

THE BIRDS OF THE MALAY PENINSULA

A GENERAL ACCOUNT OF THE BIRDS
INHABITING THE REGION FROM THE
ISTHMUS OF KRA TO SINGAPORE WITH
THE ADJACENT ISLANDS

By

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PREFACE

AFTER Mr H. C. Robinson's death in 1929 no material actually intended for the present volume could, contrary to expectation, be found, but there have passed to me, among other papers by him, carefully prepared manuscripts dealing with some of the relevant groups of birds, but obviously intended for a more systematic and exhaustive work on the avifauna of the Malay Peninsula than the present series of volumes. The fullest use has been made of these manuscripts in this volume, in which I have made every effort to maintain the plan of the two already published, even to the extent of retaining certain items of classification and nomenclature against my personal inclination, for I have considered it unwise to make changes half-way through the work.

I am conscious that this fasciculus and the two as yet unpublished volumes, for which I shall be responsible, may not attain to the high standard of those produced by H. C. Robinson, for as one who is perhaps in a better position to judge than many, I have always considered my predecessor's two volumes as reaching a standard of accuracy and originality rare in modern ornithological publications.

While making no excuses for the shortcomings in my own work, I feel that I have been peculiarly unfortunate in that I have had first to deal with the sea-fowl and migratory shore-birds, and especially the larger herons and storks, for although these birds early attracted me, none of us has paid marked attention to them in the Malay Peninsula, where there have always been, superficially at least, more attractive paths to follow, such as the study of mountain faunas and interesting indigenous species.

Regrettable though it has been, I feel that no apology is needed for the long delay between the appearance of this and the last volume published. Robinson's death is, of course, the primary cause, and publication is only one of the many things retarded on account of the recent financial depression in the Federated Malay States.

My best thanks are due to Mr N. B. Kinnear of the British Museum of Natural History for help rendered during the preparation of this volume.

F. N. CHASEN.

SINGAPORE,
1st May 1935.

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