peak, and at lower levels on Gunong Tahan. Chasen secured several specimens near the summit of Penang Hill, at 2700 ft., in December 1927.

*Orthotomus sutorius maculicollis*

**The Malayan Long-tailed Tailor-Bird**

Forehead, chestnut, but that colour not extending behind or below the eye; rest of upper surface, greenish, the tail browner; ear coverts and sides of the head streaked with white and black. Under surface, whitish, strongly tinged with buff, the bases of the feathers of the throat and sides of the breast generally blackish. Total length, about 4·25 in.; tail, about 2·3 in.

Fairly common throughout the Peninsula, but rather more abundant in the north, though very numerous in Singapore Island. Normally a garden and scrub bird, found in the lowlands, but both Wray and Butler have secured it on the Larut Hills, up to 3000 ft., breeding in April, and Kloss obtained a male on Bukit Kutu, Selangor, 3400 ft., in August. It may also be looked for on the Semangko Pass. It has also occurred on Penang Hill.

This species is often included in another genus, *Sutorius*, on account of the central pair of tail feathers which project considerably beyond the rest in certain stages of plumage. The bird is rather difficult to discriminate from immature specimens of *Orthotomus a. atrigularis*, but may be separated by the strongly streaked ear coverts, and the buffy white under surface with no yellowish green on the flanks; the edge of the wing also is always white, not sulphur-yellow.

The species will be described in full in a later volume.

*Franklinia rufescens*

**Beavan's Wren-Warbler**

Tail of twelve feathers, graduated.

Above, brown, the head greyer, with a white stripe from the nostrils over the eye; wings and wing coverts, more rufous; tail with a subterminal, dull black bar and a white tip. Beneath, whitish, washed with rufous.

In winter plumage, darker, and more uniform above, the wings more rusty; beneath, much more strongly suffused with rufous, especially on the flanks and thighs, and with a longer tail. Quite young birds have a strong wash of pale sulphur-yellow on the lower surface.

Total length, about 4·5 in.; wing, about 1·7 in.; tail up to 2 in., varying according to season.

This is normally a brushwood, scrub and ricefield bird, often coming into gardens, and sometimes numerous in lalang wastes. It is, however, adventurous in its travels, and seems to spread along the roadsides and tracks, but is not normally found in heavy evergreen jungle.

Butler records it as abundant in the Tea Gardens clearing on the Larut Hills in February and March; it has been obtained at the Semangko Pass in February, and on Gunong Tahan, at 5000 ft., in July. Kloss obtained very young birds on Bukit Tangga, 1400 ft., in September. The bird will be more fully discussed in a later volume.

*Phylloscopus inornatus inornatus*

**The Crowned Willow-Warbler**

This willow-warbler may be recognized by its very dark head, with only a very faint coronal streak, but with broad and conspicuous yellowish superciliary stripes. The double bars on the wing usually bright and noticeable, not reduced by wear so much as in other species; under surface, dull yellowish.

The differences between *Phylloscopus* and *Acanthopneuste* are not great, but the members of the latter genus have a much coarser and stronger bill, the nostrils more fringed by supplementary hairs, and for the present I maintain both, as does Stuart Baker in the *Fauna of British India* (2nd ed.), ii., 1924, p. 453.

The present bird is a winter visitor to the Malay Peninsula, but is not common in the more southern districts. We have obtained it as far south as Taiping, and on Pulau Rumpia, one of the Sembilan Islands. In Peninsular Siam it is fairly common, and Mr Chasen secured a single female near the summit of Penang Island, at 2600 ft., in December 1927; the species is therefore included in this volume.

Of late years there has been much discussion as to the name which properly applies to this little warbler. It is often referred to as *Ph. humii præmium*, Math. and Iredale, while in the older literature it will be found under the title *Phylloscopus superciliosus*.

The species will be figured in Volume V. of this work.

*Acanthopneuste occipitalis coronatus*

**Temminck's Crowned Willow-Warbler**

*Ficedula coronata*, Temm. and Schleg., in Siebold's *Faun. Jap.*, *Aves*, 1847, p. 48 (Japan).

*Phylloscopus coronatus*, Seebohm, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, v., 1881, p. 49; Hartert, *Nov. Zool.*, ix., 1902, p. 552; Robinson, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, ii., 1909, p. 208.

