

A NEW FORM OF RAIL FROM THE CELEBES

by

S. Dillon Ripley ¹.

In honour of the late Herbert G. Deignan, my friend and colleague for many years both at the Smithsonian as well as during the War, I name herewith a new form of Rail found in West Central Celebes (Sulawesi), Indonesia :

Rallus pectoralis deignani, new subspecies.

Holotype: Adult female, USNM No. 250756, Rano Lindoe, West Central Celebes (Sulawesi), Indonesia, March 22, 1917. Collected by H.G. Raven. Field No. 3993.

Description: from *mirificus* of Luzon this form differs approximately as the differences described between *mirificus* and *pectoralis exsul* of Flores in the original description of *mirificus* in Parkes and Amadon (1959). However, the single type of *deignani* is probably an immature bird and, therefore, the lack of reddish-brown on the head and nape in this specimen gives no clue to the relative absence or presence of this character in the Celebes population. In color and pattern the back is more roughly streaked, the broad black central streaks coming to the tips of the feathers as in the more eastern races of *pectoralis*. Below, the pattern and color is similar, the banding on the sides being coarser than *mirificus*.

From both *mirificus* and *exsul* this form differs by being larger. From *exsul* it differs by having more pronounced streaking on the back, less russet suffusion (perhaps due to age), and below being a clearer grey on the breast with broader coarser barring on the flanks.

Measurements :

		Wing	tail	tarsus	culmen
<i>Rallus pectoralis deignani</i>	♀	112.5	41	33	32
<i>Rallus pectoralis mirificus</i>	♂	106.5	43	29	26
" " "	♀	106	47	31	26.5
" " "	♀	106	56.5	31	26
<i>Rallus pectoralis exsul</i>	♂ ?	108	44	29	27
" " "	o imm.	102	44	30	29.5

¹) Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.

From the above measurements it will be seen that the type of *deignani*, aside from being more coarsely streaked above and on the flanks, more like other races of *pectoralis*, differs in size from *mirificus* and *exsul*, its nearest geographic congeners, by longer wing, shorter tail and somewhat longer, slightly stouter bill.

Riley (1924) writing about the collection of birds made for the U.S. National Museum by Harry Raven in Celebes in 1914-1916, mentions this female specimen from Ranoe Lindoe. He ascribes it to *Rallus striatus striatus*, but says that it differs from a specimen of that species from Kwandang, a male with the typical red cap of that species, in lacking the red on the head, the white barring on the back, and in the paler belly. What Riley failed to notice was one of the specific characters of *pectoralis* (of which apparently at that time the National Museum lacked a specimen) namely the unbarred under wing, with nearly reduced or absent white spots on the outer webs of the outermost two or three primaries. In *striatus* there is pronounced barring on the under wing. In size, however, *deignani* is only slightly smaller than this specimen of *striatus striatus*, thus adding to Riley's confusion. In subsequent collecting by Heinrich no specimen has been secured, although a critical examination of the two specimens taken by Kaudern at Koelawi near Ranoe Lindoe in 1918, might reveal another cryptic immature specimen (Leyden Museum coll.) *vide* Stresemann (1939, p. 308) and (1941, p. 28).

Several years ago, Mr. Deignan pointed out to me this aberrant specimen of what was then thought to be *Rallus striatus* and as a result I was able to identify it correctly and name it in his honour.

LITERATURE CITED

Parkes, K.C. and D. Amadon

- 1959 A new species of Rail from the Philippine Islands. *Wilson Bull.*, vol. **71**, pp. 303-306.

Riley, J.H.

- 1924 A collection of birds from north and northcentral Celebes. *Proc. U.S.N.M.*, vol. **63**, art. 16, pp. 1-118.

Stresemann, E.

- 1939 Die Vogel von Celebes *Journ. für Ornith.*, vol. **87**, pt. 3, pp. 298-425.
 1941 Die vogel von Celebes. *Journ. für Ornith.*, vol. **89**, pt. 1, pp. 1-102.