

NOTES ON SOME JAVAN BIRDS

by

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Serinus estherae orientalis subsp. nov.

Like *S. e. estherae* from West Java, but the bill considerably smaller (shorter and less robust) in both sexes, the exposed culmen measuring 9.1 - 10 mm against 10.4 - 10.8 mm in males, and 9.3 - 9.6 against 10.1 mm in females of *estherae*. The differences seem small when expressed in figures, but they are striking when the skins are compared: they are also minimised by one male of the western race (Poentjakpas, culmen 9.1 mm) in which the bill is less robust than in exact topotypes from Mt. Pangrango: nevertheless, even in this bird the distinction between the two races is still obvious, especially when the bill is viewed from above.

Type. — Adult male, collected on Gng. Ajekajek, Tengger mountains, East Java, about 2.300 m, on 3rd July, 1939, by A. C. V. VAN BEMMEL. Buit. Mus. No. 12412. Wing, 68.5 mm.

Specimens examined. — Six males and two females, all from the Tengger mountains (Gng. Iderider, and Gng. Ajekajek, 2.300 - 2.400 m); compared with three males and two females of the typical race, which with the exception of one male from the Poentjakpas, 1450 m, near Buitenzorg, are all exact topotypes from Pangrango.

Colour. — A detailed comparison of the skins shows that in the males of *orientalis* the yellow of the breast is not quite so bright as in the Pangrango examples of *estherae*: the blackish markings on the flanks seem slightly broader; the yellow malar patch is less extensive; and the yellow wing bars are of a paler, less golden yellow. Two specimens of *orientalis* have a small white patch around the eyes, and covering the lores: this white area is less marked in the other four skins which are about as in the western birds in this respect, that is to say they have a narrow, ill-defined whitish ring round the eye. But the males of *orientalis* and the single male of *estherae* from the Poentjak are alike in colour. Turning to females, one *orientalis* is entirely without yellow on the underparts, but otherwise females of the two races are very much alike. It is doubtful if the differences mentioned above are of racial significance, and all are possibly due to age, season, or individual variation, but in view of the rarity of the species in collections it seems worth recording observed differences even on the small series available.

Wings. — ♂ 68, 68.5, 69, 69, 69, 69.5; ♀ 67, 69 mm. The skins of the typical race before me measure, ♂ 67, 70, 70; ♀ 69, 71 mm.

Remarks. — *Serinus estherae* was described from the high level of 6,000 ft. on Mt. Pangrango, a volcano overlooking Buitenzorg from the south, in West Java, and I am not aware of any published records of its occurrence in Java elsewhere than on the mountains of the western part of the island.

The recent discovery of the species on the Tengger mountains in *East Java* by Mr. A. C. V. VAN BEMMEL of the Zoological Museum, Buitenzorg, therefore marked an interesting extension of range.

It was, of course, not unexpected to find that the eastern birds differed from western topotypes in some degree. *S. e. orientalis* is not a well-marked subspecies, but judging by the material before me the slight difference between it and the typical race is constant.

According to a recent observation made by Mr. M. A. LIEFTINCK a form of the species also exists on Mt. Telomojo, south of Semarang in Central Java, but no specimens from this region are yet available.

The third form of this species is *S. e. ripleyi* CHAS. (Treubia, 17, 1939, p. 137), recently described from Mt. Leuser, Atjeh, North Sumatra. Compared with the Javan forms it is rather darker on the upper parts, and shows more yellow in the plumage in both sexes. With a culmen of 8.1-8.8 mm it has an even smaller bill than *orientalis*, but otherwise the size is about as in the Javan races.

For the loan of two pairs of *S. e. estherae* from Pangrango I am indebted to Dr. MAX BARTELS: the other material discussed above belongs to the Zoological Museum, Buitenzorg.

Dicaeum sanguinolentum (TEMM.).

The exact type locality of the eastern race, *D. s. ablutum* ROB. and KL. (Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus., XI.1923, p. 57) is Tamansari, on the Idjen Massif, near Banjoewangi in the *extreme east* of Java.

In 1929, BARTELS and STRESEMANN (Treubia, XI, p. 142), thought that the validity of the race needed confirmation: RENSCH (Mitt. Zool. Mus., XVI, 1930, p. 539) accepted it for Bali, but his material consisted of one juvenile only. The types of *ablutum* (male and female) are now not available to me in Singapore, but I find no difficulty in separating a male from Tamansari from nine males of the typical race collected on the mountains of West Java (Tjiomas; Tjibodas; Garoet). The eastern bird is paler on the chin and throat, which are mixed white and buff in colour, and not deep buff, or tinged with red as in the western race. Other points of difference are that the *ablutum* male has the breast less solidly red; the flanks and under tail coverts whiter and less deeply tinged with yellowish buff; and the black ventral stripe narrower. A single male from the Tengger mountains is somewhat intermediate in its characters, but on the balance of appearance I should put it with *ablutum*.

Turning to females, no material from Tamansari is available. One specimen from the Tengger mountains is much paler below than two from Mts. Karang and Pangrango in West Java, but I do not think it could be separated from

three other females from Garoet and Tjisaroea near Buitenzorg: all have red rumps. It is therefore possible that in Java true *ablutum* is restricted to the extreme east of the island.

