

FLYCATCHERS

Family MUSCICAPIDÆ

Vol. I., p. 177; Vol. II., p. 125.

THE flycatchers form a very large family of small birds in geographical range restricted to the Old World. More than forty forms are known from the Malay Peninsula, but of these some are only migrants appearing on the mountains, or on the islands in the Straits of Malacca, in the winter. Certain Malayan species usually put in the family could equally well be placed with the warblers (*Sylviidæ*), and the division between the two great groups is by no means well defined. Other flycatcher species show affinities with certain genera now placed with the shrikes, the thrushes or the babblers.

In the flycatchers the bill is usually considerably flattened. The nostrils are covered by short feathers and at the base of the bill are strong bristle-like feathers.

The wing is relatively more pointed in migratory than in sedentary forms. It has ten primaries of which the first one is in many species very short. The tail of twelve feathers varies in shape, and in a few species the middle feathers are greatly lengthened and form "streamers" several times the length of the bird. The feet are small and weak.

Some species have their habitation in the deepest jungle, others prefer the higher zones on the mountains, some are normally inhabitants of the mangrove belt, and others yet again are familiar residents in our bungalow gardens. The nests are usually neat, small, cup-like structures of grass and moss placed in bushes, trees, rock crevices, etc. The eggs are spotted in the great majority of the species.

The plumage is often a dull combination of greys and browns, but in some species vivid orange contrasts with jet-black and in others bright blue with rusty red. An important difference between flycatchers and warblers is that, whereas the juvenile plumage of the former is, typically, spotted or mottled, that of the latter group approximates to the plumage of the adult.

Normally, most flycatchers keep to bushes and trees, not searching for food on the ground. A bird will usually take up a station on a bough or other place of vantage, and wait silently until an insect flies by; then it sallies forth, and having made a capture, with a flutter of the wings and an audible snap of the bill, returns to the favourite look-out post.

KEY TO THE MALAYAN LOWLAND FLYCATCHERS

- | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 1 | { | With olive-green or bright yellow on the upper parts | 2 | |
| | | With decided blue on the upper parts | 3 | |
| | | Plumage, white, streaked with black; head, glossy black | } <i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i> subsp. (males in white phase), p. 225 | |
| Breast, blackish grey heavily spotted with white | <i>Rhipidura perlata</i> , p. 224 | | | |
| | { | Not fitting any of the above headings | 17 | |
| 2 | { | Rump, bright yellow, contrasting with back | } <i>Zanthopygia narcissina zanthopygia</i> , p. 223 | |
| | | Back and rump, pale olive-green | | <i>Culicicapa ceylonensis antioxantha</i> , p. 232 |
| 3 | { | Breast, pale rusty to orange-rufous | 4 | |
| | | Breast otherwise | 10 | |
| 4 | { | Throat, blue or partly blue | 5 | |
| | | Throat, rusty | 6 | |
| 5 | { | Entire chin and throat, solidly blue | } <i>Cyornis turcosa rupatensis</i> (male), p. 216 | |
| | | Rufous of breast running up into centre of throat | | <i>Cyornis rubeculoides glaucicomans</i> (male), p. 216 |
| 6 | { | Rufous of breast and flanks merging with white of abdomen | 7 | |
| | | Belly, white, fairly sharply defined against rufous of breast | 9 | |
| 7 | { | Lores, white | } <i>Cyornis rufigastra rufigastra</i> (female), p. 217 | |
| | | Lores, black | | 8 |
| 8 | { | Larger: wing 3 to 3.2 in.; bill stronger | } <i>Cyornis banyumas magnirostris</i> (male), p. 219 | |
| | | Smaller: wing 2.8 to 3 in.; bill weaker | | <i>Cyornis rufigastra rufigastra</i> (male), p. 217 |
| 9 | { | Back, grey-blue | } <i>Cyornis tickelliae sumatrensis</i> (female), p. 219 | |
| | | Back, dark blue; point of chin, black | | <i>Cyornis tickelliae sumatrensis</i> (male), p. 219 |
| | | Back, vivid blue; point of chin, rufous | | <i>Cyornis turcosa rupatensis</i> (female), p. 216 |
| 10 | { | Throat and breast, dark maroon | } <i>Drymophila velata caesia</i> (male), p. 227 | |
| | | A narrow black band across the lower throat | | <i>Hypothymis azurea prophata</i> (male), p. 224 |
| | | Not as above | | 11 |

11	{	Mantle, brown	<i>Hypothymis azurea prophata</i>
			(female), p. 224
		Mantle, blue	12
12	{	Wings and tail, chestnut	<i>Dryophila pyrhoptera pyrhoptera</i>
			(male), p. 227
		Breast, blue, sharply defined against white abdomen	<i>Cyanoptila cyanomelana cumatilis</i>
Whole plumage more or less blue	(male), p. 223		
			13
13	{	Larger: wing 3·9 to 4·2 in.	<i>Dryophila velata caesia</i> (female), p. 227
		Smaller: wing less than 3·5 in.	14
14	{	Lores, blue, uniform with forehead	<i>Dryophila pyrhoptera pyrhoptera</i>
			(male, blue phase), p. 227
		Lores, blackish, contrasting with forehead	15
15	{	Abdomen and breast uniformly blue	<i>Stoporala thalassina thalassoides</i> , p. 232
		Abdomen paler than breast	
16	{	Back and breast, pale blue	<i>Cyornis unicolor harterti</i> (male), p. 214
		Back and breast, deep indigo-blue	<i>Cyornis ruecki</i> (male), p. 213
17	{	A broad black band across the upper breast	<i>Rhipidura javanica javanica</i> , p. 225
		Under parts, pale sulphur-yellow	
		Upper parts, black to grey-black; breast, orange-rufous	18
		Crown very dark, sharply contrasted with mantle	19
		Not as above	22
18	{	Basal half (at least) of tail, white	<i>Oreicola dumetoria muelleri</i> (male), p. 220
		Tail, white at extreme base only	<i>Poliomyias mugimaki</i> (male), p. 220
19	{	Centre tail feathers lengthened into streamers	<i>Terpsiphone</i> spp. (adult males, brown phase) 20
		Tail normal	
20	{	Upper parts, dark coppery purple	<i>Terpsiphone atrocaudata atrocau-</i> <i>data</i> , p. 226
		Upper parts, rufous-chestnut	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi affinis</i> , p. 225
		Upper parts, maroon-chestnut	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi incei</i> , p. 226
		Upper parts, dull olive-brown	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi saturatior</i> , p. 226