*Phylloscopus occipitalis coronata*, Hartert, *Vög. Palaarkt.*, *Faun.*, i., 1909, p. 521.



*Acanthopneuste occipitalis coronatus*, Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), ii., 1924, p. 480.

**Description.**—*Adult.*—Sexes alike. Above, a brownish olive-green, darker on the head; much brighter, more yellowish on the rump and upper tail coverts; a yellowish grey median stripe on the crown, broadening on the nape; a white stripe from the bill over the eye to the sides of the neck, broadening and becoming more yellowish on the latter; lores, dark, bordered beneath by a white stripe; the ear coverts and sides of the face mottled yellowish and dusky; wing coverts, greenish olive, with pale tips, forming a double bar, the upper sometimes hardly visible. Primaries and secondaries, brownish, edged with olive-green, inner aspect of the quills with narrow white edgings to the inner webs, edge of wing, under wing coverts and axillaries, pale sulphur-yellow. Tail feathers, brownish, washed with olive-green, the inner webs narrowly edged with white. Beneath, whitish, faintly tinged with yellow; the sides of the breast, dusky; thighs, mottled white and brownish; under tail coverts, clear pale yellow, distinct from the abdomen.

*Immature.*—Much brighter yellow beneath.

*Note.*—Malayan birds are generally in very worn plumage; in freshly moulted birds both wing bars are very distinct, the head is darker, and the median and superciliary stripes more noticeable and strongly tinged with yellow.

**Soft Parts.**—"Iris, dark; bill, dark brown; lower mandible, dull yellow; tarsi, brown; the feet olive-yellow" (*Kloss*).

**Dimensions.**—Total length, 4.75 to 5.2 in.; wing, 2.35 to 2.6 in.; tail, 1.8 to 2.1 in.; tarsus, 0.65 to 0.7 in.; bill from gape, 0.6 in.; culmen, 0.45 to 0.5 in.

**Range in the Malay Peninsula.**—Throughout its length to Johore, but nowhere very common.

**Extralimital Range.**—Breeds in Siberia, North China and Japan, and winters throughout the countries east of the Bay of Bengal.

**Nidification.**—Does not breed in the Malay Peninsula. Nests in Japan are small cup-shaped structures of moss, etc., placed in holes on banks and trees. Five to seven eggs are laid, pure white in colour, and averaging 0.65 by 0.5 in. (*Baker*).

**Habits.**—This willow-warbler is not uncommon throughout the Malay Peninsula during the winter months, arriving about September, and, in the more northern parts, staying as late as the middle of April. Unlike *A. b. borealis*, it has not been obtained on the islets of the Straits of Malacca during the autumn migration, and during its stay in the country keeps much more to the deeper jungles. It is not infrequent on the hills, and has been obtained on Cameron's Highlands in October, and at the foot of Gunong Tahan in December; with us it is a very quiet, unobtrusive little bird, keeping to the lower boughs of trees and seldom emerging from amongst the foliage.

*Acanthopneuste borealis borealis***The Arctic Willow-Warbler**

Vol. I., p. 251.

With no median stripe on crown, a double bar on wing, often inconspicuous. Much browner, less greenish olive above than the preceding species. Beneath, whitish yellow, the under tail coverts not brighter yellow than the belly. Total length, 4.8 to 5.2 in., a little larger than *A. o. coronatus*.

A winter visitor to the Malay Peninsula, though it has been obtained as late as June on islands in Singapore Straits. It will be found on most of the hills from September or October to March, at moderate elevations, commonest on hills near the coast. It has been recorded from Penang Hill.

None of the willow-warblers are resident birds in the Malay Peninsula, and all are somewhat difficult to identify, especially in worn plumage. The species will be fully dealt with and figured in the final volume of this work, in the section devoted to migratory birds.

*Acanthopneuste borealis xanthodryas***The Japanese Arctic Willow-Warbler**

A little larger than *A. borealis borealis*, with the head a darker brown, more distinct from the rest of the upper surface, and decidedly more yellow beneath. The outermost small primary larger and broader, extending well beyond the primary coverts.

This race is the far-eastern form of the Arctic willow-warbler, breeding in Japan and Kamchatka, and wintering in the Indo-Malayan Archipelago and the south of China.

