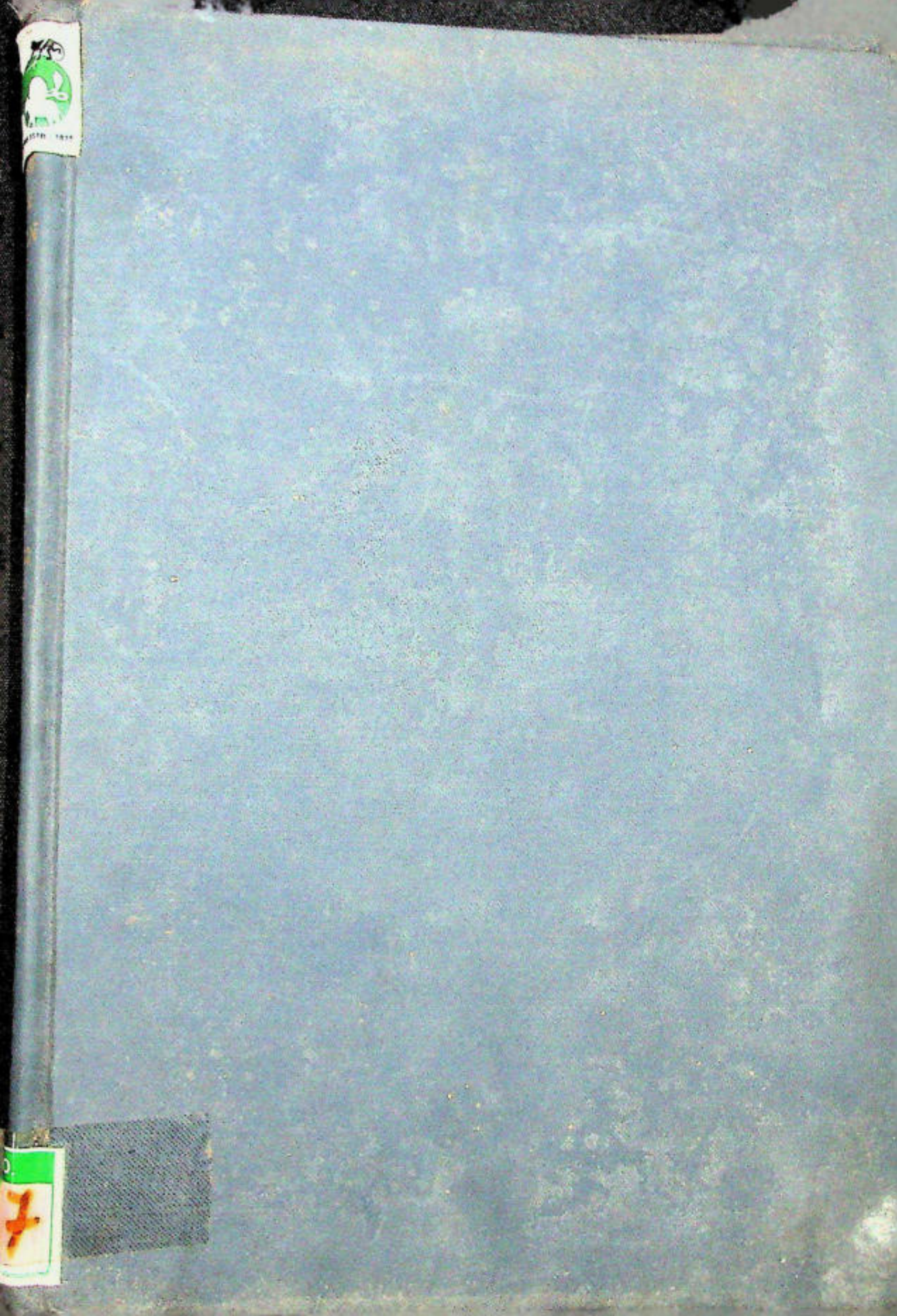






HANDBOOK OF THE
BIRDS
OF INDIA
AND PAKISTAN

IN TEN VOLUMES
VOL. 6



HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN

*TOGETHER WITH THOSE OF
NEPAL, SIKKIM, BHUTAN AND CEYLON*

SÁLIM ALI
AND
S. DILLON RIPLEY



Volume 6
CUCKOO-SHRIKES TO BABAXES
Synopsis Nos. 1064-1271
Colour Plates 65-72

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(SE) = species extralimital (RE) = race extralimital

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- 2 *Babax waddelli waddelli*, Giant Babax (1271)
- 3 *Garrulax albogularis albogularis*, Whitethroated Laughing Thrush (1274)
- 4 *Garrulax nuchalis*, Chestnutbacked Laughing Thrush (1285)
- 5 *Garrulax affinis affinis*, Blackfaced Laughing Thrush (1322)
- 6 *Garrulax variegatus variegatus*, Variegated Laughing Thrush (1290)
- 7 *Garrulax cinereifrons*, Ashyheaded Laughing Thrush (1272)
- 8 *Garrulax galbanus galbanus*, Yellowthroated Laughing Thrush (1286)
- 9 *Paradoxornis gularis gularis*, Greyheaded Parrotbill (1249)
- 10 *Turdoides nipalensis*, Spiny Babbler (1269)
- 11 *Panurus biarmicus ruscicus*, Bearded Tit-Babbler (1235)
- 12 *Paradoxornis unicolor*, Brown Parrotbill (1237)

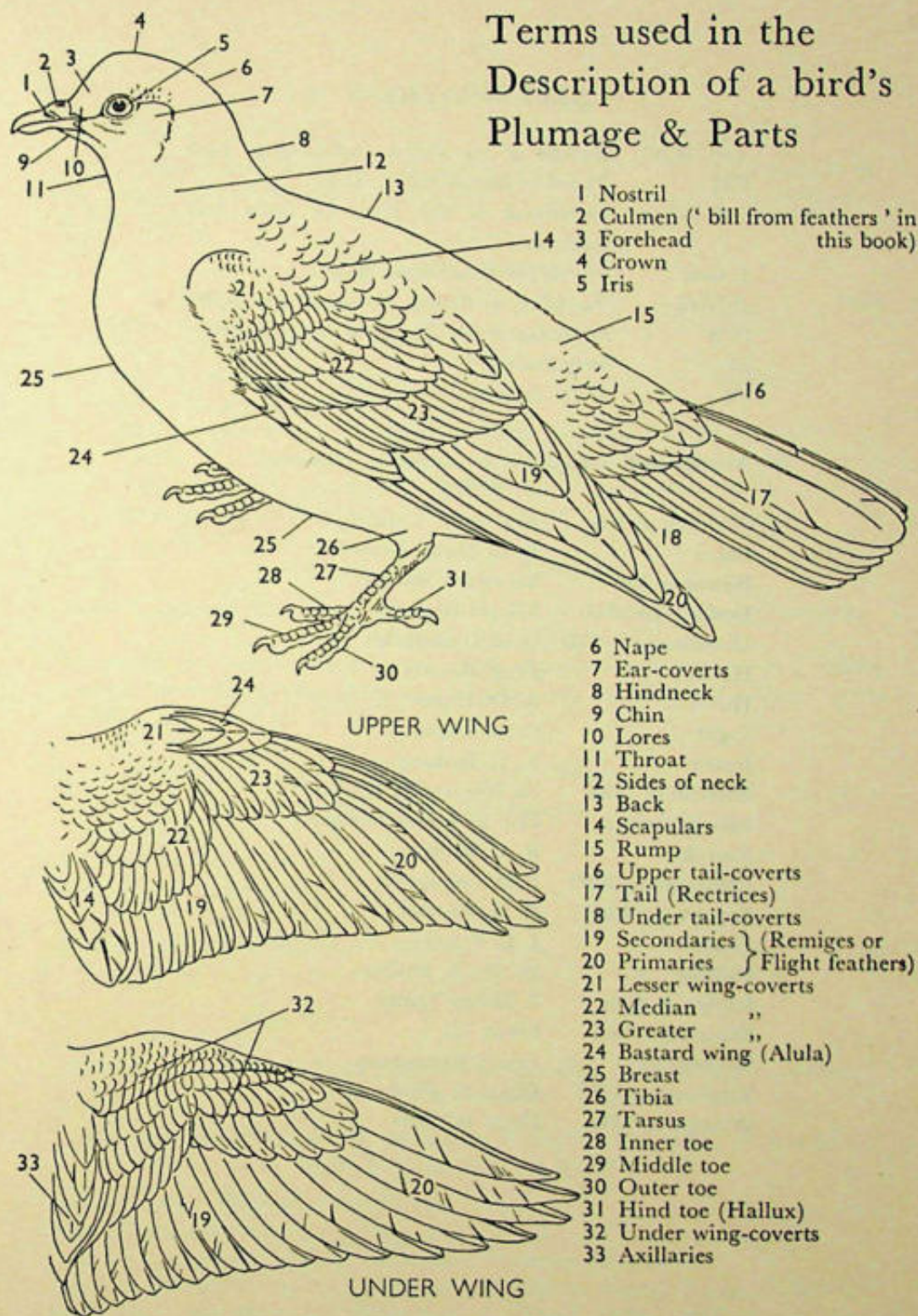
Plate 72, facing page 224

A. M. HUGHES

- 1 *Parus major (ambiguus)*, Grey Tit (1796 RE)
- 2 *Sitta frontalis frontalis*, Velvetfronted Nuthatch (1838)
- 3 *Sitta castanea (neglecta)*, Chestnutbellied Nuthatch (1830 RE)

- 4 *Melanochlora sultanea sultanea*, Sultan Tit (1789)
- 5 *Garrulax chinensis propinquus*, Blackthroated Laughing Thrush (SE)
- 6 *Garrulax sannio (sannio)*, Whitebrowed Laughing Thrush (1306 RE)
- 7 *Garrulax leucolophus (belangeri)*, Whitecrested Laughing Thrush (1283 RE)
- 8 *Garrulax pectoralis (meridionalis)*, Blackgorgeted Laughing Thrush (1277 RE)
- 9 *Turdoides earlei earlei*, Striated Babbler (1256)
- 10 *Turdoides gularis*, Whitethroated Babbler (SE)

Terms used in the Description of a bird's Plumage & Parts



ABBREVIATIONS

Bull. BOC	<i>Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club</i>
FBI	Fauna of British India, Birds
Ind. Hb.	Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan
J. Orn.	<i>Journal für Ornithologie</i> , Berlin
JBNHS	<i>Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society</i>
PZS	<i>Proceedings of the Zoological Society</i> , London
SF	<i>Stray Feathers</i>
SZ	<i>Spolia Zeylanica</i>

Abbreviated references to persons frequently quoted

Abdulali or HA	Humayun Abdulali
Baker	E. C. Stuart Baker
Biswas or BB	Biswamoy Biswas
Desfayes or MD	Michel Desfayes
Diesselhorst or GD	Gerd Diesselhorst
Hartert	Ernst Hartert
Hume	A. O. Hume
Inglis	C. M. Inglis
Jerdon	T. C. Jerdon
Kinnear or NBK	Sir Norman B. Kinnear
Meinertzhagen	Col. R. Meinertzhagen
Murphy	R. C. Murphy
Osmaston or BBO	B. B. Osmaston
Paynter or RAP	R. A. Paynter
Peters	J. L. Peters
Phillips	W. W. A. Phillips
Ripley or SDR	S. Dillon Ripley
Sálim Ali or SA	Sálim Ali
Stresemann	Erwin Stresemann
Ticehurst or CBT	Claud B. Ticehurst
Whistler or HW	Hugh Whistler

Order PASSERIFORMES (cont.)

Family CAMPEPHAGIDAE: Cuckoo-Shrikes and Minivets

For description see Van Tyne, J. & Berger, A. J., 1959: 504; Smythies, B. E., 1964, Article 'Cuckoo-Shrikes' in Thomson, A. L. (ed.) *New Dict. Birds*. London and New York.

Key to the Genera

		Page
A	Tail square	<i>Tephrodornis</i> 5
B	Tail more or less graduated	
a	Shafts of rump-feathers soft	<i>Hemipus</i> 1
b	Shafts of rump-feathers spiny	
1	Tail strongly graduated, outer rectrices less than half length of tail	<i>Pericrocotus</i> 24
2	Tail moderately graduated, outer rectrices more than three-quarters length of tail	<i>Coracina</i> 13

Genus HEMIPUS Hodgson

Hemipus Hodgson, 1844, Zool. Misc.: 84. Type, by monotypy, *Hemipus piceocolor* (= *Muscicapa picata* Sykes)

Bill about half length of head, very much depressed and rather wide; nostrils nearly hidden by hairs. Wing fairly long and pointed; tail-feathers graduated. Sexes dimorphic.

HEMIPUS PICATUS (Sykes)

Key to the Subspecies

A	Head black	
a	Back black like the head	
1	Indian Peninsula	<i>H. p. picatus</i> ♂ 3
2	Ceylon only	<i>H. p. leggei</i> ♂ and ♀ 5
b	Back brown contrasting with head	<i>H. p. capitalis</i> ♂ 1
B	Head brown	<i>H. p. picatus</i> ♀ 3
		<i>H. p. capitalis</i> ♀ 1

1064. **Brownbacked Pied Flycatcher-Shrike.** *Hemipus picatus capitalis* (Horsfield)

Muscicapa? capitalis Horsfield, 1839, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 157 (Assam)
Baker, FBI No. 725, Vol. 2: 307

LOCAL NAME. *Viyum-pho* (Lepcha).

SIZE. Sparrow; length c. 14 cm (5½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As of 1065. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. From Simla (rare) and Dehra Dun east along the Himalayas to Nepal [terai, bhabar and duns, very rare in Kathmandu Valley (Proud)], Darjeeling, Sikkim, Bhutan and Assam in the Abor and Mishmi hills (NEFA); southward through the hills

ABBREVIATIONS

Bull. BOC	<i>Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club</i>
FBI	Fauna of British India, Birds
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Hume	A. O. Hume
Inglis	C. M. Inglis
Jerdon	T. C. Jerdon
Kinnear or NBK	Sir Norman B. Kinnear
Meinertzhagen	Col. R. Meinertzhagen
Murphy	R. C. Murphy
Osmaston or BBO	B. B. Osmaston
Paynter or RAP	R. A. Paynter
Peters	J. L. Peters
Phillips	W. W. A. Phillips
Ripley or SDR	S. Dillon Ripley
Sálim Ali or SA	Sálim Ali
Stresemann	Erwin Stresemann
Ticehurst or CBT	Claud B. Ticehurst
Whistler or HW	Hugh Whistler

Order PASSERIFORMES (cont.)

Family CAMPEPHAGIDAE: Cuckoo-Shrikes and Minivets

For description see Van Tyne, J. & Berger, A. J., 1959: 504; Smythies, B. E., 1964, Article 'Cuckoo-Shrikes' in Thomson, A. L. (ed.) *New Dict. Birds*. London and New York.

Key to the Genera

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B	Tail more or less graduated	
a	Shafts of rump-feathers soft..... <i>Hemipus</i>	1
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1	Tail strongly graduated, outer rectrices less than half length of tail <i>Pericrocotus</i>	24
2	Tail moderately graduated, outer rectrices more than three-quarters length of tail..... <i>Coracina</i>	13

Genus HEMIPUS Hodgson

Hemipus Hodgson, 1844, Zool. Misc.: 84. Type, by monotypy, *Hemipus picoecolor* (= *Muscicapa picata* Sykes)

Bill about half length of head, very much depressed and rather wide; nostrils nearly hidden by hairs. Wing fairly long and pointed; tail-feathers graduated. Sexes dimorphic.

HEMIPUS PICATUS (Sykes)

Key to the Subspecies

A	Head black	
a	Back black like the head	
1	Indian Peninsula..... <i>H. p. picatus</i> ♂	3
2	Ceylon only..... <i>H. p. leggei</i> ♂ and ♀	5
b	Back brown contrasting with head..... <i>H. p. capitalis</i> ♂	1
B	Head brown..... <i>H. p. picatus</i> ♀	3
	<i>H. p. capitalis</i> ♀	1

1064. **Brownbacked Pied Flycatcher-Shrike.** *Hemipus picatus capitalis* (Horsfield)

Muscicapa? capitalis Horsfield, 1839, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 157 (Assam)
Baker, FBI No. 725, Vol. 2: 307

LOCAL NAME. *Viyum-pho* (Lepcha).

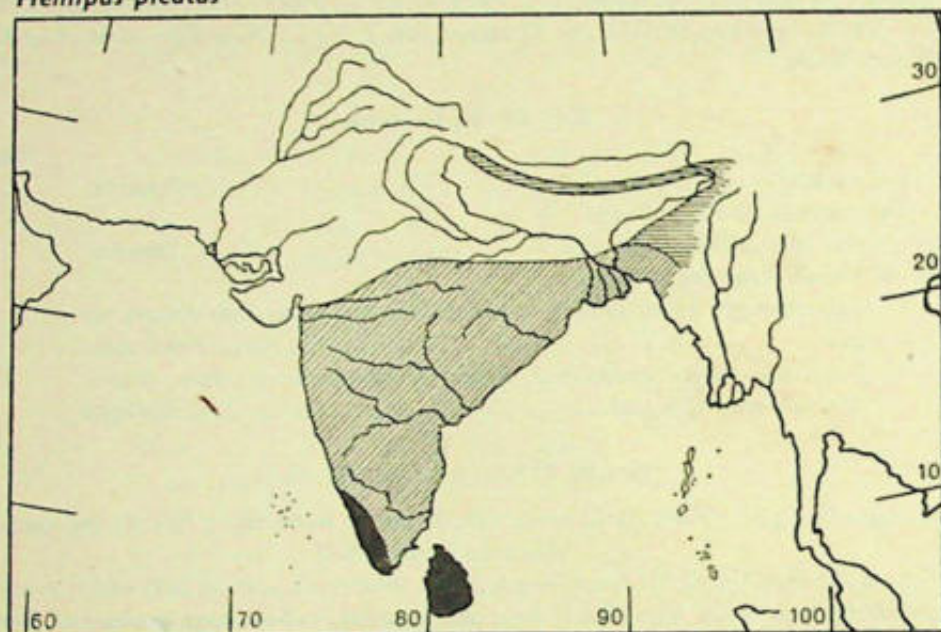
SIZE. Sparrow; length c. 14 cm (5½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As of 1065. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. From Simla (rare) and Dehra Dun east along the Himalayas to Nepal [terai, bhabar and duns, very rare in Kathmandu Valley (Proud)], Darjeeling, Sikkim, Bhutan and Assam in the Abor and Mishmi hills (NEFA); southward through the hills

south of Brahmaputra R., Nagaland, Manipur, and East Pakistan to the Chittagong region; from the edge of the plains to c. 2100 m; in scrub and original dry- and moist-deciduous and evergreen forest. In the Himalayas

Hemipus picatus



Distributional ranges

▨ *capitalis* (1064). ▤ *picatus* (1065). ■ *leggei* (1066).

breeds at moderate elevations, up to 1800 m in Nepal and 2100 m in Assam. Descends to the rivers and plains in winter but is nevertheless found up to 1500 m in Nepal at this season.

Extralimital. Parts of N. Burma, N. Thailand, Yunnan and the Indo-chinese countries.

GENERAL HABITS. Behaviour suggestive of a flycatcher, as they perch in all parts of the bushes and lower trees, and make short sorties into the air after passing insects. They do not remain long on any one perch, but keep moving from one perch to another; usually seen in the mixed hunting parties of small insectivorous birds. Gregarious in winter, parties of half a dozen or so hunting through the forest and keeping to the tops of trees.

FOOD. As in *picatus*.

VOICE and CALLS. A continuous calling, sometimes with a *tsit-it-it-it-it* and sometimes with a call sounding like *whiriri-whiriri-whiriri*. Also a sharp, high-pitched trilling *sisisisisi* and an insistent tit-like *chip*.

BREEDING. *Season*, March to July. Breeding biology as in *picatus*. *Nest* measurements, external c. 50 mm across by 25 mm deep; internal c. 35 by 13 mm. *Eggs*, 2 or 3, of two types, one pale greenish white marked with blackish like *picatus*, the second pinkish white marked in the same manner but with primary markings of brick-red and with secondary blotches of lavender and neutral tint. Average size of 32 eggs 16 × 12.8 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Male like *picatus* (1065) but back, scapulars and rump smoky brown, not black. Female indistinguishable from female *picatus*; a good many, however, appear to have the cap differentiated more from the mantle than in *picatus*, but this is not constant. Young and nestling also indistinguishable from *picatus*.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	62-67	16-18	13-14	58-65 mm
Weight	8.5-9.5 g.			

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill black. Legs and feet dark horny; claws black; soles white.

1065. **Blackbacked Pied Flycatcher-Shrike.** *Hemipus picatus picatus* (Sykes)

Muscicapa picata Sykes, 1832, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 85 (Dukhun)
Baker, FBI No. 724 (part), Vol. 2: 306

Plate 65, fig. 6, facing p. 16 and Plate 66, fig. 5, facing p. 48

LOCAL NAMES. *Asurappottan* (Malayalam); *Kālopeeth kābāro lātoro* (Gujarati); *Chhota kālā lātōra* (Hindi).

SIZE. Sparrow; length c. 14 cm (5½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A small black-and-white flycatcher-like bird.



× c. 1

Male, head and back glossy black, underparts pure white and pinkish white. A white collar round hindneck, white rump; wings and tail black-and-white. In the female the black portions are replaced by sooty brown. Its characteristic posture on a perch is rather hunchbacked, with neck pulled in and tail depressed.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. Central and peninsular India from Narbada river and northern Madhya Pradesh south and east (except southern Kerala where it intergrades with the next form), lower Bengal east through East Pakistan to the Chittagong region in the foothills up to 1500 m; in scrub, dry- and moist-deciduous forest. Affects forest tracts only, especially thin jungle, mixed deciduous forest with bamboo, cardamom sholas, gardens near forest, and transition zone between evergreen and deciduous forest.

Extralimital. Southern Thailand, Indochinese countries, Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo.

GENERAL HABITS. Arboreal. Met with in pairs or small parties following each other from tree to tree searching for insects among the foliage and making sallies on the wing, turning and twisting with great agility. Usually in association with the itinerant hunting parties of small insectivorous birds in forest. Resembles the flycatchers as well as minivets and wood shrikes in habits.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A squeaky *whiriri-whiriri-whiriri*, suggestive of a cheap. Christmas-cracker whistle, constantly uttered. See also *capitalis*. According to Nichols, the song is 'weak and high-pitched, but clear and varied. One form of it see-saws back and forth between two notes'.

BREEDING. *Season*, March to May. *Nest*, a small, neat, shallow cup of roots, fine twigs, moss, etc., strongly bound together with cobwebs and lined with dried fine grass. Attached to the upper surface of a horizontal branch near its end, in a dead or leafless tree between 3 and 9 m from the ground; it is so woven and blended to the upper surface of the branch that from below it appears as a scarcely discernible knot in the wood. Small as is the bird, when sitting it overlaps the nest to such an extent that except for its rather hunched-up attitude, it is hard to realize it is not perching normally. The camouflage extends to the young as they are covered in grey down of the same colour as the nest and bough, and except in the presence of their parents remain in a state of rigid stillness with beaks pointing vertically, and are practically invisible (Betts). *Eggs*, 2 or 3, pale greenish white, densely blotched with inky black, and with underlying marks of grey; they measure about 15×12.5 mm. Both sexes take part in all domestic duties.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Upperparts, lesser wing-coverts, primary coverts, lores and ear-coverts glossy black, rump feathers white at bases and tips; chin, and vent and undertail coverts pure white, rest of underparts vinaceous; cheeks and sides of neck white produced to form an indistinct collar; median coverts black broadly edged and tipped with white; greater coverts, the outer are black, the inner ones white on outer, black on inner webs; flight-feathers black, the inner three true secondaries with white outer webs; tail black, all except the median feathers with white tips increasing in size outwards; most of outer web of outer pair white. ♀ like ♂, but dusky brown replaces glossy black.

Juvenile. Upperparts like ♀ but tips of all feathers including tertials and the white-edged secondaries with pale fulvous tips; underparts white with rusty wash on breast; median and greater coverts white irregularly marked with submarginal lines of brown. Tail-feathers narrower and more pointed. Postjuvenile moult of body, lesser, median and greater coverts, possibly the white-edged secondaries, the tertials and the tail. First-year males may be distinguished by the browner flight-feathers or primary coverts. There is some evidence that males in the first year are in female dress, but it is quite certain that some moult from juvenal dress direct to that of adult male. Postnuptial moult complete, but apparently no prenuptial moult.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	60-66	14-16	11-13	57-62 mm
♀♀	58-64	15-17	12-13	56-65 mm

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Adult: iris orange- or yellowish brown; bill black; legs and feet blackish brown. Juvenile: iris brown; bill horny brown; legs and feet pinkish brown.

1066. **Ceylon Pied Flycatcher-Shrike.** *Hemipus picatus leggei* Whistler

Hemipus picatus leggei Whistler, 1939 (May 15), Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl., 59: 101
(Ohiya, Ceylon)

Hemipus picatus insulae Koelz, 1939 (June 5), Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 52: 69
(Wavenden, Ceylon)

Baker, FBI No. 724 (part), Vol. 2: 306

LOCAL NAMES. *Panu-kurullā* (Sinhala); *Asurappottan* (Malayalam).

SIZE. Sparrow $\pm$; length c. 14 cm (5½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As of 1065. The sexes are alike in Ceylon, but apparently dimorphic in Kerala.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, southern Kerala (where it intergrades with *picatus*) and Ceylon. It is found in forest, or well-wooded country up to 1800 m; rare and local in the low country, especially in the Dry zone.

GENERAL HABITS. A bird of the tree canopy met with in pairs or family parties, often in company with other species in the roving hunting parties.

FOOD. Insects, chiefly caterpillars.

VOICE and CALLS. 'Its song sounds like *tirity tirity tirity*, and it has other little chirps besides' (Henry).

BREEDING. Season, February to August, chiefly March and April; apparently single-brooded. The favourite site for the nest is a dead, lichenous and gnarled branch, high up in a tree (up to 12 metres) with no foliage to hide it except the overhead leaf-canopy. Nest as that of *picatus*. When the young are fledging, they look like a part of the branch owing to their 'lichenous' coloration and their normal attitude, which suggest a broken-off snag (Henry). They sit facing one another, with their bills pointing upward and nearly touching in the centre, their eyes kept half-closed. For details of nesting, see W. W. A. Phillips, *Ibis* 1940: 450-4. Eggs, 3, buffy-white in colour evenly speckled all over with pale brown and grey, measuring c. 15 × 12 mm. Both parents incubate and tend the young.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. The Ceylon population differs from *picatus* in that its sexes are not dimorphic, i.e. both male and female are black-backed like male *picatus*. Complete postnuptial moult takes place from the end of July to October. There is presumably no spring moult.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	61-65	15-17	11-13	53-60 mm (HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill, legs and feet black.

Genus *TEPHRODORNIS* Swainson

Tephrodornis Swainson, 1832 (Feb.) (1831), Fauna Boreal-Amer., Birds, App.: 482.

Type, by original designation, *Lanius virgatus* Temminck = *Lanius gularis* Raffles.

Bill very stout, about three-quarters length of head, strongly hooked and notched. Nasal bristles very numerous, entirely concealing the nostrils. Wing rather rounded; tail short and square. Feathers of rump very ample, but soft and not spinous as in *Pericrocotus*. Sexes more or less alike.

Key to the Species

	Page
A Outer rectrices brown, tipped with rufous. Wing over 100 mm <i>T. gularis</i>	6
B Outer rectrices largely white. Wing under 100 mm..... <i>T. pondicerianus</i>	9

TEPHRODORNIS GULARIS (Raffles)

Key to the Subspecies

Crown and nape ashy grey; upper back ashy brown.....	<i>T. g. pelvica</i>
Crown and nape bluish grey, not differing markedly from upper back.....	<i>T. g. sylvicola</i>

1067. Nepal Wood Shrike. *Tephrodornis gularis pelvica* (Hodgson)

Ténthaea Pelvica Hodgson, 1837, Ind. Rev., 1 (10): 447 (Nepal)

Baker, FBI No. 727, Vol. 2: 309

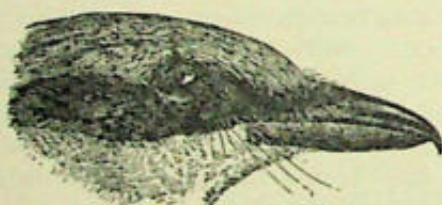
Plate 66, fig. 6, facing p. 48

LOCAL NAMES. *Vohpigli* (Mikir); *Rammun-pho* (Lepcha).

SIZE. Myna; length c. 23 cm (9 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A short and square-tailed grey-brown shrike, distinguished from *T. pondicerianus* by its larger size and brown outer rectrices.

Male. *Above*, crown and nape ashy grey changing to ashy brown on back, wings and tail, the last tipped blackish and rufous. A broad black band from lores through eye to ear-coverts, which are whitish. Rump and upper tail-coverts fluffy, whitish and ashy brown, barred with black and with a pure white band across. *Below*, chin, throat and breast pale ashy fawn, fading to white on centre of abdomen.



x c. 1

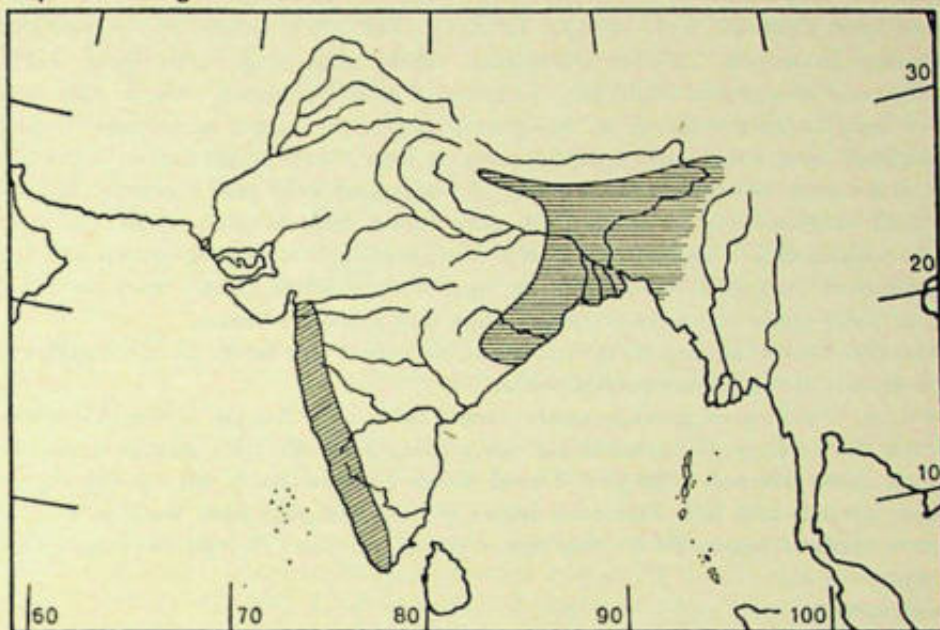
Female. Like male, but with crown same colour as back, and eye-band brown.

Young (fledgeling) when leaving nest speckled grey all over, especially on head.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident; any movements are local or altitudinal. From Nepal (terai and duns up to c. 1000 m), Sikkim (duars and foothills up to 1500 m), Bhutan (to at least c. 1200 m), Assam (throughout the plains and in Cachar and Khasi Hills), Nagaland, Manipur, E. Pakistan (in the eastern foothills and Chittagong region). South in Bihar and Orissa to the Eastern Ghats and northern Andhra up to 1000 m. Shows a preference for evergreen forest but is also found in open deciduous secondary jungle and other types of well wooded country.

