

A LIST OF BIRDS NOT PREVIOUSLY RECORDED FROM SIAM,
WITH NOTES.

By W. J. F. WILLIAMSON, M. B. O. U.

The following birds are, I believe, new records for Siam, and include a number obtained by Mr. C. J. Aagaard and other gentlemen whose names are given below.

I have again to express my obligations to Messrs. H. C. Robinson and C. Boden Kloss for kindly examining and identifying some of the birds regarding which I was doubtful.

1. *MALACOCINCLA SEPIARIA TARDINATA*. Hartert's Babbler.

1 ♀ obtained by Mr. C. J. Aagaard at Bangnara, Peninsular Siam, on 3rd November 1915. This bird has been recently described by Hartert (Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, No. CCXI, p. 35, Dec. 1915) and is the one formerly known as *Turdinus sepiarius*.

2. *GARRULAX MOUHOTII*. Mouhot's Laughing-Thrush.

2 ♂ procured by my collector at Pak Jong, Dong Rek range, Eastern Siam, on 8th June 1916.

3. *GYPSOPHILA CRISPIFRONS*. The Lime-rock Babbler.

1 ♂ 2 ♀, of what appear to be young birds of the year (Oates, Faun. Brit. Ind. Birds, I (1889), p. 150), were procured by my collector in April 1916 in the Muang Song forest, Prae, Northern Siam.

4. *IOLE VIRESCENS*. The Olive-green Bulbul.

1 ♀ obtained by my collector at Hup-bon, east of Sriracha, S. E. Siam on 25th July 1915. This bird is the northern form of the Malayan *Iole olivacea*, The Olive Bulbul.

5. *PYCNONOTUS PUSILLUS*. The Small Olive Bulbul.

Obtained by Mr. C. J. Aagaard at Bangnara, Peninsular Siam, in October 1915.

6. *BURNESIA (PRINIA) FLAVIVENTRIS*. The Yellow-bellied Wren-Warbler.

I found this bird common, in April 1916, in the high grass of the extensive clearings caused by timber-felling operations at

Muak-lek, Dong Rek range, Eastern Siam. According to Oates (Faun. Brit. Ind. Birds, I (1889), p. 449) this species "frequents swamps, the banks of rivers and canals, and grassy plains which are liable to inundation," but this description of its habitat does not apply to the locality where I obtained it. Muak-lek is situated in a broad, flat valley, some 800 ft. above sea-level, and although the valley is intersected by a stream, the latter flows mostly between high banks, densely covered with trees, and the grassy portions of the valley are not, I should say, subject to inundation.

7. *HEMIPUS OBSCURUS*. The Malayan Pied Shrike.

1 ♂ obtained by Mr. C. J. Aagaard at Bangnara, Peninsular Siam, on 9th May 1915.

8. *CAMPOPHAGA TERAT*. The Pied Cuckoo-Shrike.

First obtained by Mr. J. J. McBeth in July 1914 at Singora, Peninsular Siam, flying about in small flocks among the *Casuarina* trees on the sea-shore. It has since been also found by Mr. C. J. Aagaard and my collector at Bangnara, Peninsular Siam.

9. *ALAUDA GULGULA SALA*. The Formosan Sky-Lark.

This is the bird which I have previously (Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam, I (1915), p. 198) recorded in error as *Anthus striolatus*. The mistake was detected by Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker, F. Z. S., M. B. O. U., when he was looking over my birds last year at the British Museum. The specimens have also been since examined by Dr. E. Hartert, M. B. O. U., who writes to me as follows:—"It seemed hardly conceivable that the true *A. g. sala*, which has only been found on Formosa and South Hainan, should also be found in Siam, though it must be admitted that we do not fully know if it is found in Cochin China, etc., but in S. China it is represented by *A. g. coelivox*. I have, however, carefully compared your Siamese skins with the true *A. g. sala* in the British and Tring Museums, and must admit that there are no tangible differences between them; all I can see is that the stripes on the chest in *nearly* all your specimens from Siam are slightly narrower, while the beak in some, or I may say *most*, of your examples is somewhat thicker. The breast and sides of the body in the Siamese birds are slightly more tinged with vinous buff. There is no difference in size. I measure the wings as follows:—

Typical *A. g. sala*: Wing 85-92 mm.

Siamese examples: „ 85-90.5 mm.

