

32903

[From "Novitates Zoologicae." Vol. II. June, 1895.]



okl. do
50p. D-1059
8.9.49
M.P.



s. 699.
~~5.699.~~

DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW SPECIES OF THE GENERA
PHOENICOPHAES AND *SPILORNIS*,

WITH A NOTE ON *ORIOLOUS CONSOBRINUS* RAMS.

BY HANS GRAF VON BERLEPSCH.

1. *Phoenicophaes microrhinus* Berl. sp. nov.

Syn. Ph. erythrognathus aut. pt. (ex Borneo).

Diagn. Ph. erythrognatho Bp. ex Malacca et Sumatra simillimus, differt narium aperturis multo minoribus et angustioribus, oblongis nec circularibus, rostro quoque debiliore, necnon colore sanguineo ad basin maxillae magis extenso ad marginem narium superiorem ascendente, necnon alis caudaque brevioribus distinguendus.

♂♂ et ♀♀ : al. 167-156 mm. ; caud. 250-233 ; culm. 45-41½ ; tars. 41-37 mm.

Hab. In Borneo insula (Mount Kalulong, Baram River, Kinabalu, etc.), et Bunguran (Natuna).*

In Museo Berlepsch (typus) et Tring.

In his excellent article on the birds of Celebes,† the late Marquis Tweeddale had already dilated on the curious fact that several forms of cuckoos of the sub-family *Phoenicophaeinae* inhabiting different islands, where they evidently act as representative species, are remarkably alike in their plumage, while they differ so strikingly in the shape and position of their nostrils that authors deemed it necessary

* My friend Ernst Hartert, who fully agrees with me regarding the distinctness of the Malacca and Borneo forms, tells me that the *Phoenicophaes* recently sent to the Tring Museum from the Natunas is the Bornean form.

† *Trans. Zool. Soc.*, viii., p. 52.

to place them in different genera. The Marquis, however, did not concur with such views, but united them all in one genus, viz. *Phoenicophaes* Vieill., and I believe this is the most practical *modus procedendi*, it being much supported by the discovery which I have made lately regarding the distinctness of the Borneo bird, which hitherto has been always regarded as identical with *Ph. erythrognathus* Bp. ex Malacca and Sumatra. In fact the Borneo bird differs from the typical form in the shape of the nostrils, they being much smaller and more oblong instead of being larger and quite circular, as in the form inhabiting Malacca and Sumatra. This and other discrepancies shown by the Borneo birds, as compared with the typical ones, are so slight that some authors might be inclined to treat the Borneo bird simply as a subspecies; but as the differences appear to be quite constant, and may be well known from a diagnosis, I prefer to rank it as a valid species, though indeed *nobody would try to make it a different genus*. According to my views we may include in the genus *Phoenicophaes* the following species, viz. :—

1. *Ph. pyrrocephalus* (Forst.), from Ceylon.
2. *Ph. aeneicaudus* (T. & E. Verr.), from the island of Mentavei.*
3. *Ph. erythrognathus* Bp., nec Hartl., † from Malacca, Sumatra, and Natunas.
4. *Ph. microrhinus* Berl., from Borneo.
5. *Ph. curvirostris* (Shaw), from Java.
6. *Ph. harvingtoni* Sharpe, from Palawan.
7. *Ph. calorhynchus* (Tem.), from Celebes.

All these forms differ among themselves by the shape or situation of their nostrils. ‡ While Nos. 1 and 7 differ from each other as well as from the rest in the coloration of their plumage, Nos. 3, 4, and 5, as compared *inter se*, hardly show any difference in the plumage, and Nos. 2 and 6 present but a slight difference in this respect as compared with Nos. 3, 4, and 5.

All these species inhabiting different islands (one only being found on the continent), where they evidently are to be regarded as representative forms, there is all probability that they once have been derived from a common stock, and that the characters which now distinguish them are simply the result of isolation.

It is certainly a most remarkable fact that in this case isolation has caused a different shape of nostrils, while it has been of no or very slight influence regarding the coloration of the plumage in four or five islands inhabited by these birds. We may therefore conclude that the style of coloration of the plumes of birds in some cases is more likely a character due to inheritance than some external structural peculiarities, and further we may conclude that it is not advisable to place species which are otherwise closely allied in different genera solely on account of slight structural differences.

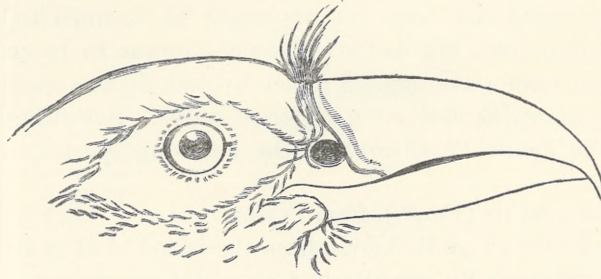
* Salvad., *Ann. Mus. Civic. St. nat. Genova*, xiv. (December 14th, 1894), p. 590.

