

we hold to the suggestion that the name 'Sooty-headed Bulbul' should be applied to *Pycnonotus aurigaster*, we find that the confusion arose over the previous acceptance of *P. aurigaster* and *P. cafer* as a single species. DEIGNAN (Journ. Wash. Acad. Sci., 1949, Vol. 39, No. 8, pp. 273-279) separates them and the vernacular 'Red-vented Bulbul' as a result should apply to *P. cafer*, a species not recorded for Thailand.

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II. A WILD-CAUGHT LONCHURA HYBRID

In a small flock of *Lonchura striata*, the White-rumped Munia, displayed for sale at the "Sunday Market" in Bangkok on 28 March, 1965, a somewhat larger bird differing considerably in pattern and coloration was noted. The bird was purchased for inclusion in my private collection, together with a pair of the *L. striata*.

The specimen settled down well with its two companions in a conditioning cage, roosting with them in a "sleeping nest" constructed by the two *L. striata*. During the first few days, the behaviour of the three birds was consistent with that of wild-caught birds.

The song pattern of the larger bird is typical of the brown munias, but of lower pitch than *L. striata* more closely resembling that of *L. malacca*.

Description (Pl. XIII).

Apparently adult (? male), irides reddish-brown, maxilla dark slaty, paler at tip, mandible plumbeous, feet and toes plumbeous, claws darker.

Feathers of forehead, face and chin dull black, the colour extending slightly behind the eye thence fading to brownish chestnut over the hinder part of the crown, nape, lores, mantle and wings. Throat brownish-chestnut merging with chestnut on the breast, this colour extending as a broad band along the sides of the lower breast

and abdomen to the flanks and thighs; center of lower breast and most of abdomen white, the border between the white and chestnut dappled with white and not clearly defined; upper tail coverts chestnut-brown suffused with golden at the tips; under tail coverts white tipped with dark brown; tail dark brown, the feathers more or less rounded, not pointed, longer than in *L. malacca* but appreciably shorter than in *L. striata*.

The bird has a marked overall resemblance in pattern to *L. leucogastra*, but differs in color and lacks the dorsal shaft streaks.

The overall colouration suggests strongly that one parent was *L. malacca*, the Chestnut Munia, the problem then is to select between *L. striata*, *L. leucogastra* and, possibly, *L. punctulata*.

The clarity of the white on the belly and the absence of breast feathers with the highly characteristic pattern of *L. punctulata* would seem to eliminate this third possibility.

On the other hand, *L. leucogastra* appears to be rather rare in Thailand, and is reportedly a bird of the forests rather than the grasslands, whereas *L. striata* is relatively common, as is *L. malacca* and extends from the forest fringe out over grassland at low and medium elevations.

Tentatively, and pending further evidence from aviary hybridization experiments, I propose that this bird be recorded as the hybrid *L. malacca* × *L. striata*, although the actual direction of the cross is unknown at present.

From the limited literature available, I have been unable to trace any earlier record of this cross.

REFERENCE

- GRAY, ANNIE P. 1958 Bird Hybrids, A Checklist with Bibliography. Commonwealth Bureau of Animal Breeding & Genetics, Farnham Royal, Bucks., England.

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