Extralimital. Other races south through India and east in the Indochinese and Malaysian subregions.

GENERAL HABITS. Arboreal. Keeps to the tree-tops more than *T. pondicerianus* does, and unlike the latter, only very occasionally descends to

Tephrodornis gularis

Distributional ranges

 *pelvica* (1067).

 *sylvicola* (1068).

the ground. An active and restless bird but quite tame. Hunts for insects on branches, moving slowly along them in a series of clumsy hops. Also launches short flycatcher-like sallies after insects. The individuals follow one another among the trees, gracefully volplaning from branch to branch. It is usually found in small parties of four to six often in association with minivets, drongos and other insectivorous birds; in winter in larger flocks often up to thirty individuals, which break up into pairs in April and May.

VOICE and CALLS. Harsh notes resembling those of Shrikes, vaguely reminiscent also of *Nucifraga* (SA); others rendered as a mellow *tra-a-a* and *thul, thull* (Fleming). Also a rather musical *kew-kew-kew-kew* quickly repeated four to six times. The latter calls noted as appreciably different in dialect from those of the Western Ghats race, q.v. (SA).

FOOD. Insects, especially mantids, crickets, grubs and caterpillars including hairy ones.

BREEDING. *Season*, April and May. *Nest*, placed in a bare, outlying horizontal fork, three to eight metres up in medium-sized trees standing in forest. It is built on top of the bough where it broadens out at the point of division, so that very little is discernible from below. It is a shallow saucer made of fine grass-stems and roots, beautifully interwoven, the outer wall well plastered with cobwebs. It is reminiscent of minivets' nests but is usually without the adornment of lichen and moss. Betts remarks that the bird sits with the head back and bill pointing vertically upwards; with its grey plumage it looks just like a broken stub of the tree itself. *Eggs* 2 to 4, white faintly tinged with green or brown, marked with small irregular blotches of inky brown scattered all over the surface or more restricted to the larger

end where they form an indistinct ring; very like those of minivets. Average size of nine eggs 22×17.6 mm (Baker). The male assists in incubation.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Male. Forehead, crown and nape ashy grey; back, scapulars and lesser coverts ashy brown; rump ashy brown tipped white or obscurely barred brown; the shorter upper tail-coverts white, the longer ashy brown; nasal plumes and head band thence through eye to nape, black; part below this, chin, belly and under tail-coverts white; rest of underparts very pale cinereous, tinged with buff or vinaceous on breast; tail ashy brown with a rufous tinge and very narrow whitish tips. The shafts reddish brown; median and greater coverts and the flight-feathers ashy brown with lighter tips, with obsolete darker bars on outer edges of three inner secondaries; under-wing and axillaries brown.

Female. Like male but forehead, crown and nape like back; band through eye pale brown in front, darker brown behind.

Young. Much as in juvenile *pondicerianus* (1070) q.v. The tail is like that of the adult but the feathers are narrower and more pointed and the dark subapical contour lines are more marked. The postjuvinal moult includes body, all coverts except primary, tertials and tail. First-year males indistinguishable from females but all first-year birds recognizable by pale tips to primary coverts. Breeds also in subadult plumage.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	115-124	23-29	20-23 (once 26)	82-91 mm
♀♀	115-124	25-29	20-23	84-92 mm (SA, BB)

Weight 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ 38-46 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris ♂ golden yellow, ♀ glaucous blue; bill ♂ black, ♀ horn brown, flesh at gape (Whistler). Iris yellowish brown; upper mandible brownish black with brownish horny on base; lower mandible brownish horny, paler on base; legs and feet dull plumbeous, claws black; pads yellowish grey (Biswas).

1068. Malabar Wood Shrike. *Tephrodornis gularis sylvicola* Jerdon

Tephrodornis sylvicola Jerdon, 1839, Madras Jour. Lit. Sci., 10: 236 (Malabar Coast)

Baker, FBI No. 728, Vol. 2: 311

Plate 65, fig. 5, facing p. 16

LOCAL NAMES. *Pāhārī lātōra* (Hindi); *Asurakkātan* (Malayalam).

SIZE. Myna; length c. 23 cm (9 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As of 1067, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident and fairly common in well-wooded regions. Gujarat from the Narbada river south through Maharashtra to Tamil Nadu (confined to the western part), western Mysore (Malnaad) and Kerala. Found up to c. 1300 m in the Kerala hills and 1800 m in the Nilgiris and Palnis but is rare so high. Affects tall trees in evergreen and moist-deciduous forest, shade trees in cardamom plantations; sometimes even the drier zone in old teak plantations.

Extralimital. See 1067.

GENERAL HABITS. Met with in small flocks, sometimes in the mixed hunting parties, flitting or parachuting from branch to branch after insects, making lithe aerial sallies after winged prey and returning to the same perch or moving on to the next. But their favourite hunting grounds are the trunks and branches where they will often cling to the bark and pry into the fissures for lurking insects. The flight is undulating with slow, sailing wing-beats; at times reminiscent of Spotted Owlet's — a few rapid flaps followed by a downward dip. In the evening the flocks may be seen bathing in a pool or stream, swooping down and dipping on the wing as flycatchers and drongos do (Betts).

VOICE and CALLS. A loud, clear and musical quick-repeated *witoo-witoo-witoo* (4 to 6 times), occasionally punctuated by a harsh querulous single *chack* or *chrr*.

FOOD. Insects of the largest size, big moths, locusts and caterpillars.

BREEDING. *Season*, December to June, chiefly March and April. During the breeding season they become shy and secretive and the nests are hard to find. They are built on horizontal forks of branches six to nine metres from the ground. *Nest*, a shallow saucer about 10 cm in diameter made of roots, fine twigs and tendrils fastened together with cobweb and felted lichen, and secured with cobweb to the upper surface of a bough where it widens into a fork. The lining is of grass and leaf-stems. Two eggs appear to be the normal clutch (Betts); they are pale greenish white or buff, blotched and spotted with brown and with secondary markings of neutral tint. Average size of nine eggs 22×18 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *pelvica* in having the crown and upperparts bluish grey merging gradually into dark ashy brown. Below it is a much darker vinous-ashy on the breast and flanks. Female also darker generally. Birds from Thailand and Malaysia are closer to *sylvicola* than to their adjacent race *pelvica*.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	112-120	25-30	19-21	79-84 mm
♀♀	111-121	23-27	19-20	80-88 mm
				(SA, HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Male. Iris lemon-yellow or greenish yellow. Bill horny black. Legs and feet plumbeous (SA). Female. Iris khaki. Bill pale horn brown (Whistler).

TEPHRODORNIS PONDICERIANUS (Gmelin)

Key to the Subspecies

	Page
A Upperparts ashy brown	
a Darker; lores and eye-streak dark brown..... <i>T. p. pondicerianus</i>	11
b Paler; lores and eye-streak pale brown..... <i>T. p. pallidus</i>	10
B Upperparts ashy grey..... <i>T. p. affinis</i>	12

1069. **Sind Wood Shrike.** *Tephrodornis pondicerianus pallidus* Ticehurst

Tephrodornis pondicerianus pallidus Ticehurst, 1920, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl., 41: 56
(Larkhana, Sind)

Tephrodornis pondiceriana freta Van Tyne & Koelz, 1936, Occ. Papers, Mus. Zool.,
Univ. Michigan, No. 334: 5 (Bhadwar, Kangra Dist., Punjab)

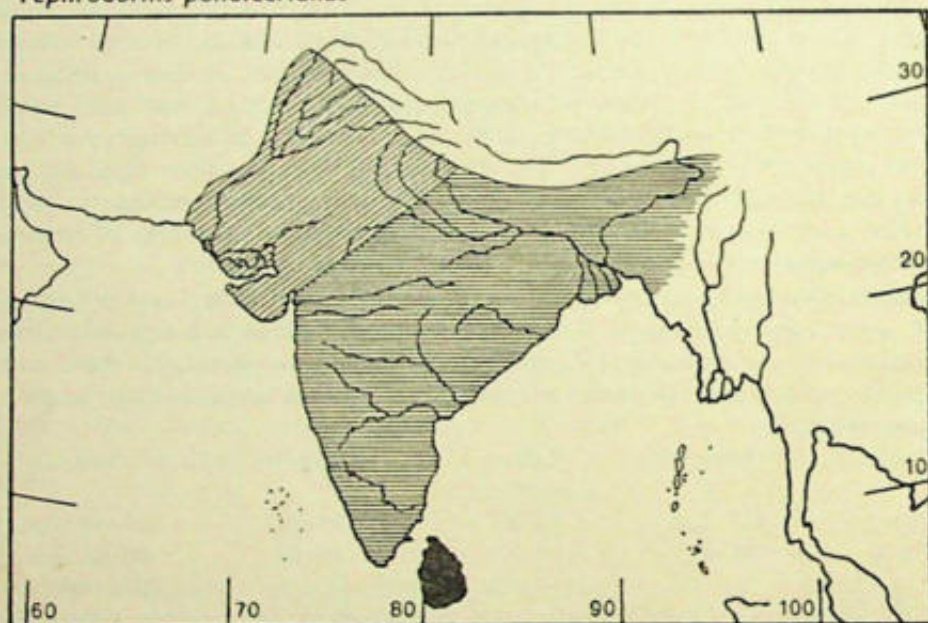
Baker, FBI No. 731, Vol. 2: 314

LOCAL NAME. *Keroula* (Hindi).

SIZE. Bulbul $\pm$; length c. 16 cm ($6\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As of 1070, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident in West Pakistan (Baluchistan [Hab Valley, Las Bela (?) and Sibi Plain (?)], Sind, and NW. frontier districts). Also Punjab, Delhi, western U.P., Rajasthan, Saurashtra and Kutch, south to a line from Cambay north and east to Kumaon. In

Tephrodornis pondicerianus

Distributional ranges

pallidus (1069). *pondicerianus* (1070). *affinis* (1071).

babool and scrub jungle, better cultivated parts of arid regions, and groves of babool in the desert. In the plains generally and up to 900 m (Simla), rarely to 1400 m along the Duala Dhar.

GENERAL HABITS, VOICE and FOOD. Those of the species (see 1070).

BREEDING. *Season*, February to June, mainly March and April. *Nest*, mostly under 3 m above the ground. Breeding biology otherwise much as in the nominate race. *Eggs*, 3 exceptionally 4; in a series, darker and duller than those of *pondicerianus* and often with a distinctly brownish buff ground. Average size of 30 eggs 18.9×15.1 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Male and female like *pondicerianus* but paler ashy grey above and less ashy, more creamy, on the underparts. Birds of the Kutch and Jodhpur area intergrade with *pondicerianus*.

MEASUREMENTS AND COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in *pondicerianus* (1070).

1070. **Indian Wood Shrike.** *Tephrodornis pondicerianus pondicerianus* (Gmelin)

Muscicapa pondiceriana Gmelin, 1789, Syst. Nat., 1: 939 (Coromandel)

Lanius griseus Tickell, 1833, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, 2: 573
(Borabhum and Dholbhum)

Tephrodornis pondicerianus thai Kloss & Chasen, 1925, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl., 46: 58
(Ta Chang Thai, Raheng, west Siam)

Tephrodornis pondiceriana warei Koelz, 1939, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 52: 69
(Londa, Bombay Presidency)

Baker, FBI No. 729, Vol. 2: 312

Plate 66, fig. 7, facing p. 48

LOCAL NAMES. *Keroula* (Hindi); *Tarti-tuiya* (U.P.); *Tentha*, *Tenthaca* (Nepal); *Chudukka* (Bengal); *Asurattan* (Malayalam); *Ulapitta* (Telugu).

SIZE. Bulbul $\pm$; length c. 16 cm (6½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A short and square-tailed plain greyish brown shrike-like bird with a dark stripe below the eye from lores to ear-coverts, and a conspicuous whitish supercilium; outer tail-feathers nearly all white. Sexes alike, only female has the eye-streak paler.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident and common over most of its range, south and east of a line from Cambay to Kumaon, Nepal (terai and up to c. 450 m), Assam and East Pakistan. Intergrades with *pallidus* in the Jodhpur area. Locally distributed in the Deccan. A bird of the lowlands avoiding hills though it may be abundant at their bases, exceptionally up to c. 1000 m (Kerala) but usually below 200 m. Replaces *T. gularis* in the dry zone and affects scrub and secondary jungle, lightly wooded country (sal, teak and other deciduous forest), roadside avenues and rambling jungly gardens in and around towns and villages.

Extralimital. Extends east to Thailand and Laos; replaced by *orientis* in Cambodia and Vietnam, *pallidus* in northwestern India and West Pakistan, and *affinis* in Ceylon.

GENERAL HABITS. A quiet, tame bird met with in pairs or small parties of 5 or 6 in trees and bushes, creeping about the leaves and branches like ioras, hopping or volplaning from one to another and moving from tree to tree in follow-my-leader fashion. At times descends to the ground, or takes insects on the wing like a flycatcher. Frequently seen in mixed hunting parties. It has a superficial resemblance to shrikes, but is much closer to minivets in habits and behaviour.

FOOD. Beetles, moths, caterpillars and other insects, and spiders.

VOICE and CALLS. Male has several pleasant, rather plaintive whistling notes *weet-weet*, followed by a quick interrogative *whi-whi-whi-whee?*. Also some soft trills in the breeding season.

BREEDING. *Season*, mainly March and April but extends from February to July especially in the more southern parts. *Nest*, a neat, thick-sided cup

of soft bark, fibres, etc., cemented with cobwebs and draped on the exterior with bits of paper-like bark or lichen which render it inconspicuous, and lined with silky vegetable down and fibres. Comparatively small for the size of the bird and as a rule difficult to find; diameter of cup c. 5 cm, depth 3 cm. It is entirely exposed, wedged tightly into the angle of a horizontal forked branch of a leafless tree, or sometimes concealed in thick foliage, from two to six, occasionally up to nine metres above the ground. It is usually completed in a week or ten days. Eggs, usually 3, rarely 4, pale greenish grey or cream with brown specks forming a ring round the broad end. Average size of 50 eggs 19×15.1 mm (Baker). Both parents build the nest, incubate, and feed the young; these are clad in grey down, exactly the colour of the nest and the lichen-covered bough on which it is built. Copulation on nest with one fresh egg has been observed (SA).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Sexes almost alike. Upperparts and lesser wing-coverts ashy brown, the rump-feathers white at base and at tips; upper tail-coverts black; broad supercilium whitish; lores, cheeks and ear-coverts dark brown (paler in ♀); underparts ashy, whiter on throat and belly; under tail-coverts white; flight-feathers and wing-coverts ashy brown; two outer pairs of tail-feathers white, the bases brown and a brown patch near the tip; the rest dark brown, the median tinged ashy.

Juvenile. Supercilium fulvous white; upperparts, lesser and median coverts brown with fulvous white triangular tips; upper tail-coverts dark brown with faint pale tips, greater coverts, tertials and innermost secondaries pale brown with pale edges and tips and an irregular dark contour line; primary-coverts dark brown with pale tips; ear-coverts dark brown; underparts white with obsolete brown streaks on breast and running up at side of throat to gape; tail as in adult, but feathers narrower and more pointed. Postjuvenile moult includes body, all coverts except primary, three or four innermost secondaries and tertials and whole tail. First-year as adult, except for light margin of unmoulted inner secondaries and pale tips to primary-coverts.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	82-94	19-23	(17) 19-22	59-73 mm
♀♀	80-89	18-23	(16) 19-21	56-71 mm
				-(SA, HW)

Tail tends to be shorter in South Indian birds: ♂♂ 59-67; ♀♀ 56-63 mm.

Weight 9 ♂♀ 18-27 (av. 22) g—SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris greenish brown. Bill horny brown, darker on culmen and at tips; mouth greyish pink. Legs and feet horny brown, claws darker. Juvenile. Iris brown. Bill horny brown; gape cream colour; mouth pale lemon-yellow. Legs and feet bluish slate; claws brown.

1071. **Ceylon Wood Shrike.** *Tephrodornis pondicerianus affinis* Blyth

Tephrodornis affinis Blyth, 1847, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, 16: 473 (Ceylon)

Baker, FBI No. 730, Vol. 2: 313

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Bulbul; length c. 16 cm ($6\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1070, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Ceylon, in all zones up to 1500 m, rarely higher and then only as a straggler. Edges of jungle, low spreading trees round village compounds, by the sides of roads, well-wooded country but not in dense forest. Commonest in the Dry zone.

GENERAL HABITS. As of 1070.

VOICE and CALLS. 'A frequently uttered whistle *twēēē twee twee twee* on a descending scale which has a peculiar peevish quality' (Henry).

FOOD. Caterpillars, green crickets and other insects.

BREEDING. Season, January to August, mostly March to May. Nesting as in nominate race. Eggs, 2 or 3. Average size of fifty 19×15.1 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *pondicerianus* in being much more grey and in having the white supercilium smaller. Tail shorter.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	81-88	21-23	16-18	54-59 mm
♀♀	81-86	21-23	16-18	54-58 mm (HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris yellowish brown. Bill dark horn. Legs and feet dusky slate.

Genus CORACINA Vieillot

Coracina Vieillot, 1816, Analyse nouv. orn.: 37. Type, by subsequent designation, *Corvus papuensis* Gmelin (Gray, 1840)

Cf. Ripley, S. D., 1941, Auk, 58: 381-95; Delacour, J., 1951, Amer. Mus. Novit., No. 1497: 1-15.

Contains birds in which the predominating colour is grey. Bill slightly bent down at tip and notched. Nostrils nearly concealed by plumes. Wing pointed; rectrices graduated.

Key to the Species

		Page
A	Wing over 150 mm	
1	Tail broadly tipped white..... <i>C. novaehollandiae</i>	13
2	Tail very narrowly tipped with pale brown or whitish..... <i>C. striata</i>	18
B	Wing 110-130 mm..... <i>C. melaschistos</i>	19
C	Wing under 110, generally less than 106 mm	
3	A conspicuous white supercilium at all ages..... <i>C. nigra</i>	23
4	Supercilium absent or only faintly indicated	
a	Throat black, abdomen grey..... <i>C. melanoptera</i> ♂ ad.	20
b	Throat and abdomen white cross-barred with brown..... <i>C. melanoptera</i> ♀	20

CORACINA NOVAEHOLLANDIAE (Gmelin)

Key to the Subspecies

1	Large size; wing 173 mm or over..... <i>C. n. nipalensis</i>	16
2	Small size; wing under 155 mm (Ceylon)..... <i>C. n. layardi</i>	17
3	Medium size	
a	Wing c. 153-169 mm (peninsular India)..... <i>C. n. macei</i>	14
b	Wing c. 167-176 mm (Andaman Is.)..... <i>C. n. andamana</i>	17

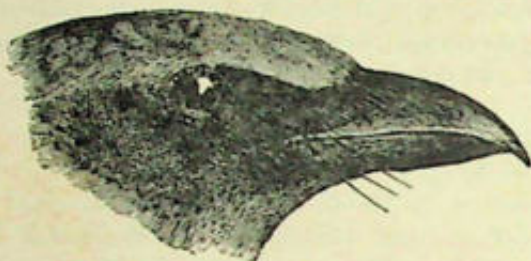
1072. **Indian Large Cuckoo-Shrike.** *Coracina novaehollandiae macei*
(Lesson)

Graucalus macei Lesson, 1830, *Traité d'Orn.*: 349 (Calcutta, Bengal)
Baker, FBI No. 758, Vol. 2: 343

LOCAL NAMES. *Kāya* (Hindi); *Khāki popiya* (U.P.); *Kābāsi* (Bengal); *Pedda akurai* (Telugu); *Mōtō kāsi* (Gujarati); *Bahrām* (Saugar dist., M.P.).

SIZE. Pigeon — ; length *c.* 28 cm (11 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male grey, whitish underneath, with a broad dark eye-streak. Wings and tail black. Heavy slightly hooked bill. Female has the eye-streak less conspicuous and her underparts are barred grey and white. Perches upright. The white rump-patch is conspicuous in flight.

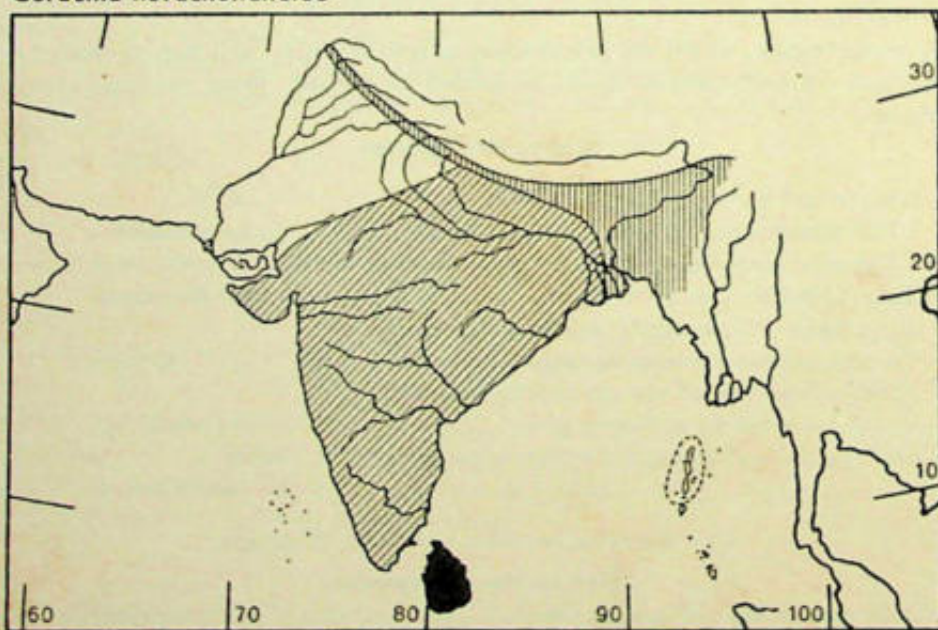


× *c.* 1

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT. Resident but subject to local migrations in the non-breeding season. The entire Peninsula roughly south of a line

from Kutch and Deesa (*c.* 24°N.) in northern Gujarat, east through northern Madhya Pradesh and Bihar to southern West Bengal and central East

Coracina novaehollandiae



Distributional ranges

▨ *nivalensis* (1073).

▤ *macei* (1072).

■ *layardi* (1074).

⋯ *andamana* (1075).

Pakistan. Extends to Mount Abu in Rajasthan but is absent in the desert portions. In plains and lower hills up to 1000 m (1200 m in Kerala). Well but rather patchily distributed in open wooded country such as gardens, cultivations with tall trees, groves often near villages, rubber plantations, light deciduous and mixed forest on the edge of evergreen.

GENERAL HABITS. A bird of the tree-tops found in pairs or loose parties which 'follow-my-leader', the flight being undulating with a few strokes of the wings alternated with short glides. Upon alighting on a branch it flicks up one wing, then the other, repeating this in 'a way reminiscent of a nervous gentleman tugging at his tie, an action rendering its identification easy at a distance' (SA). It indulges in this behaviour when courting, calling as it does so. In the breeding season it is a common sight to see a pair following one another from tree to tree uttering their distinctive shrill screaming calls to the accompaniment of a slight fluttering of the wings. Though keeping mainly to high trees, at times descends to bushes and even the ground to forage among dead leaves. Moves about a great deal locally in the non-breeding season.

FOOD. Mantids and other large insects and their larvae. Among stomach contents the following have been identified: weevils (*Astycus* and *Myllocerus* spp.), bugs (*Nezara viridula*), crickets (*Gryllotalpa africana* and *Gryllodes melanocephalus*) (Mason & Lefroy, 1912). Also feeds largely on the figs of the various wild *Ficus* spp.; caterpillars are fed to the young.

VOICE and CALLS. A very noisy bird. A long bisyllabic whistle *tee-treee* or *ti-eee*, of shrill parrot-like quality with the accent on the second syllable, frequently uttered as they fly among the tree-tops. See also General Habits.

BREEDING. *Season*, overall January to October, but mainly March to July. In western India there appear to be two periods of breeding, first February to April and again August to October. *Nest*, a shallow and rather flimsy saucer-shaped structure of twigs and grass coated exteriorly with cobweb, without lining, wedged or welded into the fork of a horizontal branch up to 18 metres above the ground, usually at more moderate heights; it is decidedly small for the size of the bird, about 13 cm in diameter and 3 cm deep. The normal clutch appears to be three in the Peninsula and two in Bengal. Ground colour yellowish buff — sometimes pale green — blotched with chocolate-brown markings distributed evenly over the surface. Average size of 22 eggs 31×22.4 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Adult male has dark ear-coverts and black lores; throat and breast uniform grey, abdomen and flanks barred; centre of abdomen, vent and under tail-coverts white. In adult female lores dark coloured same as ear-coverts; throat, breast, abdomen and flanks barred, the barring usually extending further down than in the male, sometimes almost absorbing the white area.

First-year male and female after the postjuvinal moult alike and similar to adult female. He may however be distinguished from her by two points: (1) the primary coverts are more or less uniform in colour with a white edge running round the whole of the tip. In adults (both sexes) these coverts are blackish with marked grey edges and a white edge only on the outer side of the tip; (2) the outer tail-feather on each side is narrow and pointed, being of course retained from the juvenal plumage.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	153-173	27-31	24-27	111-134 mm
♀♀	156-167	26-30	23-27	108-135 mm

Tail tends to be shorter in S. Indian birds: Kerala ♂♂ 111-119, ♀♀ 108-119 mm.
(SA, HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Adult. Iris reddish or orange-brown. Bill, legs and feet brownish or slaty brown. Juvenile. Iris brown. Bill slate, paler at base of lower mandible. Legs and feet bluish slate.

1073. **Himalayan Large Cuckoo-Shrike.** *Coracina novaehollandiae nipalensis* (Hodgson)

Graucalus Nipalensis Hodgson, 1836, Ind. Rev., 1(8): 327 (Nepal)

Coracina javensis lushaiensis Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 15 (Sangau, Lushai Hills [= Mizo])

Baker, FBI No. 759, Vol. 2: 344

Vol. 5, plate 61

LOCAL NAME. *Talling-pho* (Lepcha).

SIZE. Pigeon —; length 30 cm (12 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Like *macei* (1072) but larger; in addition, the adult female and the first-year male and female have the chin, throat and breast grey, followed by a certain amount of barring on the belly; the adult male is without any barring.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, nomadic, and apparently seasonal local migrant. The Himalayas from Rawalpindi (up to c. 1000 m) in West Pakistan east to Nepal, Sikkim, Assam, and East Pakistan to the Chittagong region; from the plains normally to 1800 m. In Nepal it ascends the hills up to 2400 m in summer, and is found up to 1800 m in winter, occasionally to 2400 m (Proud). Affects different types of forest. Generally keeps to openly wooded country but frequents also scrub jungle, and in Assam scanty scrub on the Brahmaputra *churs*. There is a withdrawal from the higher levels in winter.

Extralimital. Other races in southern China and south across Malaysia to Australia.

BREEDING. *Season*, April to June. *Nest* and *eggs* as in *macei*, the latter averaging 33.6 × 23.4 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *macei* (1072) in being larger. Adult female and first-year birds (both sexes) have the throat and breast grey, followed by a certain amount of barring; they are practically identical with the adult male of the nominate form though the amount of barring is somewhat less. Adult male uniform grey from throat to the white ventral patch, without any barring.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail
♂♂	175-193	30-34	126-148 mm
♀♀	173-188	30-32	126-143 mm



PLATE 65

1. *Schoenicola platyura*, Broadtailed Grass Warbler (1546). 2. *Pericrocotus f. flammeus*, Orange Minivet (1081). ♀ above. 3. *Prinia s. socialis*, Ashy Wren-Warbler (1517). 4. *Cisticola j. salimalii*, Streaked Fantail Warbler (1499). 5. *Tephrodornis g. sylvicola*, Large Wood Shrike (1068). 6. *Hemipus p. picatus*, Pied Flycatcher-Shrike (1065).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brownish red. Bill, legs, feet and claws black; soles grey or yellowish grey (Biswas).

1074. **Ceylon Large Cuckoo-Shrike.** *Coracina novaehollandiae layardi* (Blyth)

Graucalus layardi Blyth, 1866, Ibis: 368 (southern India and Ceylon; restricted by Ripley to Ceylon)
Baker, FBI No. 760, Vol. 2: 345

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Myna $\pm$; length c. 27 cm (10½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As of 1072, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. A rather scarce but widely distributed resident in Ceylon. Affects well-wooded country in the drier parts and natural openings in forest, ascending the hills to c. 900 m.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in *macei* (1072).

BREEDING. Season, March to June (Phillips); July and August (Wait). Nest as in *macei*. Eggs 2, average size c. 31 × 22·3 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Separated from *macei* on its small size. There is no difference in plumage.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
4 ♂♂	145-151	27-30	—	104-111 mm
2 ♀♀	140, 154	27, 30	22, 24	108, 109 mm (HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in *macei*.

1075. **Andaman Large Cuckoo-Shrike.** *Coracina novaehollandiae andamana* (Neumann)

Graucalus macei andamanus Neumann, 1915, Orn. Monatsb., 23: 181
(Andaman Islands)

Graucalus javensis andamanensis Whistler, 1940, Ibis: 731 (S. Andamans)
Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Pigeon —; length c. 28 cm (11 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As of 1072, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident and fairly common in the Andaman Islands. Open country (clearings and cultivation), scrub and light forest. 'Does not occur in the Nicobars' (Abdulali, 1964, JBNHS 61: 556).

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. Similar to those of *macei*, but 'Unlike *C. s. dobsoni* [1076] not found in thick forest, keeping to gardens, clearings, or trees standing in the open' (A. L. Butler, 1899, JBNHS 12: 395).

through Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra as far south as Mysore (Londa, c. 15°30'N.). Affects open forest, riverine bamboo jungle, pine forest, oak and chestnut woods, abandoned land, and groves.

Extralimital. Central and eastern China, Formosa and Indochinese subregion.

GENERAL HABITS. Arboreal. For the most part keeps well up in trees although it might be seen working through rough undergrowth. Once observed hopping about on the ground under tea bushes. Normally singly or in pairs, often associating with drongos and minivets in the itinerant hunting bands. Their general actions and behaviour — hopping and volplaning from branch to branch, upright stance when perched, and fluttering or hovering in front of leaf-sprigs to take insects — are all strongly reminiscent of the minivets and wood shrikes.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A descending three- or four-note song *do-la-fa* (Fleming) syllabled as *pity-to-be* or *tweet-tweet-tweeor*, fairly loud but rather monotonous and plaintive, uttered from a branch or in flight. Song period in Nepal, beginning of March till end of September (Proud).

BREEDING. *Season*, chiefly May to June. *Nest*, a shallow cup of pliant twigs, roots and fibres matted together with cobwebs, draped on the outside with lichens and bits of bark. Jones describes it as an extraordinary structure made almost entirely of caterpillars' web with their droppings still adhering to the exterior, while Osmaston describes a nest as a flimsy structure composed almost entirely of the dead deciduous shoots of *Phyllanthus* woven with cobwebs and decorated with lichen. It is fixed on or in the fork of a branch from three to eight metres above the ground. *Eggs*, usually 3, sometimes 2, rarely 4, pale olive-grey longitudinally blotched all over with pale brown. Average size of 30 eggs 24.3 × 17.4 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	118-128	19-23	21-24	111-123 mm (once 95, once 96)
♀♀	114-124	19-22	21-24	109-120 mm (SA, BB, SDR)

The sexes do not differ in size significantly.

