

years ago one of these birds took up its abode in the N. E. corner of the compound of what was the Survey school (now the Civil Service College) at Sapatum, when I lived there. It was there for some three months at least in the wet season, and never moved from the same position within a radius, say, of 60 yards. I believe it kept on the high banks of the roadside and boundary cuttings. I never saw it, but it called so constantly, presumably in the search for a mate, that attention could not fail to be attracted to it. The call is unmistakable, being a flat somewhat hoarse crow, like that of an ordinary domestic cock with a cold in its throat, and may be nearly rendered by the syllables *Kāk*, *Kāk-Kāk*, *Kā-Kāh*. These birds are often kept in captivity in cages in Bangkok, and I never had any doubt that this was one which had escaped. Its call attracted the attention of passers-by on the public road, and more than once I had to warn off persons with guns who entered the compound in pursuit of it. Possibly one of them got it in the end, for after a time its call was heard no more. I see no reason why these birds should not be able to live in patches of grass or bush-jungle on raised ground near Bangkok. I understand they have been found in one or two such spots. There is hardly any such ground in Bangkok or neighbourhood which has not been artificially raised. The generality of the country about is low-lying, and is more or less flooded during the rains, and is thus quite unsuited to these birds and dissimilar to their ordinary habitat. I should say that, even if they bred to some extent, they would be liable, on account of the damp, to disease similar to grouse disease in England, and would soon die out.

A. J. IRWIN.

*Bangkok, 15th July, 1914.*

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[As the Chinese Francolin is a Siamese bird, and is admittedly found at large in the environs of Bangkok, it is, we think, properly included in Mr. Williamson's list, though Mr. Irwin's explanation of its presence here may be correct. Eds.]

#### NO. XI.—SOME INTERESTING BIRDS FOUND NEAR THE WESTERN BOUNDARY.

The following notes on birds, shot on my recent trip from Raheng down the Me Klong river, may be of interest to members

of the Society. I am indebted to Mr. Herbert for assisting me to identify my specimens.

*Cissa chinensis* (F. 14). The Green Magpie. Shot March 20th at Huey Nam Ron on the Upper Thoungyin watershed, in bamboo jungle. It is the only one I saw, and I do not recollect having seen one elsewhere.

Oates, in the *Fauna of British India*, writes as follows:—  
 “The plumage of this bird changes after death and also in captivity from green to dull blue; and the red on the wings also undergoes a change under the same circumstances, becoming much duller.”  
 In the case of the present specimen the crown is distinctly blue over the yellow of the under webs instead of green, the back and scapulars are tipped with blue, and the central tail feathers are blue. Unfortunately I was not aware of this change of colour after death, and did not note the colours when the bird was shot, but it is to be hoped that anyone who obtains a specimen in the future will take very careful note of all the green parts immediately the bird is killed. A description of this bird, taken from the *Fauna of British India*, is given for the guidance of those interested. “Head and neck greenish yellow; general body plumage green; the lores and a band through each eye, the two meeting behind on the nape, black; the cheeks, sides of neck, and lower plumage paler green; tail green, the central feathers tipped with white, the others tipped with white and with a subterminal band of black; lesser wing coverts green, the other coverts red; wings brown on the inner webs, red on the outer ones. Bill red; legs coral red; inside of mouth reddish flesh-colour.”

*Urocissa occipitalis* (F. 12). The Red-billed Blue Magpie. About a week later I obtained a specimen of this bird, which is very handsome with the purplish blue of its back, wings and tail showing up from a ground-work of black and white. This species has, however, been recorded from other parts of Siam, and a closer description here is unnecessary.

*Cyanops davisoni* (F. 1013). Davison's Blue-throated Barbet. On April 20th, at a place about eight miles south-west of Pak Me Chan, I saw two of these birds sitting on a low stunted tree in open country, and shot one of them. Later on I saw several more, but did not obtain another specimen.

In Hume's *Nests and Eggs of Indian Birds*, this Barbet is described as common in the Thoungyin Valley, and in the *Fauna of British India* as found in Tenasserim only, so the area in which it occurs appears to be very restricted. The distinctive mark is the verditer blue band across the vertex, instead of black as in *C. asiatica*, with the forehead and rest of the crown crimson.

I also obtained specimens of *Baza lophotes* (F. 1251), the Black-crested Baza; *Terpsiphone affinis* (F. 599), the Burmese Paradise Flycatcher, and saw Peacock-Pheasants, Silver Pheasants Francolin, Partridges, Jungle-Fowl and Bustard Quail at various places on the route.

Mr. Gairdner, I am told, obtained specimens of *Cissa chinensis* and *Cyanops davisoni* in 1912 from near the Tenasserim boundary. There appears to be a little doubt as to what the note of *Cyanops davisoni* is, and it will be interesting to know whether the monotonous trisyllabic note, so well known by those who have camped near the Tenasserim boundary, belongs to this bird.

J. F. KEDDIE.

July, 1914.

NO. XII.—OCCURRENCE OF THE KRAIT (*BUNGARUS CANDIDUS*) AND THE SMALL-SPOTTED CORAL SNAKE (*CALLOPHIS MACULICEPS*) IN SIAM. A NEW COLOR VARIETY OF THE LATTER.

I mentioned in the last number of the *Journal* (p. 7), that certain species of poisonous snakes, would, on account of their known distribution, be no doubt ultimately found in Siam. Two of that list have since been shown to exist here.

*Bungarus candidus*. I am indebted to Mrs. Collins for this snake, caught in one of the bungalows at Sriracha. Male. Total length, 850 mm., tail 100. Ventrals 220. Subcaudals 47. Color. Twenty broad white bands upon the body and seven upon the tail, each one with a fair amount of black mottling occupying the middle two-fourths. Tail below mottled with grey. The stomach contained an earth snake (*Typhlops braminus*).

*Callophis maculiceps*. I have examined no less than 8 specimens from various parts of Siam, as the appended list will show, so