A few birds come as far west as the Malay Peninsula, and have been obtained, amongst other places, on Kedah Peak.

More information is required about this race, especially as to the dates of arrival and departure.

*Seicercus trivirgatus parvirostris*<sup>1</sup>**Stresemann's Green Flycatcher-Warbler**

*Phylloscopus trivirgatus parvirostris*, Stresemann, *Nov. Zool.*, xix., p. 322 (Gunong Tahan); Hartert, *op. cit.*, xxvii., 1920, p. 462.

*Cryptolopha trivirgata* (Strickl.), Sharpe, *P.Z.S.*, 1887, p. 435; *id. op. cit.*, 1888, p. 271; Hartert, *Nov. Zool.*; ix., 1902, p. 553; Ogilvie-Grant, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, iii., 1908, p. 36; Kloss, *op. cit.*, x., 1921, p. 219.

**Description.**—Mantle, back, rump and upper wing coverts, yellowish olive, brightest on the rump. Primary coverts, primaries and secondaries, blackish brown, the primaries narrowly, and the secondaries broadly, edged with the colour of the back on the outer webs. Inner aspect of quills, dusky, the inner webs with whitish edges, under wing coverts and axillaries, whitish,

<sup>1</sup> Birds of this genus have been known hitherto as *Cryptolopha*. *Seicercus*, of the same author, Swainson, has, however, slight priority.

broadly tipped with pale yellow. Middle tail feathers, olive-brown, strongly tinged with green, the remainder browner, the outer ones narrowly edged with white on their inner webs. Head, black, with a broad yellowish green mesial stripe on the crown, and an equally broad superciliary stripe, starting from the nostrils. A black streak from the lores to the eye, and a larger black patch behind the eye; sides of the head, greenish yellow, the ear coverts duller. Beneath, greenish yellow, more dusky on the flanks, brighter on the middle of the belly and under tail coverts.

*Immature*.—Much duller than the adults; black of head not so clear, and the mesial and superciliary stripes less clear and greyer. Beneath, pale dusky olive; the throat and middle of the belly whiter; the whole under surface with no bright yellow.

**Soft Parts**.—Iris, pale hazel or umber; bill, blackish or horn, yellowish at tip and base; feet, French grey.

**Dimensions**.—Total length, 4·2 to 4·5 in.; wing, 2·2 to 2·3 in.; tail, 1·6 to 1·8 in.; tarsus, 0·8 in.; bill from gape, 0·55 in.; exposed culmen, 0·5 in.

**Range in the Malay Peninsula**.—From North Perak to South Selangor; Pahang.

**Extralimital Range**.—The very closely allied typical form is found in the mountains of Java and Sumatra, and probably in Borneo. The bird described as *C. kinabaluensis*, Sharpe, though somewhat resembling the young of this bird, is, I think, a distinct species.

**Nidification**.—Unknown in the Malay Peninsula. Other species of the genus build cup-shaped or domed nests of moss, leaves and fibre, and lay three to five moderately glossy, pure white eggs. Those of this bird from Java, in the Nehr Korn Collection, measure 0·69 by 0·53 in.

**Habits**.—Widely distributed over the main range of the Peninsula, not usually below 4000 ft., and exceedingly common on Gunong Tahan, very much rarer on the Larut Hills in Perak, and not recorded from Peninsular Siam, this little bird is usually met with in small parties, generally low down among the shrubs and small trees in the scrubby or zerophytic zone, near the summits of the mountains. It is very tame and fearless, and allows of a very close approach. In habits it is not very like the ordinary flycatcher, as it rarely catches insects on the wing, but searches for them among the leaves and on the branches. It is a very vocal species, with a continual twittering note varied by frequent bursts of a melodious, though low-toned and feeble, song.

*Seicercus montis davisoni*

**Davison's Flycatcher-Warbler**

PLATE 20 (*middle figure*)

*Cryptolopha davisoni*, Sharpe, *P.Z.S.*, 1888, p. 271 (Gunong Ulu Batang Padang, South Perak); Ogilvie-Grant, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, iii., 1908, p. 35.