Weight 4 ♂♀ 35-42 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris reddish brown. Bill, legs, feet and claws black; soles dirty white, sometimes with a yellowish tinge (Biswas).

CORACINA MELANOPTERA (Rüppell)

Key to the Subspecies

Darker and larger, wing ♂ 107 mm or over.....*C. m. melanoptera*

Paler and smaller, wing ♂ 106 mm or under.....*C. m. sykesi*

1078. **Himalayan Blackheaded Cuckoo-Shrike.** *Coracina melanoptera melanoptera* (Rüppell)

Cebblepyris melanoptera Rüppell, 1839, Mus. Senckenbergianum, 3: 25, pl. 2, Fig. 1
(Neu Holland, *errore*, Bhadwar, Punjab)

Lalage sykesi eximia Van Tyne & Koelz, 1936, Occ. Papers Mus. Zool., Univ. Michigan, No. 334: 4 (Bhadwar, Kangra District, Punjab, British India)
Baker, FBI No. 756, Vol. 2: 340

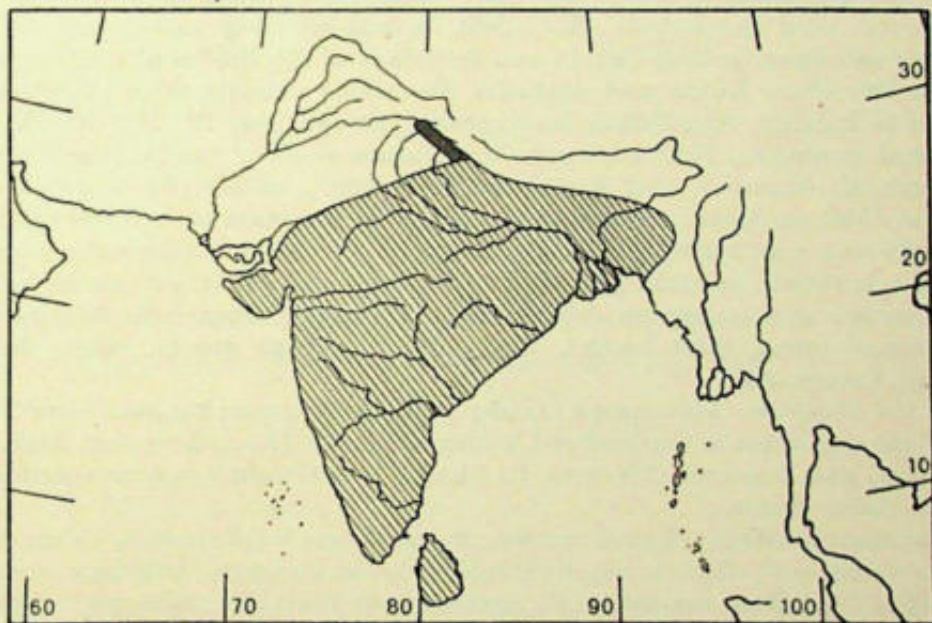
LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Bulbul; length c. 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As of 1079, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident and local migrant; from Hoshiarpur and Kangra districts — possibly also adjoining submontane districts of W. Pakistan Punjab — (April to September) east to the Himalayan districts of U.P., up to c. 1000 m in the foothills. Winters in the adjacent

Coracina melanoptera



Distributional ranges

■ *melanoptera* (1078).

▨ *sykesi* (1079).

plains (exact localities not recorded). Affects open deciduous forest and scrub jungle.

Extralimital. Replaced by *sykesi* in peninsular India and Ceylon.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As of 1079.

BREEDING. Season, presumably July and August, but nesting unrecorded.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *sykesi* in being larger and darker on the back and upper tail-coverts, lower breast and belly.

MEASUREMENTS. Wing ♂♂ 107–112 mm; tail 85–92 mm (Koelz).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Not recorded.

1079. **Peninsular Blackheaded Cuckoo-Shrike.** *Coracina melanoptera sykesi* (Strickland)

Lalage sykesi Strickland, 1844, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., 13: 36 (Calcutta, *vide* Baker = Dukhun, Sykes, 1832, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, pt. 2: 77, 87)

Baker, FBI No. 756, Vol. 2: 340

Vol. 5, plate 60

LOCAL NAMES. *Jungli kāsya* (Hindi); *Chhota bahrām* (Saugar dist., M.P.); *Chinna akurayi* (Telugu); *Kālā mātāhāno kāsio* (Gujarati); *Karintoppi* (Malayalam).

SIZE. Bulbul $\pm$; length c. 19 cm ($7\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male, light grey with black head, wings and tail, the latter conspicuously white-tipped on all but the middle pair of rectrices; abdomen and vent white.

Female and young (immature) browner, with no black on head, the underparts buff-white, barred with dark brown except on the abdomen, vent and under tail-coverts.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to considerable seasonal local movements. But silent in non-breeding season and then liable to be overlooked. Ceylon and the whole of the Indian peninsula east of a line from Kutch and northern Saurashtra roughly through Mount Abu to Barcilly. Nepal duns (one record, Hitaura May 21, Biswas), West Bengal (monsoon, June to September), Assam south of the Brahmaputra, Nagaland, Manipur, and East Pakistan (winter), in the plains and hills up to 1500 m. A rare resident in the Nilgiri Hills, found up to 2100 m but chiefly as a winter visitor (October to April). In Ceylon locally distributed in the lowlands, ascending to 1650 m on the eastern side but less high in the wetter western aspect. Affects secondary jungle, open light deciduous or mixed forest, thick hedges, fruit gardens, mango groves, young date scrub, mangroves.

Local Migration. Movements unclear. A marked passage has been recorded in June and again in September-October at Dhulia (Khandesh dist., Maharashtra) and Belgaum (Mysore). In Mysore and Kerala it is most common as a winter visitor.

GENERAL HABITS. Found singly, in pairs or small parties, often in association with the roving hunting flocks of tree-pies, babblers, wood shrikes, Grey Tits, minivets, etc. According to Wait the males are solitary out of the breeding season, the females and the young associating in small troops. The birds fly from bush to bush or tree, searching methodically the leaves and twigs as they proceed from branch to branch. They prefer tall trees and only occasionally do they descend to the ground in search of insects, progressing by long hops like a thrush.

Display. As the breeding season approaches, the male seems to become exceedingly vociferous and quarrelsome, darting repeatedly at his mate with outspread wings and tail and uttering all the while a sharply repeated chattering cry (E. H. N. Gill).

FOOD. Mostly insects; also berries (*Lantana*, *Ficus* figs, etc.).

VOICE and CALLS. The song consists of some clear mellow whistling notes followed by a quick-repeated *pit-pit-pit*, heard only during the hot weather and rains. Also rendered as *twit wit wēē twy twy twy twy* and *wit wit wheet*

wheet wheet wheet (Henry). The female has a monosyllabic chirp. One call is also described as 'a lazy buzzing snarl' (Nichols).

BREEDING. *Season*, chiefly March to May in Ceylon, April-May in the southern Peninsula, June to August in the Deccan, and June to September in the northern parts of its range. *Nest*, a shallow saucer c. 8 cm in diameter, made of dry grasses, lightly bound with cobweb, forming a compact and firm structure, but lacking the finish of the nests of minivets and wood shrikes, and devoid of any lining. Very small for the size of the bird and difficult to find; placed in the fork or on a bare branch of a large tree from two to eight metres above the ground. *Eggs*, 2 in Ceylon, and 3, sometimes 2 in the Peninsula; greenish white thickly blotched and streaked throughout with shades of pale brown, particularly towards the large end. Average size of 50 eggs 22.4×16.2 mm (Baker). The male shares incubation.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *melanoptera* in being smaller and paler on the back and upper tail-coverts, lower breast and belly.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♂	98-110	18-20	19-22	72-84 mm (once 94)
♀ ♀	98-104	17-20	20-22	71-80 mm (SA, HW, BB)

Weight 19 ♂ ♀ 24-36 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill, legs and feet horn brown.

1079a. **Nicobar Pied Cuckoo-Shrike.** *Coracina nigra davisoni* (Kloss)

Lalage nigra davisoni Kloss, 1926, Jour. Malay Branch Roy. Asiat. Soc., 4: 159
(Nicobar Islands)

Baker, FBI No. 757, Vol. 2: 341

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Bulbul $\pm$; length c. 18 cm (7 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male. *Above*, forehead and superciliaries white; crown and mantle glossy black; back and rump pale grey; tail black with white tips; wings black and white. *Below*, white; breast washed with grey.

Female brown above; dirty white lightly barred with black below.

Young (immature) brownish, mottled above and streaked below.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident; Nicobar Islands (Trinkat, Camorta). Not yet recorded from Car Nicobar or Little and Great Nicobar. Affects forest edges and secondary growth.

Extralimital. Other races in the Malay Peninsula and the islands of Malaysia to Celebes and the Philippines.

GENERAL HABITS. Found in pairs or small parties in low scrubby undergrowth, feeding close to the ground.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Unrecorded.

BREEDING. *Season?* Eggs have been found in May. *Nest*, described as a slight structure of fine sticks fastened to a small branch with cobwebs, and

covered with lichen externally; taken in very dense forest. *Eggs* 2, similar to those of 1079 but rather brown. Two eggs measure 21.8×16 and 22.1×15 mm.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species; for details of plumage Baker, loc. cit.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
3 ♂♂	88-92	18-19	19-21	65-72 mm
2 ♀♀	88, 89	18, 19	20, 22	69, 73 mm (Grubh)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown or reddish brown. Bill, legs and feet black.

Genus PERICROCOTUS Boie

Pericrocotus Boie, 1826, Isis, col. 972. Type, by monotypy, *Muscicapa miniata* Temminck

Genus remarkable for its brilliant coloration in which reds and yellows predominate. Bill about half length of head, strong, hooked and notched. Nostrils concealed by plumes. Wing long and pointed; tail long and steeply graduated. Feet weak.

Key to the Species

	Page
I Tail black and red; upper tail-coverts red	
A Crown and back glossy black	
a Innermost secondaries with oval red drops..... <i>P. flammeus</i> ♂	25
b Innermost secondaries with no oval red drops	
1 Red of wing-patch extending down along outer webs of secondaries..... <i>P. ethologus</i> ♂	32
2 Red of wing-patch not extending down along outer webs of secondaries..... <i>P. brevirostris</i> ♂	30
B Crown and back ashy or grey, never black	
c Wing over 80 mm	
3 Lower plumage bright scarlet..... <i>P. solaris</i> ♂	36
4 Lower plumage rosy red..... <i>P. roseus</i> ♂	37
d Wing under 75 mm	
5 Throat grey to black; breast scarlet..... <i>P. cinnamomeus</i> ♂	40
6 Lower plumage all pale yellow..... <i>P. cinnamomeus</i> ♀	40
II Tail black and yellow; upper tail-coverts yellow	
C Innermost secondaries with oval yellow spots..... <i>P. flammeus</i> ♀	25
D Innermost secondaries with no oval yellow spots	
e Upper and lower back not concolorous..... <i>P. solaris</i> ♀	36
f Upper and lower back concolorous	
7 Rump and upper tail-coverts all deep yellow	
i Yellow of forehead extending on crown to level of eye.... <i>P. brevirostris</i> ♀	30
ii Yellow of forehead not extending on crown..... <i>P. ethologus</i> ♀	32
8 Rump and upper tail-coverts margined with yellow.. <i>P. roseus</i> ♀	37

III Tail black and white; upper tail-coverts grey, brown or black	
E Rump red, or white marked with red	
g Dark parts of upper plumage glossy black.....	<i>P. erythropygus</i> ♂ 45
h Dark parts of upper plumage smoky brown.....	<i>P. erythropygus</i> ♀ 45
F Rump with no trace of red.....	<i>P. divaricatus</i> 39

PERICROCOTUS FLAMMEUS (Forster)

Key to the Subspecies

Males

A Underparts deep scarlet	
a First two primaries with no red on the outer webs	
1 Larger, wing 96 mm or over.....	<i>P. f. speciosus</i> 25
2 Smaller, wing c. 90 to 98 mm.....	<i>P. f. fraterculus</i> 28
b First three primaries with no red on the outer webs; bases of rectrices with a considerable amount of black.....	<i>P. f. andamanensis</i> 27
B Underparts more orange, less scarlet.....	<i>P. f. flammeus</i> 27
3 Size as 1; more red in tail.....	<i>P. f. semiruber</i> 29

1080. North Indian Scarlet Minivet. *Pericrocotus flammeus speciosus* (Latham)

Turdus speciosus Latham, 1790, Index Orn., 1: 363

(India, restricted to Darjeeling by Baker)

Phaenicornis elegans Horsfield, 1840, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 156-7 (Assam; type locality restricted by Deignan, 1946, to the neighbourhood of Sadiya, north-eastern Assam)

Cf. Deignan, H. G., 1946, Auk, 63: 512-33.

Baker, FBI No. 733, Vol. 2: 319

Plate 66, fig. 8, facing p. 48

LOCAL NAMES. *Pāhāri būlālchāshu* (Hindi); *Sāhēli* (Himalaya); *Sāyāli* (Bengali); *Rājālāl*, *Rāni chārā* (Nepali).

SIZE. Bulbul +; length c. 23 cm (9 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A slim glossy black and deep scarlet bird.



x c. 1

Male. *Above*, head, neck and upper back glossy blue-black; lower back and rump deep scarlet; wings and graduated tail particoloured black and scarlet. *Below*, throat black, rest of underparts bright scarlet.

Female. Forehead and short supercilium bright yellow; rest of upperparts yellowish grey; wings and tail as in male,

with scarlet replaced by yellow; underparts bright yellow.

The male differs from *ethologus* and *brevirostris* by its larger size and the greater amount of red on tail as seen from above; the female by its larger size and the brighter yellow of the underparts.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, moving to lower altitudes and extending into the plains in winter. The Himalayas from Murree

and spiders and also makes short aerial sallies in pursuit of winged prey. Flight direct, with the graduated tail frequently spread, the flock flitting from tree to tree in follow-my-leader style.

Display. A display flight has been recorded in which the male — or both sexes — soars up with outspread wings, then spirals down, wings still outstretched, and alights on the top of a tree, the performance being repeated.

FOOD. Caterpillars, green crickets, cicadas and other insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A sweet-toned clear double whistle *treee-treee* repeated every 2 or 3 seconds. Also *treeetywee-treeetywee-tywee*, similar to that of *Hemipus* but somewhat irregular and readily distinguishable from the latter. The song is merely a more elaborate version of the same sounds, a shrill pleasant warble not often heard.

BREEDING. *Season*, in Ceylon mainly February-May, with a second brood in August-September; an occasional occupied nest may be found in other months (Henry); in Kerala nests are found in February and from June to September, therefore presumably having two broods; in Mysore from June to September, and in Maharashtra July-August. *Nest*, a neat small cup of lichens bound together with cobwebs, plastered with flakes of bark and spiders' egg-cases, and lined with mid-ribs of dry leaves harmonizing perfectly with the supporting branch; usually at a considerable height — 6 to 18 metres from the ground. Favourite sites are a tree growing on the edge of jungle or tall trees in tea plantations. *Eggs*, 2 or 3, pale blue-green, freckled with pale yellowish brown, lavender and grey; they measure about 23 × 17 mm. Incubation by female only, feeding of young by both sexes. When nest-young in danger from predator, e.g. tree pie, both parents observed fluttering frantically from branch to branch, screeching piteously as if wounded. The male with fluffed plumage even fell fluttering to the ground to heighten the effect.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Underparts in male more orange than scarlet; the first three primaries lack the red spot, and the central rectrices are wholly black; in the female the first three primaries lack the yellow spot.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	87-97	17-20	16-17	82-101 mm
♀♀	87-96	16-19	16-17	86-96 mm (SA, HW)

Weight 3 ♂♂ 25-27; 1 ♀ 25 g (Rensch, SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill black; mouth pink, yellowish pink or brown and greyish pink. Legs, feet and claws black; soles yellowish.

1082. **Burmese Scarlet Minivet.** *Pericrocotus flammeus fraterculus* Swinhoe

Pericrocotus fraterculus Swinhoe, 1870, Ibis: 244 (Hainan)

Pericrocotus speciosus bakeri La Touche, 1922, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl., 42: 54

(Southeast Yunnan)

Baker, FBI No. 734, Vol. 2: 320

LOCAL NAMES. *Dao ribi gadeba* (Cachari); *Ingorui* (Kacha Naga); *Vohshenér* (Mikir); *Sōna pākhi* (Comilla, E. Pakistan).

SIZE. Bulbul; length *c.* 22 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As of 1080, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. Garo, Khasi, Cachar and Naga hills of Assam, Manipur (?) and south to the East Pakistan hills, from plains level to *c.* 1800 m. Affects open deciduous and evergreen forest.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in *flammeus*. In courtship, described by McCann (JBNHS 34: 1061-2), a female flew up from branch high into the air accompanied by a feeble whistle. The male pursued and seized her tail-tip in his bill, both birds then spiralling down through space thus — 'like a plane "spinning"'. Male released female before returning to the same perch. These antics were soon repeated.

BREEDING. April to June. Breeding biology as in the nominate race. Egg measurements: 23 × 14.3 to 23 × 15.8 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies. In the adult male, the first two primaries lack the red spot and the central rectrices are wholly black; in the female the first three rectrices lack the yellow spot.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	90-97	13-14	<i>c.</i> 18	78-81 mm (Baker)

Wing ♂♂ 96-103; ♀♀ 93-101 mm (Deignan).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in *flammeus*.

1083. **East Indian Scarlet Minivet.** *Pericrocotus flammeus semiruber*
Whistler & Kinnear

Pericrocotus speciosus semiruber Whistler & Kinnear, 1933, Jour. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.,
36: 340 (Sankrametta, Vizagapatam)

LOCAL NAME. *Sāyāli* (Bengali).

SIZE. Bulbul; length *c.* 22 cm (8½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As of 1080, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. From western Madhya Pradesh (Betul) to Orissa, southern Bihar and West Bengal, and northern Andhra. Affects moist-deciduous and evergreen forest of the hill tracts.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in *flammeus*. The males are said to have a 'superb courtship flight above the tree-tops in April and May'.

BREEDING. *Season*, presumably May and June as sexual display was observed during the latter end of April in the Visakhapatnam and Betul districts. Nesting as in *flammeus*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *speciosus* in the greater amount of red in the tail. First two primaries unspotted in the male, first three (usually) in the female. The red on the central pair of rectrices usually occupies the terminal two-thirds of the outer webs. *P. f. fraterculus* has the central rectrices wholly black and is slightly smaller.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	100-106	20-21	18-19	94-102 mm
♀♀	96-102	19-20	18	92-101 mm (HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in *flammeus*.

1084. **Shortbilled Minivet.** *Pericrocotus brevirostris brevirostris* (Vigors)

Muscipeta brevirostris Vigors, 1830, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 43 (Himalayas = Sikkim foothills, *vide* Mayr, 1940)

Phaenicornis affinis McClelland, 1840 (1839), Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 157 (Sadiya, Assam)

Pericrocotus brevirostris sanguineus Koelz, 1952, Jour. Zool. Soc. India 4: 42 (Shillong Peak, Khasia Hills)

Baker, FBI No. 739, Vol. 2: 324

Vol. 5, plate 57

LOCAL NAMES. *Lāli rāja sorāi* (Assam); *Dao ribi kashiba* (Cachari).

SIZE. Bulbul —; length c. 17 cm (7 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male, a black and scarlet bird with a broad scarlet band running through the black wing, black throat, a black and scarlet steeply graduated tail, and a scarlet rump. Very similar to *ethologus* and difficult to distinguish from it in the field; in the latter the red extends down along the outer webs of the secondaries, forming a rough, inverted U on the wing.

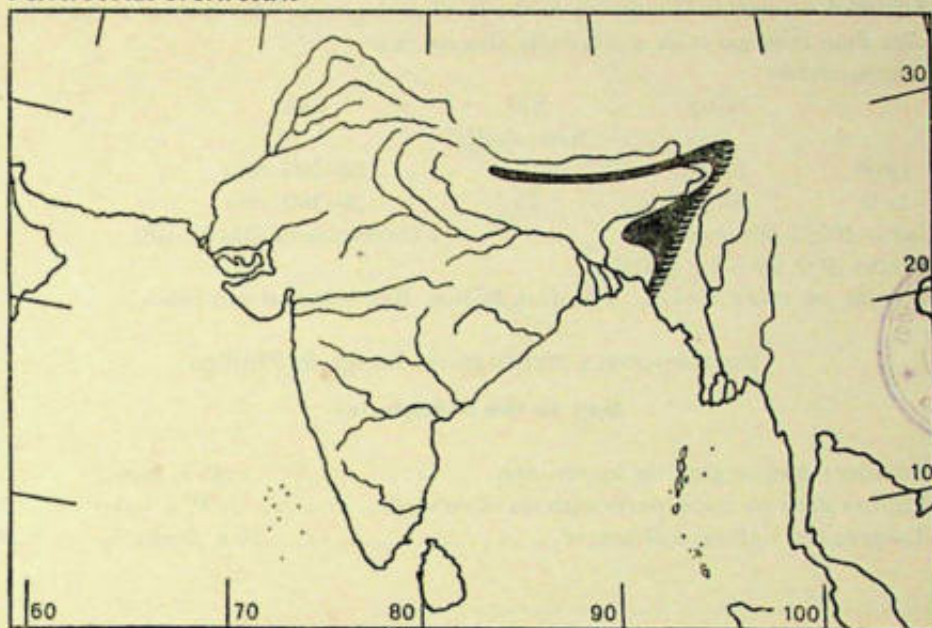
Female has a grey back, yellow throat, and all the red parts of male replaced by yellow.

Young (first-year) male resembles female. Wing pattern of females is practically similar.

P. brevirostris may be distinguished by the more extensive yellow of the forehead (extending to the top of head) and on the sides of neck. Voice is probably different but comparative data are wanting. The slightly larger species *flammeus* is distinguished by the red spots on the secondaries (yellow in the female) separated from the larger wing-patch by a black band. Male of *solaris* has a dark grey, not black throat; female has a whitish throat contrasting with the remaining yellow underparts. *P. cinnamomeus* is smaller, has grey head, back and throat and yellow-orange belly; the female has the underparts whitish and an orange-red rump. *P. roseus* has grey upperparts and rosy red underparts. Except for the latter two species, shades of red in minivets cannot be appraised in the field.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to vertical movements; much less common than *P. ethologus*, at least in the Himalayas. From west central Nepal (two records) to Sikkim, Bhutan, NEFA, Assam south to the Mizo Hills, Nagaland, Manipur and the hills of East Pakistan; from c. 1800 to 2400 m descending to the foothills in winter. Affects open deciduous forest, edges of evergreen, and secondary growth near cultivation.

Pericrocotus brevirostris



■ Breeding range

P. b. brevirostris (1084).

Extralimital. Extends to western Burma and western Yunnan. The species ranges to Kwangtung and North Vietnam.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. Similar to those of *ethologus*, q.v.

VOICE and CALLS. The following notes are described by Lister (JBNHS 52: 47) for *brevirostris*, but identity not absolutely certain. A shrill persistent *tiwiwiwi* (first note lower) given by both sexes when perched or in flight. A churring *shrrri . . . shrrrei* (rising) . . . *tiwiwiwi* (last note lower) . . . A loud *shi-chiwit-chiwit-chewau* (high-rising-low) with variations given by a female. *Twee-twi-twi* — *switiswee* (high-low-low-rising) with variations given by male when flying round; also a more complicated song too involved and too rapid to record phonetically; the basis is a loud *switi* (pitched fairly high) with many variations and often run together to form phrases. Also recorded: a highpitched *se-sei* while foraging, a soft *wi . . wi* given by both sexes, and calls in flight rendered as *se-wa-wa-wui* and *whi-whi-whi-si-wee*. A comparative study of the vocalizations of *P. brevirostris* and its 'double', *P. ethologus*, seems desirable.

BREEDING. Unknown.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Adult male. Generally a deeper more crimson-red underneath than *P. ethologus*. Gloss of upperparts more purplish. Black of throat deeper, more glossy and extending farther down the throat. First primary all black. Distinguished from it mainly by the black secondaries, without a red margin. The central rectrices are narrowly margined with red on the outer webs. In the next pair, the red stretches not only on the outer web right up to the tip, but also over much of the inner web, so that the tip is wholly red with a black wedge-shaped zone from the base towards the edge ending about 25 mm before the tip.

In the female the throat is yellow, concolorous with the underparts; the yellow on forehead extends to the crown to the level of the eyes. This species is also a little smaller than *ethologus* with a relatively shorter tail.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail
♂♂	85-91	15	88-103 mm
♀♀	85-90	15	90-100 mm
Tail c. 105% of wing.			(Stresemann, Mayr, BB)
Weight ♂♀ 16-17 g (SDR).			

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill, legs and feet black.

PERICROCOTUS ETHOLOGUS Bangs & Phillips

Key to the Subspecies

		Page
A	Smaller; deeper grey on upperparts.....	<i>P. e. mariae</i> 35
B	Lighter grey on upperparts with an olive wash.....	<i>P. e. laetus</i> 34
C	Larger; red lighter, tail longer.....	<i>P. e. favillaceus</i> 32

1085. **West Himalayan Longtailed Minivet.** *Pericrocotus ethologus*
favillaceus Bangs & Phillips

Pericrocotus brevirostris flavillaceus [sic] Bangs & Phillips, 1914, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., Harvard Univ. 58: 293 (Koolloo Valley, northern India)
Baker, FBI No. 738, Vol. 2: 323

LOCAL NAMES. *Wozul mini* (Kashmiri); *Chhōta pāhāri būlālchāshū* (Hindi); *Rājālāl* (♂), *Rāni chārā* (♀) (Paharia).

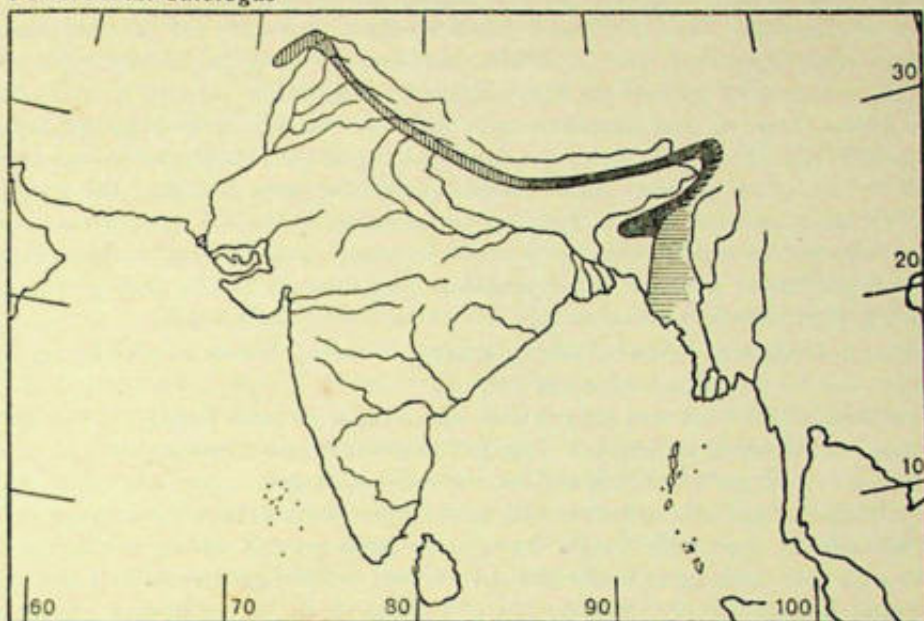
SIZE. Bulbul —; length c. 18 cm (7 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male, a slim glossy black and deep scarlet bird with a large scarlet patch on the black wing, black throat and a black-and-scarlet graduated tail.

Female has a yellow throat and all the red parts of the male replaced by yellow. For distinction between this species and *P. brevirostris* as well as other members of the genus, see 1084 (under Field Characters).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Mostly a summer visitor (March to October) along the Himalayas from the Safed Koh (Whitehead, *Ibis* 1909: 30), Chitral and the Kaisargarh Range [Stockley, JBNHS 34: 575; Christison, *ibid.* 43: 487 (recorded as '*speciosus*' or '*brevirostris*')] east through Gilgit, Kashmir to central Nepal where it intergrades with *laetus* (Biswas, JBNHS 58: 457). Breeds from c. 1200 to 3000 m; in east Nepal from 1500-3400 m (Diesselhorst). Birds recorded as high as 3900 m in northwestern Nepal (Lowndes); optimum zone 1800-2400 m. Winters (October to March) in the foothills, usually below 1000 m (up to 1500 m in Kathmandu Valley) and in the plains from Peshawar, the Salt Range and Bahawalpur east through Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh south to Betul, Seoni and Jabalpur. Straggles south to Sind (Malir near Karachi), Baluchistan (Sibi), Jodhpur, Mount Abu, Maharashtra (Sangola), Gujarat

Pericrocotus ethologus



Distributional ranges

▨ favillaceus (1085). ■ latus (1086). ▨ mariae (1087).

(Decsa). Affects open forest (mainly pine forest in the western parts of its range) and trees bordering cultivated areas; in the plains in winter visits wooded compounds, mango groves, forest and tamarisk jungle.

Extralimital. A summer visitor to Nuristan (Afghanistan).

MIGRATION. No ringing data. Arrives in its breeding grounds at the end of March or early in April; after the breeding season, flocking starts in July and a leisurely descent takes place from August to November. Usually the foothills are reached by September and the plains by November though a few may come as early as September in the more northern plains. Some are found however in the hills up to 2000 m during the winter.

GENERAL HABITS. Highly gregarious except when breeding, parties of 20 to 40 or more individuals being met with as they fly from tree-top to tree-top. One of the conspicuous birds of the Himalayas. Strictly arboreal; flits from sprig to sprig, sometimes hovers in front of a flower and occasionally hawks insects in the air; seldom if ever descends to bushes. Sits upright while at rest.

FOOD. Ascertained food consists of spiders, orthoptera, hymenoptera, beetles, diptera and various larvae as well as buds of acacias and fruits.

VOICE and CALLS. Notes recorded with certainty for this species are a finch-like *djib-djib* (Schäfer), also rendered as a mellow, interrogative *weet-tweet?* (SA). Other calls recorded as *tig-tig-per-wa-lee* (Fleming), *swiswit-swititit* and *swisweet-sweet-sweet* (Magrath) and a tit-like chatter when travelling along the tree-tops. Also a frequent 3-syllabled call well rendered by the word *minivet* (Diesselhorst). See also 1084.

BREEDING. Season, April (once in March) to June. *Nest*, a beautiful cup of grass bents, fine twigs or rootlets, thickly coated on the outside with

cobweb and lichen. There is no real lining but occasionally a few feathers, down or hair are found. Placed towards the extremity of a horizontal branch high up in tall trees, usually between 15 and 24 metres from the ground, sometimes as low as 5 m. Eggs, 3 or 4, white usually tinged with pale green, spotted and blotched with light brown to blackish brown, with secondary marks of pale lavender and inky grey. Average size of 15 eggs 19.8×15.1 mm (Baker). Both parents build the nest and feed the young. One brood is reared. While their nest was being examined, the birds have been observed to 'turn their tail inward between their legs, spread out their wings, and flutter down from a neighbouring tree on to the ground just as a young bird which could scarcely fly would do' (Dodsworth).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Male (adult) similar to *laetus*; however differences are bridged over by individual variation (Mayr).