“I leave it to you, if you think it worth while, to name the Siamese form on account of its narrower chest-stripes and generally thicker bill.”

Dr. Hartert concludes by asking for further specimens, including autumn ones. These I have not yet had the opportunity of procuring. In the meantime, therefore, the bird remains under the name of *A. g. sala*, though it may be of interest to mention that, when Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker was examining my specimens, he was struck with their sharply acuminate tail-feathers. In this respect the birds differ from the Indian *A. gulgula*, but I am not certain whether the typical *A. g. sala* has this characteristic.

I may add that the bird is common in the fields round Bangkok, which is the only locality from which I have procured it.

10. *CHRYSOPHEGMA PIERREI*. Pierre's Yellow-naped Woodpecker.

A single specimen (♂) obtained by my collector at Pak Jong Dong Rek Hills, Eastern Siam, on 8th June 1916. Mr. H. C. Robinson informs me that, so far as he is aware, this species is only known from the typical series from Cochin China, in the Paris Museum.

11. *HYPOPICUS HYPERYTHRUS*. The Rufous-bellied Pied Woodpecker.

1 ♂ procured by Mr. E. W. Trotter from Me-maw, Lampang, Northern Siam, on 4th October 1915.

12. *HIEROCOCCYX VARIUS*. The Common Hawk-Cuckoo.

1 ♀ shot by Mr. C. J. Aagaard at Hua Hin, on the southwestern side of Central Siam, on 14th April 1914. Identified by Mr. A. Christiani, of Copenhagen.*

13. *MYRISTICIVORA BICOLOR*. The Pied Imperial Pigeon.

H. R. H. Prince Chumpon obtained a specimen (which I have seen) on the mainland of Chumpon Bay, Peninsular Siam, in May 1915. The Prince informs me it was a solitary specimen.

* According to Blanford (Faun Brit. Ind., III, p 214), this reported occurrence is too far East for the true range of this bird.

14. *LIMOSA NOVAE-ZEALANDIÆ*.

A pair (♂ and ♀) of this species of Godwit was procured by Mr. C. J. Aagaard at Chaya, near Bandon, Peninsular Siam, on 15th June 1912, and has been identified by Mr. A. Christiani, of Copenhagen.

15. *LIMOSA MELANUROIDES*. The Black-tailed Godwit.

Mr. C. J. Aagaard obtained a specimen (♂) on Koh Khwai, an island in the Inner Gulf of Siam, on 30th November, 1911. The bird was identified by Mr. A. Christiani, of Copenhagen.

16. *MACRORHAMPHUS TACZANOWSKII*. The Snipe-billed Godwit.

Mr. C. J. Aagaard obtained a specimen (♂) of this rare bird on the mud-flats near the mouth of the Lakon river, in Peninsular Siam, on 1st September 1911. It was identified by Mr. A. Christiani, of Copenhagen.

17. *TOTANUS STAGNATILIS*. The Marsh Sandpiper.

What appears to be the earliest recorded specimen was one shot by Mr. C. J. Aagaard at Bang Boon, near Bangkok, on 17th March 1912. I have also since obtained the bird near Tachin and at Bangplasoï (both of them localities not far from Bangkok), in March 1916.

Mr. C. Boden Kloss informs me that the record of this bird from Langkawi, Kedah, at that time in Siam (Ibis, 1911, p. 13) was an error for *Rhyacophilus glareola*, The Wood Sandpiper.

18. *TRINGA SUBARQUATA*. The Curlew Stint.

Recorded by Mr. C. J. Aagaard from Lakon, Peninsular Siam, on dates ranging between 1st August and 16th May, 1911-12 also from Chaya, near Bandon, Peninsular Siam, on 16th June 1912. The last mentioned date is a very late one for the occurrence of this bird in Southern Asia. Blanford (Faun. Brit. India Birds, IV (1898) p. 279) states that it leaves in May for its breeding haunts in the far North.

Messrs Robinson and Kloss have recorded this bird from Kuala Kedah in November 1907, *vide* 'Ibis' 1911, p. 14. As Kedah passed out of Siamese jurisdiction in 1909, the present record is worth making.

19. *STERNA ANGLICA*. The Gull-billed Tern.

I obtained a pair of these birds (1 ♂ ad., 1 ♀ imm.) at Bangplasoï, C. Siam, at the head of the Gulf, on 19th March 1916.

