

RUBY-CHEEKS

Family CHALCOPARIIDÆ

Vol. I., p. 312.

BOTH Mr Stuart Baker, for instituting, and myself, for retaining, this genus of birds, with the superficial appearance of a sunbird, as a distinct family, have been taken to task, and only a careful anatomical study can prove whether or no we are justified.

Chalcoparia singalensis singalensis

The Malay Ruby-cheek

Vol. I., p. 312.

Malay Name.—Kēlichap bēlukar.

Description.—Bill without serrations at the tips of the mandibles; tongue with small bristly brushes at the tip.

Male.—Upper plumage, brilliant metallic green; below, chin, throat and breast, ferruginous; middle of belly and under tail coverts, bright yellow; flanks, olivaceous.

Female.—Greyish olivaceous, not metallic, above. Throat and breast, pale rusty, lighter than the male; rest of the under surface, yellowish green, much duller and more greenish than in the male. Total length, about 4 to 4.5 in.

I have never, myself, met with this species at any height on the mountains, and do not think that it is likely to occur thereon. Hartert, however, has recorded that the bird was obtained on Gunong Tahan, between 2000 and 5000 ft., by Waterstradt. I have, therefore, included this brief account in the present volume.