Female (adult) back very greyish with only a slight greenish tinge; a fair amount of yellow on forehead; underparts variable but generally pale lemon-yellow.

Young, upperparts, median and lesser coverts dark grey, rump and upper tail-coverts yellowish and all except last with subterminal blackish bars and narrow white tips; ear-coverts grey with darker bars; underparts greyish white, suffused with yellow and with dark bars; under tail-coverts pale yellow; greater coverts and tertials yellowish white at tip; rest of wing and tail as in adult. Postjuvénal moult includes body, all wing-coverts except primaries, and tertials. First-year males resemble females.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail
♂♂	89-96	14	104-114 mm
♀♀	86-94	14-15	101-114 mm (Mayr, SA)

Tail c. 114% of wing.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1086.

1086. East Himalayan Longtailed Minivet. *Pericrocotus ethologus laetus* Mayr

Pericrocotus ethologus laetus Mayr, 1940, Ibis: 717 (Jeyluck, Sikkim)
Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Bulbul —; length c. 18 cm (7 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1085, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to vertical movements. The Himalayas from central Nepal east to Sikkim, Bhutan, NEFA, Assam in the Khasi Hills and East Pakistan in the northeastern hills. Ludlow's report of '*P. brevirostris affinis*' as frequent between 1500 and 3300 m in Bhutan (Ibis 1937: 283) as well as Stevens's records of '*affinis*' up to 3600 m in winter in Sikkim probably pertain to *P. ethologus*. This species breeds in a higher zone than *P. brevirostris* but previous records are mixed up. The breeding zone appears to be between c. 1500 and 3300 m (up to 3500 m in Tibet). Most birds descend to lower altitudes in winter, reaching

the foothills and extending into the plains as far as southeast Orissa (Russell-konda), West Bengal and the Brahmaputra valley. Affects open forest, deciduous or evergreen.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1085.

BREEDING. As in 1085.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Male. Generally more orange or scarlet-red below than *P. brevirostris*. Gloss of upperparts more bluish or even greenish blue. Black of throat duller and more restricted to upper throat. Second innermost rectrix black except for a narrow red line along the outer web and an occasional small red spot on the inner web. Size generally larger; tail relatively longer. Distinguished from it mainly by the red margin on the secondaries; first primary with a whitish or pink margin along the outer web (all black in *brevirostris*). Female has a narrower yellow area on the forehead and a whitish or pale yellow upper throat.

Male (adult) is similar to that of *favillaceus*, but the red in general somewhat deeper; very slightly smaller, the tail somewhat shorter.

Female (adult), crown of a pure dark grey with very little yellow on forehead, back almost solid olive-green; feathers around the eye white or yellowish white; yellow of underparts richer, more cadmium yellow, but upper throat still distinctly paler than breast and abdomen; ear-coverts greyish.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail
♂♂	89-95	15-16	101-107 mm
♀♀	86-92	15-16	98-108 mm

(Mayr, Stresemann, BB)

Tail c. 113% of wing.

Weight 1 ♂ 18; 1 ♀ 18 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill, legs, feet and claws black.

1087. **Nagaland Longtailed Minivet.** *Pericrocotus ethologus mariae* Ripley

Pericrocotus ethologus mariae Ripley, 1952 (May 20), Jour. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 50: 486 (Phek, eastern Naga Hills)

Pericrocotus brevirostris aureus Koelz, 1952 (Sept.), Jour. Zool. Soc. India 4: 42 (Hmuntha, Lushai Hills)

Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAME. *Dao ribi kashiba* (Cachari).

SIZE. Bulbul —; length c. 18 cm (7 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1085, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident subject to vertical movements. Nagaland, Manipur, southern Assam in Cachar and Mizo Hills, and East Pakistan in the Chittagong Hill Tracts; up to at least 1800 m. Affects open forest, deciduous or evergreen.

Extralimital. The Chin Hills of Burma. The species ranges east to central Vietnam and north to Manchuria.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1085.

BREEDING. Unrecorded.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Compared to *laetus*, the adult female is deeper and more pure grey on the upperparts, lacking the olive-green wash; rump and upper

tail-coverts somewhat richer, more orange-yellow. Below there is a rich, strong orange-yellow wash particularly on the lower throat, breast and abdomen. Adult male slightly deeper red. For distinguishing from *P. brevirostris* see 1086.

MEASUREMENTS. Wing 1 ♂ 88, 2 ♀ 85, 86; tail ♂ 100, ♀ 104 mm.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1086.

1088. **Yellowthroated Minivet.** *Pericrocotus solaris solaris* Blyth

Pericrocotus solaris Blyth, 1846, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, 15: 310 (Darjeeling)

Baker, FBI No. 742, Vol. 2: 326

Vol. 5, plate 57

LOCAL NAMES. *Dao tisha raja gaherba*, *Dao ribi gaherba* (Cachari).

SIZE. Bulbul —; length c. 17 cm (7 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male. *Above*, crown and back dark slaty, not black; rump and upper tail-coverts deep scarlet; wings and tail black and red. *Below*, chin greyish white; throat orange-yellow; rest of lower plumage bright scarlet.

Female. *Above*, crown, neck and upper back ashy grey, changing to olive-green on lower back and to dark yellow on upper tail-coverts. Wing and tail as in male but red replaced by yellow. *Below*, chin greyish white, rest of underparts yellow.

The male of this race differs from other minivets by the whitish chin and orange-yellow wash on the throat; the female by the whitish chin and absence of yellow on the forehead.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to vertical movements. Nepal where it appears to be scarce [observations and specimens from Deorali (Biswas, JBNHS 58: 457) are the only post-Hodgsonian records], Sikkim common and recorded up to 3000 m, Bhutan, common from 1500 to 3000 m (Ludlow, *Ibis* 1937: 283), the hills of Jalpaiguri district (W. Bengal), Assam (Abor, Cachar, Khasi and Manipur hills) and the hills of East Pakistan, up to the highest peaks. An old Kashmir record is very doubtful (Hume, SF 11: 97). Affects open forest.

Extralimital. Ranges east to northern and western Burma. The species extends through the Indochinese subregion, south China, Sumatra, Borneo and Formosa.

GENERAL HABITS. Little known. Essentially a montane species; arboreal like other minivets but seems to keep in smaller flocks and frequents the tops of tall trees.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE. Unrecorded.

BREEDING. The only two nests recorded were found by Baker in June (the pairs form in April). *Nest*, a cup of twigs, roots and grass stems well interwoven and matted with cobweb, more or less covered with grey lichen, looking like an excrescence of the branch on which it is placed. *Eggs* 3, pale yellow-brown, marked with blotches of dark brown and purple-grey, or pale sea green flecked with tiny specks of pale reddish; size about 19 × 14 mm. Males also breed in subadult female plumage.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	78-90	14-16	15-17	83-102 mm (BB, SA)

Weight 2 ♂♂ 11, 17; 2 ♀♀ 12, 16 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris deep brown. Bill, legs and feet brownish black.

1089. **Rosy Minivet.** *Pericrocotus roseus roseus* (Vicillot)

Muscicapa rosea Vicillot, 1818, Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat., nouv. ed., 24: 486 (Bengal)

Baker, FBI No. 744, Vol. 2: 328

Vol. 5, plate 60

LOCAL NAME. *Dao ribi* (Cachari).

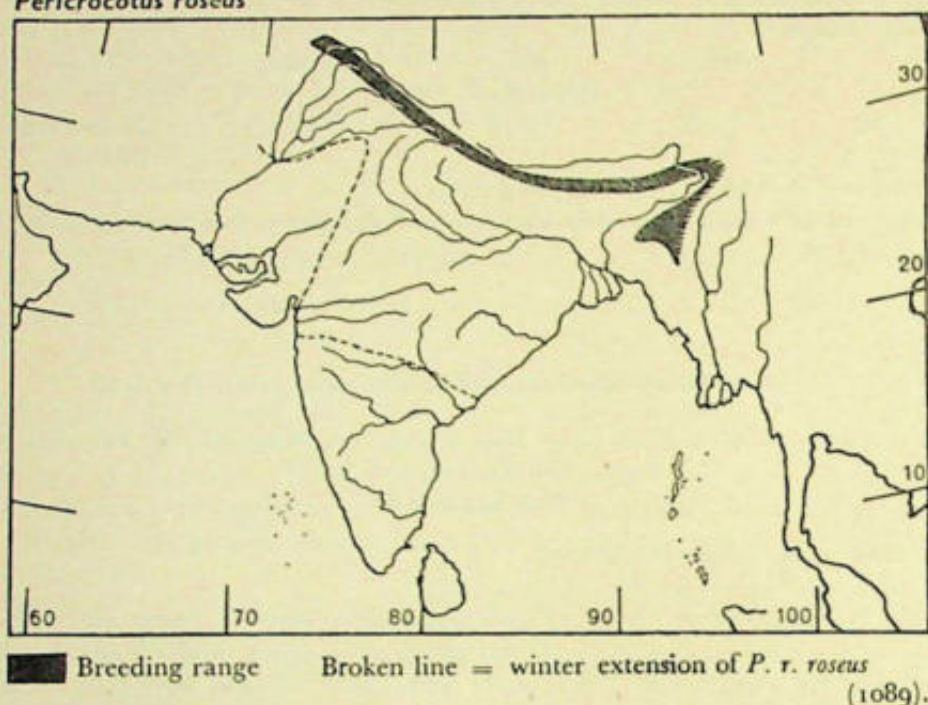
SIZE. Bulbul —; length c. 18 cm (7 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male, upperparts ashy brown; rump and upper tail-coverts rosy pink; wings and tail much as in other minivets but scarlet replaced by deep pink. Underparts from chin to vent rosy pink which distinguishes it from other species of the genus.

Female, like male but rosy and red parts replaced by pale yellow. Differs from other ♀ minivets in having an olive or olive-yellow, not bright yellow rump, but may be easily confused with immature ♀ Shortbilled Minivet (1084) on a casual sighting.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. A partial migrant. Breeding in the lower zone of the outer Himalayas from N.W.F.P. eastward, and through the hills of Assam and Manipur, from 600 to 1800 metres (down to plains level in Upper Assam). There are no records from Nepal since Hodgson's days, one winter record from the Sikkim terai and no records from Bhutan, but it is reported as a fairly common resident in the hills and duars of Jalpaiguri district (W. Bengal). Obtained at 1000 m in December in the Naga Hills (Ripley). All records from the eastern Himalayas are from April to October. Winters widely but sporadically over the Peninsula, recorded west to Sind (once) and south to Delhi (once), Andhra (Godavari Valley), Maharashtra (Bombay environs, Aurangabad dist., Nagpur) and Kerala (no recent records), and appears to be rare. Not uncommon in Orissa and eastern Madhya Pradesh (Bastar dist.). All records from the Peninsula are from winter months except in the Visakhapatnam Ghats whence there are some April data. La Personne found them uncommon at Sankrametta and obtained specimens on 4 April, while Whistler thought 'the breeding season was commencing, to judge by the organs of the specimens collected' (Sankrametta, 4 April).¹ Affects deciduous or evergreen forest; also lightly wooded country and gardens.

¹ Possibly belated migrants?

Pericrocotus roseus

Extralimital. Extends east through northern Burma and southern China to North Vietnam. *P. r. cantonensis* is found in China north of the range of *roseus*.

GENERAL HABITS. Little recorded. Gregarious after the breeding season and somewhat erratic in winter. Arboreal and rather more sluggish than other minivets, often sitting still on the tops of the trees.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A squeaky whistling *whiririri-whiririri-whiririri*, very similar to the calls of the Pied Flycatcher-Shrike (1065).

BREEDING. *Season*, principally May and June (c/3 near Mussooree on 9 April, Mackinnon). *Nest*, much as that of *brevirostris* (1084) — a deepish cup — perhaps not so profusely plastered exteriorly with cobwebs or decorated with lichen although some nests are lined inside as well as outside with lichen. Main materials are roots, long needle-like twigs and stems of grass. Generally placed on a moss- or lichen-covered branch, from 3 to 10 metres above the ground, usually at a fair height and in dense or open forest; rarely in clumps of trees in open country or in a garden. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, nearly white, pale clay or olive-stone marked with blotches of dark brown and lavender, often decidedly more numerous at the large end. Average size of 40 eggs 19.4×15.2 mm (Baker). Nest building chiefly by female, as in other minivets, but male accompanies her when gathering material and putting it together.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. Postjuvenile moult of body, lesser, median and most of the greater coverts and the tertials. First-year male like female but underparts have some pinkish feathers (perhaps not always).

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	87-94	15-17	15-16	87-94 mm
♀♀	90-94	15-17	15-16	89-91 mm (SA, HW)

Weight 2 ♂♂ 14, 18; 2 ♀♀ 18, 19 g (GD).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill, legs and feet black.

1089a. **Ashy Minivet.** *Pericrocotus divaricatus divaricatus* (Raffles)

Lanius divaricatus Raffles, 1822, Trans. Linn. Soc. London, 13: 305 (Singapore)

Baker, FBI No. 751, Vol. 2: 334 (= *cinereus*)

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Bulbul —; length c. 18 cm (7 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A slim grey and white minivet distinguished from all others in having no red in the plumage.

Male. *Above*, forehead white; posterior crown and nape black; back and rump grey; tail black with white outer rectrices. *Below*, including sides of neck, white. A white patch on wing visible in flight.

Female, similar to male, but upperparts entirely grey, no black on crown; forehead faintly whitish.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. An accidental winter vagrant recorded twice: near Port Blair, Andamans, 19 November 1897 (Butler, JBNHS 12: 394), and at Karnala, near Bombay, 31 January 1965 (Navarro, *ibid.* 62: 303). The latter, one of a pair, was collected in a rather thick patch of forest. Another pair was observed the same day.

Extralimital. Breeds in Amurland, Manchuria, Korea, central Japan and Formosa. Winters south to southern Tenasserim, Malaysia, Sumatra, Borneo and the Philippines.

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps in pairs or small flocks in association with other species. The Andaman bird was found in company with *P. flammeus*; the Bombay birds were in pairs in a mixed party of warblers and flycatchers and were moving in the light foliage canopy in forest about six metres from the ground.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Navarro describes their calls as resembling the harsh voice of a shrike rather than the melodious and pleasant trilling call of other minivets. According to Austin (*Birds of Korea*), the rattling but somewhat musical call easily distinguishes them. Calls uttered when perched or in flight.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species; for details of plumage Baker, *loc. cit.*

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	95-101	c. 16	c. 17	86-94 mm (Baker)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill and feet black.

PERICROCOTUS CINNAMOMEUS (Linnaeus)

Key to the Subspecies

	Page
A Throat dark grey or blackish grey; upperparts dark	
a Above more grey, less brownish grey; abdomen very white.....	41
..... <i>P. c. peregrinus</i>	
b Throat blacker; flame-orange on breast deeper; smaller.....	42
..... <i>P. c. cinnamomeus</i>	
c Female with flanks and abdomen washed with rich yellow.....	44
..... <i>P. c. vividus</i>	
B Throat black.....	43
..... <i>P. c. malabaricus</i>	
C Throat grey; upperparts much paler.....	40
..... <i>P. c. pallidus</i>	

1090. Sind Small Minivet. *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus pallidus* Baker

Pericrocotus cinnamomeus pallidus Baker, 1920, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl., 40: 115
(Larkhana, Sind)

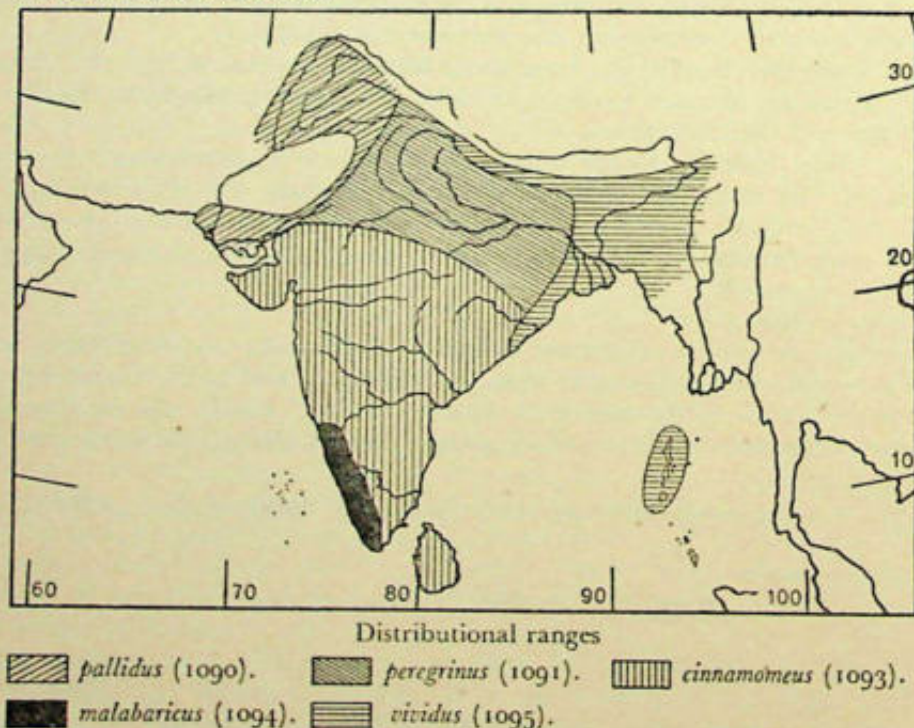
Baker, FBI No. 748, Vol. 2: 332

LOCAL NAMES. *Būlālchāshī* (Hindi); same as for Yellow-eyed Babbler (1231).

SIZE. Sparrow —; with longer tail. Length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As of 1093, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident and fairly common in semi-desert biotope wherever sufficient trees for its requirements are found.

Pericrocotus cinnamomeus

West Pakistan along the valley of the Indus to Jammu, and southwest Punjab, up to c. 600 metres in the Himalayan foothills. Has been obtained in Baluchistan at Quetta in August, and quite possibly occurs in Sibi plains and Las Bela. Intergrades with *peregrinus* in Kutch, central Rajasthan (Mount Abu) and Kangra district, Punjab. Affects clumps of thorn (*Acacia*, *Prosopis*, etc.) and subtropical dry forest, scrub jungle, mango topes, sheesham plantations and wooded compounds.

Extralimital. A male collected in Khorasan (Iran) by Captain Watson was received by Baker (Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl., 40: 115, 1920).

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD AND VOICE. As in *peregrinus* (1093).

BREEDING. *Season*, March–April and August–September. *Nest and eggs* as in *peregrinus*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. ♂ Throat grey. Compared with the nominate race, the grey of the upperparts is paler; the flame colour of rump and upper tail-coverts less intense and yellower. Lower plumage white; yellow and red confined to a narrow band below the throat and a wash on the upper flanks. Wing-spot largely white; tail tips very pale. In the female, the upperparts, wing-spot and tail tips are paler even than in ♀ *peregrinus*.

MEASUREMENTS 'as in other races' (Baker).

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
4 ♂♂	64–70	11–12	15 (2 msd.)	64–76 mm
1 ♀	64	—	—	67 mm (SA, BB)

Weight 2 ♂♂ 8, 8 g (BB).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in *peregrinus*.

1091. **Northern Small Minivet.** *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus peregrinus* (Linnaeus)

Parus peregrinus Linnaeus, 1766, Syst. Nat., ed. 12, 1: 342 (No locality, Ambala, Punjab, fixed by Baker, 1920)

Pericrocotus cinnamomeus iredalei Baker, 1929, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl., 49: 64 (Ambala, Punjab)

Pericrocotus peregrinus galbinus Van Tyne & Koelz, 1936, Occ. papers, Mus. Zool., Univ. Michigan, No. 334: 4 (Bhadwar, Kangra)
Baker, FBI No. 745, Vol. 2: 329

LOCAL NAMES. *Būlālchāshm*, *Rājālāl* or *Rājēlāl* (Hindi); *Sāhēlī* (Himalaya).

SIZE. Sparrow —, with longer tail. Length c. 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As for the nominate race (1093) q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT. Resident, the commonest of the minivets. From East Punjab (plains and Himalayan foothills up to 600 metres) where it intergrades with *pallidus*, east to Bihar along the Nepal terai where it intergrades with *vividus*, and south to northern Madhya Pradesh and northern Orissa. Affects open forest, scrub and bush country interspersed with small trees, roadway avenues, mango topes and orchards, and trees in cultivation.

GENERAL HABITS. A bird of the plains and less a forest species than *P. flammeus*. Purely arboreal; goes about in small flocks of 8 to 10 or so in the non-breeding season, frequently in mixed company of wood shrikes, fly-catchers and others. Flits about in the foliage, hunting insects among the leaves, sometimes fluttering before a sprig or launching short aerial sallies in pursuit of winged prey.

FOOD. Moths, caterpillars and other insects.

VOICE and CALLS. In flight and when foraging, the birds give a constant chorus of high feeble whistles, *sweet-sweet* . . .

BREEDING. Season, overall March to September, presumably a first brood in March to May and a second in July to September. *Nest*, a deep little cup of fine twigs, grass stems, chips of lichen, dead leaves or bark bound together with cobwebs and welded to the upper surface of a branch or in a fork, and lined with rootlets; walls extremely thin though firm and strongly woven. Diameter of the nest about 5 cm; invisible from below and appears to be a part of the branch itself. *Eggs*, usually 3, sometimes 2, exceptionally 4, pale blue or greenish white with stipples of red-brown which in some tend to form a zone at the broad end. Average size of 80 eggs, 16.4×13.1 mm (Baker). Both sexes share in construction (chiefly female) and in tending the young; incubation apparently by female alone; she is fed on the nest by the male.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. ♂ Throat blackish or sooty grey. In intensity of colours, this subspecies is intermediate between *pallidus*, *cinnamomeus* and *viduus*. See also 1093, Museum Diagnosis.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	63-72	12-14	14-16	65-77 mm
♀♀	64-72	12-13	14-16	65-78 mm

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill black; mouth pinkish orange. Legs and feet horny brown.

1093. Southern Small Minivet. *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus cinnamomeus* (Linnaeus)

Motacilla cinnamomea Linnaeus, 1766, Syst. Nat., ed. 12, 1: 335 (Ceylon)

Pericrocotus peregrinus ceylonensis Whistler & Kinnear, 1933, Jour. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc., 36: 344 (Cocawatte, Ceylon)

Pericrocotus cinnamomeus sidhoutensis Koelz, 1939, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 52: 69 (Sidhout, Cuddapah, Madras)

Pericrocotus peregrinus dharmakumari Koelz, 1950, Amer. Mus. Novit., No. 1452: 6 (Jamwala, Junagadh, Kathiawar)

For discussion on nomenclature and taxonomy, see R. S. Van Schaumburg, *Treubia*, 11: 309-12, 1930.

Baker, FBI Nos. 745, 747 (part), Vol. 2: 329, 331

LOCAL NAMES. *Būlālchāshm*, *Rājālāl*, *Sāhēli* (Hindi); *Kunkumpu jitta* (Telugu); *Teechinan* (Malayalam); *Kos-kurullā*, *Batugene-kurullā* (Sinhala).

SIZE. Sparrow —, with a longer tail. Length c. 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male, head, throat and back dark grey, rump orange-red; wings black with a yellow-orange patch; a long tail, black above, yellow-orange below; breast bright orange becoming yellow on belly.

Female, upperparts as in male but paler; underparts whitish grey suffused with yellow (no black throat); wings as in male but yellow patch smaller and less bright; tail as in male.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. From Saurashtra (Gujarat), southern Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and southern Orissa south through the Peninsula to Tamil Nadu and Ceylon, exclusive of the range of *malabaricus*. In plains and hills up to c. 1500 m; in Ceylon up to c. 1200 m in the Wet zone and 1650 m in the drier eastern regions. Affects deciduous forest, open scrub, groves of trees in cultivation, etc.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in *peregrinus*.

BREEDING. Season, in the Peninsula overall February–March to August–September varying locally; newly fledged young observed in November in central Maharashtra. In Ceylon main season February to May but an occasional nest may be found outside these months. Breeding biology as in *peregrinus*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies. The first-winter male at the postjuvinal moult assumes a plumage similar to that of the adult female. Almost immediately after the moult, however, odd feathers of the chin, throat and upper breast are accidentally lost and replaced by corresponding adult feathers, the process being accelerated by a partial spring moult of those parts. First-summer males are therefore distinguishable by a piebald black and grey throat with a slight nimbus of flame colour, and they breed in this state moulting to adult plumage in the postnuptial moult.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	66–72	13–14	16–18	66–76 mm
♀♀	65–71	13–14	16–18	68–75 mm (SA, HW)

Weight 1 ♂? 12 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill black. Legs, feet and claws horny black.

1094. Malabar Small Minivet. *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus malabaricus*
(Gmelin)

Parus malabaricus Gmelin, 1789, Syst. Nat., 1: 1012 (Malabar Coast, type locality restricted to Mahé by Deignan)

Baker, FBI No. 747 (part), Vol. 2: 331

LOCAL NAME. *Teechinnan* (Malayalam).

SIZE. Sparrow —, with longer tail. Length c. 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As of 1093, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. Kerala north to north-western Mysore as far as Belgaum and Goa. Affects deciduous and mixed

forest, plantations and cultivated areas; from the plains up to c. 1000 m in the hills.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in *peregrinus*. A courtship is described as consisting largely of the male chasing the female, uttering a feeble but excited *sweet-sweet* . . .

BREEDING. Season, overall March to October; as in *cinnamomeus*, there appear to be two main periods one from March to May, the other in July–August. Nest as in *peregrinus*. Eggs 3, rarely 4 or 2. Average size of 30 eggs, 16.6×13.4 mm (Baker). A pair and a third bird (♀-plumaged) have been observed working together at nest-building, all three later feeding the chicks cooperatively (Neelakantan, JBNHS 49: 554–5).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *cinnamomeus* in being considerably darker and more richly coloured, with the chin and throat glossy black instead of dark grey or sooty grey (in male).

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	69–75	12–14	16–17	66–74 mm
♀♀	68–76	13–14	c. 15	67–70 mm (SA)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill, legs and feet blackish brown; mouth pale flesh to slaty pink (in juvenile, gape and mouth pale orange-brick colour).

1095, 1092. Eastern Small Minivet. *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus vividus* Baker¹

Pericrocotus cinnamomeus vividus Baker, 1920, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 40: 114 (Attaran River, Amherst Dist., Tenasserim Div., Burma, restricted to Pabyouk, 22 m. SE of Moulmein, by Deignan)

Pericrocotus peregrinus thai Deignan, 1947, Jour. Washington Acad. Sci. 37: 254 (Amphoe Chom Thong = Ban Luang, Chiang Mai Province, northwestern Siam)
Baker, FBI No. 746, Vol. 2: 331

Plate 66, fig. 10, facing p. 48

LOCAL NAMES. *Chhōtō sāth sāyāli* (Bengali); *Dao ribi gajao-i-aba* (Cachari); *Ingorui* (Kacha Naga).

SIZE. Sparrow —, with longer tail. Length c. 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1093, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, not common. From the western Nepal terai where it intergrades with *peregrinus* (Ripley, JBNHS 49: 382; Rand & Fleming, *Fieldiana* 41: 102), West Bengal, Orissa south to extreme northeastern Andhra Pradesh where it intergrades with *cinnamomeus* (Whistler, JBNHS 36: 342), east through the duars and Assam north

¹ Further examination of series of this form from India, Burma, Thailand and the Andamans convinces us that this is a population of varying amounts of colour on the underparts including the throat in the males. In addition two male specimens (one the unique type of *separatus* Deignan, 1947, the other a male from the Andamans) have large bills. Other Andaman birds have moderate bills equivalent in size to the mainland population, and the pale underparts of Andaman females can be matched in series. We believe that *thai* Deignan, 1947 and *separatus* Deignan, 1947 (Tenasserim) are therefore synonymous with *vividus*.

and south of the Brahmaputra, Nagaland, Manipur, East Pakistan and the Andaman Islands. From the plains up to c. 1600 m, in forested areas, open country and gardens; also mangroves in the Andamans.

Extralimital. Extends to Burma, Thailand and Laos; other subspecies in Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia and Palawan.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in *peregrinus*.

BREEDING. *Season*, February to June, chiefly March and April; May to July in the Andaman Islands. The nest is placed high in trees, up to 12 metres. Other nesting habits as in *peregrinus*. *Eggs*, usually 3 sometimes 2 or 4. Average size of 50 eggs 16.8×13.8 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Darker and browner above than *peregrinus*, the throat rather a blacker grey and the lower parts brighter yellow with the red of the breast extending further down. Separable from *pallidus*, *peregrinus* and *cinnamomeus* by the absence of white on the underparts; from *malabaricus* by its breast being less flame-coloured and chin less consistently black.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	66-72	12-14	16-18	66-76 mm
♀♀	65-71	13-14	16-18	68-75 mm

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in *peregrinus*.

1096. **Whitebellied Minivet.** *Pericrocotus erythropygius erythropygius* (Jerdon)

Muscicapa erythropygia Jerdon, 1840, Madras Jour. Lit. Sci., 11: 17 (S. India = Ajanta)

Baker, FBI No. 749, Vol. 2: 332

Plate 66, fig. 9, facing p. 48¹

LOCAL NAMES. *Kābāro rājālāl* (Gujarati); *Sāfēd rājālāl* (Hindi, Madhya Pradesh).

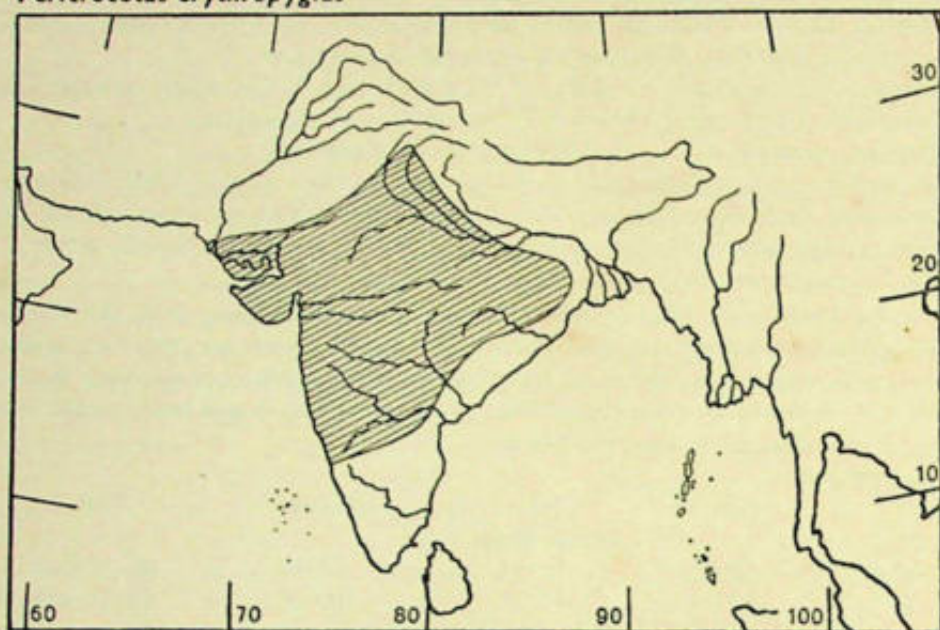
SIZE. Sparrow —, with a longer tail. Length c. 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male, distinguished from other minivets by its contrasty black and white or pied coloration, and white wing-patch, forming a V-shaped design when seen from the rear. Rump orange-red; tail black and white. *Below*, breast orange-red; rest of underparts white.