† This name is generally ascribed to Hartlaub, but referring to Hartlaub's *Syst. Verz. d. naturh. Samml. d. Ges. Mus. Bremen* (1814), where the name of *Ph. erythrognathus* first appears, I find that it has been bestowed on specimens from Java and Malacca, *no description* being added to it. It follows that Hartlaub did not intend to separate the Malacca form from that of Java. Further, Hartlaub cannot be claimed as the author of that name, as he added *no description* to it, the name being therefore merely a *nomen nudum* at that time. Happily enough, five years later Prince Bonaparte, in his *Conspectus Generum Avium*, i. (1849), p. 89, has given a good description of our species, using the same name, viz. *P. erythrognathus* (ex Temminck MS. in Mus. Lugd.), for it, and giving a correct habitat, viz. *Sumatra*. Therefore this species must now stand as *Ph. erythrognathus* Bp.

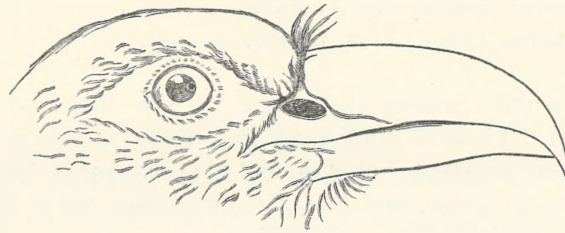
‡ I have been unable to examine in this respect *Ph. aeneicaudus* (Verr.).

The characters assigned to the new form in the above diagnosis are supported by the fact that six specimens from Borneo (four of which were collected by Mr. Hose) now before me agree among themselves in that respect, while they differ equally from one specimen from Malacca and another from Sumatra (coll. Klaesi) in my collection.*

Besides the difference in the shape of the nasal apertures, which might be illustrated by the following diagram:—



Ph. erythrognathus Bp. (Malacca, Whitehead coll.).



Ph. microrhinus Berl. (Borneo, Everett coll.).

I find that the bill in the Borneo bird is much more slender and weaker, and that the sanguineous colour on the lateral base of the upper mandible is rather more extended, involving as it does the upper margin of the nasal apertures, this being not the case in the other species. Also the wings are remarkably and the tail is slightly shorter than in the Malacca bird.

Regarding the coloration of the plumage, there is apparently not the slightest difference between the new species and the typical one; nevertheless it appears that in the Borneo bird the castaneous tops of the middle tail-feathers are rather shorter, but as there is much individual variation in this respect, and as the young birds have the middle tail-feathers altogether green,† I don't lay much stress upon this fact.

If we can rely on the indication of sexes as marked on the labels of my specimens which were collected by Mr. Hose (and I think there is no reason to mistrust the statements of this excellent collector), there seems to exist a curious difference in the coloration of the plumage in the two sexes of this species. Two birds marked ♀ ♀ by Mr. Hose have a broad chin band of ashy grey extending largely over the cheeks

* The distinctness of the species is also obviously corroborated by a series of skins from Malacca, Sumatra, Natuna, and Borneo in the Tring Museum.—E. HARTERT.

† For instance, a *young* bird from Sumatra in my collection has the middle tail-feathers uniformly green.

to the sides of the neck, while the birds marked ♂♂ don't show any grey on the chin, which is rufous like the remaining underparts, and there is but a slight suffusion of grey on the upper part of the cheeks. On the other hand, the birds marked ♂♂ by Mr. Hose show a narrow white superciliary stripe extending over the eyes and ending a short distance behind them, and also a slight whitish mixture at the beginning of the grey mystacial stripe, there being not the slightest traces of these white markings in the birds marked *females*.*

As far as I can ascertain these sexual differences are not mentioned by any author who has written about these birds, or else the differences in plumage have been ascribed to different ages.

2. *Spilornis salvadorii* Berl. sp. nov.

Syn. *S. pallido* (Walden) ex Borneo valde affinis sed multo minor, rectricum fasciis nigris mediis et apicalibus multo angustioribus, remigum apicibus nigris quoque brevioribus, necnon rostro, ut videtur, pallidiore.

S. salvadorii ex Nias : al. 304, 290 ; caud. 197, 185 ; culm. $32\frac{1}{2}$, $30\frac{1}{2}$; tars. 74 mm.

S. pallidus ex Borneo : ♂ al. 325 ; caud. 214 ; culm. 34 ; tars. 84 mm.

 " " ♀ " 348 " 228 " $36\frac{3}{4}$ " $83\frac{1}{2}$ "

Hab. In insula Nias (coll. Thomas).

Specimina duo in Mus. Berlepsch et Tring.

This is evidently a dwarf form of *S. pallidus* Walden of Borneo, inhabiting the island of Nias off the coast of Sumatra, from where hitherto no species of *Spilornis* had been mentioned. The specimens on which my description is based were collected by Mr. W. Thomas, a missionary resident on the island of Nias, and were received by me directly from him along with other Nias birds, such as *Cittocincla melanura*, *Gracula robusta*, *Calornis altirostris*, *Carpophaga consobrina*, *Macropygia modigliani*, *Syrnium niasense*, etc. One of these specimens of *Spilornis* I have had in my collection some four years, and I have always regarded it as belonging to an undescribed species, but unfortunately was unable to get specimens of *S. pallidus* from Borneo for comparison, and therefore refrained from describing it until now.

