

ON A SMALL COLLECTION OF BIRDS FROM THE  
KARIMATA ISLANDS, WEST BORNEO.

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The Karimata Islands are a group of small islands and islets lying off the west coast of Borneo. Dr. W. L. ABBOTT collected birds in the group in 1904 and 1908 and the ten species obtained by him were discussed by Dr. H. C. OBERHOLSER in Proc. U. S. National Mus., 64, 1924, Art. 22, pp. 1 - 4.

This short paper seems to have represented our total knowledge of the Karimata avifauna until Mr. L. COOMANS DE RUITER in collaboration with the Zoological Museum at Buitenzorg collected in the islands for ten days at the end of March 1931. Our thanks are due to Dr. K. W. DAMMERMAN for the opportunity of studying the collection. In a number of cases we have had the advantage of comparing the Karimata birds with examples from the adjacent coast of Borneo listed by us in a previous paper (antea pp. 11 - 18).

Specimens were obtained on the following islands.

*Panebangan* (Panembangan) only ten miles from Poeloe Maja which may be considered as forming part of the mainland of Borneo as it is only insulated by the Maja River (19-20th, 28th March).

*Pelapis* (Pelapi) one of the islands of a small group southwest of Panembangan (20-21 st March).

*Boeroeng* (Burong) an islet just south of Panembangan and between it and the coast of Borneo (22 nd March).

*Goeroeng Besar* (Gurong) about 7 miles southeast of Pelapis (24 th March).

*Karimata Besar* (Karimata Islands; Carimata) about 30 miles from the nearest point of the mainland (Maja). This is much the largest island of the group: it measures approximately 11 by 7 miles (23 rd, 25-26 th March).

*Oema* and *Poloebang* (*Peloebang*; Vogelnest Islands) are islets east and slightly south of Karimata Besar and between it and Borneo (26-27 th March).

*Seroetoe (Serutu)* is a few miles southwest of Karimata Besar (24-25 th March) <sup>1)</sup>.

Panebangan and Boeroeng are within the 5 fathom line: the 10 fathom line embraces the Pelapis Islands. Between the latter and Karimata Island 25 fathoms is recorded. It is noteworthy that in the narrow strait, about four miles across, between Karimata and Seroetoe there is a depth of 23 fathoms. MILLER has noticed differences in the mammal fauna of these two islands <sup>2)</sup>. Excluding the „deep” between Karimata and Seroetoe all the islands discussed in the present paper can be included within a 15 fathom line.

Between Seroetoe and Billiton there is a deeper channel with soundings of 29 fathoms.

The present collection increases the number of birds known from the islands from 10 to 32. Most of the forms are widely spread in Malaysia and throw no light on the faunal affinities of the Karimata group.

Although the mammals of Karimata Island include an indigenous form of *Pygathrix rubicundus*, a monkey otherwise only found in Borneo, the two species of birds available for critical comparison indicate that the avifauna shows a closer relationship to that of Sumatra than to that of Borneo. The Karimata form of *Kittacincla malabarica* is not *suavis* of the west Bornean lowlands but seems inseparable from *K. m. tricolor* of Sumatra and West Java (we have not seen *abbotti* OBERH. of Banka Island and Billiton). We have also placed the Karimata *Dicaeum-trigonostigma* with the subspecies found in Sumatra.

Two species found in the Karimata Islands tend to large size without changing appreciably in colour: a similar change is evident in the same species in other island groups in the south China Sea, the Anamba, Natuna and Tambelan Islands. The species are *Psittacula longicauda* and *Aplonis panayensis*: on a larger series *Pycnonotus brunneus* could perhaps be added.

Within the Karimata group two species, *Cyornis rufigastra* and *Hypothymis azurea*, are represented by subspecies not yet with certainty known from elsewhere and one of the most interesting ornithological features of the islands is that these quite well marked races are found on Panebangan Island which lies within the five fathom line and presumably within sight of the coast of Borneo.

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<sup>1)</sup> Some topographical notes on the Karimata Islands are given by W. L. ABBOTT in Lyon, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 40, 1911, pp. 59, 60: the position of the group is indicated in KLOSS' sketch map of the islands between Sumatra and Borneo, antea XIII, 1931, p. 293.

<sup>2)</sup> Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XXXI, 1906. pp. 55-66.



## MICROPODIDAE.

*Hemiprocne longipennis harterti* STRES.