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|--|---|
| 21 | { | Back and tail, dull brown; grey breast fairly sharply defined against whitish abdomen | } | <i>Terpsiphone atrocaudata atrocaudata</i> (young), p. 226 | |
| | | Back and tail, brown to chestnut; grey breast merging into white of abdomen | | } | <i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i> subspp. (females and young males), p. 225 |
| | | Back, coppery purple; tail almost black | | | <i>Terpsiphone atrocaudata atrocaudata</i> (female), p. 226 |
| 22 | { | Flanks, upper tail coverts and tail, dark ferruginous | } | <i>Hemichelidon ferruginea</i> , p. 212 | |
| | | Wings and tail, bright chestnut; under parts, pale buff | | } | <i>Drymophila pyrhoptera pyrhoptera</i> (female), p. 227 |
| | | Breast, orange-rufous to rusty-buff (not merely buffy) | | | 23 |
| | | Throat and breast, some combination of white, grey, or tinged dull yellowish brown | | | 27 |
| 23 | { | Very small: wing less than 2.5 in. | } | <i>Oreicola dumetoria muelleri</i> (female), p. 220 | |
| | | Larger: wing well over 2.5 in. | | 24 | |
| 24 | { | Tail, dull smoky brown | } | <i>Poliomyias mugimaki</i> (female), p. 220 | |
| | | Tail, brownish chestnut to bright chestnut | | 25 | |
| 25 | { | Upper tail coverts and tail, bright rufous-chestnut | } | <i>Cyornis ruecki</i> (female), p. 213 | |
| | | Upper tail coverts and tail, duller chestnut-brown | | 26 | |
| 26 | { | Rusty colour of throat and breast fairly sharply defined against brown of upper parts | } | <i>Cyornis banyumas magnirostris</i> (female), p. 219 | |
| | | Sides of throat and breast much infuscated | | <i>Cyornis rubeculoides glaucicomans</i> (female), p. 216 | |
| 27 | { | Outer tail feathers, white at base | } | <i>Siphia parva albicilla</i> , ¹ p. 213 | |
| | | Tail feathers without white bases | | 28 | |
| 28 | { | Prevailing tone of upper parts, grey | } | 29 | |
| | | Prevailing tone of upper parts, olive-brown | | 30 | |
| 29 | { | Bill, smaller; under parts much clouded and streaked with grey | } | <i>Hemichelidon sibirica</i> subspp., p. 212 | |
| | | Bill, larger; under parts whiter; streaks absent or obsolete | | <i>Alseonax l. latirostris</i> , p. 213 | |

¹ In full plumage the male of this species has the chin and throat orange-red, but I have never seen this plumage in the Peninsula.

	} <i>Cyornis unicolor harterti</i> (female), p. 214
Under parts almost uniformly brown- ish grey, washed with buff	
30 { Throat and abdomen whitish and paler than the breast	31
Throat and breast, pale grey; abdo- men, white	<i>Muscitrea grisola grisola</i> , p. 231
31 { Larger: wing at least 3.4 in.	<i>Cyanoptila cyanomelana cumatilis</i> (female), p. 223
Smaller: wing under 3.3 in.	32
32 { White throat sharply contrasted against darker cheeks and breast } <i>Rhinomyias umbratile infuscata</i> , p. 230	
Edges of the whitish throat infuscated	33
33 { Breast band broader and extending over the flanks; lower mandible, pale	<i>Rhinomyias brunneata</i> , p. 230
Breast band narrower and less exten- sive; lower mandible, dark	<i>Rhinomyias olivacea olivacea</i> , p. 229

Hemichelidon sibirica subsp.

The Sooty Flycatcher

Vol. II., p. 129.

Sexes alike. Upper parts, dark greyish brown, darkest on the wings and tail. Under parts, white, clouded with brownish grey on the sides of the throat, the breast and the flanks, the clouded parts with broad, but not very distinct, darker stripes. The white throat is fairly sharply defined against the darker breast.

Total length, about 5.25 in. ; wing, about 3 in.

This small, dull-coloured flycatcher visits the Malay Peninsula during the winter months from its breeding-grounds far away in the north. In the autumn and winter it is common, on passage, on the small islands in the Straits of Malacca and on the mountains, but far less common in the lowlands. Two subspecies seem to occur, the commoner of the two being the typical race from Siberia and Japan. The other, represented by a few specimens only, is a smaller and darker bird, the Indo-Burmese race, *H. s. fuliginosa*, described from Nepal. This latter subspecies is, as yet, only known from the northern, Siamese part of the Peninsula.

Hemichelidon ferruginea

The Ferruginous Flycatcher

Vol. I., p. 190; Vol. II., p. 129.

Sexes alike. Top of the head, dark brownish grey; remaining upper parts, rufous-brown, brightening to lively rufous on the rump and tail. Throat, white; remaining under parts, pale rufous washed with brown.

Total length, about 4.7 in. ; wing, 2.8 in.

This flycatcher is a common winter visitor to the Peninsula from the north.

On passage it is numerous on the small islands in the Straits of Malacca, and in its winter quarters on the mountains it is also numerous. In the lowlands it is always much less common and, as is the case in so many migratory birds, its stay in the lowlands of the Peninsula seems to be very brief.

Alseonax latirostris latirostris

The Sumatran Brown Flycatcher

Vol. I., p. 191; Vol. II., p. 130.

This tiny flycatcher is so like the sooty flycatcher that the two species are hard to tell apart. When the birds are compared it will be seen that in the present species the bill is larger, the upper parts are greyer and less brown, the under parts rather whiter and less clouded, and the white throat is less sharply defined against the darker breast. The dark streaks on the under parts either absent or scarcely noticeable.

The species is a common winter visitor from the north, and it seems just possible that a few pairs are resident on the mountains. The habits are essentially the same as those of the sooty flycatcher.

Siphia parva albicilla

The Red-breasted Flycatcher

In winter this species is, superficially, extremely like *Alseonax latirostris*, but the bill is much smaller and the tail feathers are black with rather more than the basal half of the outer pairs white. The upper parts are pale greyish brown and the under parts are white, clouded with grey on the throat and breast and very faintly tinged with buff. In spring the male has the throat orange-red.

Total length, about 4.75 in.; wing, about 2.7 in.

Very few specimens of this flycatcher have been obtained in the Peninsula, and all in the extreme north of Peninsular Siam in the winter. The bird is known to breed in Tibet and it also summers in Manchuria and East Siberia.

Cyornis ruecki

Rueck's Blue Flycatcher

Cyornis ruecki Oustalet, *Bull. Soc. Philomath.* (7), v., 1881, p. 78 (Malacca); Robinson and Kinnear, *Nov. Zool.*, xxxiv., 1928, p. 256.

Cyornis vanheysti Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Straits Branch Roy. Asiat. Soc.*, 80, 1919, p. 104 (North-East Sumatra); id., *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, xi., 1924, p. 269, pl. ix.

Malay Name.—Unascertained.

Description.—The male is deep blue, brightest on the rump, greyer on the abdomen and under tail coverts. The female is brown above with rufous rump and tail; beneath, paler. Bill comparatively heavy.

Adult male.—Above, deep indigo-blue; rump and upper tail coverts and angle of the wing, shining sapphire-blue. Primaries and tail feathers, dusky

black, edged with blue, lightest on the tail; frontal region and an indistinct supraocular stripe, brighter blue; lores, black; ear coverts, blackish blue. Throat, pale indigo; breast, dark sapphire-blue; abdomen and tail coverts, whitish grey; flanks, bluish grey; under wing coverts and axillaries, dusky, tipped with blue; thighs, blue (after *Robinson and Kloss*).

Adult female.—"Chestnut-brown above; rump and tail, bright rufous-chestnut; beneath, rusty buff; paler on the throat; whitish on the middle of the belly" (*Robinson and Kinnear*).

Immature.—"An immature male, changing into the adult plumage, has the head fuscous, each feather with the centre rufous; lores, dusky; frontal region, supercilium, chin, throat, and upper breast, ferruginous; wing coverts, dusky, broadly tipped with ferruginous; quills, dusky, edged with pale ferruginous; abdomen, white; flanks and under tail coverts, pale ferruginous" (*Robinson and Kloss*).

Soft Parts.—*Male*: iris, dark; bill, black; feet, plumbeous (*Van Heyst*).

Dimensions.—*Male*: wing, 3.1 to 3.2 in.; tail, 2.65 in.; bill from gape, 0.9 in. (approx.); tarsus, 0.71 in. *Female*: wing, 3.1 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—Kessang in Malacca territory.

Extralimital Range.—North-East Sumatra.

Nidification.—Unknown.