In the female the black parts are replaced by dark brownish grey; forehead and lower plumage white; rump white and orange.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. Locally distributed in peninsular India southeast of a line from Ambala, Jodhpur and Kutch, south and east to Belgaum, Hyderabad, the Chota Nagpur plateau, southwest Bihar and southeast U.P. Reported by Baker to occur in the dry districts of West Bengal. His record (*apud* Stewart) of its breeding, or even occurrence, in Kerala (loc. cit. and *Nidification*, 2: 300) lacks confirmation, but it has been observed at the foot of the Nilgiris (W. Davison, SF 10: 366). One record only north of the Ganges: Tirhut, north Bihar, in April (Hume collection). Apparently an occasional wanderer to Sind in winter (Karachi, Ticehurst, 1922, *Ibis*: 614). Affects babool, *Prosopis* and *Butea* jungle in broken stony country; also semi-desert facies interspersed with bushes of *Salvadora*, *Euphorbia*, etc. and open grassy forest in the drier regions.

¹ The illustration is of the extralimital Burmese race *albifrons* (male) from which ours differs in having no white on the forehead, and black sides of head, and throat.

Pericrocotus erythropygius

▨ Distributional range of *P. e. erythropygius* (1966)

Extralimital. *P. e. albifrons* is found in central Burma.

GENERAL HABITS. Less arboreal than other minivets and much more addicted to open grassy scrub-and-bush country than they. Keeps in small parties of six to eight individuals in the non-breeding season. Has been noted hovering over and dropping into grass, and also pecking at weeds a foot or so high. Perches erect. Flight very like a wagtail's or bunting's — a few flaps followed by a dipping glide. The sexes appear to segregate outside the breeding season; somewhat erratic in winter.

FOOD. Insects and spiders.

VOICE and CALLS. 'A whistle often reminiscent of a wagtail's *tseep-tseep*. Also a short sweet song' (Dharmakumarsinhji). Agitated alarm-notes, e.g. when nest in danger, very like the *chit-chit* of the Baya (*Ploceus philippinus*) but slightly more musical.

BREEDING. *Season*, June to October, mainly between July and September. *Nest*, a little cup of fibres composed inside of fine flowering stems of grasses and coated outside with silky vegetable down and cobwebs; as a rule not ornamented with moss or lichen as in other minivets; placed fairly low down in bushes one or two metres from the ground, always in a vertical or horizontal fork; apparently not on the upper side of horizontal branches. *Eggs*, normally 3, greyish white or rarely greenish grey densely covered with longitudinal blotches of grey-brown with paler secondary marks of grey. Average size of 30 eggs 17.3×13.5 mm (Baker). Both sexes build, incubate and tend the young *fide* J. Davidson. 'Female alone incubates. Male was often seen feeding female while she was incubating' (Dharmakumarsinhji).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species and Field Characters. Postjuvénal moult includes body, lesser, median and greater coverts.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	68-70	12-13	14-15	75-78 mm (once 87!) (SA)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill dark horny brown; mouth yellowish brown. Legs and feet dark horny brown.

Family IRENIDAE: Fairy Bluebirds, Ioras, Leaf Birds

For description see Van Tyne, J. & Berger, A. J., 1959, p. 519.

Key to the Genera

	Page
General coloration yellow <i>Aegithina</i>	47
General coloration grass-green <i>Chloropsis</i>	54
General coloration deep blue <i>Irena</i>	63

Genus AEGITHINA Vieillot

Aegithina Vieillot, 1816, Analyse nouv. orn.: 44. Type, by monotypy, *Sylvia leucoptera* Vieillot

Cf. Whistler, H. & Kinnear, N. B., 1932, JBNHS 35: 749-51; Marien, D., 1952, Amer. Mus. Novit., No. 1589: 1-18; Hall, B. P., 1957, Ibis, 99: 143-56.

Bill notched and pointed, about two-thirds the length of the head, culmen nearly straight; wings rounded, tail short and square; plumage of rump soft and copious. All species green and yellow. Two moults annually.

Key to the Species

	Page
Tail black or green throughout <i>Ae. tiphia</i>	47
Tail tipped with white <i>Ae. nigrolutea</i>	53

AEGITHINA TIPHA (Linnaeus)

Key to the Subspecies

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| I | Tail black | | |
| A | Upperparts black <i>Ae. t. multicolor</i> ♂ (breeding) | 53 | |
| B | Upperparts greenish more or less marked with black | | |
| 1 | Upperparts with more black, a great deal of yellow showing through <i>Ae. t. humei</i> ♂ (breeding) | 50 | |
| 2 | Upperparts with more greenish <i>Ae. t. tiphia</i> ♂ (breeding) | 49 | |
| 3 | Upperparts yellower, throat and upper breast more golden <i>Ae. t. septentrionalis</i> ♂ (breeding) | 48 | |
| 4 | Rump more greyish green <i>Ae. t. deignani</i> ♂ (breeding) | 52 | |
| C | Upperparts dark yellowish green | | |
| 5 | Paler <i>Ae. t. tiphia</i> ♂ (non-breeding) | 49 | |
| 6 | Darker <i>Ae. t. multicolor</i> ♂ (non-breeding) | 53 | |
| II | Tail green | | |
| 7 | Above paler, more yellowish | | |
| a | Bill and wing averaging shorter <i>Ae. t. humei</i> ♂ (non-breeding) | 50 | |
| b | Bill and wing averaging longer <i>Ae. t. septentrionalis</i> ♂ (non-breeding) | 48 | |
| 8 | Above darker, less yellowish <i>Ae. t. deignani</i> ♂ (non-breeding) | 52 | |
| 9 | Above greenish yellow <i>Ae. t. tiphia</i> ♀ | 49 | |

		Page
10	Above dark greenish..... <i>Ae. t. multicolor</i> ♀	53
11	Above very pale dull greenish yellow	
a	Bill and wing averaging shorter..... <i>Ae. t. humei</i> ♀	50
b	Bill and wing averaging longer..... <i>Ae. t. septentrionalis</i> ♀	48
12	Intermediate between 10 and 11..... <i>Ae. t. deignani</i> ♀	52

1097. **Northwestern Iora.** *Aegithina tiphia septentrionalis* Koelz

Aegithina tiphia septentrionalis Koelz, 1939, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington,
52:63 (Bhadwar, Kangra, Punjab)

Not in Baker, FBI

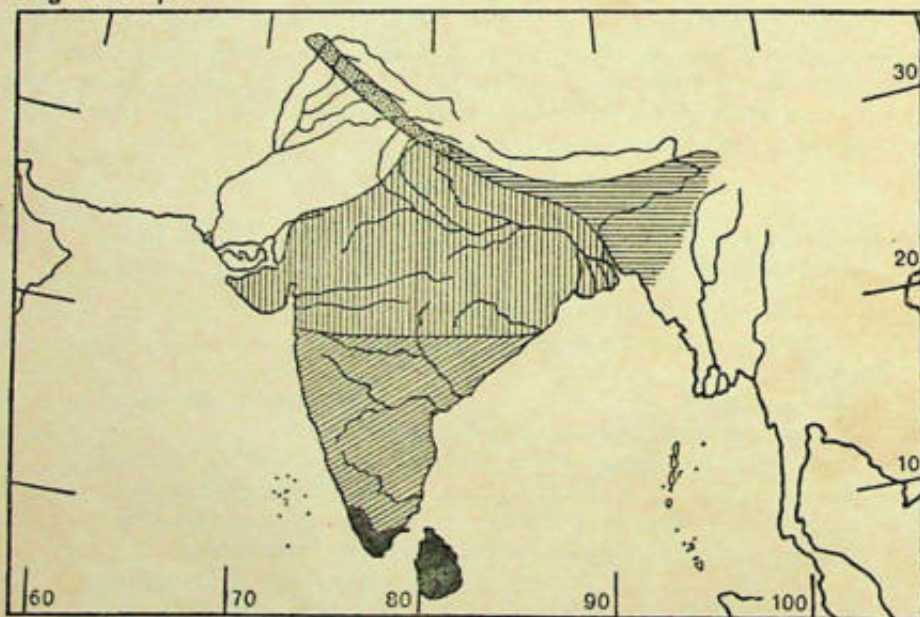
LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow; length c. 14 cm (5½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As of 1098, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. West Pakistan and India in N.W.F.P., West Punjab and East Punjab, from the plains to c. 600 m; in scrub brush and forest fringe.

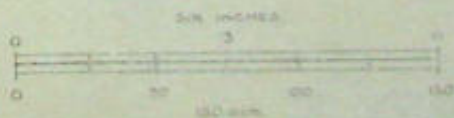
Aegithina tiphia



Distributional ranges

 *septentrionalis* (1097).
  *tiphia* (1098).
  *humei* (1099).
 *deignani* (1100).
  *multicolor* (1101).

1 *Lanius collurio*, Chestnutrumped Shrike (938). 2 *Lanius c. cristatus*, Brown Shrike (949), imm. 3 *Lanius s. tricolor*, Blackheaded Shrike (948). 4 *Lanius t. tephronotus*, Tibet Greybacked Shrike (945). 5 *Hemipus p. picatus*, Blackbacked Pied Flycatcher-Shrike (1065), ♂. 6 *Tephrodornis g. pelvica*, Nepal Wood Shrike (1067), ♂. 7 *Tephrodornis p. pondicerianus*, Indian Wood Shrike (1070), ♂. 8 *Pericrocotus f. speciosus*, North Indian Scarlet Minivet (1080), ♂ and 8a ♀. 9 *Pericrocotus erythrogyus* (*albifrons*), Whitebellied Minivet (1096 RE), ♂. 10 *Pericrocotus c. vividus*, Eastern Small Minivet (1095), ♂.



Am. Ornith. Soc.
1900

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD, VOICE and BREEDING. As in *humei* and other races.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Compared with the nominate subspecies (1098), this race is much yellower on the crown and on the rest of upperparts, more gold on the throat and upper breast. The outermost rectrices often have broad edges of yellow and the black inner rectrix of the male is washed broadly on the distal end with green-yellow. The bill averages larger and the wing longer.

MEASUREMENTS. Wing 4 ♂♂ 63-65, 3 ♀♀ 63-65 mm.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in *tiphia*.

1098. **Common Iora.** *Aegithina tiphia tiphia* (Linnaeus)

Motacilla Tiphia Linnaeus, 1758, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 1: 186

(Benghala = neighbourhood of Calcutta)

Baker, FBI No. 362, Vol. 1: 340

Plate 67, fig. 7, facing p. 64

LOCAL NAMES. *Shaubeeega* or *Shaubeeegi* (Hindi); *Fatik-jal* (Bengali); *Bārsāt-sorāi* (Assamese); *Daotisha gurrmo gadeba* (Cachari); *Inga-ruina* (Kacha Naga); *Vohjong pong* (Mikir).

SIZE. Sparrow; length c. 14 cm (5½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male. A showy black and yellow tit-like arboreal bird with two white bars across the wing.



x c. 1

Female. Yellowish green throughout with greenish brown wings instead of black, also with two white bars.

In non-breeding plumage the male resembles the female, but retains his black tail. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident and common in most of its range subject to erratic movements in the non-breeding season. The Himalayan foothills from Uttar Pradesh east through Nepal (terai, duns and foothills up to c. 2000 metres even in winter; visits the Nepal Valley from mid July to the beginning of September), Sikkim (exceptionally up to c. 1700 m), Bhutan (recorded at Diwangiri = Deothang, c. 800 m and in central Bhutan), West Bengal, East Pakistan and Assam. Affects open forest, forest edges, cultivation, outskirts of villages and scrub-jungle.

Extralimital. Arakan (Burma); the species extends through the Indo-chinese subregion, Sumatra, Java, Bali and Borneo.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in *humei* and other races.

VOICE and CALLS. The call-note is rendered as *chee-chit-chit-chit*; also a sparrow-like call. Song very varied; one is described by Heinrich as composed of two syllables, the first an extraordinarily long, high and thin whistle, the second a sharp accentuated whistle beginning on the same tone as the first and quickly falling to a lower tone. It has been rendered as *we-e-e-tu*. According to Roseveare, it is a three-syllable whistle reminding one of an oriole's *oh, here we are*. See also Display under General Habits of *Ae. t. humei*.

BREEDING. As in *humei*. Eggs, 2 or 3, exceptionally 4; normally pale pinky white, blotched with purplish brown, but highly variable. For descriptions see Baker, *Nidification*, 1: 318. Average size of 60 eggs 17.6×13.9 mm.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Male. Upperparts mainly black, head and back usually with some yellow, rump greenish yellow; two white wing-bars; underparts yellow. Many breeding males have practically no black on upperparts other than the wing and tail. In winter the male becomes similar to the female but the tail remains black and the underparts are rather brighter.

Female, almost entirely greenish yellow with brown wings; duller and greyer than in *humei*. Also has two wing-bars.

Young (imm.) male. Summer and winter plumage normally alike, a rather dull dark green, the black on the upper plumage in winter being obsolete (Punjab), confined to faint traces of mottling or occasional black feathers (U.P.), or patches (Bengal). Lower plumage duller and greyer in winter and less bright yellow in summer. Female duller and greener than in *Ae. t. humei*.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail
♂♂	62-66	18-19	49-52 mm
♀♀	60-65	18-19	50-59 mm
			(BB, SDR)

Weight 1 ♂ 12; 1 ♀ 15 g (BB).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris pale yellow. Bill bluish slate, black on culmen and whitish on tip of upper mandible. Legs and feet plumbeous; claws bluish slate; soles white (BB). 'Iris whitish grey, bill slate grey, culmen black; legs slate grey' (SDR).

1099. **Central Indian Iora.** *Aegithina tiphia humei* Baker

Aegithina tiphia humei Baker, 1922, Fauna Brit. Ind., Bds. 1: 342 (Raipur, M.P.)
Baker, FBI No. 364, Vol. 1: 342

LOCAL NAMES. *Shaubeega* or *Shaubeegi* (Hindi); *Shobinga* (Gujarati); *Cheroka* (Marathi).

SIZE. Sparrow; length c. 14 cm ($5\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As of 1098, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. From Saurashtra, Mount Abu, the plains of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (where it intergrades with *tiphia*), south to lat. 20° N. and east to northern Orissa and southwestern West Bengal. In cultivated country interspersed with large trees, groves about villages, roadside avenues and wooded compounds in towns as well as light deciduous forest. Where the evergreen and deciduous types of vegetation are intermingled, the Iora invariably keeps to the deciduous facies, in thin jungle and scrub.

GENERAL HABITS. Usually found in pairs, often in the mixed hunting parties, searching for caterpillars and insects among the foliage, hopping from twig to twig and frequently clinging sideways or upside down to peer under the leaves.

Display. The male fusses around and about his seemingly uninterested mate, stopping still at frequent intervals to fluff out the white rump-feathers, cock his tail, droop his wings and raise his head skywards in a stately posture — a picturesque flaunting of black, white and gold. Each time the head is raised the throat swells and gives vent to a very faint but clear, sweet and musical whistle, or a long-drawn sibilant *cheee*. The scene changes suddenly, and in a paroxysm of excitement, he flits from branch to branch to the accompaniment of a loud twittering and fluttering of wings, to spring perpendicularly into the air a metre or two, hovering, fluffing out and parachuting down like a ball of feathers on to some nearby perch. The same spectacular antic is repeated again and again.

FOOD. Insects and larvae; spiders. Among the insects specifically identified in stomach contents are the beetles (Coleoptera) *Myllocerus discolor* and *M. blandus*, *Tanymericus hispida*, *Scymnus nubilans*, *Rhyssomus germanus*, and the ant *Camponotus compressus* (Formicidae) (Mason & Lefroy, 1912).

VOICE and CALLS. Has a wide repertoire of sweet clear whistles common to all races but in markedly different dialects, e.g. as between northern and southern birds. The Hindi name *Shaubeeji* is onomatopoeic of one of the commonest calls. Some other familiar ones may be syllabified thus:

1. *If you-PLEASE* repeated several times (about once per second) alternated by one or two interrogative *SEE me-please?*
2. A mellow whistle *piyou* or *peeou* repeated (about twice in three seconds) 20 times or more, followed by a similar run of softer long-drawn sibilant whistles *whheee-choo*. This kept up almost unbrokenly for 30 minutes or more at a time.
3. A plaintive, querulous *chee-whhee? chee-whhee?* and so on, quickly repeated (about twice in three seconds).
4. For long stretches throughout the day, especially in the monsoon and when overcast and drizzling, a loud mellow whistle *My... DADDY* repeated monotonously for over 15 minutes at a stretch, interlarded after every two or three calls with *pheeou* (by accompanying female?). The pair keeps in touch with each other by mellow whistles and short musical chirrups. See also 1098, and *Display* under General Habits (above).

BREEDING. Season, May to September, chiefly July and August. *Nest*, a neat compact cup of fine grasses or fibres, well plastered over with cobwebs, placed in a crotch of twigs at heights from 1 to 9 metres, most often between 2 and 4 metres. The supporting twigs are either worked into the wall of the nest or firmly wound round with cobwebs. Mango, citrus, *Bauhinia* and *Zizyphus* trees are largely favoured. *Eggs*, almost invariably 3, but sometimes, probably in the case of second laying, 2; pale pinkish white, blotched with purplish brown, with a wide range of variations. Average size of 20 eggs 17.5×13.5 mm (Baker). Both sexes partake in building the nest. In one case the nest took five days to complete and there was a pause of a day before the first egg was laid. Eggs laid at intervals of about 24 hours, evidently in the early morning. Incubation starts with the first egg but it is fitful and irregular until the clutch is completed; incubation period about 14 days. Both sexes incubate and tend the young. Only the female was found brooding at night (SA). During the first five days after hatching, the female alone observed to brood the young for about ten minutes

every third time she fed them, her wings outstretched to protect them against the sun. A very large proportion of eggs and chicks suffer destruction from house and jungle crows, crow-pheasants, snakes, monitor and *Calotes* lizards.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Male in summer with black predominant in the upper plumage and often considerable traces of a yellow collar on the hindneck. Male in winter plumage, and female, a clearer and paler green than *Ae. t. tiphia*.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	61-69	16-20	18-22	44-55 mm
♀♀	62-67	16-19	18-21	46-56 mm (SA, HW)

Weight 4 ♂♂ 13-17; 8 ♀♀ 12-15 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in nominate race.

1100. **Peninsular Indian Iora.** *Aegithina tiphia deignani* Hall

Aegithina tiphia deignani Hall, 1957, Ibis, 99: 148 (Yawdwin, Pakokku dist., Central Burma)

Baker, FBI No. 362 (part), Vol. 1: 340

LOCAL NAMES. *Patsu-jitta* (Telugu); *Pachapora*, *Sinna mampala-kūrūvi* (Tamil).

SIZE. Sparrow; length c. 14 cm (5½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As of 1098, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident in the low country and up to about 1000 metres. The Indian Peninsula south of lat. 20°N., excluding southern Kerala. Affects light deciduous forest and semi-cultivation.

Extralimital. Northern and central Burma excluding Arakan.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in *humei* (1099). Courtship noted to be in general progress about mid December.

BREEDING. *Season*, overall January to August, chiefly April and May. *Nest*, a shallow cup, about 6 cm in diameter, built of shreds of bark, so thickly covered externally with cobweb as to appear almost white, and lined with a little grass. Placed from one to nine metres from the ground in bushes or trees, slung in the horizontal fork of an outlying twig or in an upright crotch. Both birds assist in building and incubation; in one case the male did not feed the young himself but handed over the caterpillars which he brought to the hen for distribution. *Eggs*, 2 or 3, rarely 4, similar to those of other subspecies. Average size of 20 eggs 17.5 × 13.5 mm (Baker). Nest frequently parasitized by the Baybanded Cuckoo (*Cacomantis sonneratii*, 582).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Head and back of male in non-breeding dress grey-green, intermediate between the pale green washed with white of *humei* and the dark green washed with black of *multicolor*—a greyer green than of nominate *tiphia*. The same differences appear in the green rump and lower back in breeding plumage, and in a lesser degree in the green of the female. Breeding plumage of males always with some black, intermediate between the gold-and-black collared *humei* and the solid black of *multicolor*.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in *humei* (1099).

1101. **Ceylon Iora.** *Aegithina tiphia multicolor* (Gmelin)*Fringilla multicolor* Gmelin, 1788, Syst. Nat., 1: 924 (Ceylon)*Motacilla zeylonica* Gmelin, 1788, Syst. Nat., 1: 964 (Ceylon)Baker, FBI No. 363, Vol. 1: 342 (= *zeylonica*)

LOCAL NAMES. *Dadi-dee* (Malayalam); *Nambala chittu* (Tamil); *Pattra-jitta* (Telugu); *Ca-kurullā* (= yellow bird), *Panu-kurullā*, *Kirikaye* (Sinhala).

SIZE. Sparrow; length *c.* 14 cm (5½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As of 1098, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. A common resident up to *c.* 900 m, occasionally up to 1500 m or higher. Kerala from southern Malabar district, south of the Palghat Gap (where it intergrades with *deignani*), Rameswaram Island and Ceylon. Affects light deciduous forest, mixed bamboo jungle, mango and cashew gardens around villages and homesteads; prefers the Dry zone and avoids evergreen.

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps in pairs, searching assiduously for caterpillars and insects among the leaves of bushes and trees. The flight is a straight flutter from tree to tree. Other habits and display as in *humei*, q.v.

FOOD. Insects, especially caterpillars.

VOICE and CALLS. The birds keep in touch with each other by frequently calling in a variety of sweet-toned whistles which have a rather drowsy quality. The song is a long-drawn crescendo *wee-e-e-e-too*, the last syllable dropping suddenly; other variations are *weet-we-to* and *whip-wee-bird-ee* (Henry). See also under 1099.

BREEDING. *Season*, overall January to August, chiefly April to June. Nesting as in *deignani*. *Eggs*, 2 rarely 3, matt white with bold streaks and blotches of slate-grey and brown which tend to run longitudinally and to form a zone around the large end. Average size *c.* 18 × 13 mm.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Male in summer plumage darker, with the black of the upperparts more extensive and less broken by yellow bases; second wing-bar generally absent. Lower plumage very bright canary yellow. Male in winter plumage a dark and duller green, in some specimens washed with black producing a curious sooty appearance not found in the other Indian races.

Female on the average darker than in other races.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in *humei* (1099).

1102. **Marshall's Iora.** *Aegithina nigrolutea* (Marshall)*Iora nigrolutea* Marshall, 1876, Stray Feathers, 4: 410 (Meerut)*Aegithina nigrolutea sulfurea* Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 9 (Sihor, Saurashtra)

Cf. Hall, B. P., 1957, *Ibis*, 99: 146.

Baker, FBI No. 366, Vol. 1: 344

Vol. 5, plate 56

LOCAL NAMES. Same as for *Ae. t. tiphia*.

SIZE. Sparrow; length *c.* 14 cm (5½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male resembles the Common Iora but has a pure yellow collar in the black-backed breeding dress. Tail in both sexes

black with broad white tips, instead of black in male and green in female. The green plumage of both sexes is paler and more suffused with white.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. Replaces the Common Iora in West Pakistan and northwestern India, from the N.W.F.P. through West and East Punjab, southern Uttar Pradesh south through western Madhya Pradesh to and including the Satpuras, west to Kutch and Rajasthan. May occur in southeastern Sind. Specimens showing *nigrolutea* characters collected within the range of *Ae. tiphia* may be variants of the latter; such specimens have been obtained from southern Bihar, West Bengal, Khandesh, Tamil Nadu and Mysore. Two adult specimens collected in Gwalior are intermediate between *Ae. t. humei* and *Ae. nigrolutea* and one specimen from Ceylon is intermediate between the latter and *multicolor*. The status of *Ae. nigrolutea* as a distinct species is not settled. 'It is a problem that presents a challenge to geneticists and field workers alike' (Hall, loc. cit. *supra*). But see Voice and Calls. Marshall's Iora affects sparse scrub, thorn jungle and groves of trees.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in *humei* (1099); the display is also similar.

VOICE and CALLS. Commonly *whēti whēti*, quite distinct from those of the Common Iora, though of the same general pattern. The sibilant whistles of the male are more plaintive-sounding, and rather reminiscent of the Quaker Babbler. The harsh alarm-notes recall those of the Wood Shrike, particularly the large *Tephrodornis gularis*. 'I found the notes of the two so distinct, in fact, that after having met the Common Iora all through Gujarat, I detected the presence of this species at Deesa at once by ear' (SA).

BREEDING. Season, June to August. Breeding biology as in *Ae. t. humei*. Nest, usually in low shrubs 1-2 metres from the ground. Eggs, 2 or 3, indistinguishable from those of the Common Iora. Average size of 20 eggs 17.5×13.5 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. The juvenal plumage is indistinguishable from that of *humei*.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	62-65	14-18	17-19	43-47 mm
♀♀	61-64	14-17	c. 19	45-51 mm (SA)

Weight 8 ♂♂ 11-14; 9 ♀♀ 10-14 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown; bill horny plumbeous, the culmen darker; legs and feet light plumbeous (Baker).

Genus CHLOROPSIS Jardine & Selby

Chloropsis Jardine & Selby, 1827, Ill. Orn., Pt. 1, text to pl. 5. Type, by original designation, *Turdus Cochinchinensis* Gmelin

Arboreal birds, predominantly green. Bill slender and curved, about as long as head, well adapted for nectar eating, notched at tip; nostrils oval; rectal bristles weak; frontal feathers advanced up to the nostrils; wings rounded; tarsi very short.

Key to the Species

		Page
A	Forehead rich yellow-orange.....	<i>C. aurifrons</i> 55
B	Forehead greenish or yellowish	
1	Abdomen orange.....	<i>C. hardwickii</i> 59
2	Abdomen green.....	<i>C. cochinchinensis</i> 60

CHLOROPSIS AURIFRONS (Temminck)

Key to the Subspecies

A	Chin and throat blue.....	<i>C. a. aurifrons</i> 55
B	Chin and throat black	
1	Larger, tail ♂ 69-77, ♀ 64-71 mm.....	<i>C. a. frontalis</i> 57
2	Smaller, tail ♂ 65-70, ♀ 59-64 mm.....	<i>C. a. insularis</i> 58

1103. Northern Goldfronted Chloropsis. *Chloropsis aurifrons aurifrons* (Temminck)

Phyllornis aurifrons Temminck, 1829, Pl. Col. d'Ois., livr. 81, pl. 484, fig. 1
(Sumatra, India = Cachar)

Phyllornis hodgsoni Gould, 1861, Bds. Asia, 3(13), pl. 15, text. (Northern India, Himalayas, restricted to Nepal by Deignan, 1946, Smith. Misc. Coll., 106: 3)
Baker, FBI No. 368, Vol. 1: 346

Plate 67, fig. 9, facing p. 64

LOCAL NAMES. *Hārēwā* or *Sābz hārēwā* (Hindi, Nepali); *Hārēwā* (Bengali); *Skalem-pho* (Lepcha).

SIZE. Bulbul; length c. 19 cm (7½ in.).

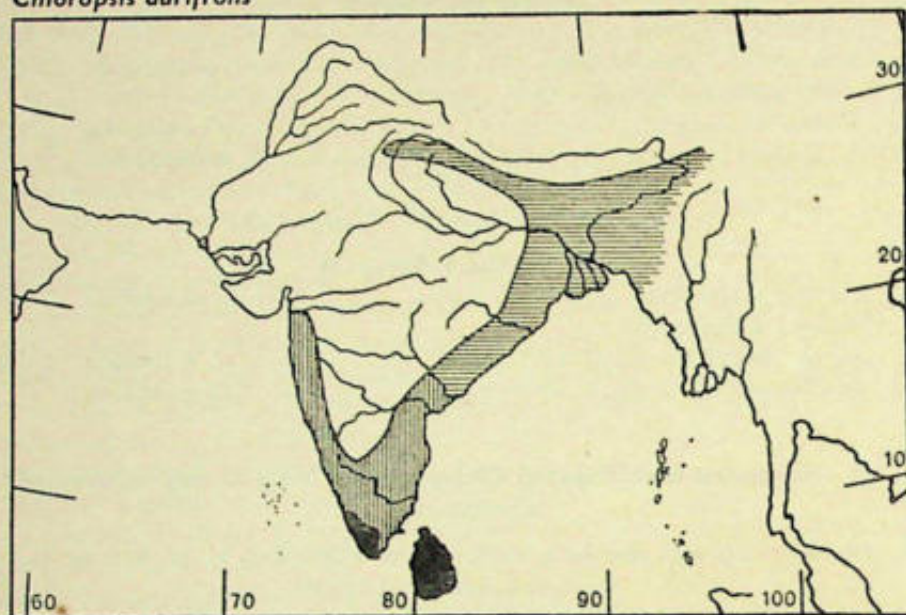
FIELD CHARACTERS. An active leaf-green arboreal bird with orange forehead, blue shoulder-patches and slightly curved black bill; lores, around eye, ear-coverts and lower throat black; chin and cheeks dark blue. Can be distinguished from the very similar *cochinchinensis* by its orange forehead; from *hardwickii* by its green belly, green tail, and black of throat not extending to breast.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to some local movements. Himalayan foothills up to c. 1800 m, from Garhwal and Simla to Nepal and Assam south to Chota Nagpur and the Rajmahal Hills, Bihar, Orissa and East Pakistan. Affects deciduous and evergreen forest in lightly wooded open country and secondary scrub.

Extralimital. The species extends to the Indochinese subregion and Sumatra.

GENERAL HABITS. Entirely arboreal, keeps in pairs or small parties to thick foliage of trees where its plumage blends perfectly with the green leaves, making it difficult to spot. Hunts systematically among the foliage for insects, clinging upside down and in all manner of acrobatic positions, sometimes swinging itself round and round a twig like a trapeze performer. Flight strong and rapid. Is a great bully, adopting aggressive dog-in-the-manger tactics to keep away other birds from its feeding tree.

All chloropses are important 'flower-birds' and responsible for pollinating the blossoms of numerous species of trees and shrubs in their quest for nectar.

Chloropsis aurifrons

Distributional ranges

 *aurifrons* (1103).
  *frontalis* (1104).
  *insularis* (1105).

FOOD. Berries, insects including flying ants, spiders, nectar of many flowers (*Erythrina*, *Loranthus*, *Salmaia*, etc.).

VOICE and CALLS. Normal call-note, a musical drongo-like *swich-chich-chich-wee* (accent on first syllable, last much prolonged whistle-like — SA). Also a repeated *tzik* and a *chup-chaw* (Fleming). Is an accomplished mimic; very convincing imitations of various birds' calls are given in quick succession (see also *C. a. frontalis*).

BREEDING. *Season*, May to August. *Nest*, a loose cup or shallow saucer of fine twigs, grass, leaves and moss, semi-pensile, attached near the tip of an overhanging branch by shreds of grass and strips of bamboo leaves, lined with rootlets and fine grass-stems; reinforced exteriorly with cobweb. Nests built between upright twigs are similar in construction but often deeper. Favourite site usually high up in a tree, nine to twelve metres from the ground, and on very thin branches; sometimes on smaller saplings and trees. *Eggs*, 2 or 3, pale cream or buffy cream, freckled or lightly blotched all over with pale reddish, usually more so towards the large end, but not forming rings or caps. Average size of 20 eggs 23.4×15.5 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Distinguished from other races by its blue chin and throat.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♂	90-103	24-26	18-20	65-77 mm
♀ ♀	89-94	24-25	—	66-70 mm

(BB, Fleming)

Weight 1 ♂ 35 g (Rensch); 1 ♀ 29 g (BB).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown; bill black; legs greenish slate; feet plumbeous; claws black; soles yellowish white (BB).

