

Re-identification of *Rallus pectoralis deignani*

by S. Dillon Ripley & Storrs L. Olson

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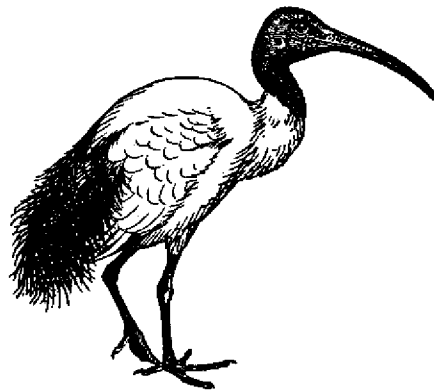
The description of the race *Rallus pectoralis deignani* (Ripley, 1970, *Nat. Hist. Bull. Siam Soc.* 23: 367-368) from Celebes was of particular interest as the species *pectoralis* was not previously known from that island and because *deignani* was subsequently cited as providing a link between *Rallus pectoralis* of Flores, New Guinea, and Australia, and *R. mirificus* of Luzon (Mayr, 1971, *Journ. Ornith.* 112: 302-316). In our independent studies of the Rallidae, we have had cause to re-examine the type and only specimen of *deignani* and fear that we must report that it is actually an aberrant individual of *Rallus striatus*—a species already known from Celebes.

As was noted in the original description, the type of *deignani* differs from normal *striatus* in lacking the white barring in the primaries that is characteristic of that species, and in this respect it does resemble *pectoralis*. However, the degree of this barring is quite variable in *striatus* and the bars may be broad, narrow, or sometimes reduced to disconnected spots. In one specimen from Ceylon examined by Olson (American Museum of Natural History No. 545053), the barring was almost absent. The type of *deignani*, which is an immature, thus represents an extreme in this occasional trend towards the reduction of barring. It does preserve, however, the regularly spaced white bars in the outer web of the outermost primary, which are typical of *striatus* (in *pectoralis* the white markings on the outer web of the outer primary are thin, irregularly spaced spots along the very edge). The specimen is larger than most subspecies of *pectoralis*, except the nominate Australian form, and has a stouter bill and somewhat more extensive white dorsal spotting than *pectoralis*. In these respects it also agrees with *striatus*. *Rallus pectoralis deignani* thus becomes a synonym of *Rallus striatus striatus* Linnaeus and the species *pectoralis* must be removed from the Celebes list.

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