Habits.—This flycatcher is one of the rarest of Malaysian birds and is only known from four specimens, none of which I have been able to examine. The original types described by Oustalet are a male and female in the Paris Museum. The male is a Malacca "trade skin"; the female has not the distinctive cylindrical appearance of these well-known skins. Both birds are said to have come from Kessang on the coast of Malacca territory, some miles south of the town and near the Johore boundary. Collectors have searched the locality for further specimens, but without success, and if the species really does exist in the Malay Peninsula it must have a very restricted range and habitat. The species was rediscovered in the Deli district of North-East Sumatra by Mr A. C. F. A. Van Heyst in 1917, when two males, one adult and one immature, were collected. It is notable that on both occasions on which this rare bird has been obtained, *Cyornis unicolor harterti*, another flycatcher in which the male is blue and the sexes dimorphic, has also been found in the same district, but in view of the stout bill of *ruecki* and the very distinct females of the two species it seems impossible to regard *ruecki* as an aberration of *C. unicolor*. The species is figured in colour (adult male and immature male) in *Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus.*, xi., 1924, pl. ix.

Cyornis unicolor harterti

The Malaysian Pale Blue Flycatcher

PLATE 9 (*middle figure*)

Vol. II., p. 135.

Cyornis unicolor harterti Robinson and Kinnear, *Nov. Zool.*, xxxiv., 1928, p. 256 (Java).

Siphia unicolor (pt.), Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, iv., 1879, p. 444.

Cyornis unicolor infuscata Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, v., 1924, p. 232; Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), ii., 1924, p. 231.

Malay Name.—Unascertained.

Description.—*Male*: blue, becoming greyish on the abdomen. *Female*: olive-brown above, greyish below.

Adult male.—Forehead, supercilium, a narrow ring round the eye and the lesser wing coverts, bright ultramarine-blue; upper tail coverts, exposed parts of wings and tail, a deeper but less vivid blue; remainder of upper parts, paler blue than the wings, etc. Concealed parts of wing and tail feathers, blackish, the inner edges of the wing quills smoky, very faintly tinged with fulvous. Lores, black, washed with blue; chin, throat, sides of the neck and breast, pale dull blue, turning to grey-blue on the abdomen and almost white on the centre of the abdomen and on the under tail coverts, which have a faint fulvous tinge. Under wing coverts and axillaries, white, tinged with buff.

Adult female.—Quite different, and entirely without blue in the plumage. Mantle, back, scapulars and wing coverts, yellowish olive-brown, turning to almost grey on the crown; upper tail coverts and tail, dull ferruginous; wing quills, blackish brown, edged with dull ferruginous; inner secondaries, olive-brown. Lores and a narrow ring round the eye, whitish. Under parts, pale brownish grey, paler on the throat and almost white on the centre of the abdomen, the throat and neck and flanks washed with buff. Under tail coverts, axillaries and under wing coverts, whitish buff.

Immature.—Again quite different. Young females are blackish brown above, heavily spotted with rufous-buff from forehead to upper tail coverts. Under parts, rich buff marbled with blackish in rather a squamate manner. Lesser wing coverts spotted with rufous-buff; greater coverts and inner secondaries also broadly tipped with rufous-buff.

Young males are very similar, but even the youngest bird seen, a full-grown juvenile, has the mantle, back and wing quills washed with blue and the tail entirely blue. Older but still not fully adult males are like adults, but have some of the wing coverts and inner secondaries tipped with buff.

Soft Parts.—Iris, brown; bill, black; feet, grey-brown. A young bird has the iris, brown; bill, black; feet, plumbeous.

Dimensions.—Total length, about 6.6 in.; tail, 2.5 to 2.6 in.; wing, 2.95 to 3.15 in.; tarsus, 0.65 in.; bill from gape, 0.8 to 0.85 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—From Peninsular Siam down both sides of the Peninsula, south to Malacca and Pahang.

Extralimital Range.—Sumatra, Borneo and Java. The typical race occurs at Darjeeling, and eastwards along the Himalayas to Assam; also in Manipur, the Chin Hills, the Shan States, North Siam and Laos. Mr Stuart Baker records *harterti* from "Tenasserim."

Nidification.—Unrecorded from the Peninsula. Some nests of the typical (Indian) race are said by Mr E. C. Stuart Baker to be massive cups of moss and fern roots found in ravines or banks of watercourses in heavy forest, and

situated between boulders or in depressions of tree trunks not far from the ground. The four eggs, which measure about 0.9 by 0.7 in., are yellowish in ground-colour, marked with small reddish-brown blotches, sometimes so thickly that the egg appears almost uniformly bright brown.

Habits.—A bird of the old forest, not very common in the Malay Peninsula, and, although occurring in the lowlands, showing a marked preference for submontane localities up to about 3000 ft. or even slightly higher. It is not rare in Selangor on the lower hills and in Pahang, and we also have specimens from Gunong Tahan.

The bird figured in the plate is a male from Ginting Bidei, Selangor.

Cyornis rubeculoides glaucicomans

Bangs' Blue Flycatcher

Vol. II., p. 134.

The sexes are quite distinct in appearance. Males have the upper parts, the chin, sides of the throat and sides of the breast, deep, dark blue changing to brighter, paler blue on the forehead, rump and angle of the wing. The breast is rusty rufous, which colour runs up in a narrow triangle into the blue of the throat, sometimes almost reaching the chin. Abdomen, brownish buff. Females have no blue in the plumage, but are pale brown on the back, greyer on the head and with the rump and tail rufous-brown. On the under parts the throat and abdomen are white and the breast pale rusty.

Total length, about 5.6 in.; wing, 2.95 to 3.15 in. in males and 2.75 to 3 in. in females.

A winter visitor to the northern part of the Malay Peninsula from the breeding-grounds in China. Very few specimens have been obtained and none south of Perak.

Cyornis turcosa rupertensis

The Malaysian Blue Flycatcher

PLATE 9 (*lower figure*)

Cyornis turcosa rupertensis Oberholser, *Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash.*, xxxiii., 1920, p. 87 (Rupat Strait, South-East Sumatra).

Siphia elegans, Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, iv., 1879, p. 447.

Malay Name.—Unascertained.

Description.—Entire upper parts, bright blue; breast, orange-rufous; abdomen, whitish. Chin and throat, bright blue in males, orange-rufous in females.

Adult male.—Entire upper parts, including tail and wings (except the tips of the primaries), chin, throat and sides of the head, bright, deep blue, palest and most glistening on the forehead, eye-stripes, rump, upper tail coverts and lesser wing coverts, deepest and darkest blue on the wings and tail. Lores, black. Breast, pale ferruginous, or orange-rufous. Remaining under parts, including under tail coverts, white, washed with orange-buff on the

flanks and blue on the sides of the breast. Edge of the wing and under wing coverts, blue; axillaries, whitish buff; concealed parts of wing and tail quills, black.

Adult female.—Like the male, but the blue of the upper parts paler and the chin and throat pale rufous like the breast.

Immature.—Juveniles of both sexes have the wings and tail blue on the exposed portions, blackish elsewhere; remaining upper parts, dusky, heavily spotted with large rich buff spots, largest on the mantle. Wing coverts tipped with buff spots. Chin to throat, buff, darker fringes to the feathers of the breast suggesting obsolete spots; remaining under parts, whitish.

Soft Parts.—Iris, brown; bill, black; feet, grey to grey-blue. In young birds the upper mandible is brown; lower mandible and feet, fleshy.

Dimensions.—Total length, 5.5 to 5.9 in.; tail, 2.1 to 2.3 in.; wing, 2.8 to 3.05 in. in males (females run a trifle smaller, 2.7 to 2.95 in.); tarsus, 0.75 to 0.8 in.; bill from gape, 0.8 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—Known only from the southern part of the Peninsula from Larut in Perak down to Malacca territory on the western side and from Northern Pahang down to North Johore on the eastern side.

