TWO NEW RACES OF PASSERINE BIRDS FROM THAILAND

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I

The orange-gorgeted flycatcher, *Siphia strophiata* Hodgson, is a regular and rather common visitor in winter to the higher peaks of western North Siam. Twenty-four specimens from Doi Angka (December), Doi Khun Tan (November), Doi Suthep (December, January, February, March), Doi Chiengdao (January), and Loi Mwe, Kengtung State (February, March) are inseparable in either sex from a series of 28 birds from the western Himalayas, Assam, Yunnan, Szechuan, and Shensi, and must be called *Siphia strophiata strophiata*.

De Schauensee reported the capture of a male on Kyu Loi, Kengtung State (February) and another on Doi Suthep (December), which had "an almost entirely black throat, in the center of which is a small concealed patch of white formed by the bases of the feathers." Since then he has received a third example from Doi Pha Hom Pok (February). In the meantime, I myself took a female on Doi Suthep (November), which differs from the female of the nominate race much as De Schauensee's three specimens differ from the male of that form. I am convinced that these birds belong to a hitherto unrecognized subspecies, which may be found to breed somewhere in the Southern Shan States. For it I propose the name

*SIPHIA STROPHIATA ASEMATA*, n. subsp.

Type—A female, U.S.N.M. No. 336545, taken at 5,500 feet on Doi Suthep, Chiangmai Province, western North Siam, November 7, 1936, by H. G. Deignan.

The type specimen differs most strikingly from the corresponding sex of both *strophiata* and *fuscogularis* (Annam) in wholly lacking a gorget. The chin, throat, and center of the upper breast are uniformly of a color which lies between buckthorn brown (Ridgway) and isabella color (Ridgway) and which changes imperceptibly into the olivaceous-brown of the sides of the breast and the flanks; all the

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feathers of the throat and breast have the concealed bases dark slate-gray and the concealed portion of the shaft white; the lores, supercilia, ear-coverts, and sides of the neck are dark brownish slate, not pure slate-gray as in the other races. Three examples (two males, one female) of what I take to be strophiata in the first winter plumage are nearest to my specimen in coloration of the underparts, but all have the usual well-defined pale orange gorget with white bases of the feathers showing through.

The three adult males which presumably belong here differ from the corresponding sex of strophiata and fuscogularis in having the gorget so much reduced in area, both the orange and the white portions, but especially the former, that it is almost or entirely invisible until the feathers of the breast are raised.

Stresemann and Heinrich* have remarked on the fact that of seven females from Mount Victoria, two (one with an oviduct egg) wore the plumage of the male. Of my series of 45 sexed adults, 35 are labeled as males, 10 as females, and of these latter 5 are in male plumage. So great is the disproportion of the sexes in this series that I am inclined to believe that many of the "males" have been thus labeled by native collectors merely because of external appearances. In fuscogularis, 5 females are distinguishable from 2 males only by the slightly paler gray of the throat and breast.

The allegation of the "Fauna of British India, Birds" that fuscogularis occurs in the Northern Shan States need be taken no more seriously than the inclusion of North Borneo within the range of strophiata. Fuscogularis may readily be known from strophiata by its having the upperparts, especially the head, more rufous-brown, less olivaceous-brown.

II

A single specimen of Ixos mcclellandii, McClelland's bulbul, from the mountains of northeastern Nan Province, is sufficiently distinct from any known form to justify erection of yet another local race of this plastic species. For it I propose the name

**IXOS MCCLELLANDII LOQUAX, n. subsp.**

_Type.—An adult female, U.S.N.M. No. 350105, collected on Phu Kha, 4,500 feet, Nan Province, eastern North Siam, April 14, 1936, by H. G. Deignan.

The brown back separates this bird from all described forms of the species except *holtii*, *similis*, and *binghami*. Both geographically and in plumage it lies between *binghami* and *holtii*. From *holtii* it is separable by the much paler buffy color of the underparts and by having the bend of the wing and the under tail-coverts buffy yellow, not buff. From *binghami* it is separable by the slightly deeper buffy color of the underparts, by having the entire underparts (including the center of the abdomen) suffused with this color, and by having the bend of the wing and the under tail-coverts buffy yellow, not pale yellow.

Three forms of this species are now known from the higher mountains of northern Thailand. The green-backed *tickelli* has been taken on Doi Angka, Doi Khun Tan, Doi Suthep, Doi Rangka, and Doi Chiengdao. The brown-backed *loquax* has been found only on Phu Kha. The brown-backed *binghami* barely enters Siam on Doi Pha Hom Pok.

I have found no trace of inosculation between the brown-backed and green-backed races. *Tickelli* and *binghami* seem to be separable by no external character except color of back and each individual is definitely of one or the other form. Eight specimens from Doi Chiengdao are *tickelli*; from Doi Pha Hom Pok, the next locality to the north, De Schauensee has four examples, three of them *binghami*, the other *tickelli*. This last might represent an off-season wanderer but more likely indicates that, at the periphery of range, brown-backed parents tend to produce an occasional green-backed offspring. What seems to be an analogous case is offered by *Porphyrio albus* in Siam: where the breeding-ranges of *poliocephalus* and *viridis* meet we find, nesting in juxtaposition, blue-backed individuals which must be called by the former name, others with green backs which must be given the latter name, and apparently no examples which are not clearly of one or the other form, so far as can be judged by external characters.

Messrs. Delacour and Jabouille⁴ have recently stated that *similis* is a synonym of *holtii*; this conclusion is not borne out by my material, in which seven specimens of *similis* are easily distinguishable from five of *holtii* by the deeper rufous-buff of the underparts and the darker gray of the throat.

Of the previously named forms of this bulbul, I have been able to examine *mcclellandii*, *tickelli*, *canescens*, *griseiventer*, *binghami*, *similis*, and *holtii*, all of which I consider valid. *Peracensis* and the recently described *ventralis* have not been available, but both differ

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⁴ L'Oiseau et la Revue française d'Ornithologie, 1940, p. 191.
widely from *loquax* in having the back green. *Ventralis*, incidentally, was apparently compared only with *mcclellandii*; nothing in the description indicates how it differs from *tickelli*, if at all.

My thanks are due to J. H. Riley, who first brought to my attention the peculiarities of the specimen that becomes the type of *Siphia strophiata asema*, and to R. M. De Schauensee and the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, who have generously sent me their valuable series of the species here discussed.