## CUCULIDAE.

*Hierococcyx fugax fugax* (HORSF.).

*Eudynamis scolopacea malayana* CAB. & HEINE.

## HIRUNDIDAE.

*Hirundo javanica abbotti* (OBERH.).

## MUSCICAPIDAE.

*Musitrea grisola butaloides* STRES.

*Rhinomyias umbratilis umbratilis* (STRICKL.).

*Cyornis rufigastra karimatensis* OBERH.

*Hypothymis azurea karimatensis* CHAS. & KLOSS.

## PYCNONOTIDAE.

*Pycnonotus brunneus brunneus* MOORE.

## TURDIDAE.

*Kittacincla malabarica tricolor* (VIEILL.).

## STURNIDAE.

*Gracula javana javana* (CUV.).

*Aplonis panayensis heterochlorus* (OBERH.).

## NECTARINIIDAE.

*Chalcostetha calcostetha calcostetha* (JARD.).

*Anthreptes malacensis malacensis* (SCOP.).

*Aethopyga siparaja siparaja* (RAFFLES).

*Leptocoma jugularis pectoralis* (HORSF.).

	Panebangan	Pelapis	Boeroeng	Goeroeng	Karimata	Oema	Poloebang	Seroetoe
<i>Hemiprocne longipennis harterti</i> STRES.					X			
<i>Hierococcyx fugax fugax</i> (HORSF.).					X			X
<i>Eudynamis scolopacea malayana</i> CAB. & HEINE.						X		
<i>Hirundo javanica abbotti</i> (OBERH.).	X							
<i>Musitrea grisola butaloides</i> STRES.								
<i>Rhinomyias umbratilis umbratilis</i> (STRICKL.).					X			X
<i>Cyornis rufigastra karimatensis</i> OBERH.	X	X			X			X
<i>Hypothymis azurea karimatensis</i> CHAS. & KLOSS.	X	X			X			X
<i>Pycnonotus brunneus brunneus</i> MOORE.	X	X						
<i>Kittacincla malabarica tricolor</i> (VIEILL.).					X			X
<i>Gracula javana javana</i> (CUV.).	X				X			X
<i>Aplonis panayensis heterochlorus</i> (OBERH.).	X				X			
<i>Chalcostetha calcostetha calcostetha</i> (JARD.).					X			
<i>Anthreptes malacensis malacensis</i> (SCOP.).	X	X			X			X
<i>Aethopyga siparaja siparaja</i> (RAFFLES).	X				X			X
<i>Leptocoma jugularis pectoralis</i> (HORSF.).	X	X	X		X	X		

## DICAETIDAE.

*Dicaeum cruentatum* subsp.*Dicaeum trigonostigma trigonostigma* (SCOP.).

## ZOSTEROPIDAE.

*Zosterops chloris maxi* FINSCH.

Panebangan	Palapis	Boeroeng	Goeroeng	Karimata	Oema	Poloebang	Seroetoe
×	×			×			
				×			×
		×					

## TRERONIDAE.

*Ducula aenea aenea* (LINN.).

Panebangan, 1 ex.

Wing, about 250 mm.

A large bird but we have a similar specimen from Sarawak.

*Myristicivora bicolor bicolor* (SCOP.).

Boeroeng, 2 ♂.

Wings, 233, 235 mm.

## COLUMBIDAE.

*Columba argentina* BP.

Goeroeng Besar, 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

Wings, ♂ 245; ♀ 235 mm. „Iris red.”

## CHARADRIIDAE.

*Tringa hypoleucos* LINN.

Panebangan, 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

Wing, ♂ 111 mm.

## ARDEIDAE.

*Demigretta sacra sacra* (GM.).

Karimata Besar, 1 ♂.

In the dark phase.

## FREGATIDAE.

*Fregata ariel ariel* (GOULD).

Oema („birds' nest island"), 1 ♂.

## PSITTACIDAE.

*Psittacula longicauda* subsp.

Karimata Besar, 1 ♂.

Wing, 159 mm.

A large bird suggesting that the Karimata race may belong to the undescribed long-winged form occurring in the Natuna Islands and on Bintang Island in the Rhio Archipelago.

## ALCEDINIDAE.

*Halcyon chloris cyanescens* (OBERH.).*Sauropatis chloris cyanescens*, OBERH., p. 2.

Boeroeng, 2 ♀; Oema („birds' nest island") 1 ♀; Poloebang („birds' nest island") 1 ♀.