Extralimital Range.—Sumatra and West Borneo. The typical race inhabits South-East Borneo.

Nidification.—Unrecorded.

Habits.—This flycatcher is not common in the Malay States; it also seems rare in Sumatra, but commoner in Borneo. It is a lowland bird, ascending the hills of the main range to not more than about 2500 ft. In the Malay States I have only seen it in old forest at Kuala Tahan, and it has also been obtained in similar surroundings in Selangor and North Johore. In Sumatra it has been collected in swampy, scrub jungle close to the sea.

Cyornis rufigastra rufigastra

The Common Blue Flycatcher

PLATE 10

Muscicapa rufigastra Raffles, *Trans. Linn. Soc.*, xiii., 1822, p. 312 (Sumatra).

Siphia banyumas (pt.), Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, iv., 1879, p. 449.

Malay Name.—Unascertained.

Description.—Upper parts, blue; lower parts, rufous. Chin and lores, black in males, white in females.

Adult male.—Upper parts, including exposed parts of wings and tail, sides of head and neck, deep blue, brightest on the forehead and short superciliaries and lesser wing coverts. Concealed parts of wing and tail quills, blackish, the innermost edges of the wing quills, smoky. Lores and chin, black, continuous with the blue upper parts; sides of the throat, blackish or dark blue. Remaining under parts, orange-rufous, deepest in the centre of the breast and turning to white on the centre of the abdomen and under tail

coverts. The under parts are rather variable and sometimes the under tail coverts are pale rufous. Edge of the wing, blue; under wing coverts and axillaries, white, washed with rufous-buff. The blue of the neck extends on to the sides of the breast in an irregular and variable manner.

Adult female.—The blue of the upper parts is a little paler than in the male, and the lores and point of the chin are white, or white tinged with rufous, not black.

Immature.—The juvenile in both sexes has the exposed parts of the wing quills and tail, dusky blue; remainder of the upper parts, including the wing coverts, brown, heavily spotted with rich buff, the spots elongate and smaller on the top of the head. Inner secondaries tipped with buff. Under parts, buffy, turning to white on the abdomen and under tail coverts, finely fringed with dusky on the throat and more heavily on the breast, especially on the sides, the breast presenting an appearance of being obsoletely spotted. Older birds in which the blue plumage is beginning to show through seem darker on the upper parts, and they could almost be described as blackish brown, spotted with buff, above.

Soft Parts.—Iris, brown; bill, black; feet, grey to fleshy plumbeous. In females the feet are sometimes brownish grey.

Dimensions.—Total length, 6.1 to 6.45 in.; tail, 2.35 to 2.45 in.; wing, 2.8 to 3 in. in males, 2.65 to 2.85 in. in females.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—The west coast from and including Penang Island, south to Singapore and the neighbouring islets. The mouth of the Rompin river on the coast of Pahang is the only formally recorded locality for the species on the east coast.

Extralimital Range.—Sumatra, the Rhio-Lingga Archipelago and Banka; Borneo and its coastal islands. Closely allied subspecies are found in West Java, the Anamba Islands, the Karimon-Java Islands, the Karimata Islands and the Philippine Islands. Taking a broad view even Indian forms of the *tickelliae* group, with the locally occurring *sumatrensis* (see Vol. I., p. 181), can be regarded as subspecies. It is true that both *sumatrensis* and *rufigastra* are found in the Malay States, but the latter is purely a mangrove bird that infiltrates to the north. It is very rare as far north as Penang and the mouth of the Perak river seems to be a more real northern boundary. On the other hand, *sumatrensis* is never found in the mangrove, and it filters to the south in the coastal scrub jungle. I feel rather doubtful about its occurrence as far south as "Malacca," whence it has been recorded. From Sumatra, *sumatrensis* is only known from the north, whence *rufigastra* has not been recorded. The overlap is therefore not serious and the birds can be regarded as northern and southern forms of one species.

Nidification.—The only record I have is a note from Mr V. W. Ryves, who found a nest in Negri Sembilan in May. It contained two eggs. Mr Ryves writes: "It was a small loosely constructed nest of fine rootlets and fibres placed in a cavity at the top of a dead, very prickly-stemmed palm, broken off about seven feet from the ground, growing in swampy secondary jungle." Judging from juveniles in both Singapore and North Borneo it

breeds in May and June. Mr A. T. Edgar has seen a very young bird in August (Perak).

Habits.—Few species of birds can be more restricted in their habitat than this handsome little flycatcher, which I have never seen outside the thin belt of mangrove fringing the coast. It is by no means common and possibly as numerous in the immediate vicinity of Singapore and the Johore Straits as anywhere. It is usually found in pairs in the mangrove facing the open sea or along the banks of the creeks.

The birds figured in the plate are a male from Ulu Pandan, Singapore Island, and a female from the Klang Straits, Selangor.

Cyornis tickelliæ sumatrensis

Sharpe's Blue Flycatcher

Vol. I., p. 181.

Very like *C. r. rufogastra* described above, but the female much paler blue above and both sexes with the abdomen white and fairly sharply defined against the rufous breast.

Total length, 5.5 in.; wing, about 2.6 in. Numerous in the north of the Peninsula in the coastal scrub. The nest has been found in a rock crevice on Koh Pennan.

Cyornis banyumas magnirostris

The Large-billed Hill Blue Flycatcher

The sexes are quite different. The male has the upper parts dark, deep blue, rather paler on the forehead and eye-stripes. The throat and breast are rusty rufous and the abdomen is whitish washed with rufous. The species is larger than the somewhat similar *Cyornis whitei cæruleifrons* (Vol. II., p. 133), which is resident in the mountains of the Peninsula (males of *magnirostris* have the wings measuring from 3 to 3.25 in. against 2.7 to 2.9 in. in *cæruleifrons*; females, 2.95 to 3.15 in. against 2.65 to 2.85 in.). The males of both these forms differ from that of *C. rubeculoides glaucicomans* in that the throat is rufous, not blue with the rufous of the breast running into it as a narrow triangle.

The female of *magnirostris* is pale brown above and rather more richly coloured and tending to chestnut on the upper tail coverts and tail. The throat and breast are pale orange-rufous and the abdomen is white, washed with rich buff on the flanks. On the sides of the head and neck the rufous of the under parts is fairly sharply defined against the brown of the upper parts. This forms a character whereby the female of *magnirostris* can be separated from the female of *C. rubeculoides glaucicomans* in which the two zones of colour merge gradually. There is usually a pale patch on the lower mandible in both sexes of *magnirostris*.

This species breeds in the hills from Nepal to Assam and moves south in the winter when it occurs, but apparently in no great numbers, in the north of our area as far south as the island of Junk Zeylon.

*Poliomyias mugimaki***The Black-and-Orange Flycatcher**

Vol. II., p. 139.

The sexes differ widely in appearance. In males the upper parts are black with a patch behind the eye, a large patch on the wing coverts, a line down the inner secondaries and the bases of all the tail feathers except the centre pair, white. Under parts, deep rusty orange. Females are olive-brown above and rusty buff below. Pale tips to the wing coverts form two indistinct bars across the wing.

Total length, about 5.25 in. ; wing, 2.9 in.

A common winter migrant from the breeding-grounds in East Siberia, Japan, etc. In late autumn it turns up in large numbers on the small islands of the Straits of Malacca, but the real winter quarters in the Peninsula are on the mountains, and the stay in the lowlands of the mainland is very brief.

*Oreicola dumetoria muelleri***The Malaysian Short-tailed Flycatcher**

PLATE 9 (*upper figure*)

Vol. II., p. 139.

