

specially requested to subscribe for a copy and so help to defray the cost. Members present were asked to urge other members to subscribe.

(2) That as the present Editor's term of five years' office would expire at the end of the current Session, and that as the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer desired to retire on account of other pressing duties preventing his continuing to carry out the work of the Club to his satisfaction, the following gentlemen be nominated to fill the two posts, subject to their consent and to their election at the next Annual General Meeting :—

As *Editor*, Dr. PERCY R. LOWE.

As *Secretary & Treasurer*, Mr. J. L. BONHOTE.

(3) That the meeting in June should be principally devoted to an exhibition of old books and prints bearing on the subject of Ornithology and other objects of ornithological interest.

Mr. E. C. STUART BAKER made the following remarks on some Oriental species :—

I have recently received from Mr. W. E. Wait, of the Ceylon Civil Service, a very nice series of skins of *Prinia sylvatica*, together with some interesting notes. Mr. Wait tells me that in Ceylon this little Warbler appears to breed practically all the year round, and that, unlike the same species in India, has no summer and winter variation in plumage. This is borne out by the series sent, though there are two apparently immature birds which have not acquired fully black bills.

There is a very big series of this *Prinia* in the British Museum collection, the majority of which are from Raipur and Mudderpore, with smaller series from Mt. Aboo and elsewhere, and a fair number from Ceylon. These latter agree with the birds sent from that Island by Mr. Wait.

The whole of this latter series are very dark in their general tone above, and are easily distinguished from those obtained in Continental India.

The birds from Mt. Aboo are, on the other hand, very pale and grey and must also be given the rank of a subspecies. The three forms will therefore bear the following names:—

(1) *Prinia sylvatica sylvatica*.

Prinia sylvatica Jerdon, Madr. Jour. xi. p. 4 (1840).

Type-locality. Neilgherries, Madras.

Synonyms:—

Prinia neglecta Jerdon, Madr. Jour. xiii. p. 130 (1844)
(Madras).

Drymoica jerdoni Blyth, J. A. S. B. xvi. p. 459 (1847)
(S. India).

Suya gangetica Blyth, Ibis, 1867, p. 23 (Valley of the Ganges).

(2) *Prinia sylvatica robusta*.

Drymoica robusta (nec Rüpp.) Blyth, J. A. S. B. xviii. p. 812 (1849).

Type-locality. Ceylon.

Synonyms:—

Drymoica valida Blyth, J. A. S. B. xx. p. 180 (1851).

This name was given by Blyth under the impression that *robusta* was antedated by *Cisticola robusta* of Rüppell, but this bird is, of course, another genus altogether.

Drymoipus calidus is only a misprint for *D. validus*.

(3) *Prinia sylvatica rufescens*.

Drymœpas rufescens Hume, Ibis, 1872, p. 110.

Type-locality. Mt. Aboo or Abu.

Synonyms:—

Drymoipus insignis Hume, Nests & Eggs Indian Birds, p. 351 (1873).

Saugur, Mt. Aboo, Raipur.

Birds from Saugur and Raipur are, however, typical *P. s. sylvatica*.

Genus PERICROCOTUS.

The genus has hitherto been dealt with in the most curious manner. Certain species, such as *speciosus*, have been divided

up into species which are no more than subspecies, whereas in other instances, such as *peregrinus*, *brevirostris*, etc., races differing very greatly from one another have all been lumped together under one name.

Perecrocotus peregrinus.

The following geographical races of this species are easily recognizable :—

(1) *Perecrocotus peregrinus peregrinus*.

Parus peregrinus Linn. S. N. i. p. 342 (1766).

Type-locality. None given. I now designate *Umbala*.

Above rather dark grey, throat dark grey to blackish grey; below, breast crimson changing to yellow on flanks, lower breast, and abdomen and to albescent on centre of abdomen and vent. Red of tail rather pale brick-pink.

Over 100 specimens examined.

Distribution. N. West, West, and Central India and East to Western Bengal, Oudh, and Behar.

(2) *Perecrocotus peregrinus vividus*, subsp. nov.

Type. No. 86.4.1.590, ♂, B.M. Coll. (*Davison*).

Type-locality. Attaran River, Burma.

Darker above than typical *peregrinus*; the throat generally rather blacker; the crimson breast brighter and extending lower on to the flanks and often on to the abdomen, remainder of the lower parts bright yellow with no, or practically no, white on the abdomen. Red on tail distinctly darker and more crimson.

Distribution. Assam, Eastern Bengal, Manipur, Burma, Andamans, Siam, Cochin China.

(3) *Pericrocotus peregrinus malabaricus*.

Parus malabaricus Gmel. Syst. Nat. i. p. 1012 (ex Lath.) (1766).

Type-locality. Coast of Malabar.