1104. **Southern Goldfronted Chloropsis.** *Chloropsis aurifrons frontalis* (Pelzeln)

Phyllornis frontalis Pelzeln, 1856, Sitzungs. math. Acad. Wiss. Wien, 20: 157, pl. 2, fig. 1, ex Natterer MS. (Khelgate, near Goa)

Chloropsis aurifrons davidsoni Baker, 1920, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl., 41: 8 (Malabar) *nom. nov.* for *Turdus malabaricus* Gmelin, 1788, preoccupied
Baker, FBI No. 369 (part), Vol. 1: 348

LOCAL NAMES. *Chhōta hārriāl* or *hārēwā* (Hindi).

SIZE. Bulbul; length c. 19 cm (7½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As for *aurifrons* (1103) but chin black.



x c. 1

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, common in the western parts of its range, rarer in the east. S. Gujarat and Maharashtra from the Tapti river south through Goa, western Mysore (Malnaad), western Tamil Nadu to the Palghat Gap, and the Eastern Ghats in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh; from plains level to about 1200 m, in the Nilgiris up to

1800 m. Affects heavy scrub, dense evergreen forest and open deciduous and secondary jungle, and teak plantations. Seems to prefer more thickly wooded country than *cochinchinensis*.

GENERAL HABITS. As in the nominate race, q.v.

FOOD. Insects, spiders, berries and the flower nectar of *Erythrina*, *Loranthus*, *Butea*, *Salmalia*, *Musa*, *Woodfordia*, *Firmiana* and numerous other plants.

VOICE and CALLS. A very loud and voluble rattle. This species is such an accomplished mimic of the calls of other birds that it frequently passes for them and is overlooked. It has been heard imitating to perfection the following species: Tailor Bird, Redwhiskered Bulbul, Black Drongo, Iora, Whitebreasted Kingfisher, Rufousbacked Shrike and Magpie-Robin. The calls are often intriguing since they are produced long after the originals have left the locality on seasonal migration. The different imitations follow one another in quick succession without a break, its own song of several notes being wedged in between the imitations; thus a single chloropsis hidden in a leafy tree will often fool the listener into imagining a whole concert of mixed species within! (SA). Call-note, a shrill whistle.

BREEDING. Season, overall February to August, chiefly June-July. Nest and eggs, as in *aurifrons*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *insularis* by its larger size, and from *aurifrons* by its black chin. As in the nominate race, female very much like male but distinguishable by smaller, duller patch of orange on forehead, smaller blue carpal patch, and slightly smaller size.

In first-winter plumage both sexes lack the orange forehead, while the black gular patch and the blue moustachial streaks of the adult are replaced by pale green.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	87-101	23-26	18-20	69-77 mm
♀♀	83-95	23-25	18-20	64-71 mm (HW)

Weight 1 ♂ 36 g (Rensch).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in *insularis*.

1105. **Ceylon Goldfronted Chloropsis.** *Chloropsis aurifrons insularis*
Whistler & Kinnear

Chloropsis aurifrons insularis Whistler & Kinnear, 1932, Jour. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.
35: 752 (Cotta, N.P., Ceylon)
Baker, FBI No. 369 (part), Vol. 1: 348

LOCAL NAMES. *Nil-kurullā*, *Girā-kurullā* (Sinhala); *Pachai kūrūvi* (Tamil); *Ilakkili* (Malayalam).

SIZE. Bulbul —; length c. 18 cm (7 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As for *aurifrons* but chin black.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. Widely but locally distributed, in moderate numbers, in Kerala south of the Palghat Gap¹ (c. 10° 45' N.), also Palni Hills, and Ceylon throughout the lowlands and lower hills to c. 1200 m. Affects mixed deciduous and evergreen forest; commonest in damper hill districts.

GENERAL HABITS. As in the nominate race, q.v.

FOOD and VOICE. As in *frontalis*.

BREEDING. *Season*, January–February; in Kerala a bird was observed feeding a full-fledged juvenile on 30 November. *Nest*, presumably as in the nominate race. Two eggs are described as being pale cream, variously spotted or blotched with pale reddish or red-brown; size c. 21 × 15 mm.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. As *frontalis* but smaller. There is a cline in size from south to north. See also 1104, Museum Diagnosis.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	86-94	22-25	18-20	65-70 mm
♀♀	87-88	22-24	18-20	59-64 mm (HW, SA)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Adult, iris hazel brown. Bill ♂ black, ♀ horny brown; mouth pinkish flesh to slaty pink. Legs and feet grey or plumbeous; claws brown. Juvenile, bill pale horny brown; mouth livid pink; rest as in adult (SA).

¹ Boundary fixed arbitrarily for convenience.

1106. **Orangebellied Chloropsis.** *Chloropsis hardwickii hardwickii* ·
Jardine & Selby

Chloropsis hardwickii Jardine & Selby, 1830, Ill. Orn., Add., 2: 1 (Nepal)

· Baker, FBI No. 371, Vol. 1: 349

Plate 68, fig. 1, facing p. 112

LOCAL NAME. *Dao-gurum ho gatang* (Cachari).

SIZE. Bulbul; length c. 19 cm (7½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male. *Above*, leaf-green with a pale greenish blue shoulder-patch and dark purplish blue wings and tail appearing black at a distance. *Below*, dull orange belly, blue-black throat and chin and sides of head with a dark blue moustachial streak. The orange belly and blackish tail distinguish it from other chloropses.

Female, almost entirely green, a pale blue shoulder-patch; orange of underparts paler and less extensive, blue moustachial streak. Tail green; no black on throat.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. A common resident, subject to altitudinal movements in the Himalayas, from Simla east through Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, Assam, Manipur and the hills of East Pakistan; from c. 600 to 2250 m (Nepal) and from 1200 to over 2400 m (Naga Hills), optimum zone around 1200 m. Occupies a higher zone than *aurifrons*; descends lower in the non-breeding season when it is found in the plains of Assam. Affects open scrub, dry- and wet-deciduous and evergreen forest; more partial to the last than other chloropses.

Extralimital. Extends east to northern Thailand and northwestern Indochina. Represented by other races in southern China, Hainan, Malaysia and Sumatra.

GENERAL HABITS. Arboreal. Keeps generally in pairs or in small parties to the foliage canopy, occasionally gathering in larger parties at blossoming trees in company with sibilas, spiderhunters, sunbirds, white-eyes, etc. Inseparable from parasitic *Loranthus*-infested trees. Very acrobatic in its movements as it hops about and clings amongst the clumps to probe into flowers for nectar.

FOOD. Insects, spiders, berries and nectar (*Loranthus*, *Bassia*, etc.).

VOICE and CALLS. A remarkably versatile songster and like its congeners an accomplished mimic. Has perhaps the fullest, longest and sweetest song of the genus. This may be heard the year round but more regularly from March to May and from October to December (Proud). Its vocabulary includes the notes of bulbuls, drongos, tits, and the call of the Crested Serpent Eagle. Some song phrases (noted by Lister):

1. *tshiwatshishi-watshishi-watshishi*
2. A soft, tit-like *titu-titu-titu-titu-ti*
3. A low *tp-tp-tp-tp-tp*
4. A loud, rapid *ti-ti-tsi*, the latter note repeated about seven times and followed by a prolonged hoarse, scolding note
5. *pitu-pitya-pitya-pitu*
6. *tyawit-tyatyawi-tya*, repeated.

BREEDING. Season, May to August. Nest, similar to that of the Gold-fronted Chloropsis: a cradle of roots and fibres suspended near the end of

an outhanging branch 6 to 9 metres above the ground, rarely below 3 m. Eggs, similar to those of *aurifrons*; average size of 22 eggs 22.8×15.9 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. Juvenile entirely green with little or no orange-yellow on the belly. Postjuvenile moult includes body, lesser, median and inner greater coverts and inner two tertials, but apparently not wings and tail.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	93-100	21-26	19-21	73-79 mm
♀♀	88-94	22-25	18-19	65-72 mm

(BB, Fleming, SA, SDR, Stresemann)

Weight ♂♂ 32-40; ♀♀ 25-34 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill black. Legs bluish grey; feet bluish slaty; claws black; soles white (BB).

CHLOROPSIS COCHINCHINENSIS (Gmelin)

Key to the Subspecies

- Outer webs of primaries blue.....*C. c. cochinchinensis*
Outer webs of primaries green.....*C. c. jerdoni*

1107. **Jerdon's Chloropsis.** *Chloropsis cochinchinensis jerdoni* (Blyth)

Phyllornis jerdoni Blyth, 1844, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, 13: 392 (Central India)
Baker, FBI No. 374, Vol. 1: 352

LOCAL NAMES. *Hārēwā* (Hindi); *Wanna bojanum* (Telugu); *Ilakkili* (Malayalam); *Nil-kurullā*, *Girā-kurullā* (Sinhala).

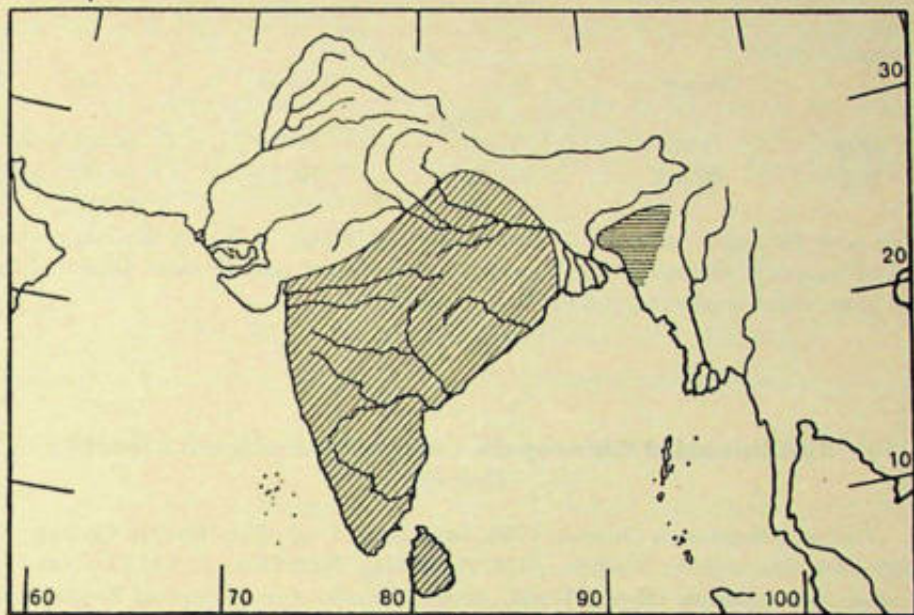
SIZE. Bulbul —; length c. 18 cm (7 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male, very similar to *aurifrons* but lacks the orange forehead which is yellowish green; black area of chin and throat smaller and not extending behind eye; yellow ring (penumbra) around black throat broader.

In female, black chin and throat of male replaced by pale bluish green; cheek-stripe bright greenish blue.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, on the whole fairly common, more so in the hills; rather patchily distributed in the plains. From the Gulf of Cambay to central Uttar Pradesh, east to West Bengal, south throughout the Peninsula and Ceylon, normally up to c. 1000 metres (1200 m in the Palnis). Affects secondary scrub jungle, forest edges, groves, and large leafy trees on village outskirts or standing amidst cultivation and grazing land. Prefers somewhat more open and drier country than Gold-fronted Chloropsis, but the two species often overlap.

GENERAL HABITS. Arboreal, usually frequenting the foliage canopy, admirably camouflaged among the leaves. Behaviour much as *aurifrons*. Keeps solitary or in pairs; family parties for some time after the young are fledged. Most often seen feeding among *Loranthus* clumps and flowering trees. A pugnacious bird chivvying and driving away other nectar-seekers

Chloropsis cochinchinensis

Distributional ranges

▨ *jerdoni* (1107).

■ *cochinchinensis* (1108).

from its feeding tree even though in a remote part of it. Flight undulating and rapid. For a note on anting, see JBNHS 38: 628-31.

FOOD. Insects such as green tree-crickets, red ants, mantises, caterpillars; berries and wild figs (*Ficus*); nectar of *Loranthus*, *Helicteres*, *Salmalia*, *Erythrina*, coconut and many other flowers.

VOICE and CALLS. A wide range of harsh as well as lively whistling notes, similar in general pattern to those of *aurifrons* but a few characteristic. Also a very good mimic, imitating to perfection drongos, bulbuls, tailor birds, tree pies, jungle babblers, shrikes, cuckoo-shrikes, etc., even the Shikra and the Striped Squirrel. Its own distinctive notes are occasionally wedged in between the mimicry. These given one after another in quick succession over long periods (once timed 40 minutes — SA).

BREEDING. *Season*, poorly defined; nests have been found every month, mainly between November and May in the more southern parts of its range (in Ceylon February to May; occasionally October — Phillips); from March to September in the north. *Nest*, a fairly deep cup of fine rootlets, plastered on the outside with cobwebs and vegetable fibres; suspended hammock-wise between leaf-stems or branching end-twigs at the extremity of a bough, usually six to nine metres from the ground. *Eggs*, normally 2, rarely 3, pale creamy or pinkish white sparingly marked with specks, blotches and hair-lines of blackish, purplish and reddish brown, chiefly about the broader end. Average size of 31 eggs 21.1×15.1 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies and Field Characters. Immature birds (both sexes) differ from adult female by absence of yellow wash on forehead,

and the colours of moustache and throat being indistinct shadows of the respective adults.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	86-96	21-26	18-20	66-81 mm
♀♀	82-88	21-25	18-20	62-72 mm (HW, SA)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill ♂ black, ♀ horny brown, grey at sides of base of lower mandible; mouth pinkish grey or pinkish slate. Legs and feet slaty grey; claws dusky; soles dirty fleshy white.

1108. **Goldmantled Chloropsis.** *Chloropsis cochinchinensis cochinchinensis* (Gmelin)

Turdus cochinchinensis Gmelin, 1788, Syst. Nat., 1 (2): 825 (Cochin China)

Phyllornis chlorocephalus Walden, 1871, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., 7: 241 (Toungoo)

Chloropsis cochinchinensis chloreus Kocz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 10 (Hahim Bazaar, Assam)

Baker, FBI No. 372, Vol. 1: 350

Plate 67, fig. 10, facing p. 64

LOCAL NAME. *Dao-bulip gurrimo* (Cachari).

SIZE. Bulbul; length c. 18 cm (7 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in *jerdoni*; see also 1103.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, fairly common. Assam hills south of the Brahmaputra, Manipur, and East Pakistan; from just above plains level up to c. 1800 metres. A bird of the damp, hot valleys, replaced higher up by *C. hardwickii*; affects deciduous and evergreen forest (penetrating well into the interior), gardens, kampongs, and groves of trees on village outskirts.

Extralimital. Ranges east through Burma, Thailand and the Indo-chinese countries. Other races in Malaysia and Indonesia.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in *jerdoni*. Frequently in company of bulbuls and *C. aurifrons*.

BREEDING. Season, April to August (Baker); nest and eggs, as of *jerdoni*. Average size of 16 eggs 22.3×15.5 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies; for detailed description Baker, loc. cit.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail
♂♂	84-90	21-22	65-72 mm
♀♀	76-84	20-22	61-68 mm (HW)

Tarsus c. 18 mm (Baker).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in *jerdoni*.

Genus IRENA Horsfield

Irena Horsfield, 1821, Trans. Linn. Soc. London, 13: 153. Type, by original designation, *Coracias puella* Latham

Bill shorter than head, stout, curved, slightly notched at tip; nostrils oval, partly concealed by frontal plumes; rictal bristles well developed. A few hairs (filoplumes) spring from nape. Wing long but rounded, 4th quill (as.) longest. Tarsus short and stout. Upper and under tail-coverts very long.

1109, 1110. **Fairy Bluebird.** *Irena puella puella* (Latham)¹

Coracias puella Latham, 1790, Index Orn., 1: 171 (India, restricted to Travancore [S. Kerala])

Irena puella sikkimensis Whistler & Kinnear, 1933, Jour. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc., 36: 582 (Sukna, Darjeeling)

Irena puella andamanica Abdulali, 1964, *ibid.*, 61: 415-17 (Long Island, Middle Andamans)

Baker, FBI No. 950, Vol. 3: 1

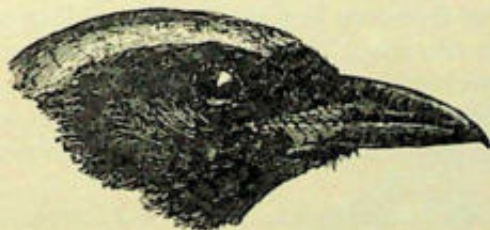
Vol. 5, plates 58, 59

Cf. Delacour, J., in Peters's Check-list, vol. 9, 1960: 307, footnote.

LOCAL NAMES. *Pana-kara-kūrūvi* (Telugu); *Lalita* (Malayalam); *Dao gatang* (Cachari).

SIZE. Myna +; length c. 27 cm (11 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male. *Above*, brilliant ultramarine blue; *below*, deep velvety black with blue under tail-coverts.



× c. 1

Female. Dull blue-green with blackish lores.

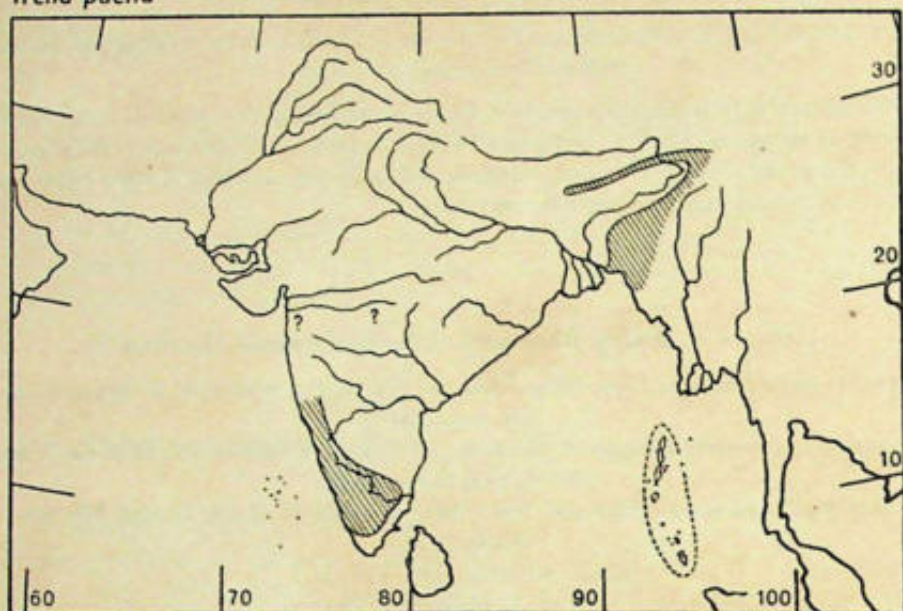
STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident subject to seasonal wanderings. Range disjunct as follows:

- (1) Heavy rainfall area of south-western India from about Ratnagiri district in Maharashtra, south to the southern

parts of the Western Ghats in Kerala, from the plains to c. 1800 metres, and the hills of western Tamil Nadu (Nilgiris, Palnis, etc.); on the east it has been reported only from the Chitteri range. Betts records it as a cold-weather visitor to the central plateau of Coorg, arriving in November. There are old records from Mahableshwar, Khandesh and Vidarbha (Berar). Extinct in Ceylon where the last record appears to have been in 1877.

- (2) Southeastern Nepal foothills (Jhapa dist. — Fleming), Sikkim and Bhutan foothills, Jalpaiguri duars, Assam, Manipur and the East Pakistan hills; also Andaman and Nicobar islands.

¹ No. 1110, *I. p. sikkimensis*, is considered a synonym; see Museum Diagnosis.

Irena puella

Disjunct distributional range of *I. p. puella* (1109).

Affects heavy moist-deciduous and evergreen forest, sholas, coffee plantations and deep jungle.

Extralimital. Extends through Burma and the Indochinese subregion. Other subspecies in Malaysia, Sumatra, Borneo, Java and the Philippines.

GENERAL HABITS. In the non-breeding season keeps in small parties of six to eight birds, rarely more, usually to tree-tops but readily descending to bushes where food attracts. Always on the move, hopping from branch to branch and flying from tree to tree, uttering their distinctive call as they go.

FOOD. Fruit, berries and nectar. Especially fond of the various species of figs; probes into the blossoms of *Erythrina* and *Grevillea* for nectar. Insects are also taken.

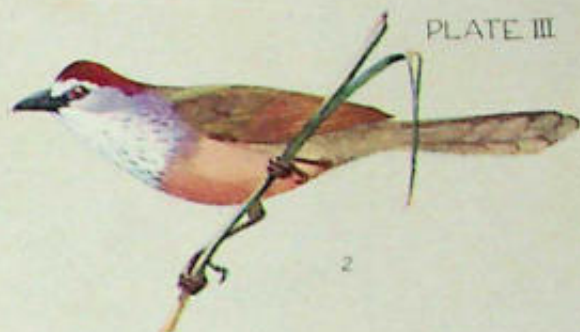
VOICE and CALLS. As they dodge about the trees, utter characteristic, liquid, percussive notes variously rendered as *weet-weet*, *be-quick*, *peepit*, *what's it* repeated every few seconds. According to Betts, the male has an explosive, liquid, bubbling whistle of two notes *whit-tu*, *whit-tu*, *whit-tu* [a different rendering of the above?]; as it calls the tail is jerked up sharply. A sharp *chichichichik* given in flight every few seconds has also been noted.

BREEDING. *Season*, overall January to June, but most nests have been found from February to April. Unlike most forest birds they do not select

- 1 *Pomatorhinus schisticeps* (*nuchalis*), Slatyheaded Scimitar Babbler (1169 RE). 2 *Timalia p. bengalensis*, Redcapped Babbler (1229). 3 *Chrysomma s. hypoleucum*, Western Yellow-eyed Babbler (1230). 4 *Macronous gularis* (*sulphureus*), Yellowbreasted Babbler (1228 RE). 5 *Pellorneum ruficeps* (*subochraceum*), Spotted Babbler (1158 RE). 6 *Alcippe p. fusca*, Assam Quaker Babbler (1391). 7 *Aegithina t. tiphia*, Iora (1098), ♂ non-breeding. 8 *Heterophasia melanoleuca castanopectera*, Tickell's Sibia (SE). 9 *Chloropsis aurifrons* (*pridii*), Goldfronted Chloropsis (1103 RE), ♂. 10 *Chloropsis c. cochinchinensis*, Goldmantled Chloropsis (1108), ♂.



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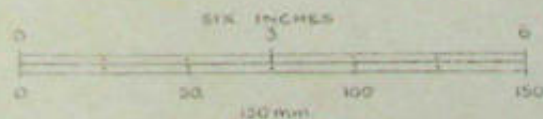


9



10

Ch. Hughes
1913



open glades or banks of streams but breed in the heart of the thickest and most humid places. *Nest*, described by Betts as very distinctive and unmistakable for that of any other bird: a rough platform of straight dead twigs 16 to 19 cm long and remarkably thick, often at least 5 mm in diameter. On this is spread a layer of green moss and a scanty lining of rootlets and leaf-ribs. It is placed in a fork well within a dense and shady tree, from five metres up; exceptionally in bushes as low as one metre. The hen does all the building, the cock accompanying her, calling loudly. *Eggs*, almost invariably 2, exceptionally 3, olive-grey or greenish white with irregular streaky blotches of brown scattered over the surface, more densely and forming a cap at the large end. Average size of 40 eggs 28.2×20.2 mm (Baker). Incubation of eggs (period?) and brooding of young by female alone; feeding by both parents. Young clothed in a thick coat of dark grey-brown fluffy down.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Specimens from southwest India have a slightly shorter wing (an average of less than 4 mm), but birds from farther east are intermediate. Andaman birds have slightly longer tails (within the range of the species average) and slightly heavier bills; these small differences do not warrant subspecific recognition (*sic* Delacour *in litt.*). There is no difference in plumage.

The juvenal plumage is a dull edition of the female's except that the wings and their coverts have very little of the blue-green wash. First-winter males are indistinguishable from the adult female except for the presence of odd, accidentally moulted, feathers of the adult plumage; postjuvenal moult of body, lesser, median and probably greater coverts.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	123-134	26-30	18-19	99-110 mm
♀♀	118-128	27-30	18-19	95-104 mm
[South India (HW, SA)]				
12 ♂♂	123-141	26-30	18-19	97-112 mm
6 ♀♀	124-130	29-32	—	92-112 mm
[Northeast India (HA, HW, SA)]				
3 ♂♂	129-133	25-26	—	106-110 mm
1 ♀	130	25	—	108 mm
[Andamans (HA)]				

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris claret. Bill black (♂), brownish black (♀); mouth greyish pink. Legs, feet and claws black.

Family PYCNONOTIDAE: Bulbuls

Cf. Delacour, J., 1943, *Zoologica*, 28 (1): 17-28; Thomson, A. L. (ed.) 1964, *A New Dictionary of Birds*: 110 (Article 'Bulbul').

Key to the Genera

	Page
A Bill finch-like.....	<i>Spizixos</i> 66
B Hairs springing from nape numerous and at least as long as tarsus.....	<i>Criniger</i> 100

		Page
C	Bill equal to, usually shorter than tarsus. Difference between longest primary and longest secondary less than length of tarsus. <i>Pycnonotus</i>	67
D	Bill longer than tarsus. Difference between longest primary and longest secondary more than length of tarsus. <i>Hypsipetes</i>	101

Genus *SPIZIXOS* Blyth

Spizixos Blyth, 1845, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, 14: 571. Type, by monotypy,
Spizixos canifrons Blyth

Differs from other bulbuls by its finch-like bill, otherwise a typical member of the family in its habits, breeding and voice. Crest thick and long but not much pointed; bill short and deep, culmen gently curved throughout; edge of mandibles slightly sinuate and notched near the tips; tail square; tarsus short and weak.

1111. **Finchbilled Bulbul.** *Spizixos canifrons canifrons* Blyth

Spizixos canifrons Blyth, 1845, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, 14: 571 (Khasia Hills)

Spizixos canifrons nobilis Koelz, 1952, Jour. Zool. Soc. Indai, 4: 154 (Lushai Hills)

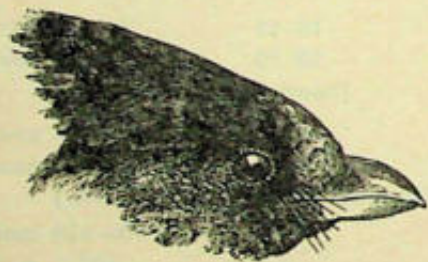
Baker, FBI No. 416, Vol. 1: 400

Vol. 9, Plate 100

LOCAL NAME. *Dao bulip-buku* (Cachari).

SIZE. Redvented Bulbul; length c. 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A green bulbul with yellowish belly, broad dark terminal band on tail, slaty head and throat with whitish patch on sides of neck, and pointed blackish crest. Sexes alike. The pale yellow thick bill looks whitish in the field and very distinctive.



x.c. 1

Young (immature), forehead greenish yellow, crown and crest dark olive; throat and ear-coverts dull yellowish; indications of a dusky moustache; rest as adult but duller with terminal tail-band shadowy. Bill blackish.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. A resident montane species, subject to some seasonal altitudinal movement. Assam hills south of the Brahmaputra, Nagaland, Manipur (and East Pakistan in the Chittagong Hill Tracts?) from c. 1400 to 2500 metres, descending in winter to 900 m. Affects cut-over scrub, semi-cultivation, deciduous and evergreen forest.

EXTRALIMITAL. Chin Hills and Arakan. The species extends east through northern Burma, Yunnan and northern Thailand to N. Vietnam.

GENERAL HABITS. Found in parties, sometimes large groups of more than 50 individuals. Affects low scrub and abandoned hill-cultivation clearings overgrown with brambles and ringal bamboo; sometimes high trees whence it may be seen 'fly-catching' in the air for insects and returning to the same perch. A typical bulbul in its habits.

FOOD. Seeds, fruit and insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm-note, a strident but not unmelodious *pürr-pürr-prüüt-prüüt-prüüt*, the last three syllables only added when the bird is very excited; another call is described as *krrit-krrüit . . . turr-turrr . . . pit* with strong emphasis on the last note (Heinrich). Typical bulbul notes — full, soft and distinct; also has a curious chattering note (Whistler).

BREEDING. Season, April through July. Nest, rather shallow, cup-shaped, very distinctive, apparently always made of narrow curly corkscrew-like tendrils of some vine, occasionally with a few fine twigs added, and sometimes lined with scraps of bracken or grass. Built in low bushes preferably in tangles of wild raspberries (*Rubus*); sometimes in small saplings up to three metres. Eggs, 2 or 3, rarely 4, dull pink marked with numerous freckles of pinkish red to deep brownish red, often confluent and forming a well-marked cap or ring around the large end. Average size of 100 eggs 25.7 × 17.6 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. Postjuvenile moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail
♂ ♀	90-102	16-19	89-99 mm (HW, SDR)

Wing 10 ♂♂ 93-99, 10 ♀♀ 90-94 mm (Heinrich).

Tarsus c. 18-19 mm (Baker).

Weight 1 ♂ 44 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris reddish brown. Bill yellowish horn above, very pale yellowish green below. Legs and feet brownish flesh (HW).

Genus PYCNONOTUS Boie

Pycnonotus Boie, 1826, Isis, col. 973, Type, by monotypy, *Turdus capensis* Linnaeus.
Brachypodius Blyth, 1845, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, 14: 576. Type, by original designation, *Lanius melanocephalus* Gmelin

Rubigula Blyth, 1845, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, 14: 576. Type, by original designation, *Turdus dispar* Horsfield

Microtarsus Eyton, 1839, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 102. Type, by monotypy, *Microtarsus melanoleucus* Eyton

Elathea Gistel, 1848, Naturges. Hohere Schulen: 8. Type, by original designation, *Brachypus plumifer* Gould = *Vanga flaviventris* Tickell

Otocompsa Cabanis, 1851, Mus. Hein., 1: 109. Type, by monotypy, *Lanius jocosus* Linnaeus

Molpastes Hume, 1873, Stray Feathers, 1: 378. Type, by original designation, *Haematornis chrysorrhoides* Lafresnaye

Alcurus Blyth, 1843, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, 12: 930-55. Type, by monotypy, *Trichophorus striatus* Blyth

Xanthixus Oates, 1889, Fauna Brit. Ind., Bds., 1: 274. Type, by monotypy, *Pycnonotus flavescens* Blyth

Kelaartia Jerdon, 1863, Bds. Ind., 2: 86. Type, by monotypy, *Pycnonotus penicillatus* Blyth

Cf. Deignan, H. G., 1948, 1949, Jour. Washington Acad. Sci., 38; 39: 245-8, 279-81; 273-9.

Bill moderately thick and long for the group; colours and pattern very variable; feathers on the crown erectile and either elongated or normal in length.