Muscicapa muelleri Blyth, *Ibis*, 1870, p. 166 (Sumatra).

Erythromyias muelleri, Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, iv., 1879, p. 200, pl. 4, fig. 2.

Erythromyias dumetoria muelleri, Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, v., 1924, p. 234.

Malay Name.—Unascertained.

Description.—A small species. Males have the upper parts slaty black, with a white streak along the wing and the base of the tail white; throat and breast, rufous; abdomen, white. In females the upper parts are brown.

Adult male.—Upper parts and sides of the head, black, often slaty black in worn plumage, turning to blackish brown on the wing quills. A broad stripe running back from the eye to the nape, the greater part of the basal two-thirds of all tail feathers, except the centre pair, and a stripe down the wing formed by the tips of the median coverts, the innermost greater coverts and the outer edges of a few inner secondaries, white. Chin, throat and breast, pale orange-rufous, deepest on the breast; remainder of under parts, white tinged with pale orange-rufous on the flanks. Thighs and edge of the wing, black; under wing coverts and axillaries, white.

Adult female.—Quite different; olive-brown where the male is black. Upper parts, including exposed parts of the wing, olive-brown, darkest on the tail. Tips of the median wing coverts, outer edges of the inner greater coverts and outer edges of a few inner secondaries, buff. The tail feathers are without white at the base. Lores and a rim round the eye, whitish tinged with orange-buff; sides of the head and ear coverts, pale brown faintly streaked with a brighter colour. Under parts as in the male, but paler.

Immature.—An immature female is like the adult female, but the pale ring round the eye is more conspicuous, and the pale bar on the wing is represented only by buff tips to the median coverts. Some white on the tail is reduced to small patches at the base of the outer feathers. The chin and throat are nearly white and there is less orange-rufous on the breast than in the adult.

Soft Parts.—Iris, brown; bill, black; feet, whitish flesh, greyish flesh or, more rarely, brownish grey.

Dimensions.—Total length, 4.5 to 4.7 in.; tail, 1.6 to 1.8 in.; wing, 2.2 to 2.4 in.; tarsus, 0.7 in.; bill from gape, 0.63 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—The mainland from the Isthmus of Kra south to Selangor and Pahang.

Extralimital Range.—Sumatra and Borneo. The typical race inhabits Java.

Nidification.—Unknown. A very young immature bird from Bandon, Peninsular Siam, is dated 24th June.

Habits.—This tiny flycatcher is not common in the Malay Peninsula. It seems to be purely a forest bird of the lowlands, ascending the hills to about 3000 ft. We have it from several localities in Peninsular Siam and from Ginting Bidei, 2300 ft., and near the Semangko Pass, about 3000 ft., in Selangor. It is also known from the foothills of Gunong Tahan in Pahang. In the Malay States it therefore has a submontane bias, but I have shot it at sea-level in Borneo, and from the Malay States have seen odd specimens from the lowlands of Upper Perak, Selangor and Pahang.

The bird figured in the plate is a male from Pahang.

*Gerygone modiglianii pectoralis*¹

Davison's Flycatcher

PLATE 12 (*upper figure*)

Vol. II., p. 143.

Gerygone pectoralis Davison, *Ibis*, 1892, p. 99 (Pahang coast, Malay Peninsula).

Gerygone modiglianii pectoralis, Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, v., 1924, p. 235.

Malay Name.—Not ascertained specifically. Kělichap pěřepat ("vaguely," *A. T. Edgar*).

Description.—A tiny bird with the upper parts grey-brown and the under parts pale sulphur-yellow. Loes and large spots on the inner webs of the tail feathers, white.

Adult.—Sexes alike. Upper parts, including exposed parts of wings and tail and sides of the head, pale greyish earthy-brown with an olive sheen, the tail with a broad, blackish, subterminal area and, except for the centre pair of feathers, with a large white spot on the inner web, near the tip, the spots decreasing in size inwards. Concealed parts of the wing feathers, blackish

¹ I have used the name adopted in the second fasciculus of this work, but for technical reasons it should properly be *Gerygone fusca sulphurea* Wallace, which will be the name used in the summary in the final volume of this work.

brown. Edge of the wing, axillaries and under wing coverts, white, sometimes tinged with yellow. Entire under parts, pale sulphur-yellow, washed with pale grey-brown on the sides of the breast, the wash sometimes extending towards the centre, and occasionally on the flanks. Lores, white or whitish.

Immature.—Very like the adult, but the under parts whitish and only tinged with yellow.

Nestling.—"The nestling of *Gerygone*, when very young, is a queer little creature, clad in fine, white, hair-like feathers, which make it look like some kind of caterpillar" (*A. T. Edgar*).

Soft Parts.—Iris, brown; bill, black, sometimes paler at the base; feet, slaty to greenish black. Young birds have the bill yellow at the base.

Dimensions.—Total length, 3·85 to 4·1 in.; tail, 1·35 to 1·4 in.; wing, 1·9 to 2·03 in.; tarsus, 0·63 in.; bill from gape, 0·5 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—The state of Trang, the island of Junk Zeylon and an islet near Pulau Panjang off the west coast of Peninsular Siam. The Malay states of Perak and Pahang.

Extralimital Range.—Birds from all the large land-masses and many of the smaller coastal islands in Malaysia seem inseparable. Occurs also in the Philippines and the Lesser Sunda Islands east to Alor. Dr W. Meise, the latest reviewer of the group, considers that a large number of races found in the intervening islands to and including Australia are only subspecies of one widespread species.

Nidification.—"I have found nests in every month from December till August, inclusive, all on overhanging branches of 'perapat' and 'api-api' trees, at from five to twenty feet from the ground. Several nests were attached to trees right on the edge of the mangrove swamp, exposed to all the winds blowing in from the sea.

"The nest is most peculiar. It is shaped like that of some kinds of sunbird; a pear-shaped bag, firmly bound at the top to a horizontal twig, and with a long 'tail' pendent beneath the nest. The entrance, which is small, circular, and furnished with an eave, is about half-way down one side of the nest. From the supporting twig to the bottom of the nest is about four and a quarter inches, and the tail, which not infrequently is gathered and bound fairly tightly at the base, may be six inches or more in length.

"The main materials used are fine fibre, tiny rootlets and various kinds of vegetable down; the egg-chamber is lined with the softest of down, and attached to its inner walls are sometimes found the breast feathers of birds: one nest was lined throughout with the breast feathers of green pigeons. The outside of the nest is decorated all over with green moss, skeleton leaves, slivers of dry, rotting wood, and the white scales of some kind of sea-creature. Eggs: two or three, slightly pointed ovals, without gloss, measuring on an average 0·60 by 0·43 inch. White or pinky white in ground-colour, they are profusely marked all over with small spots of reddish brown, more thickly congregated at the larger end, where also are a few fine writing marks of very dark brown, almost black.

"In March I found in one nest a single egg of *Gerygone* as described above,

and also an egg, 0.72 by 0.51 inch, dark olive-green with a single brown blotch at the larger end, and also a zone of very tiny dark brown spots. This was probably the egg of a small cuckoo" (*A. T. Edgar*).

Habits.—This tiny flycatcher is uncommon, or overlooked, in most parts of the Peninsula—I think the latter. Mr A. T. Edgar has recently found it common in the mangrove swamps on the southern part of the Perak coast. The species has turned up in similar situations at the mouth of the Pahang river on the east coast of the Peninsula and on the eastern coast of South-West Siam. In the Malay States it has also been obtained in trees in the cultivated and highly civilized garden of the Perak Museum, in the centre of the town of Taiping; other places in the lowlands of Perak; and from old forests on the foothills of Gunong Tahan. The variety of situations under which the species has been met, has led to the suggestion that it is partially migratory, but Mr Edgar's discovery of the nest in Perak proves that any movement of the species can only be a limited local movement. In other parts of its range some races of this species are montane and others coastal in habitat. Among Malaysian birds somewhat similar cases are presented by a tit, *Parus major ambiguus*, and a bulbul, *Microtarsus melanoleucus*, which are also found in mangroves and again in the mountains.