A male and three females from a most interesting intermediate locality, Kedoe in Middle Java are, unfortunately, scarcely worth discussion for they have been preserved in formalin, which like alcohol and liquid preservatives containing arsenic will, in spite of the assertions made by many collectors, often alter the colours of birds (and mammals) in a very deceptive manner, for the specimens often present, finally, a very "natural" appearance. As it stands this Kedoe male, like that from the Tengger mountains, is intermediate in appearance. It has the pale flanks and under tail coverts of the eastern race, but otherwise is hard to separate from the western race.

Mr. A. C. V. VAN BEMMEL has called my attention to the indisputable fact that whereas females of *D. s. sanguinolentum* have a red rump, young males have no red on the upper parts, and he therefore quite reasonably suggests that the "female" type of *ablutum* is really a young male; and that RENSCH's so-called juvenile male is really a female. This may be so, but it must be remembered that in some other races of *sanguinolentum* (e.g. the continental *ignipectus* and *dolichorhynchum*, and the Bornean *monticolum*) the females have no red rump: perhaps *ablutum* is the same. Further investigation is needed.

Aplonis minor minor (BP.).

A male of this form taken at Goeboekklakah at the foot of the Tengger mountains, at an altitude of about 1.080 metres, and forwarded by Mr. A. C. V. VAN BEMMEL seems to be the first record of the species from East Java, although of course its occurrence there was to be expected.

Butreeron capellei (TEMM.).

The type locality of *Columba capellei* TEMMINCK is "Java", but the species is either very rare, or local, in that island and I know of no records other than the few well-known old references. Dr. MAX BARTELS has written to me confirming that the species is still not represented in the large BARTELS collection of Javan birds. It is therefore interesting to make a detailed comparison of a pair of Javan birds (a male from Madjingklak, near Tjilatjap, on the south coast of West Java, 1st February 1921 and a female from Kalipoetjang near the same place, 16th February, 1923) lent to me by Dr. L. VAN DER PIJL, with material from Borneo and the Malay Peninsula although, of course, in the absence of a longer series of Javan birds it may well be that the observed differences are only individual in character. Dealing first with colour I cannot separate males from various parts of the Malay Peninsula, Sarawak and British North Borneo; in these places the colour of the crown is variable, ranging from pure olive to clear grey, but otherwise the colour is fairly constant, variation seeming to depend mostly on the freshness of the plumage at the time of death, and the state of the skin, the best specimens being slightly paler with a grey

bloom, the greasier skins somewhat greener. From these skins the single Javan male stands out by reason of its slightly darker, browner, less yellowish breast patch, on the sides of which the vinaceous flush is, perhaps, also rather more pronounced than in the other males: the crown is grey as in the minority of males from elsewhere.

The female from Java seems not to differ in any way from some females from Borneo and the Malay States, which are also rather variable in the colour of the crown and sides of the head. As in the case of the male, the Javan female matches the greyest specimens.

The following measurements in millimetres, including some taken from a manuscript carefully prepared in the British Museum by the late H. C. ROBINSON, are available for comparison.

Locality	Number of specs.	Sex	Wing-range and average	Length of bill from gape and average	Height of bill at base and average
<i>B. c. magnirostris.</i>					
Malay Pen.	40	♂	192-205 (197)	30.3-38 (33.7)	10.5-12.9 (11.6)
"	9	♀	189-210 (199)	31.4-35 (34.2)	10.2-11.5 (10.8)
Borneo	8	♂	192-203 (196)	32.8-37 (35.3)	10-11.5 (11)
"	7	♀	190-198 (194)	30-37 (34.1)	10.2-11.7 (11)
Palembang,					
Sumatra	3	♂	192-199 (196)	32.5-32.6 (32.5)	10.4-11.1 (10.7)
"	2	♀	191-199 (195)	33-35.8 (34.4)	11-11.3 (11.1)
<i>B. c. capellei.</i>					
Lampongs,					
Sumatra	1	♀	189	29.8	9.8
Java	1	♂	189	33.2	9.5
"	1	♀	187	33.1	9.5

The figures show that the only marked distinction in size throughout the range lies in the more slender bill of the typical (Javan) subspecies, and this more noticeable when skins are compared than the measurements suggest. This difference was noticed by SCHLEGEL as long ago as 1873 (Mus. Pays-Bas, Columbae, p. 58). The specimen from the Lampongs in South Sumatra is fully adult, and as is sometimes the case with Lampongs subspecies it is best referred to the Javan and not the Sumatran race.

Arborophila javanica (GMEL.).

There is an error on page 2 of "The Handlist of Malaysian Birds" (1935), that needs notice. In a late page-proof re-arrangement of *Arborophila* I linked a number of Malaysian forms together under the name of *brunneopectus* to which, previously, I had referred *campbelli* only, but unfortunately I did not notice that *javanica* has priority of date over *brunneopectus*, all reference to which should therefore be expunged from the Malaysian list.