

REVIEWS

Recent Literatures: Ornithology

Abdulali, Humayun. 1969.

A Catalogue of the Birds in the collection of the Bombay Natural History Society—4.

J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 66 : 251-285.

Deals with forms 225 to 319 in Ripley's "Synopsis", and also extralimital material of these and allied forms. The author points out the omission of *Perdicola asiatica vellorei* from the new Indian "Handbook".

Abdulali, Humayun and Nair, Shanta. 1969.

Further extension of the recorded southern range of the Little Crake *Porzana parva* Scopoli.

J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 66 : 166-7.

New records extend the range south to Karwar, N. Kanara.

Burt, M.D.B. 1969.

Cyclophyllidean Cestodes from birds in Borneo.

Bull. Brit. Mus. Nat. Hist. (Zool.) 17 : 283-346.

27 species of cestodes collected from 20 species of birds are discussed. The record of a wader (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) carrying *Rallictina siamensis* is considered dubious. *Paricterotaenia burti* is recorded from Asia for the first time (host: *C. leschenaultii*). A cestode of the genus *Ascometra* is reported from *Centropus toulou*—and a comment made (p. 285) that *C. toulou* is not recorded from Borneo. Since the bird specimens were identified by Mr. H.G. Deignan it is clear that *toulou* is used *sensu lato* to include *C. bengalensis*. 2 species of cestodes new to science are described.

E.C. Dickinson

Croxall, J.P. 1969.

Bird Notes from Sarawak, September-October 1968.

Sarawak Museum J. 17 : 391-398.

Two months spent bird-watching in Sarawak. A few species new to or rare in Borneo were seen.

Dement'ev, G.P. and others. 1951-54.

Birds of the Soviet Union. 6 vols.

Israel Programme for Scientific Translations, Jerusalem.

The fifth volume, translated last, has now appeared.

A. S. Cheke

Fleming, Robert L. Jr. 1969.

Birds of Thakkola, North Nepal.

J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 66 : 132-139.

Observations on 22 species. The Hill Pigeon *Columba rupestris* is reported from Nepal for the first time (sight record) and three species were collected for the second time in the country: *Leptopoceile sophia*, *Carpodacus rubicilloides*, and *Prunella fulvescens*.

Goodwin, D. 1968.

Notes on Woodpeckers (Picidae).

Bull. Brit. Mus. Nat. Hist. (Zool.) 17 : 3-44.

Based mainly on an examination of skins. In two sections: the first on the family as a whole, the second taxonomic notes on genera and species. Section 1: the author suggests in the main that the breakdown of the family by Peters into two main groups on the basis of correlated foot and bill characters is probably not satisfactory. The author could usefully have added a diagrammatic evolutionary "tree", however tentative. Section 2: South-east Asian birds are included in discussions of the following genera and species:

- a) *Picus* as used by Peters is felt to include three distinct groups.
- b) The conspecificity of *P. vittatus* and *P. viridanus*; the conclusion reached is the same as Deignan's (in "Ibis", 1955), though this paper is apparently unknown to the author.
- c) Goodwin favours treating the South Indian forms of *Picus* "*chlorolophus*" as a distinct species, *P. chlorigaster*, within a superspecies comprising *P. chlorolophus*, *P. chlorigaster* and *P. puniceus*.
- d) The author agrees with Deignan that *Dendrocopus analis* and *D. macei* are conspecific, but distinct from *D. atratus*. He gives evidence against the views of Voous who felt *macei* and *atratus* might be conspecific.
- e) Whilst retaining the genus *Chrysocolaptes* he agrees with Delacour that it is closely allied to *Dinopium*. He places *rafflesii* in the latter genus (agreeing with Peters), and accepts that *shorii* is distinct from *javanense*.

Some significant points are not covered:

- a) *Dendrocopus* (*Hypopicus* auct.) *hyperythrus* is not mentioned.
- b) The author does not discuss *Gecinulus grantia* and *viridis* at the specific level, though he does indicate that he considers them distinct.

Eight references, one important, appear not to be listed in the appendix.

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

The Birds of Sind: a review.

J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 66 : 8-30.

The second and concluding part of a useful paper. See comment on the first part in Nat. Hist. Bull. 24 : 606.

Lamba, B.S. 1969.

