

THE PYGMY WOODPECKERS (*DRYOBATES NANUS* SUBSP.) OF SIAM.

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It has been customary to consider all Siamese examples of this species as representatives of *Dryobates nanus canicapillus* (Blyth) [type-locality: Arrakan]. Study of the long series of these birds from Siam and the neighbouring countries, deposited in the museums of Philadelphia and Washington, shows that not one, but two forms of this species must be recognized as occurring within Siamese limits.

A series of 21 specimens collected in the more western provinces of North Siam are easily distinguished from a series of 36 skins taken in other divisions of the Kingdom, in having the upperparts dull black with white bars. The more southern and eastern birds have the upperparts barred with white upon a dark brown ground. In worn plumage the darker birds become brownish-black, the paler ones a washed-out brown.

The black-backed birds of the North are true *canicapillus*, which ranges on through Upper Burma into Assam. For the brown birds no new name is required, since they prove to be inseparable from specimens taken in southern Tenasserim, which are virtual by topotypes of Hargitt's *pumilus* (type-locality: Maliwun). The characters relied upon by Hargitt to separate his bird, smaller size and unmarked central rectrices, are due to individual variation and accordingly without subspecific value, but the difference in colour is sufficiently well marked to justify resurrection of his name from the synonymy of *canicapillus*, into which it has been sunk by more recent authors.

Siamese birds may be known by the following key:

- A. Upperparts dull black with white bars.
North Siam (Me Hong Son, Chiangmai,
and Lampang provinces) *D. n. canicapillus*.
- B. Upperparts dark brown with white bars.
North Siam (Nan province); West Siam
(north at least to Ra-heng); Central
Siam; East Siam; South-east Siam;
South-west Siam; Peninsular Siam *D. n. pumilus*.

No specimens are available from Phre and Chiengrai provinces. In the latter, we may confidently expect to find *canicapillus*; birds from Phre should be intermediate between *canicapillus* and *pumilus*.

In the French colonies *pumilus* probably has the range attributed by Delacour to *canicapillus*; I have seen *pumilus* from Cochinchine and southern Annam.

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