It is a moot point as to whether or not *Gerygone* should be transferred to the warblers (*Sylviidæ*).

The bird figured in the plate is a male from Taiping, Perak.

Zanthopygia narcissina zanthopygia

The Black-and-Yellow Flycatcher

The sexes are quite different. The male has the rump and under parts bright yellow, and the remaining upper parts black, with broad white eye-stripes and white patches on the wings. The female is greyish brown, washed with olive above, with a bright yellow rump. The under parts are whitish, faintly washed with sulphur-yellow, and the feathers of the breast have dusky edges, producing an obsolete squamate effect.

Total length, about 5.25 in.; wing, 2.5 in.

A rather uncommon winter visitor to the Malay Peninsula from its breeding-grounds in Mongolia, Manchuria, Korea and China, etc.

Cyanoptila cyanomelana cumatilis

The Blue-and-White Migratory Flycatcher

Vol. II., p. 144.

The sexes are quite different. Males have the upper parts, throat and breast blue, sharply defined against the white belly, the head much brighter blue, the breast bordered by an indistinct black line and the bases of the outer tail feathers, white. Females are pale brown above, slightly more

rufous on the wings and tail and greyish brown below, with the chin, throat, abdomen and vent whitish. There is a narrow buff ring round the eye.

Total length, about 6·5 in. ; wing, about 3·5 in.

A winter migrant from China. Numerous specimens have been collected on the coasts and islands of the Straits of Malacca and also on the hills.

Hypothymis azurea prophata

The Malaysian Black-naped Flycatcher

Vol. I., p. 183; Vol. II., p. 144.

The sexes are quite different in plumage. The male is bright cerulean blue, paling to white on the abdomen. There is a large patch of black, velvety feathers on the nape and a narrow black band across the lower throat. The female is much duller. The top of the head is blue, but otherwise the upper parts are dull brown. The throat is dusky blue, gradually changing to bluish grey on the breast and white on the abdomen. There are no black markings on the nape and throat.

Total length, about 6·2 in. ; wing, 2·75 in.

This is a very common resident bird in the lowlands of the Peninsula. It is found in old jungle, secondary growth, and sometimes, but not commonly, in gardens. In Peninsular Siam it is replaced by a slightly larger subspecies, *H. azurea styani*, in which the white belly is more extensive.

In Lower Perak Mr A. T. Edgar has found the tiny, deep, cup-like nest, situated forty feet from the ground in the fork of a twig on one of the outer branches of a rubber-tree. The usual clutch is two eggs. Season, March to May, August (Perak, *Edgar* and *Ryves*); April to July (Negri Sembilan, *Ryves*); April, May (Selangor, *Madoc*). Mr G. C. Madoc has seen a nest fastened to a horizontal liana over a river, and another in the fork of a small sapling only eight feet from the ground.

Rhipidura perlata

The Spotted Fantail Flycatcher

Vol. I., p. 188, pl. 16.

The sexes are alike. Upper parts, dark grey, the outer tail feathers broadly tipped with white, a partially concealed short white stripe over the eye and a few small white spots on the wing coverts. Throat and breast, dark grey, heavily spotted with white; abdomen, white.

Total length, about 7 in. ; wing, 3·4 in.

A common bird almost everywhere in old forest of tall trees, but much less numerous in areas of secondary growth and not normally a garden bird. It shows a marked preference for submontane jungle and is not common in the lowland swamp forests. There is no Malayan record of the nest.

*Rhipidura javanica javanica***The Malaysian Fantail Flycatcher**

Vol. I., p. 187, pl. 16.

Sexes alike. Upper parts, dark brown, turning to blackish on the crown. Tail feathers broadly tipped with white. Under parts, white, washed with buff on the abdomen. Chin and a broad band across the breast, brownish black. Wing, about 3 in.; total length, about 7.25 in.

A common lowland bird. It frequents gardens and orchards rather than the forests.

From Lower Perak Mr A. T. Edgar records the nesting season as extending from February to June. For Negri Sembilan, Mr V. W. Ryves gives April to July. Mr Edgar notes, "All the nests I have seen were between four and fifteen feet from the ground; most of them in small trees, in gardens and villages, two in bamboo clumps, and two in the mangroves within a few yards of high-water mark."

*Terpsiphone paradisi affinis***The Malacca Paradise Flycatcher**

Vol. I., p. 179; Vol. II., p. 146.

Since Robinson wrote his account of this bird in the first volume of this series, the species has been studied in further detail by several ornithologists, and certain additions and amendments are now necessary, together with an alteration of the popular names.

Adult male (white phase).—Head and neck all round, black with a greenish gloss. Plumage, white, indistinctly streaked with black on the back and boldly streaked on the wings. Centre tail feathers greatly lengthened into streamers.

Adult male (brown phase).—Top of the head, black with a greenish gloss; upper parts, deep chestnut; throat, dark blue-grey, almost black, becoming lighter on the breast and turning to white on the abdomen; under tail coverts washed with chestnut. Centre tail feathers lengthened into streamers.

Females and young birds (both sexes) are never found in the white phase. Compared with adult males they lack the elongated tail feathers, and the upper parts are usually not quite so deep chestnut in colour. The grey of the throat and breast is paler and the flanks are often washed with buff.

The total length of a male in which the long tail feathers are developed is about 15 in. The wing in adults measures about 3.75 in.

Robinson described long-tailed chestnut-backed males as representing a "second plumage." If by this he meant that white males are older and have passed through the "second-plumage" stage, I know of no evidence to support the view that long-tailed brown birds in the Malay Peninsula ever turn white (or *vice versa*). The species as described above is a common resident in the lowland forests of the southern part of the Peninsula. In the north of the Peninsula it is replaced by another resident subspecies, *T. p.*

indochinensis, in which the under parts are much paler grey. It is difficult to draw a boundary line between the southern *affinis* and the northern *indochinensis*, for not only is there a large area in which intermediate specimens occur, but the two forms inosculate. Birds from the territory of Malacca southwards are invariably *affinis*: those from Peninsular Siam are either *indochinensis*, or nearer to that race than to *affinis*. Some birds from Selangor and Pahang are also *affinis*. The range of *indochinensis* extends to Tenasserim and through Siam and French Indo-China. In these countries it is said not to produce white-plumaged males. In the Malay Peninsula these are common right up to our northern boundary at the Isthmus of Kra.

In the Peninsula the species breeds in old forest. The nest is a small, deep crucible-shaped cup.

In addition to the two resident birds mentioned above, two other forms of the species visit the Peninsula as winter migrants. The first of these, the Chinese paradise flycatcher, *Terpsiphone paradisi incei*, is like *T. p. affinis*, but it has a smaller bill, and in all the brown plumages it is characterized by the maroon-chestnut, not rufous-chestnut, upper parts. This form breeds in China and is common in the Peninsula in the winter months.

The other migratory form may be known as Salomonsen's paradise flycatcher, *T. p. saturatior*. It is distinguished from all the foregoing races by its dull-brown, washed with olive, upper parts and strongly buff-washed abdomen. It breeds in the Himalayas from Sikkim eastwards to Assam and possibly also in Cachar and Yunnan. It seems not to visit the Malay Peninsula in any great numbers, and I have seen only a few specimens, all from the north of our area, and none from south of Taiping, in Perak.