Still darker and richer in colour than *vividus*, the throat very black and the crimson of the breast and tail deeper and

more extensive on the former, often spreading over most of the abdomen.

Nearly 200 specimens examined.

Distribution. Southern India and Ceylon.

Roughly speaking, Madras on the east and Belgaum on the west may be taken as the northern limits of this race.

(4) *Pericrocotus peregrinus pallidus*, subsp. nov.

Type. No. 86.4.1.483, ♂, B.M. Coll. (*Hume*).

Type-locality. Larkhana, Sind.

Above a very pale grey bird, with grey, and never black, throat; crimson on breast very restricted, and remainder of lower parts white; light portions of tail almost white, tinged brick-pink on inner webs.

Eight specimens examined.

Distribution. Sind and the extreme N.W. of India. Birds from Mt. Aboo are very pale and might be assigned to this race.

(5) *Pericrocotus peregrinus saturatus*, subsp. nov.

Type. No. 7.3.5.12.1122, ♂, B.M. Coll. (*Wallace*).

Type-locality. W. Java.

Exceptionally dark birds above; crimson below extending all over breast and flanks, changing into yellow on posterior flanks and abdomen, the centre of which is whitish.

Six specimens examined.

Distribution. Java and ? Borneo.

A single specimen from Banjarmasing, Borneo, is still darker, almost black above, whilst practically the whole of the underparts from breast to vent are crimson. For the present I keep this with the Java bird.

A ♂ shot by Captain Watson at Khain, district of Kherassan, Persia, is much knocked about, but appears to be a very near typical *peregrinus*, rather than *pallidus* as might have been expected.

Females of all races differ in depth of colouring in much the same degree as the males. Southern birds run smaller

than northern, but hardly to an extent authorizing their division into races but for the other differences.

Pericrocotus speciosus.

Pericrocotus speciosus fohkiensis, subsp. nov.

Male. Similar to *P. s. fraterculus*.

Female. Differs at a glance from any other form of *speciosus*. It is paler below than the female of *fraterculus*, and the yellow has a very distinct green tinge; the rump and upper tail-coverts are more green and less yellow and the back also frequently has a shade of green in it. The forehead has the yellow less extensive and rather duller.

Types, ♂ ♀. Nos. 1905, 12. 24. 211, B.M.Coll. (*C. B. Rickett*).

Type-locality. Yamahan, Fohkien.

Distribution. S.E. China.

Pericrocotus brevirostris.

There are four well-marked forms of this Minivet, of which three have already been named and two generally accepted, whilst the fourth still requires a name.

(1) *Pericrocotus brevirostris brevirostris.*

Muscipeta brevirostris Vigors, P. Z. S. 1831, p. 43.

Male. Below crimson-scarlet with no pink tinge.

Female. Above light grey with distinct green tinge; throat and forehead bright pale yellow; rest of plumage below dark lemon-yellow.

No type-locality is given, but the bird was shown with others from the N.W. Himalayas. I therefore designate

Type-locality. Mussoorie.

Distribution. N.W. India as far east as Central Nepal, and as far south as Mt. Aboo. There are specimens from Chitral which are quite typical.

(2) *Pericrocotus speciosus affinis.*

Pericrocotus affinis McClelland, P. Z. S. p. 156 (1839), Assam.

Male. Below a deeper, richer crimson-red than typical *brevirostris*, with no pink tinge.

Female. Above a darker grey and with no green tinge: throat and forehead lemon-yellow, rest of lower plumage bright, deep yellow nearly always with a strong orange tinge.

Distribution. Assam, N. Burma, and south to Kauri Kachin, Shan States.

The Eastern Nepal birds are intermediate, but perhaps nearer this form than the typical one. Birds from Sikkim are practically true *affinis*.

(3) *Pericrocotus brevirostris neglectus*.

Pericrocotus neglectus Hume, Str. Feath. v. p. 171 (1877), Tenasserim.

Male. A very deep crimson-red below.

Tail 83 mm., wing 83.

Female. Dark yellow below with throat concolorous with breast.

Tail 81 mm., wing 85.

There are only two specimens of this race in the Museum, all those from Kauri Kachin, hitherto placed with this, being long-tailed birds not separable from *affinis*, which has a tail varying from 100–109 mm.

(4) *Pericrocotus brevirostris styani*, subsp. nov.

Types ♂ ♀. No. 1914. $\frac{5.6.538}{5.6.561}$, 29.5.02, B.M. Coll. (*Styan*).

Type-locality. Sechuen.

Male. Not distinguishable from *affinis*, but perhaps not so deep a red.

Female. Above much darker than *brevirostris*, but with strong green tinge, below very pale lemon with almost white throat; very little yellowish white on forehead; cheeks and ear-coverts very pale greyish.

Distribution. Western China and Yunnan.

The female is very like *Pericrocotus griseigularis*, but the male is quite different.