

A valuable paper, comprising observations on five species of venomous snake. Paradoxically, *Bungarus multicinctus* is shown to prey on loaches and mud eels; insect and vegetative remains are found in *Naja naja atra*; three Crotalid snakes are seen to thrive on Salientia and Sauria.

Rand, A. Stanley 1968

Desiccation Rates in Crocodile and Iguana Eggs. *Herpetologica* 24 (2) : 178-180.

Observations show tentatively that *Crocodilus acutus* eggs are more resistant to desiccation than are *Iguana iguana* eggs.

Storr, Glen M. 1968

First Australian Record of the Asian Blind-Snake *Typhlops braminus*. *Journ. Herpetology*, 1 Nos. 1-4 : 98.

Establishes the occurrence of *Typhlops braminus* in Australia on the basis of two specimens taken in the vicinity of Darwin, Northern Territory.

Paul Soderberg

Recent Literature : Ornithology

Abdulali, Humayun 1969

A catalogue of the birds in the Collection of the Bombay Natural History Society. 3. *Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* Vol. 65 (1968), No. 3, : 696-723.

Deals with forms 124-224 in the Synopsis and extralimital material of these and allied forms. The notes on *Spizaetus cirrhatus ceylanensis*, *Haliaeetus albicilla* and *Spilornis elgini* should be noted by those updating their list of Indian forms.

Ambedkar, V.C. 1969.

Observations on the Breeding Biology of Finn's Baya (*Ploceus megarhynchus* Hume) in the Kumaon Terai Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. Vol. 65 (1968) : 596-607.

Deals with a little known endemic Indian species.

Berger, A.J. 1970.

The present status of the birds of Hawaii. Pacific Science, Vol. 24 : 29-42. 1 map.

A useful summation. 9 pages are devoted to endemic Hawaiian birds.

Biswas, Biswamoy. 1969.

Some new bird records for Nepal. Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. Vol. 65 (3) : 782-784.

The author reports that amongst birds collected by Lt. Col. F.M. Bailey in Nepal in 1935 to 1938 are records of some new to Nepal : *Dupetor flavicollis flavicollis*, *Mergus albellus*, *Rallus striatus albiventer*, *Locustella certhiola rubescens*, *Locustella lanceolata* and *Phylloscopus griseolus*. It is not clear whether Biswas has examined the skins or only the manuscript notes.

Brodkorb, P., Gonzalez R.B. and Empeso D. 1969.

White-tailed Tropicbird, an addition to the Philippine avifauna. Auk Vol. 86 : 357.

A specimen of *Phaethon lepturus dorotheae* was caught by fishermen offshore from Dumaguete City, Negros on 1 February 1968.

Brooke, R.K. 1969.

Age characters in swifts. Bull. B.O.C. Vol. 89 (3) : 78-81.

Deals with birds in the hand. Characters are mentioned for most species of *Apus*, *Cypsiurus* and *Hirundapus*. Thai readers should note that the author retains this genus whilst Deignan listed the spine-

tailed swifts under *Chaetura*. He also mentions that he considers *Cypsiurus parvus* and *C. batasiensis* as distinct species and that a paper is in preparation on this. This will bring the nomenclature back to square one in Asia.

Brooke, R.K. 1969.

Taxonomic and distributional notes on *Apus acuticauda*. Bull. B.O.C. Vol. 89 (4) : 97-100.

This paper sets out to deal with the correct name of the species, the alleged geographical variation, the time of moult, age characters and distribution.

The author suggests the name *acuticanda* is a *lapsus calami* for *acuticauda*, and that Jerdon is the original author. *A.a. rupchandi* Koelz was lumped with the nominate form by Ripley (1961); the author puts forward reasons why this lumping was right.

The author mentions a bird collected by King in north Thailand. He suspects that this will prove to be a representative of an undescribed race nesting in north Thailand, north-east Burma, Yunnan triangle.

Brooke, R.K. 1969.

Hemiprocne coronata is a good species. Bull. B.O.C. Vol. 89 (6) : 168-169.

The author reviews the differences between *H. coronata* and *H. longipennis*, and suggests they are enough to warrant specific recognition although there is no overlap in ranges to test this.

Thailand is thus in possession of *H. longipennis* north to the Isthmus of Kra and of *H. coronata* in the north, north-east and along its western edge south to Kanchanaburi.

Desfayes, M. 1969.

Affinities of *Chaimarrornis* and *Rhyacornis* Ibis, Vol. 111, No. 2 : 244-246.

The author adduces evidence—mainly of behaviour and habitat—to suggest that *Chaimarrornis* be placed within the African genus

Thamnolaea, and that whilst *Rhyacornis* should retain generic status its links with the Wheatears, *Oenanthe*, should be recognized in its listing.

Desfayes, M. 1969.

Remarques sur les affinités des Fringillidés des genres *Rhodopechys* et *Callacanthis*. L'Oiseau Vol. 39: 21-27.