Key to the Species

		Page
I	Plumage heavily striped..... <i>P. striatus</i>	92
II	Plumage not striped	
A	Under tail-coverts red or yellow contrasting with rest of plumage	
a	Tail tipped with white	
1	Under tail-coverts red..... <i>P. cafer</i>	85
2	Under tail-coverts yellow	
	Throat black..... <i>P. leucogenys</i>	81
	Throat yellow..... <i>P. xantholaemus</i>	94
b	Tail not tipped with white	
3	A white cheek-patch..... <i>P. jocosus</i>	75
4	No cheek-patch..... <i>P. flavescens</i>	96
B	Under tail-coverts concolorous with belly	
c	Lores and chin white, yellow tuft behind eye..... <i>P. penicillatus</i>	95
d	Front of forehead, and supercilium, white..... <i>P. luteolus</i>	98
e	Tail broadly tipped with yellow..... <i>P. atriceps</i>	68
f	Tail tipped with white..... <i>P. atriceps</i> (grey phase)	69
g	Tail not tipped with yellow or white	
5	Head entirely black..... <i>P. melanipectus</i>	71
6	Head slaty, forehead greenish..... <i>P. priocephalus</i>	70

PYCNONOTUS ATRICEPS (Temminck)

Key to the Subspecies

Head entirely black, sharply defined.....	<i>P. a. atriceps</i>
Head almost concolorous with back, olive washed with blackish, not sharply defined.....	<i>P. a. fuscoflavescens</i>

1112. Blackheaded Bulbul. *Pycnonotus atriceps atriceps* (Temminck)

Turdus atriceps Temminck, 1822, Pl. col., livr. 25, pl. 147 (Java and Sumatra, restricted to Java by Robinson & Kloss, 1923, Jour. Fed. Malay States Mus., 11: 55)

Br. (achypodius) cinereiventris Blyth, 1845, Jour. Asiat Soc. Bengal, 14: 576 (Tipperah)

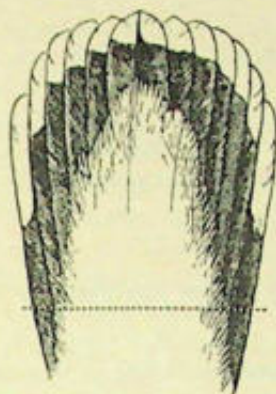
Baker, FBI Nos. 439 and 442, Vol. 1: 423, 426

Cf. Ticehurst, C. B., 1939, *Ibis*, 81: 563.

LOCAL NAMES. *Dao-bulip-garaju* (grey phase), *Dao-bulip-garasha* (normal phase) (Cachari). The two names mean male and female although the difference is not one of sexes but of colour phases.

SIZE. Redvented Bulbul —; length c. 18 cm (7 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Two colour phases. Normal phase. Above, head glossy black; upperparts olive, mottled with black on rump; wings olive



× $\epsilon. \frac{2}{3}$
Tail. Dotted line
to show much
lengthened upper
tail-coverts

and black; tail olive with a black subterminal band and a broad yellow terminal band. *Below*, throat and upper breast glossy black; lower breast olive becoming yellow on belly and undertail surface. Uncrested black head, and rounded tail with bright yellow terminal band are leading clues.

In Grey phase all olive or yellow parts replaced by ashy grey; terminal band of tail white. This phase crops up here and there, but rarely (less than 1 per cent). Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, common where it occurs. Assam south of the Brahmaputra (including Nagaland and Manipur) and the eastern and southeastern parts of East Pakistan, in lowlands and foothills up to $\epsilon. 700$ m. Affects deciduous forest, scattered or light jungle and gardens.

Extralimital. Burma and throughout the Indochinese subregion, Malaysia, the Sunda islands, Borneo and Palawan.

GENERAL HABITS. Arboreal, descending to bushes when food attracts; may inhabit thick bushes and undergrowth, and cane brakes in the breeding season. Picks berries while hopping from branch to branch in small or large parties. Sometimes hawks flying insects by aerial sorties from tree-tops. Rather quarrelsome.

FOOD. Mostly berries; also insects (flying ants etc.).

VOICE and CALLS. Very distinct and unlike those of other bulbuls. Ordinary call-note, a lively, sharp but pleasant single chirp uttered when flying from tree to tree, hopping among the branches or at rest. Song, a melancholy double whistle not unlike that of a sibia (Davison); 'very mournful, like the rain-weather call of the Iora but deeper and softer'—Baker. It is uttered when sitting quietly especially in the morning and evening.

BREEDING. *Season*, April and May. *Nest*, rather bulky for the size of the bird, well built and compact 'more like a flycatcher's than a bulbul's' (J. C. Hopwood); made of fine stems, twigs, dead leaves and grass, lined with fine grass-stems; placed in upright forks of branches or cane fronds, part of the material being wound around the supporting twigs; always in bushes and nearly always quite low down. *Eggs*, 2 or 3, typical of *Pycnonotus* but having a definite character of their own, pale pink with a violet tinge marked with speckles or small blotches of reddish brown or purple-brown forming a ring or cap at the large end. Average size of 17 eggs 21.1×15.9 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies and Field Characters.

Young (immature), head and throat dull brown; base of rump-feathers brown, tail-coverts shorter; rest as in adult but darker and duller. Primary and tail characters present, postjuvenile moult complete. This species is dichromatic, the grey phase lacking carotenoids (see also SF 6: 319).

1115. **Blackcrested Yellow Bulbul.** *Pycnonotus melanicterus flaviventris* (Tickell)

Vanga flaviventris Tickell, 1833, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, 2: 573

(Dampara in Dholbhum)

Baker, FBI No. 413, Vol. 1: 397

Vol. 9, plate 98

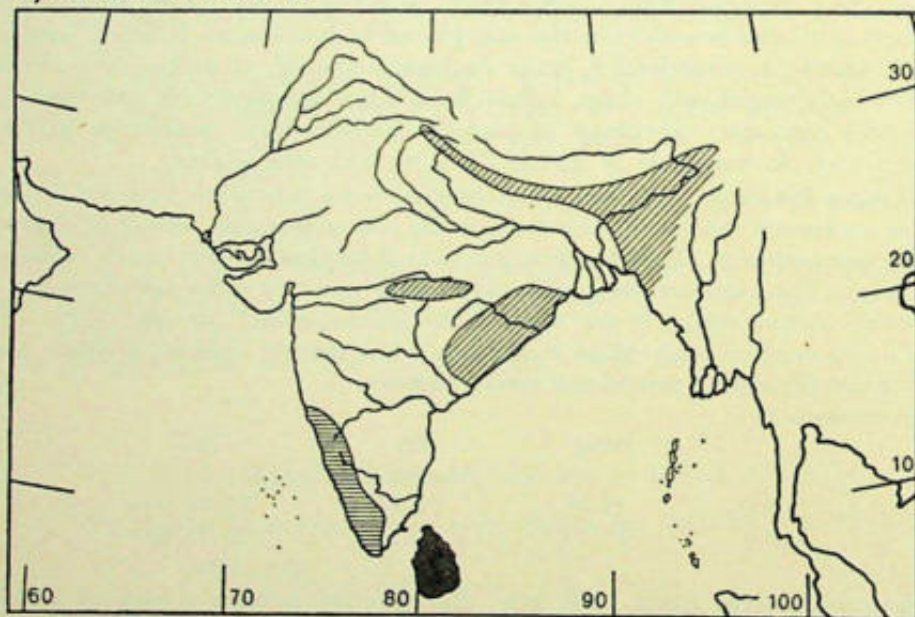
LOCAL NAMES. *Zārd būlbūl* (Hindi); *Pāhāriyā kāngdhāra* (Gorakhpur); *Mandiph-hur* (Lepcha); *Hagrani dao-bulip* (Cachari).

SIZE. Redvented Bulbul $\pm$; length c. 18 cm (7½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Entire head, throat and crest glossy black; rest of upperparts olive-yellow, tail largely brown. Underparts yellow, darker on breast. Pale yellow eyes conspicuous at short range. Sexes alike. Distinguished from the Blackheaded Bulbul (1112) by its erect pointed crest, and the absence of yellow in tail.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT. Fairly common resident along the lower Himalayas from Simla through Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, Assam hills, Nagaland, Manipur, and East Pakistan; terai and duars and up to an altitude of c. 1500 m, rarely to 2400 m, extending in the plains to Gonda

Pycnonotus melanicterus



Distributional ranges

▨ *flaviventris* (1115). ▨ *gularis* (1116). ■ *melanicterus* (1117).

(U.P.) and Bettiah (N. Bihar); also the forests of Madhya Pradesh (Pachmarhi, Chhindwara and Bastar districts), Orissa and northeastern Andhra Pradesh. Affects forest with plenty of undergrowth, dense secondary jungle, and scrub country about terraced cultivation, orchards and villages.

Extralimital. This subspecies extends to Arakan, northern Burma and western Yunnan; other races throughout the Indochinese subregion, Sumatra, Java and Borneo.

GENERAL HABITS. Arboreal, seldom coming near the ground. Usually singly or in pairs, but may consort in numbers in fruit-bearing trees. Like other bulbuls often hawks flying ants in the air from tree-tops.

FOOD. Mainly fruits, also insects. Observed feeding on fruit of *Solanum xanthocarpum* growing along forest path (SA).

VOICE and CALLS. Similar to those of the Rubythroated Bulbul (1116), q.v. Some notes also resemble those of the Black Bulbul (1148). Song rendered as *weet-tre-trippy-weet*, the last three syllables repeated twice or more.

BREEDING. *Season*, overall March to September, chiefly April to June. *Nest*, a flimsy cup of yellow dead leaves bound with a little cobweb and shreds of bark; a first rough lining of coarse grass stems, fine twigs and rootlets, and a finer lining, in most cases composed only of the finer stems of tan-coloured grass, occasionally of fine moss-roots or other vegetable fibre; placed in a thick bush or sapling 30 to 250 cm from the ground. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, sometimes 2, faint pinkish white covered with numerous freckles of dull lilac-pink, dull reddish or reddish pink with secondary freckles of pale grey, sometimes forming a ring around the large end. Average size of 100 eggs 24.2×16.4 mm (Baker). Both birds take part in incubation; period unrecorded.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *gularis* and *melanipectus* in having a crest and a black throat.

Young (immature) like adult but head dull black and crest shorter; upperparts greenish olive; underparts much paler yellow; edges to wing and tail less distinct; primary and tail characters present. Postjuvénal moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	85-95	14-17	15-17	82-90 mm
♀♀	83-89	14-16	16-17	79-86 mm

(HW, BB, SA, Fleming)

Weight 4 ♂♂ 30-34; 2 ♀♀ 28-31 g (SDR, BB).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris pale lemon-yellow. Bill black. Legs and feet dark plumbeous; claws darker; soles yellowish white.

1116. Rubythroated Yellow Bulbul. *Pycnonotus melanipectus gularis* (Gould)

Brachypus gularis Gould, 1835, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 186 (Travancore)

Baker, FBI No. 431, Vol. 1: 415

Plate 69, fig. 1, facing p. 128

LOCAL NAME. *Mānikāntān* (Malayalam).

SIZE. Redvented Bulbul $\pm$; length $\approx$ 18 cm ($7\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. An olive-yellow and bright yellow bulbul with black uncrested head, conspicuous whitish eye and ruby-red throat. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. Goa (?) and western Mysore from Belgaum south through Kerala and adjacent parts of Tamil

Nadu. In the lowlands and foothills of the Ghats up to c. 1000 m (1200 m in Coorg dist., rarely higher). Affects edges of evergreen forest, thickets along rivers, mixed bamboo and evergreen, and old forest clearings overgrown with secondary jungle and tangles of *Mimosa*, *Lantana*, etc. Avoids cultivation.

GENERAL HABITS. Arboreal, finding most of its food in the forest canopy. Keeps in pairs during the breeding season, in small parties otherwise. Rather silent and shy and retiring.

FOOD. Berries, figs and insects.

VOICE and CALLS. The birds keep in touch with each other by a low, churring note constantly uttered. Song, a half-dozen tinkling notes recalling the song of *Rhipidura aureola* but of the pattern and richness of the Redwhiskered Bulbul's; closely resembling also song of 1115.

BREEDING. *Season*, ill-defined: overall January to August, chiefly February to April. *Nest*, a very small cup of yellow dead leaves bound lightly with cobweb and grass stalks with a slight lining of grass, looking like a casual wind-blown accumulation of rubbish (Betts). The choice of yellow leaves as a nest material, as also in the Blackcrested Bulbul, is stressed by Betts. Placed in low bushes between 1 and 3 metres from the ground. *Eggs*, invariably 2, similar to those of *flaviventris*. Average size of 4 eggs 20.9×15.2 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies. Young undescribed.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail
♂♂	74-79	15-16	68-74 mm
♀♀	73-79	15-16	67-69 mm
			(HW, SA)

Tarsus c. 15 mm (Baker).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris creamy white to yellow. Bill brownish black; mouth yellowish pink. Legs, feet and claws brown.

1117. Blackcapped Yellow Bulbul. *Pycnonotus melanicterus melanicterus* (Gmelin)

Muscicapa melanictora Gmelin, 1789, Syst. Nat., 1: 941 (Ceylon)
Baker, FBI No. 429, Vol. 1: 414

LOCAL NAME. *Kāhā kondayā* (Sinhala).

SIZE. Redvented Bulbul —; length c. 18 cm ($7\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, uncrested head black; back, rump and wings olive-green; tail brown tipped white. *Below*, throat and rest of underparts lemon-yellow with an olive wash on breast. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, Ceylon. Widely distributed except in the arid parts, in moderate numbers up to at least 1200 m. Affects well-wooded areas but prefers forest varied by open country to dense forest.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in *gularis*.

VOICE and CALLS. 'A plaintive, minor-key whistle on an ascending scale, something like *yor, yer ye* or *wer wer we we* each syllable higher than the last' (Henry).

BREEDING. *Season*, ill-defined: February to June, mostly March and April (Phillips) with a second period in August–September (Henry); occasionally in other months. *Nest*, a rather flimsy cup of small twigs, rootlets and especially dead leaves and fern-stalks, lined scantily with fibres; placed in a small lateral fork or in twigs and well concealed among foliage in a low bush in scrub jungle, or a small tree in the outskirts of forest. *Eggs*, normally 2, dull pink, densely speckled and occasionally blotched with light red-brown. Average size of 24 eggs 20.9×15.7 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies.

Young (immature), similar to adult but black of head dull and glossless; rectrices narrower and more pointed.

Wing and tail moult in the adults in March and October.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
6 ♂♂	72–77	15–17	15–16	65–69 mm
5 ♀♀	72–74	15–16	15–16	62–65 mm (HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dull red (♂) or dark brown (♀). Bill black. Legs and feet blackish (♂) or deep lead colour (♀).

PYCNONOTUS JOCOSUS (Linnaeus)

Key to the Subspecies

	Page
A Rectrices without white tips	
1 Paler, collar broken in centre..... <i>P. j. abuensis</i>	76
2 Darker, collar complete..... <i>P. j. fuscicaudatus</i>	77
B Rectrices with white tips	
3 Upperparts rich ruddy brown	
a Red ear-tuft and crest shorter, bill heavier..... <i>P. j. whistleri</i>	80
b Red ear-tuft and crest longer, bill more slender..... <i>P. j. emeria</i>	79
4 Upperparts darker, more saturated..... <i>P. j. monticola</i>	80
5 Upperparts paler..... <i>P. j. pyrrhotis</i>	75

Cf. Deignan, H. G., 1948, Jour. Washington Acad. Sci., 38: 279–81.

1118. Kumaon Redwhiskered Bulbul. *Pycnonotus jocosus pyrrhotis* (Bonaparte)

Ixos pyrrhotis 'Hodgs.' = Bonaparte, 1850, Consp. Gen. Av., 1: 265 (ex India = Nepal ex Hodgson, 1844)

Otocompsa jocosus provincialis Whistler, 1931, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl., 52: 40
(Kumaon bhabar)

Baker, FBI No. 410 (part), Vol. 1: 394

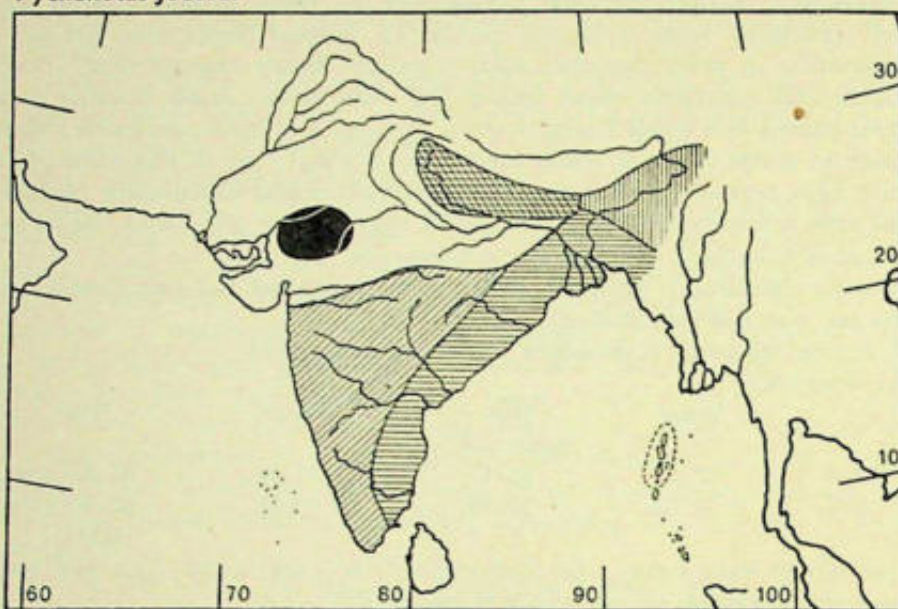
LOCAL NAMES. *Kāmerā būlbūl*, *Pāhāri būlbūl* (Hindi).

SIZE. Redvented Bulbul ±; length c. 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1120, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident in the lowlands, from

Pycnonotus jocosus



Distributional ranges

abuensis (1119).
 pyrrhotis (1118).
 monticola (1121a).
 emia (1121).
 fuscicaudatus (1120).
 whistleri (1122).

East Punjab to Uttar Pradesh, the Nepal terai, duns and bhabar, and Bihar; affects scrub jungle, light forest, semi-cultivation and villages.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD, VOICE and BREEDING. As in 1120.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail
3 ♂♂	88-90	19	85-86 mm
3 ♀♀	80-83	19	73-77 mm (BB)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1120 and other races.

1119. Rajasthan Redwhiskered Bulbul. *Pycnonotus jocosus abuensis* (Whistler)

Otocompsa jocosu abuensis Whistler, 1931, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl., 52: 40 (Mount Abu)
Baker, FBI No. 411 (part), Vol. 1: 396

LOCAL NAMES. *Kāmērā būlbūl*, *Pāhārī būlbūl* (Hindi).

SIZE and FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1120.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. Central, southern and southeastern Rajasthan, and northern Gujarat. Affects scrub and cultivated areas.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD, VOICE and BREEDING. As in 1120.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
6 ♂♂	87-91	19	20-21	83-87 mm (HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1120 and other races.

1120. **Southern Redwhiskered Bulbul.** *Pycnonotus jocosus fuscicaudatus* (Gould)

Otocompsa fuscicaudata Gould, 1866 (1865), Proc. Zool. Soc. London, pt. 3: 664 (Southern India and Madras, restricted to the Nilgiri Hills by Whistler & Kinnear, 1932, JBNHS 35: 756)

Baker, FBI No. 411, Vol. 1: 396

LOCAL NAMES. *Pāhāri būlbūl*, *Kāmērā būlbūl* (Hindi); *Sipāhi būlbūl* (Gujarati); *Turaka-pigli-pitta* (Telugu); *Konda-kloti-kūrūvi* (Tamil); *Irattattalachi* (Malayalam).

SIZE. Redvented or Whitecheeked Bulbul $\pm$; length c. 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. An unmistakable bird, hair-brown above with a pointed black crest (carried erect except when flying), crimson tufts behind the eyes, white underparts with a dark collar, and scarlet under tail-coverts. Young birds lack the red 'whiskers' and have a pale orange-rufous vent. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common and widespread resident. Western India from the Tapti river and Madhya Pradesh (apparently absent from its northern parts), south to Cape Comorin, including Maharashtra, Mysore, Kerala, western Tamil Nadu and the western half of Andhra Pradesh. Chiefly in the Ghats and associated hills (Nilgiri, Palni, etc.) up to c. 1800 m; rare in the central tableland. Affects open scrub jungle, cultivation and urban gardens; avoids heavy forest but prefers a more humid habitat than either *leucogenys* or *cafer*, often to the exclusion of each other. (For a note on ecological preferences between this species and *P. cafer* see JBNHS 39: 102.)

GENERAL HABITS. A familiar bird of gardens, often even in the heart of noisy cities. Usually in pairs, occasionally in loose feeding flocks of 30 or more in the non-breeding season, and in association with other bulbuls. Largely sedentary, each pair usually remaining in the neighbourhood of its breeding haunts throughout the year. Feeds mostly on trees and bushes but also descends to the ground, hopping about to pick ants and other insects. At times will make aerial sorties from a bush- or tree-top to capture winged termites and moths. Frequently does damage to ripening fruit in orchards, and is a minor scourge of the kitchen garden and to flower-buds and seedlings. Flight strong and well sustained though slow and jerky in character.

1121a. **Assam Redwhiskered Bulbul.** *Pycnonotus jocosus monticola*
(McClelland)

Ixos monticola McClelland, 1840, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, pt. 7: 160

('Kassia mountains,' Assam)

Baker, FBI No. 410 (part), Vol. 1: 394

LOCAL NAMES. *Dao-bulip-gajao-bi* (Cachari); *Inrui-bulib-gaherba* (Kacha Naga); *Kanda* (Sylhet); *Khoining* (Manipur, all bulbuls); *Dukshoh* (Dafla); *Pyajo* (Naga); *Jango* (Mishmi); *Jadbo* (Abor).

SIZE. Redvented Bulbul $\pm$; length c. 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1120, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Bengal duars (Jalpaiguri district), Bhutan foothills east through Assam and the NEFA foothills up to 1100 m. Affects scrub jungle and clearings near villages.

Extralimital. Extends to northern Burma, the Shan States, Yunnan and Indochina (Deignan).

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1120. Flocks of over 100 were seen associated with *P. cafer* (Mishmi Hills. SA & SDR). Very abundant also in NEFA.

BREEDING. *Season*, March to July, chiefly May and June. *Nest*, as in 1120. *Eggs*, 3, rarely 4; for description and size see under *emeria*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies.

MEASUREMENTS. Wing σ^7 84-95, ϕ 80-91 mm.

Weight 4 σ^7 30-42; 4 ϕ 30-36 g (SDR, BB).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1120.

1122. **Andaman Redwhiskered Bulbul.** *Pycnonotus jocosus whistleri*
Deignan

Pycnonotus jocosus whistleri Deignan, 1948, Jour. Washington Acad. Sci., 38: 280

(Cinque I., Andaman Is.)

Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Smaller than myna; length c. 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1120, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident in South and Middle Andaman islands. Introduced into the Nicobars from Port Blair; now found on Trinkat and Camorta, probably also Nancowry. Affects open country and towns.

GENERAL HABITS. Those of the species. 'Especially common at Port Blair where it frequently enters the houses taking the place of the common sparrow' (Osmaston, 1906, JBNHS 17: 156).

BREEDING. *Season*, March to May. Nesting as in 1120. *Eggs*, 2 or 3, like those of *emeria*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies; barely distinguishable from *emeria* of Orissa but ear-tuft and crest shorter, bill heavier.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1120.

PYCNONOTUS LEUCOGENYS (Gray)

Key to the Subspecies

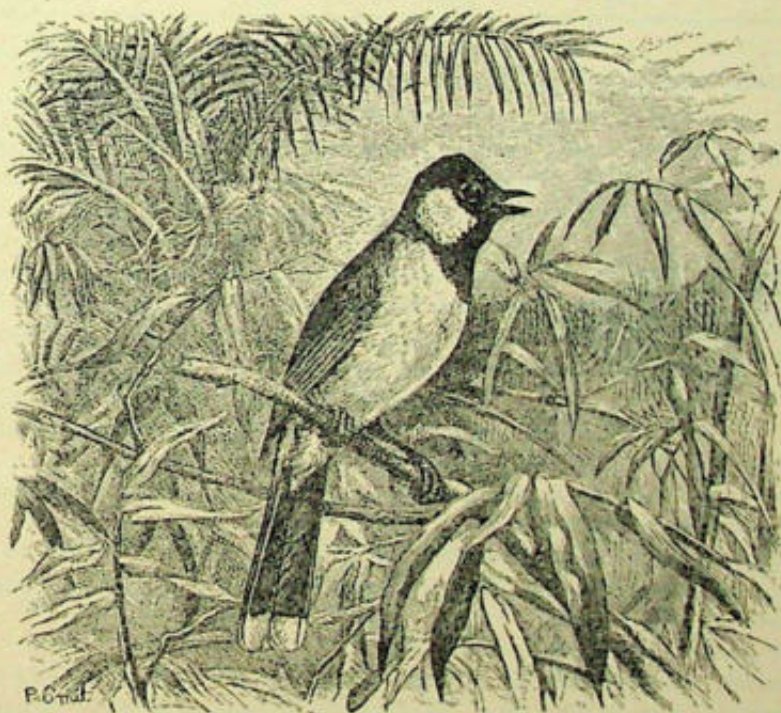
	Page
A Crest lacking, top of head black. <i>P. l. leucotis</i>	81
B Crest present	
1 Crest moderate, brownish black; back dull olive-brown. <i>P. l. humii</i>	83
2 Crest long, brown; back greenish olive-brown. <i>P. l. leucogenys</i>	83

1123. **White-eared Bulbul.** *Pycnonotus leucogenys leucotis* (Gould)*Ixos leucotis* Gould, 1836, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 6 (Karachi, Sind)

Baker, FBI No. 406, Vol. 1: 390

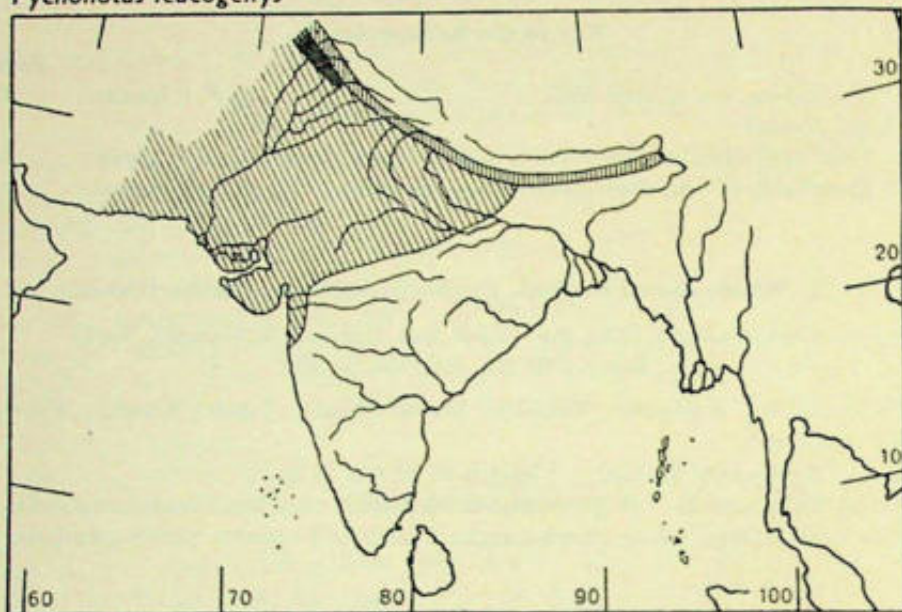
LOCAL NAMES. *Kūshāndra* (Punjab); *Bhooroo* (Sind); *Jogido* (Kutch); *Kānārā būlbūl* (Gujarati).SIZE. Redvented Bulbul $\pm$; length c. 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A grey-brown bird with crestless black head, black throat and a large white cheek-patch; under tail-coverts yellow, tail dark



brown tipped white. Distinguished from the Redvented Bulbul by the white cheek-patches, white underparts and yellow vent. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common and widespread resident, subject to some local movements. West Pakistan in Baluchistan (Makran coast and inland up to 1800 m in the hills), Sind and West Punjab where

Pycnonotus leucogenys

Distributional range

■ *humii* (1124).

▨ *leucogenys* (1125).

▧ *leucotis* (1123).

it intergrades with *humii*, east to Rajasthan, East Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and northern Madhya Pradesh, south to Gujarat (including Kutch and Saurashtra), and northern Maharashtra (Bombay) where it has apparently



× c. 1

spread in the last 40 years. Affects semi-desert tracts, scrub, urban gardens, cultivated areas and coastal mangroves. Spreads with the extension of gardens and groves; when found side by side with the Redvented Bulbul its preference for semi-desert facies is noticeable; closely associated with *Capparis* and *Salvadora*.

Extralimital. Southern Afghanistan and southern Iran; the species ranges to Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

GENERAL HABITS. As in *leucogenys* (1125).

FOOD. Berries (especially *Capparis* and *Salvadora*), caterpillars, ants and other insects; flower-nectar.

VOICE and CALLS. As in *leucogenys*.

BREEDING. *Season,* March to September; may be influenced by rainfall and consequent supply of food. Nesting, as in *leucogenys*. *Eggs,* normally 3, sometimes 2 or 4, not so well and darkly marked as those of the White-cheeked Bulbul (1125). Average size of 100 eggs 21.6×15 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies; differs from *leucogenys* also by the lack of superciliary streak, greyish brown (v. earth-brown) back, large white check-patch and deeper chrome-yellow under tail-coverts; complete postnuptial moult c. September.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	81-91	15-18	21-22	66-84 mm
♀♀	80-88	14-16	20-23	73-80 mm

(SA, Koelz)

Weight 10 ♂♀ 18-28 (av. 23) g — SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill black. Legs and feet bluish grey.

1124. **Hume's White-eared Bulbul.** *Pycnonotus leucogenys humii* (Oates)

Molpastes humii Oates, 1889, Fauna Brit. Ind., Bds. 1: 274 (Jalálpoor, Punjab)
Baker, FBI No. 407, Vol. 1: 391

LOCAL NAME. *Kūshāndra* (Punjab).SIZE. Redvented Bulbul $\pm$; length c. 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1125 but crest shorter.



× c. 1

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident subject to local movements. Eastern Afghanistan (Jalalabad), the Peshawar Valley, West Punjab to Rawalpindi and Jhelum, south to the Mianwali district and the southern foot of the Salt Range. Affects scrub jungle and gardens, absent only from the barest tracts.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1125.

BREEDING. Season, April to August. Nesting as in 1125. Eggs, normally 3, sometimes 2 or 4, similar to those of *leucogenys*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies; very variable as it is an intermediate population showing all intergrading forms between *leucogenys* and *leucotis*. Cf. Ripley, S. D., *Postilla*, No. 35, 1958.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in *leucogenys*.

1125. **Whitecheeked Bulbul.** *Pycnonotus leucogenys leucogenys* (Gray)

Brachypus leucogenys Gray, 1835, in Hardwicke's Ill. Zool. 2, pl. 35, fig. 3 (Himalaya and in Kashmir, vide Blyth, 1845, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, 14: 567, restricted to Kashmir by Vaurie, 1958, Amer. Mus. Novit., No. 1869: 19)

Molpastes leucogenys picru Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 11 (Laghman, Afghanistan)

Baker, FBI No. 405, Vol. 1: 389

LOCAL NAMES *Bil-bi-chūr* (Kashmir); *Painju* (Chamba); *Manglio-kur* or *Mankli-ph-kur* (Lepcha); *Jurili* (Nepali, all bulbuls); *Kundghara*, *Pahāri būlbūl* (Bengal).