These migratory forms will be discussed in greater detail in our next volume.

Terpsiphone atrocaudata atrocaudata

The Japanese Paradise Flycatcher

As in the various forms of *Terpsiphone paradisi*, the adult males of this migratory flycatcher develop long streamers in the tail. The adult male is unmistakable. The head, neck, breast and tail are glossy black; the flanks, blackish brown; the remaining under parts, white; and the back and wings, dark coppery purple, or, as one author describes it, "purplish black, glossed with maroon." Females are not so deeply coloured above, and young birds are brown above with a dull, black crown. On the under parts they have the throat and breast dark grey, the abdomen whitish, and the under tail coverts pinkish buff. In all its plumages this species can be distinguished from the several forms of *T. paradisi* by the darker tail, which even in young birds is dull brown and never the bright rufous-bay of *paradisi*.

This species breeds in Japan and turns up fairly frequently on the coasts of the southern parts of the Malay Peninsula, including Singapore Island, in winter. I have never seen a specimen from Peninsular Siam.

The wing measures about 3.75 in. in adult males.

*Drymophila velata caesia***The Maroon-breasted Flycatcher**

Vol. I., p. 184; Vol. II., p. 146.

Males, pale, somewhat greyish blue; forehead, chin and upper throat, black; lower throat and breast, maroon-chestnut. Females, entirely blue, darker on the forehead and throat.

Total length, about 8 in.; wing, 3.9 in.

A common bird in lowland forest, including the inland swampy jungles, throughout the Peninsula. Normally, it is not seen in gardens and cultivated areas. I can find no record of the nest and eggs.

*Drymophila pyrrhoptera pyrrhoptera***The Malaysian Chestnut-winged Flycatcher**

PLATE II

Vol. II., p. 146.

Muscicapa pyrrhoptera Temminck, *Pl. Col.*, 596, 1836 (Borneo).

Philentoma pyrrhopterum, Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, iv., 1879, p. 366; Oates, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds*, ii., 1890, p. 43; Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds* (2nd ed.), ii., 1924, p. 263.

Drymophila pyrrhoptera pyrrhoptera, Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, v., 1924, p. 241.

Malay Name.—Unascertained.

Description.—A largish flycatcher. Young birds and females are pale brown above and greyish on the crown; wings and tail, reddish chestnut; under parts, whitish or buffy. The adult male has two phases. In one, the less common, the plumage is entirely pale blue. In the other phase, the head, neck, breast and back are blue; the wings and tail, chestnut, and the abdomen whitish.

The plumage on the lower back and rump is thick, fluffy and long, concealing the upper tail coverts.

Adult male.—Upper parts from forehead to lower back, head all round, neck, breast, lesser and median wing coverts, bastard wing and primary coverts, pale blue; lower back and rump, blue-grey washed with buff, and often patched with cream-buff, owing to the tips of the under rump feathers showing through. Greater wing coverts, entire inner secondaries, outer edge of other secondaries as well as the base of the outer secondaries, ferruginous chestnut; remaining parts of wing quills, blackish brown, the primaries edged with olive-brown, sometimes tinged with rufous and narrowly rufous on the inner edges. Thighs, grey; remaining under parts, creamy white washed with buff, most strongly on the centre of the upper abdomen; sides of the body, except the lower flanks, grey-brown. Edge of wing and adjacent under wing coverts, blue; other wing coverts and axillaries, whitish buff.

Adult male (blue phase).—In this phase the entire exposed part of the plumage is sometimes pale blue, often rather grey-blue, but more usually

the lower abdomen, flanks and under tail coverts are washed with grey and streaked with white, and there is a buffy wash on the lower back and rump. Occasionally there is a tinge of chestnut on the tail quills, especially at the tips.

In this blue plumage the male is very like the female of the maroon-breasted flycatcher (*Drymophila velata caesia*) described in Vol. II., p. 146, but the present species is not blackened on the throat and it is much smaller, except in the bill.

Adult female.—Quite different; entirely without blue in the plumage. Mantle, back, rump, scapulars, lesser, median and primary coverts, pale earthy brown with a greyish-olive sheen; top of the head, lores and ear coverts, brownish grey washed with olive; median and primary coverts tipped with chestnut. Upper tail coverts, tail, inner secondaries, edges of other secondaries and the major coverts, ferruginous-chestnut; other parts of the wing, blackish brown, the primaries edged with olive-brown. Under parts, pale buff, becoming creamy on the flanks and abdomen, the sides of the breast and upper abdomen washed with earthy brown. Under wing coverts and axillaries, buff.

Immature.—No very young birds are available for examination, but it is at least certain that immature males are like the adult female. The progress during the change into the adult plumage is not the same in all birds. Some males retaining the whitish throat of immaturity are quite blue on the upper parts, but others with the throat blue still show the earthy-brown mantle and back of the immature plumage.

Note.—The plumage of the adult male is usually as given in the first description above, that is with chestnut wings and tail, but birds in the “blue phase” are also common though less numerous than the others. These blue birds could equally well be regarded as common aberrations of the adult male, for I do not think that they represent any definite stage in the sequence of plumages.

Soft Parts.—Iris, red; bill, black; feet, grey to lavender. In females the bill is horn-colour or dusky brown; feet, grey or, rarely, pale brown, and sometimes with a green wash. Young birds also have the iris red, although in one specimen it is marked as “brown”; bill, pale horn, whitish beneath and at the gape.

Dimensions.—Total length, 6.5 to 7 in.; tail, 2.6 to 2.9 in.; wing, 3.1 to 3.35 in. in males, 2.9 to 3.2 in. in females; tarsus, 0.7 in.; bill from gape, 0.7 to 0.9 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—The whole length of the Peninsula on both sides, including Penang and Singapore Islands.

Extralimital Range.—North to about the latitude of Tavoy on the western side of the Peninsula, but apparently not beyond the Isthmus of Kra on the Siamese side. Cochin-China. Sumatra and Borneo. An almost indistinguishable subspecies inhabits Bunguran in the North Natuna Islands.

Nidification.—Unknown.

Habits.—A typical flycatcher in its habits, and common in the low-country scrub and forest, ascending the hills to about 3000 ft. It is found all over the

Peninsula, but is most numerous in the south. It avoids the neighbourhood of large towns, but frequents the less open tracts on the outskirts of villages. I have seen it in very swampy jungle in Johore. It is usually seen alone or in pairs. I have never seen it on the ground.

The birds figured in the plate are a male from Kedah Peak and a female from Kuala Lipis, Pahang.

Rhinomyias olivacea olivacea

Hume's Jungle-Flycatcher

PLATE 12 (*middle figure*)

Cyornis olivacea Hume, *Stray Feathers*, v., 1877, p. 338 (South Tenasserim); Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, iv., 1879, p. 457.

Anthipes olivaceus, Oates, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds*, ii., 1890, p. 34.

Rhinomyias olivacea, Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, v., 1924, p. 241.

Anthipes olivaceus olivaceus, Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds*, ii., 1924, p. 246.

Malay Name.—Unascertained.

Description.—Upper parts, brownish olive; tail, slightly rufous. Under parts, white, with a fairly distinct, broad fulvous band across the breast.

Adult.—Sexes alike. Top of head and nape, dark olive with a brownish tinge; mantle, back, scapulars, rump and tail, olive-brown, turning to olive-ferruginous on the upper tail coverts and edges of the tail quills. Wings, dull brown, the edges of the feathers olive-brown, and the inner secondaries entirely olive-brown, often with obsolete dusky "growth-bars." Lores, greyish white; sides of the head and ear coverts, dark greyish olive; under parts, white with a broad pectoral zone of fulvous, the sides of the breast washed with olive-brown; flanks washed with fulvous and olive-brown. Under wing coverts and axillaries, white, tinged with fulvous.