In the summer of 1892 I sent this specimen to London, asking Count Salvadori to compare it with specimens of *S. pallidus*, which he did with his usual courtesy. He kindly replied to my questions about this bird in a letter dated November 24th 1892, as follows : " I send back all your pigeons, and also the *Spilornis* from Nias. The latter is similar to *S. pallidus*, but smaller (wing 11·6 inches instead of 12·6), and has the light band on the tail narrower (1·2 instead of 1·6) ; the tail shorter, 7·5 instead of 8·5. Perhaps it is not worth while separating it from *S. pallidus*."

At the end of the year 1893 I again received a lot of Nias birds from Mr. Thomas, and was very much pleased in finding in it a second specimen of the *Spilornis*. Having also lately had an opportunity of comparing my Nias birds with two fine skins of *S. pallidus* from Borneo (♂ and ♀, collected by Mr. Hose, brought home by Professor W. Kükenthal, and belonging to the Senckenberg Museum at Frankfurt), I find that the differences between the Nias form and that inhabiting Borneo, as already presumed by me when comparing the description of *S. pallidus*, and as

* The material in the Tring Museum seems to confirm the sexual differences described by Count Berlepsch, and they seem to exist in the Malacca species as well.—E. HARTERT.

confirmed by my excellent friend Count Salvadori in the above-named letter, are apparently well founded.

The Nias birds differ from the Borneo specimens in being much smaller in all their dimensions, exhibiting shorter wings, tails, bills, and legs. Contrary to the statements of Count Salvadori, I don't find that the light tail-bands are narrower, but I find that the dark (black) bands of the tail are rather narrower, and also that the black tips of the primaries are shorter. As far as I can make out from the dried specimens, it appears that the Nias form has a much lighter bill than that from Borneo, but this may be an accidental character.

After all I feel justified in separating the Nias form as a new species, and I take the liberty to name it after Count Salvadori, to whom we owe the first knowledge of the interesting avifauna of the island of Nias.*

NOTE ON *Oriolus consobrinus* Rams.

In *Proc. Zool. Soc.*, 1879, p. 709, Mr. R. G. Wardlaw Ramsay described a *female Oriolus* from Sandakan, North-East Borneo, under the name of *O. consobrinus*, at the same time expressing his belief that the unknown *male* would be found to resemble that of *O. xanthonotus*, "but possibly with the upper tail-coverts reddish or rusty brown." As far as I know no author since has mentioned that species, but if I am right I think I have been fortunate enough to discover the *male* of *O. consobrinus*. In a collection of badly prepared Borneo skins which Mr. Schlüter, of Halle, forwarded to me last year, I found two *male* specimens of an *Oriolus* allied to *O. xanthonotus*, which immediately arose my attention as they differed from specimens from Baram River and Mount Penrisen in Western Borneo, which are identical with true *O. xanthonotus* from Malacca, etc. These specimens had no original labels attached to them, but they have Schlüter's labels, "Kinabalu" being written on them in Schlüter's handwriting. The majority of the specimens in that collection were thus labelled Kinabalu (being also well-known Kinabalu forms), others "Lawas River" or "Labuan." I don't know who was the collector.

Now the two *Oriolus* from Kinabalu differ from three specimens of *O. xanthonotus* from Baram River, Penrisen, and from other skins of that species, in being larger in all their dimensions, especially in having a much longer and larger bill, which is generally of a darker colour. The black cap is rather more brownish, not deep black as in *O. xanthonotus*, and is rather more extended to the nape. The yellow back is rather more greenish. The black on the breast is not so clearly separated from the white underparts, the black feathers being margined laterally with white or greyish white. Finally the black stripes on the abdomen are rather broader. I may add the following diagnosis:—

O. consobrinus (?) ♂ ad. *O. xanthonoto* affinis sed major, rostro imprimis longiore et crassiore et obscurius brunneo tincto, nigredine capitis luridiore et magis ad nuham extenso, dorso luridiore flavo, nigredine pectoris subtus minus clare definito plumis nigris albo lateraliter marginatis; necnon striis nigris abdominis latioribus distinguendus.

* I have not been able to compare *S. minimus* Hume (*Stray Feathers*, i., p. 464), from Camorta (Nic. bars), which seems to agree with *S. salvadorii* in its small size, but may differ in coloration. nor have I seen the small birds from Natuna Island which my friend Mr. Hartert provisionally referred to *S. pallidus* (cf. *NOVITATES ZOOLOGICAE*, I., p. 482).

Two ♂♂ Kinabalu: al. 116, 115½; caud. 77½, 74½; culm. 25¾, 24; tars. 21½, 21½ mm.

Three ♂♂ Western Borneo (*O. xanthonotus*): al. 111, 110, 102; caud. 72, 71, 65; culm. 22½, 21¾, 21½; tars. 20½, 20½, 20 mm.

Hab. In Borneo septentrionali.

♂♂ in Mus. Berlepsch et Tring.

N.B.—It would be desirable to examine Philippine specimens, as perhaps they may also belong to *O. consobrinus*.