The nidification of some Indian birds: 12. The Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*.

J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 66 : 72-80.

The koel is a brood parasite laying its eggs in the nests of other birds.

E.C. Dickinson

McClure, H.E. 1970.

Migratory Animal Pathological Survey: Annual Progress Report 1969.

U.S. Army Research and Development Group, Far East. San Francisco.

In three parts: 1. A summary of the 119,000 birds ringed in 8 countries by the MAPS teams in 1969.

2. A review of bird migration routes in Asia, with special comments on swallows *Hirundo rustica*, ducks *Anatidae*, and herons *Ardeidae*.

3. A list of ectoparasites so far identified from birds caught and ringed during the programme.

NOTE: The listing of the 1968 report in the abstracts section of this journal did not mention its contents, namely detailed reports of ringing activities in the participating countries, and also notes or features on conservation programmes, techniques, and a preliminary survey of bird sales in the Bangkok weekend market at Sanam Luang.

A. S. Cheke

Mukherjee, A.K. 1969.

Food habits of water birds of the Sundarban, 24-Parganas district, West Bengal, India.

J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. **66** : 345-360.

The first part of a series of papers which will deal with the stomach contents of 2617 specimens of 24 species. For individual species the sample size varies between 8 and 318 specimens. This part contains the introduction and details of the first three species.

Ripley, S. Dillon. 1969.

The name of the Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striatus* (Aves) from Orissa. J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. **66** : 167-8.

Fresh examination of birds collected in Orissa bears out Jerdon's belief that they would prove to be a distinct race. Against this eventuality Jerdon proposed the name *orissae*, and the present paper provides that name with a full diagnosis.

E. C. Dickinson

Snow, D.W. 1971.

Evolutionary aspects of fruit-eating by birds.

Ibis **113** : 194-202.

An attempt to look at the interrelations between frugivorous birds and their food plants from an ornithological angle; hitherto most discussions of the subject have been by botanists. The author introduces also the often ignored temperate regions. The author's tropical experiences have been in the Americas, and the rich complexities of fruit eating in South-east Asia have been passed over rather cursorily. The author is apparently unaware of McClure's important paper in the "Malayan Forester" (1966), and takes as proven one or two suggestions of Corner's which are rather debateable, as the latter would be the first to agree. Snow explains the dispersal method of the temperate oaks *Quercus*, spp. as an adaptation to climates where birds (or other animals) must store food over an otherwise foodless winter—how would he explain the production of exactly the same kind of propagule by the much more abundant oaks and their allies in the oriental tropical forests? This paper will be very useful to introduce ornithologists to this subject; the principles of fruit production "strategy" are clearly discussed and analysed, as are the ways in which birds may be able to maximise the production of fruit by the plants. The lack of Asian examples does not seriously detract from the overall merits of the paper.

Terborg, J., and Diamond, J.M. 1970.

Niche overlap in feeding assemblages of New Guinea birds.

Wilson Bull. **82** : 29-52.

A survey of birds feeding on flowering and fruiting trees. This showed that although there are considerable differences in feeding techniques among species, there is, overall, a considerable overlap in their foods. However any one species of tree attracts only a proportion of the available flower and fruit eating species. Some species depended on the presence of others (e.g. small birds eating the remains of large fruits opened by parrots), or were not eating the same part of the tree (e.g. nectar eaters vs. birds visiting flowers for insects living there). A useful base for comparative studies in forest further north in South-east Asia.

Ward, P. 1969.

The annual cycle of the Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier* in a humid tropical environment.

J. Zool. Lond. **157** : 25-45.

Seasonal and diurnal changes in the fat content of an equatorial bird. Physiol. Zool.

Two papers on the same species, studied in Singapore. The first paper is of more general interest; the author's summary is quoted below :

This two year study of the breeding and moulting cycles of a small bird *Pycnonotus goiavier* was made on Singapore island, which is near the equator and has a very uniform climate. There are well-marked breeding and moulting seasons in the population, and it is suggested that these protein-demanding processes are timed to occur within the period of increased insect abundance in the first half of the year. Seasonal changes in the weight of the flight muscles indicates a cycle in the protein level in the body. This cycle might serve as an internal regulator of the reproductive cycle.

A.S. Cheke