Wings, 114, 117, 112, 114 mm.

*Alcedo atthis bengalensis* GMEL.*Alcedo ispida bengalensis*, OBERH., p. 2.

Panebangan, 1 ♀.

Wing, 72 mm.

## MEROPIDAE.

*Merops viridis viridis* LINN.

Seroetoe, 1 ♂.

Wing, 109 mm.

## MICROPODIDAE.

*Hemiprocne longipennis harterti* STRES.

Karimata Besar, 1 ♂, 2 ♀.

Wings, ♂ 158 (c.); ♀ 162, 159 mm.

## CUCULIDAE.

*Hierococcyx fugax fugax* (HORSF.).*Hierococcyx fugax fugax*, OBERH., p. 2.

Seroetoe, 1 ♀.

Wing, 172 mm.

*Eudynamis scolopacea malayana* CAB. & HEINE.

Oema („birds' nest island"), 1 ♂.

## HIRUNDINIDAE.

*Hirundo javanica abbotti* (OBERH.).

Panebangan, 2 imm. ex.

## MUSCICAPIDAE.

*Muscitrea grisola butaloides* STRES.*Muscitrea grisola secedens*, OBERH., p. 3.

Seroetoe, 2 ♂, 1 ♀.

Wings, ♂ 83, 84 mm.

*Rhinomyias umbratilis umbratilis* (STRICKL.).

Karimata Besar, 1 ♀.

Wing, 76 mm.

*Cyornis rufigastra karimatensis* OBERH.*Cyornis banyumas karimatensis* OBERH., p. 3: Karimata Island.

Panebangan, Pelapis, Seroetoe, 9 ♂, 5 ♀.,

Wings, ♂ 77.5, 78, 74, 76.5, 78, 75, 77, 77, 77; ♀ 72.5, 74, 71, 74, 71 mm.

*C. r. karimatensis* is a well marked race. Compared with *C. r. rufigastra* from Borneo it is distinctly larger: on the upperparts the two races are much alike both showing a certain amount of variation in the depth of the blue colour but on the underparts both sexes of *karimatensis* are of a darker, deeper tawny. The undertail coverts are always largely or completely tawny and only the middle line of the abdomen is sometimes whitish. Some males show a well-marked bluish wash on the sides of the breast and flanks, a feature never more than faintly indicated in *C. r. rufigastra*.

*Hypothymis azurea karimatensis* CHAS. & KLOSS <sup>1)</sup>.

Like *H. a. prophata* OBERH. <sup>2)</sup> of the Malay States, Sumatra and Borneo but larger, the male with the black gorget obsolete and the female with the tail strongly washed with blue.

*Type.* Adult male collected on Seroetoe, Karimata Islands, west Borneo on 24th March 1931 by L. COOMANS DE RUITER. Coll. No. 133. Wing 76.5 mm.; tail 75 mm.

*Specimens examined.* Panebangan, Pelapis, Karimata Besar, Seroetoe. 6 ♂, 4 ♀ 1 juv. (24.3.31).

Wings, ad. ♂ 75, 74, 72, 78, 77; ♀ 74, 74, 73, 68 mm.

*Remarks.* Large races of *Hypothymis azurea* exist in the Anamba Islands (*opisthocyanea* OBERH.) and the Natuna Islands (*giganoptera* OBERH.) but in both these forms the male has a well developed black gorget. In one male of *karimatensis* the gorget is represented by a thin black line; in the other adult males only a few of the feathers on the foreneck are narrowly margined with black and in three specimens no trace of the gorget can be seen unless the plumage is disturbed.

<sup>1)</sup> Bull. Raffles Mus., 7, 1932, p. 8.

<sup>2)</sup> *Hypothymis azurea prophata* OBERH.: Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 39, 1911, p. 597: Karimon Island, Rhio Archipelago.

## PYCNONOTIDAE.

*Pycnonotus brunneus brunneus* MOORE.

Panebangan, Pelapis, 2 ♂.

Wing, ad. ♂ 89 mm. „Iris red”.

A large bird but similar specimens occur in Borneo and Sumatra and in the absence of series we do not refer the Karimata race to *P. b. zapolius* OBERH. of the Anamba Islands which is like typical *brunneus* but shows a slightly higher average wing-length.

## TURDIDAE.

*Kittacincla malabarica tricolor* (VIEILL.).

Karimata Besar, Seroetoe, 5 ♂, 1 ♀.