**Description**.—*Adult*.—Sexes alike. Mantle, back and upper tail coverts, deep olive-green, with a narrow sulphur-yellow band across the rump; median

and greater wing coverts, as the back, but broadly tipped with sulphur-yellow, forming a double wing bar. Primaries and secondaries, brown, edged on the outer webs with olive-green. Inner aspect of quills, fuscous, their inner webs narrowly edged with white; axillaries and under wing coverts, bright yellow. Tail feathers, brown, greenish at the base, the inner webs of the outer pairs tipped and edged on their inner webs with white. Head and sides of the face, deep chestnut; a broad black stripe beginning above the eye, broadening posteriorly, and nearly joining on the nape; a clear silky white ring round the eye. Beneath, a bright cadmium-yellow, a slight flush of orange-rufous on each side of the breast.

*Immature*.—Darker and duller above, the chestnut on the head and sides of the face much reduced, and the black superciliary stripes not so pronounced. Beneath, also, duller, the throat and breast slightly dusky, without the orange-rufous on each side of the breast.

**Soft Parts**.—Iris, dark, or very dark hazel; upper mandible, brownish black, paler on tomia and at tip; lower mandible, orange-yellow; feet, greenish flesh or dull wax-yellow.

**Dimensions**.—Total length, about 3·9 in.; wing, 2 to 2·1 in.; tail, 1·6 in.; tarsus, 0·6 to 0·65 in.; bill from gape, 0·5 in.; exposed culmen, 0·45 in.

**Range in the Malay Peninsula**.—Southern Perak to Central Selangor; Pahang.

**Extralimital Range**.—Peculiar to the Malay Peninsula. The typical race is found on Kina Balu, and probably other mountains in Borneo. Other races occur in Sumatra, Palawan and Flores, but not in Java.

**Nidification**.—Unknown.

**Habits**.—A much rarer species than the preceding. It has been found on Cameron's Highlands, on Mengkuang Lebar, in Selangor, on Gunong Tahan, and at 6000 ft. on Gunong Benom. Its general habits are those of the previous species, but it is less social in its habits, and is generally met with singly or in pairs. It is one of the species more especially characteristic of the zerophytic zone, near the summits of the higher mountains, and has never occurred much below 4500 ft. On Kina Balu the closely allied Bornean race mostly occurs among low bamboos (*Whitehead*). The bird figured, natural size, is a female from Cameron's Highlands, 5000 ft., collected in June 1923.

*Seicercus castaneocephs youngi*

**Young's Flycatcher-Warbler**

PLATE 20 (*upper figure*)

*Cryptolopha youngi*, Robinson, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, v., 1915, p. 100 (Kao Nawng, Bandon, Peninsular Siam, 3500 ft.); Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, xi., 1923, pp. 58, 61; id. *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, v., 1924, p. 242.

**Description**.—*Adult male*.—Mantle, back, rump and upper tail coverts, dark grey, paler on the upper tail coverts; scapulars only tinged with green;

upper wing coverts, blackish brown, edged with greenish, the median and greater series with bright yellow tips, broadest on the former, making a double bar on the wing; primaries and secondaries, brownish, the outer webs edged with greenish olive, inner aspect of wings, fuscous, the quills with whitish margins to the inner webs, the under wing coverts and axillaries and margin of wing, bright pale yellow; tail feathers, brownish, washed with green, the shafts white towards the base and the outer pairs narrowly edged with white on the inner webs. Crown, chestnut-rufous, bordered on each side with black; lores and sides of the head, grey, a black spot in front of the eye and an incomplete greyish white ring round it. Entire under surface, pale grey, with no yellow whatever; the middle of the abdomen and the under tail coverts more hoary white.

**Soft Parts.**—Not recorded, but the upper mandible apparently dark horn, black on the culmen; the lower mandible yellowish; the feet yellowish brown.

**Dimensions.**—Total length, about 3·5 in.; wing, 1·9 to 2 in.; tail, 1·6 to 1·7 in.; tarsus, 0·65 to 0·7 in.; bill from gape, 0·4 in.; exposed culmen, 0·35 in.

**Range in the Malay Peninsula.**—Peninsular Siam; mountains of Bandon and Nakon Sri Tammarat, above 3000 ft.

**Extralimital Range.**—Peculiar, so far as is known, to Peninsular Siam, and very distinct in its entire grey under surface and under tail coverts without any yellow. The bird has possible claims to full specific rank.

