

A Record of *Oriolus traillii nigellicauda* from Thailand

The Maroon Oriole is represented in Thailand by the apparently resident subspecies, *O. traillii traillii*, which breeds in mountains of the North, mainly at elevations of over 1000 m (LEKAGUL AND ROUND, 1991). Occasional wintering Maroon Orioles have also been recorded from Khao Yai National Park (DICKINSON AND TUBB, 1964) and at Khao Soi Dao, Chanthaburi Province, SE Thailand (LEKAGUL AND ROUND, *op. cit.*). The only specimen of a wintering bird, a male, testes inactive, was taken at Khao Soi Dao Tai, inside the present-day Khao Soi Dao Wildlife Sanctuary, on 2 December 1972 by Nivesh Nadee at an elevation of 850 m above sea level where it was shot from a flowering tree.

An illustration based on this specimen (TISTR 53–3313; field number KT2622) was shown in both LEKAGUL AND CRONIN (1974) and LEKAGUL AND ROUND (1991), and forms the basis for the supposed occurrence in Thailand of *O. traillii robinsoni*, which breeds in the mountains of S. Annam.

In 1992, PDR examined specimens of *O. traillii* ssp. in The Natural History Museum, Tring, U.K., and concluded that the Khao Soi Dao specimen was too bright a red on the upperparts and underparts for *robinsoni*, which is only very slightly brighter than the nominate *traillii*. Although the specimen was not brought to Tring for direct comparison, from memory it appeared to be an almost perfect match for males of *O. t. nigellicauda*, specimens of which were available for scrutiny. A photograph of the Khao Soi Dao specimen was sent to Craig Robson in 2000 who agreed with its diagnosis as *O. t. nigellicauda*, comparing it with five adult males from East Tonkin and North Annam (C. Robson, *in litt.*).

Description. Overall pattern similar to *O. traillii*, in having blackish flight feathers and coverts on the wings, black head and hindneck, but differs in being brighter, almost cherry-red, on the mantle, scapulars, rump and upper tail coverts, breast, belly and vent, and brighter red on the tail. Black throat sharply demarcated from the red breast and therefore contrasting much more in *nigellicauda* than in *traillii*. Bill slaty grey, with a dull ivory cutting edge and tip to the maxilla and mandible.

The specimen is mounted on a stand and label data are not attached (Fig. 1). The wing and tail lengths, measured from the mounted specimen, were 147 mm and 104 mm, respectively.

O. t. nigellicauda breeds in Yunnan, and Hainan Island (CHENG, 1987) and is apparently known as a winter visitor to N. Indochina (ROBSON, 2000).

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Figure 1. Specimen of Maroon Oriole *Oriolus trailii nigellicauda* (53-3313) at Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research, Bangkok.