Wings, ♂ 100, 99, 100, 98, 101; ♀ 90 mm.

It is interesting to find that the Karimata race is *tricolor* which occurs in west Java (terr. typ.) and Sumatra and not the very distinct *suavis* which inhabits west Borneo. All the specimens have the three outer rectrices black at the base. The amount of white on the fourth rectrix is variable. One male from Seroetoe is less deeply chestnut below than the others.

## STURNIDAE.

*Gracula javana javana* (CUV.).

Panebangan, Karimata Besar, Seroetoe. 2 ♂, 1 ♀.

Wings, ♂ 179, 180; ♀ 181 mm.

*Aplonis panayensis heterochlorus* (OBERH.).

*Lamprocorax panayensis heterochlorus* (OBERH.), Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 98, 1917, p. 57: Anamba Islands.

Panebangan, Karimata Besar. 2 ♂, 1 ♀.

Wings, ♂ 107, 107; ♀ 104 mm.

This long-winged, large-billed race has been discussed at length by KLOSS in Treubia, 12, 1930, p. 420.

## NECTARINIIDAE.

*Chalcostetha calcostetha calcostetha* (JARD.).

Karimon Besar, 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

Wings, ♂ 61; ♀ 55.5 mm.

*Anthreptes malacensis malacensis* (SCOP.).

*Anthreptes malacensis anambae* OBERHOLSER, 1924, p. 4.

Panebangan, Pelapis, Karimata Besar, Seroetoe. 12 ♂, 6 ♀.

Wings, ad. ♂ 68, 68, 67, 66, 65; ♀ 60, 61, 61, 62, 62 mm.



*Aethopyga siparaja siparaja* (RAFFLES).*Aethopyga siparaja ochropyrrha* OBERH., p. 4.

Panebangan, 5 ♂.

Wings, ad. ♂ 52, 52, 51.5, 52 mm.

These males show the usual rather wide range of variation in the colour of the posterior underparts seen in this species in any one locality. There is also considerable difference in the tone of the red parts when the lightest and darkest skins are compared.

*Leptocoma jugularis pectoralis* (HORSF.).

Panebangan, Pelapis, Boeroeng, Karimata Besar, Oema (birds' nest island), 4 ♂, 8 ♀.

Wings, ad. ♂ 54, 52, 54, 54; ♀ 50.5, 51.5, 49, 49, 53 mm.

## DICAIEIDAE.

*Dicaeum cruentatum* subsp.

Panebangan, Pelapis, Karimata Besar, 4 ♂, 1 ♀.

Wings, ad. ♂ 49, 48; ♀ 45 mm.

Only two of the males are adult. One has the chin entirely white: the other bird is in bad condition but it appears to have had a few black feathers on the chin. Birds similar to each of these specimens are found in the Malay States (*ignitum* BEGBIE) and Sarawak (*nigrimentum* SALVAD.) and it is therefore not possible to allocate the Karimata race to a subspecies until a better series of males is obtained.

*Dicaeum trigonostigma trigonostigma* (SCOP.).

Karimata Besar, Seroetoe, 5 ♂, 1 ♀.

Wings, ad. ♂ 49, 50.5, 51, 52, 52 mm.

The Karimata race of *D. trigonostigma* is a little unstable but it is definitely nearer to the typical race than to topotypical *D. t. dayakana* from British North Borneo.

As a series the Karimata birds average darker on the throat than *dayakana* and one specimen is as pale as the palest of a large series of *D. t. trigonostigma* from the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra. Pale throated birds, by themselves inseparable from typical *trigonostigma*, also occur sporadically in Sarawak.

## ZOSTEROPIDAE.

*Zosterops chloris maxi* FINSCH.

Boeroeng, 1 ♂.

Wing, 55 mm.

We cannot separate this specimen from a small series of topotypical *maxi* from the Thousand Islands off the northwest coast of Java and some from the Karimoen Djawa Islands (postea p. 171).

The wing range of four topotypes of *maxi* is 56.5 - 58 mm. and the smallest bird of ten before us from the Karimoen Djawa Islands has the wing 56 mm. in length. The Karimata specimen with a wing only 55 mm. in length is therefore rather small.

*Z. c. maxi* is very close to *intermedia* of Celebes and it has yet to be demonstrated in what way *solombensis* OBERH., and *zachlora* OBERH., from small islands in the Java Sea differ from *maxi* or *intermedia*.