

HOOPOES

Family UPUPIDÆ

Vol. I., p. 107.

THIS family, together with the wood-hoopoes (*Irrisoridæ*), which are confined to Africa and are quite differently coloured birds of glossy plumage, constitute a suborder which is closely allied to the hornbills, though widely different in external appearance.

The birds are of small size, about that of a thrush, with a long and slender curved bill, with a rounded nostril near the base. Tarsi, short, with large plates behind. Wing rounded, with ten primaries. Tail of ten feathers, rather short. Head strongly crested.

The family consists of a single genus of five or six species, widely spread over Europe, Asia and Africa, and differing but slightly among themselves (*Robinson*, Vol. I., p. 107).

Two races, one migratory and one resident, occur in the Malay Peninsula, normally in the northern third only, but stragglers reach Selangor.

Upupa epops longirostris

The Burmese Hoopoe

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Head, neck, mantle and under parts, pinkish fawn, the crest feathers inclined to chestnut and with broad, black tips; lower abdomen and under tail coverts, white. Lower back, rump, tail and wings, widely and very conspicuously banded black and white.

Total length, about 11.5 in.; wing, about 5.5 in.

The hoopoe is common in Peninsular Siam as far south as Patani and Perlis, but also strays down to Selangor in the Malay States. It is commonest in open country and among casuarina trees on the shore, and much rarer in forest. A favourite site for the nest is a hole in a tree, but the bird is catholic in its choice of a site.

A second race is found in the Peninsula in winter as a migrant from the north. This is *U. e. saturata*, distinguished from *U. e. longirostris* by larger size and a white subterminal band on the crest feathers.