**Nidification.**—Unknown.

**Habits.**—This very distinct bird is known from three specimens only, all obtained by our Dyak collectors amongst the thick and thorny undergrowth that clothes the summit of Kao Nawng in Bandon, at about 4500 ft., and Kao Luang, in Nakon Sri Tammarat, between 5000 and 5800 ft. They describe it as having the same habits as *S. trivirgatus parvirostris*, with which they are well acquainted.

This species, the tailor-bird *Phyllergates c. thais* (*antea*, p. 241), and the sunbird *Æthopyga nipalensis australis*, represent a peculiar element, occurring only at the extreme summits of the highest mountains in Peninsular Siam. Transport in these districts prevents any but a very limited stay, but a more prolonged visit might *possibly* yield interesting results, though the fact that the peculiar species are small and not very conspicuous birds probably shows that they are merely a relic fauna, and that other novelties are not to be expected.

The bird figured, natural size, is a male from Kao Luang, Nakon Sri Tammarat, 5000 ft., collected in March 1922 by Captain H. M. Pendlebury.

*Seicercus castaneoceps butleri*

**Butler's Flycatcher-Warbler**

PLATE 20 (*lower figure*)

*Cryptolopha butleri*, Hartert, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club*, vii., 1898, p. 50 (Gunong Ijau, Perak, 4000 ft.); id. *Ibis*, 1898, p. 435; Hartert and Butler, *Nov. Zool.*, v., 1898, p. 508; Butler, *Journ. Straits Branch, Roy. Asiat. Soc.*,

No. 32, 1899, p. 16; Robinson, *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, ii., 1909, p. 191.

**Description.**—*Adult.*—Sexes alike. Middle of the crown, dark rufous chestnut, with a broad blackish brown lateral stripe; mantle, grey; back, rump, and upper tail coverts, yellowish olive-green; smaller upper wing coverts as the lower back, with faint paler tips; greater upper wing coverts, blackish, washed with green, with broad yellow tips, so that there is a double bar on the wing, the upper one faint. Primaries and secondaries, dark brown, edged with yellowish green. Inner aspect of wing, fuscous; the quills with their inner webs broadly edged with whitish; under wing coverts and axillaries, pale yellow. Tail feathers, brownish, washed and edged with olive-green, the outer pairs very narrowly edged and tipped with whitish. Beneath, throat and breast, clear pale grey; middle of belly, whitish; flanks, broadly pale yellowish green; under tail coverts the same.

**Soft Parts.**—"Iris, reddish brown; bill, dusky; mandible, yellowish flesh; feet, brownish yellow" (*A. L. Butler*).

**Dimensions.**—Total length, about 3.5 in.; wing, 2 to 2.2 in.; tail, 1.6 to 1.8 in.; tarsus, 0.65 in.; bill from gape, 0.45 in.; exposed culmen, 0.4 in.

**Range in the Malay Peninsula.**—Known from four localities only: Gunong Ijau, Larut Hills, at about 4000 ft.; Cameron's Highlands, South Perak, at 3500 ft.; Fraser's Hill above the Semangko Pass, Selangor, 4000 ft., and Gunong Menang Gasing, South-West Selangor, also at about 4000 ft.

**Extralimital Range.**—The above-described race is peculiar to the Malay Peninsula, but other forms range from Nepal, through Indo-China to South China and Annam, though the species is continental in distribution and has no representatives in the Indo-Malayan Islands.

**Nidification.**—A nest was found on Fraser's Hill on 24th February, situated among roots and rubbish beneath an overhanging bank at the side of a path. It was the usual deep, cup-shaped structure of leaves and moss, lined with fine tendrils, characteristic of the smaller flycatchers. It contained a fledgeling of the drongo-cuckoo, *Dicrurus l. dicruroides*. The male foster-parent was shot in the immediate vicinity of the nest. Butler found three nests on the Larut Hills in April. They were very like nests of the common European wren, placed under overhanging banks, two containing three young each, and another, a clutch of three fresh eggs, of the usual *Cryptolopha* type, pure white.

**Habits.**—Those of the genus. The species seems to inhabit deeper forest than the other local species of the genus, and is therefore very easily overlooked. Butler found it not uncommon on the Larut Hills as low as 3000 ft., though we have not, ourselves, come across it there.

The bird figured, natural size, is a male, collected near Fraser's Hill, Selangor-Pahang boundary, in February 1908.