There is a specimen of this Tern in the British Museum from the Pakchan Estuary. As the Pakchan river, in its lower reaches, forms the boundary between Siamese and British territory, a bird obtained in the Estuary of that river cannot, I think, be claimed as a definite Siamese record, which the present one is.

20. STERNA ANÆSTHETA. The Panayan Tern.

On the 27th June 1916 my collector obtained a specimen of this bird on a rocky islet near Koh Phai, Inner Gulf of Siam, together with examples of *S. melanauchen* (The Black-naped Tern) and *S. bergii* (The Large Crested Tern), as well as numerous eggs apparently belonging to the two first-named species. He also brought with him some eggs of *S. bergii*, obtained by Mr. C. H. Forty on a similar islet on 15th June, and kindly sent up to me by that gentleman. Subsequently, in company with Mr. Forty, I visited these islets, as well as some others near Koh Rin, a little further south, on the 17th and 18th July, and procured several more examples of all three Terns. *S. anæsthesa* and *S. melanauchen* were particularly numerous near Koh Rin. The few eggs we found were mostly addled, but two chicks were observed, trying to escape notice by snuggling away in crevices of the rocks, with their bills and heads wedged in as far as possible!

It may be of interest to note here that, on the occasion last mentioned, we obtained a beautiful specimen (one of a pair) of *Sterna dougalli* (The Roseate Tern), with the delicate, almost invisible, pink suffusion on the white of the under-parts. The only other record of this bird from Siam, of which I am aware, is that by Mr. H. C. Robinson from Koh Samui and Koh Pennan, Peninsular Siam (Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus., V. (1915), p. 142), but I believe it is not uncommon—at all events at certain seasons—at the head of the Gulf of Siam. I have, on more than one occasion, when crossing the bar of the Chao Phraya river outward bound from Bangkok, observed small white Terns, with red bills and feet, which I believe to be of this species, following the steamer. On every such occasion they have dropped off after a few miles—a circumstance probably accounted for by the fact that this bird, although a sea Tern, is a coastal form.

21. SULA SULA. The Booby or Brown Gannet.

When visiting the islets near Koh Rin, Inner Gulf

of Siam, on 18th July 1916, as mentioned above, one of our party picked up a sun-dried specimen of this bird on the shingly beach at the foot of the rocks. It was in an excellent state of preservation, and could not have been dead many weeks.

In connection with this record, it is necessary to remark that Messrs. Robinson and Kloss have reported (*Ibis*, 1911, p. 19), that they found the Booby "numerous off Langkawi in November 1907." The Langkawi islands, situated off the western coast of the Malay Peninsula, passed under the protection of Great Britain in 1909, together with the adjacent mainland State of Kedah, but they were Siamese territory at the time above mentioned. The present record is, however, a new one, so far as existing Siamese territory is concerned, and interest is added to it by reason of the considerable extension of range since the Langkawi occurrence was noted.

22. *SPATULA CLYPEATA*. The Shoveller.

Mr. A. H. Duke shot a drake in non-breeding-plumage (*i. e.*, with the head and upper neck brown instead of glossy green) on 22nd January 1916 at Klong Luang Peng, about 30 miles east of Bangkok, Central Siam.

This duck is probably rare in Siam. Its distribution is given by Blanford (*Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds*, IV (1898), p. 453) as "throughout the greater part of the Northern Hemisphere, between lat. 10° and lat. 68° N., breeding in the north temperate zone. A winter visitor to India, Ceylon and Northern Burma." He adds that "it is found in Assam, Manipur and the Upper Irrawaddy Valley above Myingyan; but not, so far as is hitherto known, in Pegu or Tenasserim."

The Southernmost limit above given (10° N. lat.) is approximately that of the Isthmus of Kra, but a specimen of the Shoveller is recorded (Robinson, *Hand-list Birds Mal. Peninsula* (1910), p. 5), as having been shot near Kuala Lumpur, Federated Malay States (about 7° further south) in 1898. This was doubtless a straggler, as Mr. Robinson informs me that no further specimens have been obtained in Malayan limits.

Bangkok is in about the latitude of Central Tenasserim, while Pegu lies roughly between the same parallels as Northern Siam. It thus appears that the greater part of this country, though within the

limits of the range of distribution of the Shoveller, lies somewhat too far south to permit of this duck being regarded as a regular visitor.

It is to be hoped that sportsmen in Siam will carefully note and report any future occurrences of this bird.