A very close relationship is suggested between '*Rhodopechys*' *sanguinea* and *Callacanthis burtoni*. The former from the highlands south and east of the Mediterranean and from Turkestan, and the latter from the Himalayas. The discussion would have been facilitated by some comparative photographs of skins for the characters adduced as evidence of relationship are somewhat selective and the possibility of convergence does not seem to receive discussion.

Elbel, R.E. 1969.

The taxonomic position of the Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus subruficollis* (Blyth) as indicated by the Mallophaga. Condor. Vol. 71: 434-435.

The author adduces Mallophagan evidence suggesting that *subruficollis* may be distinct from nominate *plicatus*. Similar evidence suggests that Sanft's view (Ibis 1953 p. 702), that this form was synonymous with *Aceros undulatus*, may be untenable.

Etchecopar, R.D. 1969.

L'extension de *Psittacula krameri* (la Perruche à collier rose) au Moyen-Orient. L'Oiseau Vol. 39: 178-181.

The author observed the species or had word of it in Teheran, Kabul, Kuwait and Kut in Iraq. In Teheran it was breeding. In Kabul it had been seen at all times of the year. He suggests that the species has now established itself from an ancestral population of escapes, and that it has acclimatised to the cold winters that occur in Iran and Afghanistan.

Fleming, R.L., and Traylor, M.A. 1968.

Distributional notes on Nepal birds. *Fieldiana: Zoology*.
Vol. 53 (3): 147-203.

Notes on 124 forms, 76 of them new to Fleming and 24 of these new to Nepal. 12 of the 24 forms represent species already known by other races in Nepal.

Amongst the taxonomic notes by Traylor is an opinion on *Falco vespertinus* and *F. amurensis* which he considers two distinct species. *Cacomantis passerinus* is accepted, following Biswas, as distinct from *querulus* and *merulinus*.

An appendix contains some observations including quite a lot on calls.

Fry, C.H. 1969.

The evolution and systematics of Bee-eaters (Meropidae).
Ibis Vol. 111 (4): 557-592.

Behavioural and ecological characters are used in addition to structural ones in considering the systematics. Three genera only are retained. *Nyctyornis* is considered primitive. *Meropogon* is retained. These genera contain 2 and 1 species respectively. The remaining 21 species are placed in *Merops*.

Gaymer, R., Blackman, R.A.A., Dawson, P.G., Penny, Malcolm & Penny, C. Mary. 1969.

The endemic birds of the Seychelles. *Ibis*, Vol. 111. No. 2: 157-176.

Accounts are given of the 13 surviving endemic landbirds. These are presumed to be colonists not relicts and their possible origins are discussed, the authors clearly feeling that some reached the Seychelles direct from Asia.

Harrisson, T. 1967.

Borneo Bird Notes 1966-7. *Sarawak Mus. Journal*. Vol. 15
Nos. 30/31: 414-423.

New for Borneo: White-rumped Swift, *Apus pacificus*.

2nd record for: Black Kite, *Milvus migrans*.

Overseas ringed-bird reported: Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis*, ringed in Taiwan.

Hendrickson, H.T. 1969.

A comparative study of the egg white proteins of some species of the Avian order Gruiformes. *Ibis*. Vol. 111 No. 1: 80-91.

Starch gel electrophoresis of the proteins to reveal their amino acid composition and similarities therein. Four of the ten families considered occur in Thailand and a fifth in Cambodia. The fifth, the family Otididae, is found dissimilar enough that it is suggested that it be removed from the order.

Holmes D.A. and Wright J.O. 1969.

The Birds of Sind: A Review. *Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* Vol. 65 (1968): 533-556.

The first part of a rather comprehensive review which should illustrate changes in the avifauna of an area of alluvial plains becoming increasingly populous, irrigated and farmed. There could be interesting parallels with the Central Plains of Thailand.

King, B. 1969.

Swallow banding in Bangkok, Thailand. *Bird-Banding* Vol. 40: 95-104.

Deals fairly comprehensively with results and techniques used in 1964/65 and 1965/66. The main wintering flock appears to summer in Pacific Russia, in the area north and west of Vladivostok.

Lack, D. 1969.

The numbers of bird species on islands. *Bird Study* Vol. 16: 193-209.

A heuristic paper in which the author concludes that island species adapted to broad ecological niches exclude, by effective competition, species with narrow niche adaptation. The result is the relative species poverty of island avifaunas.

Madge, S.G. 1969.

Notes on the breeding of the Bushy-crested Hornbill *Anorrhinus galeritus*. Malay Nature Journal Vol. 23 : 1-6.

The author found a nest on June 13th with a female already walled in. She emerged on August 26th or 27th for an 'imprisoned' period of at least 75 days. The author confirms previous comments on feeding by several individuals including juveniles which he postulates might have been raised at the same nest earlier the same year.

McClure, H. Elliott 1969.