Immature.—I have never seen the juvenile, but immature birds differ from adults in having the greater wing coverts and inner secondaries broadly tipped with buff. According to Robinson, "the nestling bird has the ordinary mottled plumage characteristic of the flycatchers, the wing coverts broadly tipped with yellowish buff."

Soft Parts.—Iris, brown; bill, black; feet, fleshy, sometimes washed with blue-grey.

Dimensions.—Total length, 5.5 to 5.9 in.; tail, 2.1 to 2.3 in.; wing, 2.75 to 2.95 in.; tarsus, 0.72 in.; bill from gape, 0.75 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—Peninsular Siam from our northern limit at the Isthmus of Kra south to Trang, Bandon and Nakon Sritammarat.

Extralimital Range.—The extreme south of Tenasserim and South-West Siam (Maprit), Sumatra, Billiton, Borneo, the North Natuna Islands, Java and Bali. Another subspecies is found in the North Bornean Islands of Balambangan and Banguay.

Nidification.—Unknown.

Habits.—In the Malay Peninsula I have never met with this flycatcher, but in Borneo have collected it in thin lowland forest. It is usually alone. It has not yet been taken in the southern part of the Peninsula. From Peninsular Siam, Robinson records it as fairly common on the lower slopes of the hill Kao Nawng, in Bandon. In Sumatra, Dr E. Jacobson has noted that this species lives in secondary forest and plantations near villages, in isolated clumps of trees and bushes. Referring to Bankasoon, Davison records that this species “keeps to the forest or its outskirts, and is usually seen singly. True flycatchers, they perch on commanding twigs, whence they capture passing insects with short sharp flights, returning to the same perch. Not infrequently they may be seen flying from branch to branch, evidently not feeding, and as they alight, lowering their wings, jerking their tails, and uttering their peculiar prolonged *chir-r-r*. I have never seen one on the ground, though often in low brushwood.”

The bird figured in the plate is a male from Trang, Peninsular Siam.

Rhinomyias brunneata

The Migratory Jungle-Flycatcher

Upper parts, dark brown; chin, throat and abdomen, whitish; the breast and flanks, pale brown. The pale tips to the inner secondaries and the narrow dark fringes to the feathers of the throat, seen in Malayan specimens, no doubt indicate immaturity.

Wing, about 3.1 in.

This species is easy to confuse with *Rhinomyias o. olivacea*, but it is darker above and has a heavier bill, the under mandible of which is pale, not blackish. The coloured zone across the breast is darker and less yellowish brown and is much broader; the white throat is less distinctly defined against the sides of the head and the breast.

A winter migrant from China found in small numbers in the lowlands and on the low hills of the Peninsula. Specimens have also been obtained from the migratory stream passing along the small islands in the Straits of Malacca.

Rhinomyias umbratile infuscata

The White-throated Jungle-Flycatcher

PLATE 12 (*lower figure*)

Vol. II., p. 147.

Muscicapa infuscata Blyth, *Ibis*, 1870, p. 165 (Sumatra).

Rhinomyias pectoralis, Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, iv., 1879, p. 368; Oates, *Cat. Birds' Eggs, Brit. Mus.*, iii., 1903, p. 282.

Rhinomyias umbratilis infuscata, Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, v., 1924, p. 241.

Malay Name.—Unascertained.

Description.—Not unlike *Rhinomyias o. olivacea*, but the upper parts much darker and the band across the chest, grey or olive-grey, not fulvous.

Adult.—Sexes alike. Upper parts, including exposed edges of the wing feathers and the inner secondaries, dark ochraceous brown, dullest and darkest on the crown. Upper tail coverts tinged with ferruginous and the tail feathers fringed with ferruginous-brown. Concealed parts of the wings, blackish brown; the inner edges of the quills, smoky. Lores, whitish; sides of the head and neck, pale ochraceous brown. Under parts, white, with an indistinct grey, or olive-grey, pectoral band, against which the white throat is very conspicuous; flanks heavily washed with pale brown, and under tail coverts sometimes tinged with the same colour. Axillaries and under wing coverts, white.

Immature.—Immature birds have the greater wing coverts and the inner secondaries broadly tipped with rufous-buff. No juvenile has been examined.

Soft Parts.—Iris, brown; bill, black; feet, fleshy to lavender.

Dimensions.—Total length, 5.9 to 6.1 in.; tail, 2.4 to 2.6 in.; wing, 2.85 to 3.1 in.; tarsus, 0.66 in.; bill from gape, 0.8 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—Patani in Peninsular Siam; Kedah, Perak, Pahang and Malacca territory.

Extralimital Range.—Sumatra and Mansalar Island off the west coast of Sumatra. Billiton. Borneo, the North Natuna Islands and the Karimata Islands.

Nidification.—Unknown.

Habits.—A forest species, with a preference for submontane localities. It is known from the foothills of Gunong Tahan, which it ascends to about 3500 ft., and Kedah Peak, but we also have it from the lowlands of Perak and Pahang. In the Natuna Islands I have shot it in old forest in the lowlands within sound of the sea. It is usually seen alone, hawking for insects from a tree in the usual flycatcher manner. In the Peninsula it seems not to be common in any locality.

The bird figured in the plate is a male from Kedah Peak.

Muscitrea grisola grisola

The Grey Mangrove Flycatcher-Shrike

Vol. I., p. 189.

Sexes alike. Upper parts, dull brown, becoming dusky grey on the crown. Breast, pale grey, with a few indistinct darker streaks; abdomen, white. Bill, black. Wing, about 3.3 in. Young birds have the wings washed with rufous, and the bill horny brown, not black. The nestling is not spotted at any stage. A common species along the coasts and on the coastal islands wherever there are mangroves or casuarina trees. The affinities of this species are not understood, and by some writers it is placed with the shrikes.

Mr A. T. Edgar has found nests in Perak. He writes: "Two nests in June contained young birds. The nests were from thirty to forty feet up in rubber-trees. A nest on 27th March contained two eggs. This nest was fifty feet from the ground, slung like a hammock between the twigs of a small forked branch. It was made of fibre and fine roots, and the bottom was so

loosely woven that the eggs could be seen from below. The eggs are rather broad ovals, slightly pointed, slightly glossy, creamy white in colour, spotted with brown and dark brown and with underlying spots of pale purplish. Measurements, 0.80 and 0.82 by 0.61 and 0.62 in."

Culicicapa ceylonensis antioxantha

The Malayan Grey-headed Flycatcher

Vol. I., p. 185; Vol. II., p. 147.

The sexes are alike. Head, throat, neck and breast, grey, the top of the head darker. Remaining upper parts, bright yellowish olive-green; yellowish on the rump; abdomen, greenish yellow.

A very small species: total length, about 4.8 in.; wing, 2.4 in.

A common species in the dry submontane forest and most numerous between 500 and 2500 ft. It is also met with sparingly in the lowlands, but it only very rarely enters gardens. I know of no local record of the nest and eggs.

Stoporala thalassina thalassoides

The Malaysian Verditer Flycatcher

Vol. II., p. 148.

The male is shining verditer-blue, except for the lores, chin and a narrow line on the forehead, which are black. The female is of a duller, greyer blue.

The species is a small one: total length, about 5.8 in.; wing, about 3 in.

This flycatcher is widely distributed in the Malay Peninsula, but is nowhere very common, and in the extreme south it is decidedly rare. It is found in the lowlands, but shows a preference for submontane districts. Its favourite haunts are clearings in the drier parts of the old forest. There is no Malayan record of the nest and eggs.