Migratory Animals Pathological Survey, Annual Progress Report 1968. Publ. by US Army Research & Development Group, Far East.

McClure, H. Elliott 1969.

An estimation of a bird population in the primary forest of Selangor, Malaysia. Malay Nature Journal Vol. 22 : 179-183.

The author arrives at an estimate of between 1500 and 2500 birds per square mile.

Medway, Lord 1969.

The diurnal activity cycle among forest birds at Ulu Gombak. Malay Nature Journal Vol. 22 : 184-186.

Two peaks in activity, early morning and late afternoon, observed in August/September when the maximum population is present in the area. The morning peak seems to be the more significant.

Medway, Lord and Wells D.R. 1969.

Dark orientation by the Giant Swiftlet *Collocalia gigas*. Ibis Vol. 111 (4) : 609-611.

A bird night-netted in October 1968 at Fraser's Hill was tested for ability to orientate in darkness by echolocation. It lacked the ability but it appeared to have some facility for dark vision. This affects the suggested affinities proposed by Medway (1966).

Medway, Lord and Wells D.R. 1970.

Bird Report : 1968. Malay Nature Journal Vol. 23 : 47-77.

New to Malaya are *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*, *Charadrius placidus*, and *Emberiza fucata*—sight records; and *Erithacus calliope*—netted.

The Gadwall, *Anas strepera*, is removed from the Malayan list.

The Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta* : reports of breeding are re-examined, found not beyond doubt and rejected.

Netting continues to expose "pseudo-rarities", and a new locality—Pasoh Forest Reserve, Negri Sembilan—reports several very uncommon species.

A National Zoological Survey commencing in 1969 but using all older data too is mentioned. Other countries in the Far East will wish they were as well organised.

Parkes, K.C. 1969.

Subspecific status of the Small Skylark *Alauda gulgula* in the Philippines, with notes on age characters and moult. Bull. B.O.C. Vol. 89 (5) : 117-119.

The author says that "the combined differences in size, dorsal coloration, and rectrix pattern appear amply sufficient to justify recognition of *Alauda gulgula wolfei* Hachisuka as the resident subspecies of skylark in the Philippines." This finding is in contradiction to the views of intervening authors. The author also suggests that shorter crest feathers indicate immaturity (though with sexual dimorphism) hence caution must be used in judging on this basis. He also finds that Philippine birds complete the prebasic moult rather earlier than the northern populations examined by Vaurie (1951).

Rand, A.L. and Rabor, D.S. 1969.

New birds from Camiguin South, Philippines. Fieldiana : Zoology Vol. 51 (13) : 157-168.

Fur species are discussed in some detail and five new races proposed :

Hypsipetes everetti catarmanensis

Hypothymis azurae catarmanensis

Dicaeum trigonostigma isidroï

Zosterops nigrorum sierramadrensis

„ „ *catarmanensis*

Ripley, S. Dillon 1969.

Comment on the Little Green Heron of the Chagos Archipelago.
Ibis Vol. 111 No. 1 : 101-102.

Birds taken in summer (June) 1967 are examined and found to differ from *B.s. javanicus* by an olive wash on the sides of the throat. The name *B.s. albolimbatus* Reichenow 1900 is thus maintained (*contra* The Preliminary Field Guide to the Birds of the Indian Ocean, Smithsonian Institution 1963). Comments are made on mainland races including those from south-east Asia.

Rylander, M.K. and Bolen, E.G. 1970.

Ecological and anatomical adaptations of North American Tree Ducks. *Auk* Vol. 87 : 72-90.

Deals with *Dendrocygna bicolor* and *D. autumnalis*. The former species occurs in Burma. All specimens examined were taken from Texas and Louisiana. No attempt is made to relate the findings to the biogeography of the genus *Dendrocygna* as a whole, but the authors suggest that the tree nesting habit of *autumnalis* is secondary and that adaptations in musculature are providing a selective advantage; smaller but more numerous web scales may constitute a further advantage for *D. autumnalis*. Indeed the authors suggest that the evidence for tree-nesting by *D. bicolor* is not conclusive, as far as the United States is concerned for they do not seem to consider the rest of its range although they "prefer to... recognize no valid subspecies..."

Sibley, C.G., Corbin, K.W., and Haavie, J.H. 1969.

The relationships of the Flamingos as indicated by the egg-white proteins and hemoglobins. Condor Vol. 72 (2) : 155-179.

The authors conclude that the flamingos are related to the Ciconiiformes and Anseriformes, but that the flamingos and the Ciconiiformes are closer to each other than either is to the Anseriformes.

Thomson, A.L. 1969.

The subspecies concept. Bird Study, Vol. 16 : 1-13.

The author contends that the subspecies as a basic taxonomic unit has lost much of its validity. On the other hand he points to a growing interest in populations and communities and to evolution in progress at all levels. His critique of the 'subspecies' is based upon its subjective nature and he appreciates the limitations upon taxonomy in formal classification.

E.C. Dickinson