SIZE. Redvented Bulbul $\pm$; length c. 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A sprightly earth-brown bulbul with a forwardly curving pointed crest, short thin superciliary stripe, white cheek-patches, black throat, yellow under tail-coverts and white tail-tip. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident subject to some local movements. The Himalayan foothills from Chitral (reaching northeast Afghanistan in the Kunar river valley) to Kashmir, East Punjab hills, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh hills, Nepal (entering the Langtang Valley up to 2400 m), Sikkim, Bhutan and NEFA as far as the Dihang river; from c. 300 m commonly up to c. 2100 m, occasionally 2400 m in the western, drier part of its range [west of central Nepal where it has been recorded at 2400 m in December (Fleming)]; there appears to be some upward movement after the breeding season; not found above 1800 m east of Nepal where it is restricted to the drier valleys. Affects open scrub jungle and hillsides dotted with wild raspberry and *Berberis* bushes, secondary growth, hedgerows, cultivation and environs of towns and villages.

GENERAL HABITS. Usually in pairs or small parties, occasionally in large flocks in winter. A very familiar bird in Kashmir where it enters houses, house-boats and verandas, even stealing scraps from the table. Particularly tame and confiding in winter when scarcity of natural food increases its dependence on man. Crest always jauntily curved forward over the beak; tail and wings incessantly flicked as it moves restlessly about; continually bows and postures on top of bushes, uttering its cheerful rollicking notes. Often descends to the ground for food, sometimes catches insects on the wing. Display similar to that of *P. jocosus* and *P. cafer*, qq.v.; for more details see *Pavo* 2: 26-36.

FOOD. Fruit, berries — *Berberis*, *Rubus*, *Lantana*, *Zizyphus* and 'boquain' or Neem (*Melia*) are amongst the most favoured. Nectar, seeds and insects (ants, grubs, beetles) also taken. Is apt to do some damage in gardens to buds, fruit and green peas.

VOICE and CALLS. Similar in pattern and variations to the Redvented and Redwhiskered bulbuls'. Song, three or four melodious phrases in an endless variety of combinations; two phrases commonly heard are *tea for two* and *take me with you* (B. T. Phillips). Agonistic notes: *pit-pit*, *pit-lo* and chattering *pit-pit-it-it-it* or *pititititit* (Short). Some notes confusable at a distance with those of the bee-eater *Merops apiaster*.

BREEDING. *Season*, March to June; a few nests are found as late as August; at least two broods are reared. *Nest*, a cup of grass-stems and fibres lined with rootlets and finer grasses of the same colour; variable in bulk and depth; placed in low bushes from 30 cm to about 3 metres from the ground, sometimes in low branches of trees, pollarded willows, garden creepers, or tucked into the thatch of a dwelling, often inside a room; on the whole well concealed but sometimes with no attempt at concealment. *Eggs*, usually 3, sometimes 2 and often 4, occasionally 5 (Bates), pinkish white, thickly speckled, streaked or blotched with various shades of red, with tiny spots and clouds of underlying pale inky purple. Average size of 33 eggs 22.8×16.7 mm (Osmaston). Laid at 24-hour intervals; incubation period c. 12 days.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies. For description of hybrids *leucogenys* $\times$ *cafer* see the latter species (1126, Museum Diagnosis).

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	85-94	19-21	c. 22	81-90 mm
♀♀	82-86	18-19	—	80-86 mm

(BB, Schäfer, SA)

Weight 5 ♂♀ 34-38 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill, legs, feet and claws black; soles grey to white (BB).

PYCNONOTUS CAFER (Linnaeus)

Key to the Subspecies

	Page
I Black of crown sharply defined and not extending to the hindneck	
1 Back dark brown, feathers with narrow pale edges... <i>P. c. haemorrhousus</i>	89
2 Back darker, more blackish on nape..... <i>P. c. cafer</i>	87
3 Darker than preceding, less white on abdomen..... <i>P. c. wetmorei</i>	90
4 Back paler brown, feathers with broad pale edges..... <i>P. c. humayuni</i>	86
II Black of crown extending into hindneck and back and not sharply defined from brown of latter	
5 Black extending far on to back and breast	
a Feathers of back with broad pale edges..... <i>P. c. stanfordi</i>	91
b Feathers of back with narrow pale edges..... <i>P. c. bengalensis</i>	90
6 Black extending only to hindneck and shading into brown on breast	
..... <i>P. c. intermedius</i>	85

1126. Punjab Redvented Bulbul. *Pycnonotus cafer intermedius* Blyth*Pycnonotus intermedius* Blyth, 1846, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, 15: 50

(Upper Provinces = Murree)

Baker, FBI No. 404, Vol. 1: 389

LOCAL NAME. *Kālā painju* (Chamba).

SIZE. Myna —; length c. 20 cm (8 in.).

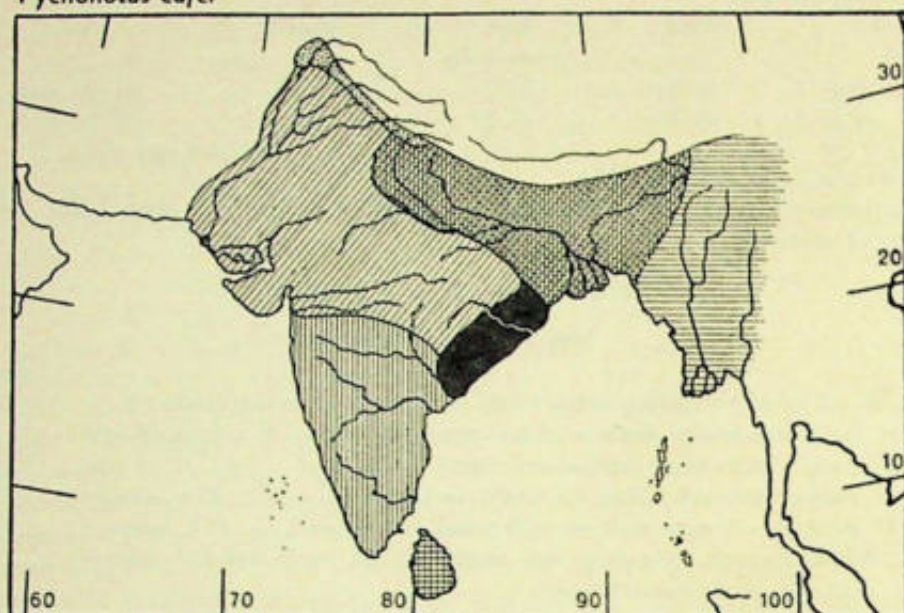
FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1128, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. The submontane region from N.W.F.P., southern Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and northern Uttar Pradesh as far as Kumaon, from the plains to c. 1500 m, occasionally higher. Intergrades with *humayuni* along the Salt Range foothills, and with *bengalensis* in Kumaon. Affects cultivation, open bush-clad hillsides, wooded ravines and cut-over scrub.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in *cafer* (1128).

BREEDING. Season, overall March to July, mainly May and June. Nesting as in *cafer*. Eggs, 3 or 4, rarely 5, similar to those of *cafer*. Average size of 40 eggs 22.2×16.3 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies. *P. leucogenys* and *P. cafer* often hybridize in the wild; the hybrid is rather lighter in colour than *cafer*, abdomen dirty white and flanks grey; ear-coverts a pale washed-out brown; under tail-coverts yellowish orange shading into washed crimson at the tips. In Kohat it is

Pycnonotus cafer

Distributional ranges

- intermedius* (1126).
 humayuni (1127).
 cafer (1128).
haemorrhousus (1129).
 wetmorei (1130).
 bengalensis (1131).
stanfordi (1132).

known as *Neemchi* (half-breed). For details on hybridization, see *Ibis*, 101: 177-82, 1959.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	100-110	19-22	23-26	93-103 mm
♀♀	90-102	18-20	22-25	84-96 mm
				(HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in *bengalensis*.

1127. **Central Indian Redvented Bulbul.** *Pycnonotus cafer humayuni*
Deignan

Pycnonotus cafer humayuni Deignan, 1951, Auk 68: 110 (Deesa)

Molpastes haemorrhous pallidus Baker, 1917, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 38: 15 (Deesa),
nec Pycnonotus layardi pallidus (Roberts), 1912

Baker, FBI No. 399, Vol. 1: 385

LOCAL NAMES. *Būlbūl*, *Kālā būlbūl*, *Būlbūli* (Hindi); *Thār būlbūl*, *Tonki būlbūl*, *Gūldūm* (Urdu); *Bhilbhil* (Kutch); *Peetrōlyō* (Bhil).

SIZE. Myna —; length c. 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1128, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. From the Indus Valley and West Punjab east to and along the Jumna river to eastern

Madhya Pradesh and south to a line running from Jagdalpur (southeast M.P.) to Bombay; intergrades with *intermedius* and *bengalensis* in the north and *cafer* in the south. Affects cultivation, gardens, thorn, acacia and *Lantana* scrub, and lightly wooded areas.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in *cafer* (1128).

BREEDING. *Season*, overall February to October, mostly during the monsoon. *Nest*, as in *cafer*. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, occasionally 2, similar to those of *cafer*. Average size of 60 eggs 21.9×16.2 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♂	92-101	19-21	22-25	79-95 mm
♀ ♀	87-95	17-19	21-23	78-89 mm
				(HW)

Weight 3 ♂♂ 36-41; 1 ♀ 29 g (BB). 10 ♂♀ 26-38 (av. 32) g — SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in *cafer*.

1128. Redvented Bulbul. *Pycnonotus cafer cafer* (Linnaeus)

Turdus cafer Linnaeus, 1766, Syst. Nat., ed. 12, 1: 295 (Cape of Good Hope = Pondichéry *vide* Stresemann, 1952, Ibis 94: 515, 520)

H.(aematornis) pusillus Blyth, 1841, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 10: 841 (Chingleput, Madras)

Pycnonotus cafer vicinus Ripley, 1946, Spolia Zeylanica 24: 288 (Mysore) Baker, FBI No. 400 (part), Vol. 1: 385

LOCAL NAMES. *Būlbūl*, *Gūldūm* (Hindi); *Pigli-pitta* (Telugu); *Konda-lati*, *Kondai kūrūvi* (Tamil); *Nāttu būlbūl* (Malayalam).

SIZE. Myna —; length *c.* 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A perky earth-brown bird with slightly tufted black head, black throat and scale-like markings on back and breast. White rump, scarlet vent and white-tipped blackish tail, particularly conspicuous in flight. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. The southern Indian peninsula north to the Godavari river in the east and to *c.* 18°N. lat. in Maharashtra in the west; plains and hills normally up to *c.* 1500 m, following human settlements and cultivation. Affects light scrub, gardens, secondary jungle and light deciduous forest. Almost entirely restricted to deciduous biotope; where evergreen and deciduous patches occur, it is confined to the latter while the former are occupied by *P. jocosus*.

GENERAL HABITS. On the whole very similar to those of Redwhiskered Bulbul (1120), *q.v.* A sprightly and rather noisy, familiar bird, usually seen in pairs, but often in small parties in the non-breeding season, and large congregations at fruiting *Ficus* trees or in *Lantana* patches. Arboreal but occasionally descends to the ground to pick up black ants and winged termites emerging from their underground retreats, or launches out for flying insects from a bush-top, springing up a metre or two vertically and tumbling back to the perch. Flight quick and strong though seldom sustained for any distance.

Display. The male spreads out his wings above his head and slowly flutters them up and down while the tail is spread out and at the same time depressed (Dharmakumarsinhji). When challenging a rival, utters defiant calls, drops bunch of crimson under tail-coverts to stand out laterally, pointing down and backward. Both combatants assume agonistic postures before coming to grips. See also 1120 and 1129 (General Habits), and *Pavo* 2: 26-36.

FOOD. Fruits and berries (of *Loranthus*, *Lantana*, *Zizyphus*, *Ficus*, *Santalum*, *Salvadora* and others), flower nectar (of *Erythrina*, *Capparis*, *Salmalia*, *Woodfordia*, *Loranthus*, etc.). May be locally destructive in gardens to fruit, flowers or peas, but is an efficient pollinating and seed-disseminating agent. Also feeds largely on insects including many major pests (caterpillars, moths, ants, termites, etc.) and defoliators, thus further redeeming the damage. For some specific insect items see under 1131. Has been frequently observed bibbing toddy from pots hung for its collection on coconut palms. Among food brought to the nestlings, a young lizard (*Calotes versicolor*) 9 cm long has been recorded, which caused the death of a 5-6 day old chick attempting to swallow it (Richards, JBNHS 25: 503).

VOICE and CALLS. Similar to Whitecheeked Bulbul's. Cheery call-notes *peep-peep-peep* may be rendered as *Be care-ful* (accent on last syllable) or *Be quick-quick*; alarm-note a loud, sharp *peep*. Agonistic notes: *Peep-a*, *peep-a-lo* and slow *peet-wit-wit-wit-wit* or rapid *pitititit* chattering notes. 'Peep' notes perhaps longer and less sharp than Whitecheeked Bulbul's (Short). Usually amongst the first to give the alert on the appearance of a marauding hawk or cat, its agitated 'ware hawk' calls being well understood by all other birds. Distinct 'dialects' are discernible, e.g. between northern and southern birds. See also 1129 (Voice and Calls).

BREEDING. *Season*, overall February to November; chiefly during the monsoon. *Nest*, a cup of rootlets, fine twigs and midribs of dead leaves neatly woven, bound on the outside with cobweb and lined with grass and hair; similar to that of *P. jocosus*, but can be recognized with a little practice. Placed in shrubs, hedges, stunted date-palms, on slender branches of trees, at the end of a pollarded branch, or sometimes inside buildings, normally at heights between one and nine metres, most often under 3, exceptionally up to 12 metres; usually higher than that of *P. jocosus*. *Eggs*, 2 or 3, pinkish white, more or less profusely blotched with purplish brown or claret. Average size of 100 eggs, 21.1×15.5 mm (Baker). Eggs laid in the morning at about 24-hour intervals. Incubation starts with first egg, thus accounting for disparity between sizes of nestlings. Incubation period c. 14 days. Normally male shares in building, incubation and tending the young. Two or three broods commonly reared. For further details on breeding, see *Pavo* 1: 19-31, 1963.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies; differs from *haemorrhousus* in being paler and less blackish on the nape and upperparts; nape-feather edgings more whitish, less fuscous; grey feathers anterior to the white rump less smoky. Differs from *humayuni*, in being darker with narrower greyish white fringes to the feathers, slightly smaller; *wetmorei* (= *saturatus*) is even darker, with less white on abdomen. All subspecies merge into one another gradually and specimens are often difficult to assign unless in freshly moulted comparable series.

There is a complete autumn moult; spring moult includes central tail-feathers, tertials, head and neck, but appears to be very irregular so that the plumage usually

has a very patchy appearance as the older feathers quickly fade to a dull brown whilst their pale edges wear down. Postjuvinal moult includes wings and tail but is similarly patchy and irregular.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	90-99	19-21	21-23	74-89 mm
♀♀	85-98	19-21	19-22	74-83 mm
				(HW, SA)

Weight 10 ♂♀ 28-40 (av. 31.1) g — SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill black; mouth, a mixture of grey, yellow and pink. Legs and feet brownish black.

MISCELLANEOUS. Before the law prohibiting animal fights came into force, these bulbuls were trained for fighting in some provinces. They were fed a special diet to produce extra courage and pugnacity. The two adversaries were placed facing each other on T-shaped perches, at a distance calculated to allow the most powerful blows. The birds were tethered by a cord fastened to a soft string round the body [*pēti* or 'braces'], 'this fact transforming the fight to a duel "to the finish"'. In the meantime the spectators placed heavy bets' (G. Babault). Notwithstanding the ban, bulbul fighting still continues as a popular rural sport at fairs and on high days and holidays in some parts of the country. Considerable sums change hands over the mains, and champion birds fetch high prices.

1129. **Ceylon Redvented Bulbul.** *Pycnonotus cafer haemorrhousus* (Gmelin)

Muscicapa haemorrhousa Gmelin, 1789, Syst. Nat., 1, pt. 2: 941 (Ceylon)

Baker, FBI No. 398, Vol. 1: 383

LOCAL NAMES. *Kondē kūrulla* (= top-knot bird), *Kondaya* (Sinhala); *Kondē kūrūvi* (Tamil).

SIZE. Myna —; length c. 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1128, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Ceylon, in the low country and hills up to at least 1800 m, in all zones except heavy forest.

GENERAL HABITS. As in *cafer* (1128).

Display: 'the male fluffs out his plumage and spreads the vermilion under tail-coverts laterally; the female reacts by depressing her crest, lowering head, wings and tail and performing curious side-to-side motions with her beak while she utters inane chirps and quivers her wings' (Henry).

FOOD. As in *cafer*.

VOICE and CALLS. As in *cafer*. Henry describes the notes as suggesting the words *ginger beer* and *sweet potatoes*; scolding-note, a loud indignant chatter; alarm-note, a loud shriek; a sweet low subsong is commonly uttered during the afternoon.

BREEDING. *Season*, throughout the year but chiefly March and May and again in August-September. Breeding biology as in *cafer*. *Eggs* 2 or 3, similar to those of *cafer*; for detailed descriptions of eggs and nesting see W. W. A. Phillips, *Ceylon Jour. of Sci.*, 21: 243-6. According to this author (loc. cit.), birds from the cooler zone in the hills would appear to lay three eggs more often than two, the opposite being true for the lowlands birds;

a parallel is found on the subcontinent where birds from the Himalayas lay larger clutches than those from the south.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies and under 1128.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
7 ♂♂	93-94	20-21	21-22	77-80 mm
2 ♀♀	91	20	21, 22	74, 76 mm (HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in *cafer*.

1130. **Orissa Redvented Bulbul.** *Pycnonotus cafer wetmorei* Deignan

Pycnonotus cafer wetmorei nom. nov. Deignan, 1960, in Peters, J. L., Check-list of Birds of the World, Vol. 9: 236

Molpastes cafer saturatus Whistler & Kinnear, 1932, Jour. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc., 35: 754 (Anantagiri, Vishakhapatnam Dist.). Not *Stelgidocichla latirostris saturata* Mearns, 1914

Baker, FBI Nos. 398 and 403 (part), Vol. 1: 383, 387

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Myna —; length c. 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1128, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Orissa and northeastern Andhra Pradesh south to the Godavari river. Affects cultivation, scrub, gardens and villages.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in *cafer* (1128).

BREEDING. Season, April to July and probably later. Nest and eggs as in *cafer*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies; a race intermediate between *bengalensis*, *humayuni* and *cafer*.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
5 ♂♂	89-99	18-19	21-22	79-89 mm
3 ♀♀	84-93	17-18	22	75-83 mm (HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in *cafer*.

1131. **Bengal Redvented Bulbul.** *Pycnonotus cafer bengalensis* Blyth

Pycnonotus bengalensis Blyth, 1845, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, 14: 566 (Bengal)

Ixos pygaeus 'Hodgs.' = Bonaparte, 1850, Consp. Gen. Av., 1: 265
(ex Him. Assam, Bengal)

Pycnonotus cafer primrosei Deignan, 1949, Jour. Washington Acad. Sci., 39: 278
(Surma Tea Estate, Sylhet)¹

Molpastes cafer afer Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 11
(Mawphlang, Khasi Hills)

Baker, FBI No. 403, Vol. 1: 387

LOCAL NAMES. *Kālā būlbūl* (Bengal); *Mancleph-pho* (Lepcha); *Paklom* (Bhutan); *Nieli betom* (Dafla); *Būlbūl sōrāi* (Assam); *Dao bulip* (Cachari); *Inrui bulip* (Naga).

¹ Series of specimens from Assam, Bengal, and Nepal show too much variation in the ear-coverts to support this proposed form.

SIZE. Myna —; length *c.* 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in *cafer* (1128).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident; from Kumaon and the plains of Uttar Pradesh east through Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, Bihar, West Bengal, East Pakistan, Assam and NEFA. Intergrades with *intermedius* in Kumaon, *humayuni* in southern U.P., *wetmorei* in northern Orissa and *stanfordi* in the hills of extreme eastern Assam. Generally reaches an altitude of *c.* 1800 m. Affects cultivation, gardens, scrub, secondary growth and forest edges.

Extralimital. Introduced into the Fiji Islands.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in *cafer*. Among the stomach contents analysed at Pusa (Bihar) the following insects have been identified: beetles *Mylocerus* (chiefly species *blandus*, *discolor* and *maculosus*), ants *Camponotus compressus*, and other Coleoptera and Hymenoptera (Mason & Lefroy, 1912).

BREEDING. Season, April to August. Nesting as in *cafer*. Eggs, usually 3, similar to those of the nominate race but often more richly coloured. Average size of 100 eggs 22.9×16.9 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	96-107	21-23	24-25	90-103 mm
♀♀	89-102	19-22	24-25	85-95 mm

(Rand & Fleming, BB, HW, SA)

Weight 2 ♂♂ 44, 45; 2 ♀♀ 41, 42 g (BB).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Legs, feet and claws very dark horny to black; soles white.

1132. Burmese Redvented Bulbul. *Pycnonotus cafer stanfordi* Deignan

Pycnonotus cafer stanfordi Deignan, 1949, Jour. Washington Acad. Sci., 39: 277

(Taro or Dalu, upper Chindwin Dist., Burma)

Pycnonotus burmanicus Sharpe, 1881, Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus., 6: 125 ('Burmese countries, ranging from Cachar into Pegu' = Composite and hybrid population from north-east Burma, *vide* Deignan, 1949, op. cit.)

Baker, FBI No. 400, Vol. 1: 385

Vol. 9, plate 98

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded in the territory.

SIZE. Myna —; length *c.* 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in *cafer* (1128).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident in extreme eastern NEFA and Assam, grading into *bengalensis* in the Mishmi Hills (SDR), Patkai Range, eastern Manipur and Chittagong. Affects same biotope as *bengalensis*.

Extralimital. Northern Burma south to Rangoon and western Yunnan. Replaced in China and the Indochinese subregion by the closely related *P. aurigaster*.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	102-114	20-24	21-25	98-106 mm
♀♀	98-107	19-22	21-25	97-103 mm
			(BB, SDR, SA, Fleming)	

Weight 4 ♂♂ 47-60; 6 ♀♀ 45-59 g (BB, SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris deep red-brown. Bill black. Legs and feet greenish brown or plumbeous brown.

1134. Mishmi Striated Green Bulbul. *Pycnonotus striatus arctus* Ripley

Pycnonotus striatus arctus Ripley, 1948, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 61: 101

(Dreyi, Mishmi Hills)

Baker, FBI No. 397 (part), Vol. 1: 379

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Redvented Bulbul $\pm$; length 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in *striatus* (1133).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. NEFA and eastern Assam in the Mishmi, Patkai and Naga hills and extraliminally in the adjacent areas of northern Burma, from 1500 to 2400 m, in deciduous and evergreen forest.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in *striatus*.

BREEDING. Unrecorded; presumably as in 1133.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from the nominate race by having darker more pronounced tips to the feathers of the crown as well as darker shading on the webs of crest-feathers. White shaft-streaks on crown and back tend to be slightly narrower and margined on the back with darker olive-green. Blackish shading on tail more intense and heavier. Blackish shading on breast heavier and carried farther down on the abdomen. Bill tends to be larger.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	105-118	18-21	c. 20	— mm
♀♀	105-114	18-20	—	c. 96 mm
				(SDR)

Weight 4 ♂♂ 52-58; 1 ♀ 53 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in *striatus*.

1135. Yellowthroated Bulbul. *Pycnonotus xantholaemus* (Jerdon)

Brachypus xantholaemus Jerdon, 1844, Madras Jour. Lit. Sci., 13: 122

(Eastern Ghats west of Nellore)

Baker, FBI No. 430, Vol. 1: 415

Vol. 9, plate 100

LOCAL NAME. *Kondapoda pigli* (Telugu).

SIZE. Redvented Bulbul $\pm$; length c. 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A plain uncrested grey and yellow bulbul with bright yellow crown, chin and throat. Thighs and under tail-coverts yellow; wings and tail brown, the latter tipped with pale yellow. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, uncommon and patchily distributed. Orissa (?), southern Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Mysore in the dry Chitaldrug and Bangalore districts. One old record in Kerala (Anamalai Hills) — Wm. Davison, 1886, *Ibis*: 146; from c. 600 to 1200 m. Affects sparse thorn scrub jungle interspersed with some large trees among broken stony hillocks. (See map, p. 93.)

GENERAL HABITS. Little known. Very skulking, shy and restless; keeps in pairs 'to the upper parts of trees' (Roscoe Allen, JBNHS 18: 905). Often associated with Redvented Bulbuls.

FOOD. Berries (stomachs examined contained drupes of *Phyllanthus* and *Santalum*). Also insects.

VOICE and CALLS. 'Its percussive notes when taking to wing are unmistakably like those of *P. luteolus* but higher pitched and somewhat softer; some of its other calls resemble those of the Redvented Bulbul with which it is commonly found in association' (SA). 'A very pleasing note, louder and mellower than that of any other bulbul' (R. Allen).

BREEDING. Season, May to July. Nest, a shallow cup of coarse twigs bound together with cobwebs and lined with fine fibres. Of the few nests known, one was placed in a dwarf date palm (*Phoenix humilis*), another on the ground among dead leaves on a sloping hillside between two overarching boulders. Eggs, 2 or 3, white, blotched and marked with purple and brick red, the markings forming a ring around the large end. Size c. 21 × 17 mm.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters and Key to the Species.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
3 ♂♂	89-92	17	20	85-86 mm
2 ♀♀	87	17	—	85-86 mm

(SA, HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown or orange-brown. Bill, legs and feet black.

1136. Yellow-eared Bulbul. *Pycnonotus penicillatus* Blyth

Pycnonotus penicillatus Blyth, 1851, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 20: 178 (Ceylon)
Baker, FBI No. 443, Vol. 1: 426

LOCAL NAMES. *Galu-guduwa*, *Kāhā kondayā* (Sinhala).

SIZE. Redvented Bulbul ±; length c. 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Above, forehead and crown brown, a white line extending from nostril to over the eye, a yellow tuft projecting behind the eye; cheeks brown and grey with a yellow spot; rest of upperparts olive-green. Below, yellow except white chin. The yellow tufts behind the eyes make it unmistakable. Sexes alike.



× c. 1

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Species peculiar to Ceylon. Resident, common in the higher central hills, above

900 metres. Affects jungle, wooded ravines and well-wooded gardens. (See map, p. 93.)

GENERAL HABITS. Arboreal; keeps to lower trees and undergrowth, usually in pairs, sometimes in small flocks.

FOOD. Berries and insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm, a low *crr-crr*; call, a loud but sweet-toned whistle *wheet wit wit*, usually uttered in flight (Henry).

BREEDING. Season, end of February to beginning of May and again from late July to early November; presumably double-brooded. Nest, more substantial than that of other Ceylon bulbuls; made largely of moss with some leaf-matter, bits of dead grass and plant stems, and rootlets, lined with fine fern and rootlets, midribs of decayed leaves or fern stems, usually either black or reddish brown. Exterior size, *c.* 12 cm in diameter by *c.* 7.5 cm in height; diameter of cup *c.* 6 cm, depth *c.* 4 cm; favoured sites are upright forks, collections of twigs or pollarded branches, three to four metres from the ground, among the denser foliage towards the top of tall shrubs or bushy saplings in or on the outskirts of dense forest; sometimes placed in bushes as low as one metre. Eggs, invariably 2, white with moderate-sized blotches, spots and specks of purple-brown and secondary markings of the same character, of deep inky grey, usually forming a zone around the large end (Phillips). Average size of 40 eggs 23.4 × 16.7 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
6 ♂♂	81-87	17-19	21-22	78-81 mm
6 ♀♀	76-81	17-19	21-22	72-78 mm (HW)

Weight 2 ♀♀ 36, 37 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris red. Bill black. Legs blackish blue.

1137. Blyth's Bulbul. *Pycnonotus flavescens flavescens* Blyth

Pycnonotus flavescens Blyth, 1845, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 14: 568 (Arakan)
Xanthix flavescens fugans Koelz, 1952, Jour. Zool. Soc. India 4: 40 (Karong, Manipur)
 Baker, FBI No. 408, Vol. 1: 392

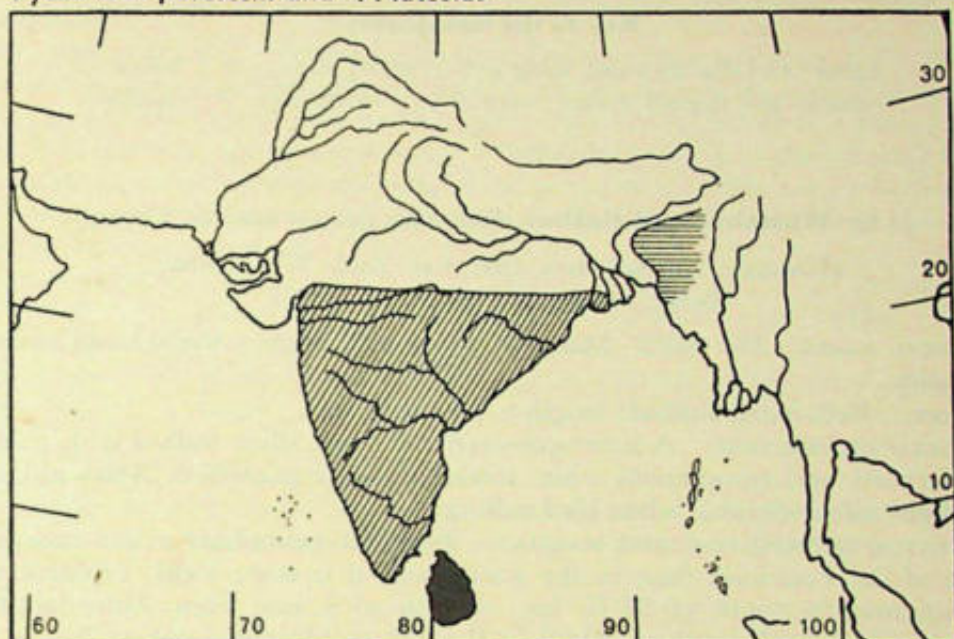
LOCAL NAME. *Dao bulip-gurmo* (Cachari).

SIZE. Redvented Bulbul ±; length *c.* 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A rather nondescript olive bulbul with bright yellow under tail-coverts, greyish brown head with white lores and short supercilium, the latter characters diagnostic. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident; rather scarce but widely scattered; locally not uncommon. The hills of Assam south of the Brahmaputra, Nagaland, Manipur and East Pakistan in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Breeds between *c.* 900 and 2100 metres, descending to 450 m in the cold weather. Affects tree-forest with ample undergrowth, scrub jungle, thick regrowth on abandoned cultivation, dense bushes in pastures and cut-over scrub; inhabits much the same biotope as *P. melanicterus* (1115).

Extralimital. Western Burma; the species ranges east to central Vietnam; also Borneo.

Pycnonotus flavescens and *P. luteolus*

Distributional ranges

▨ *P. f. flavescens* (1137) ▤ *P. l. luteolus* (1138). ■ *P. l. insulae* (1139).

GENERAL HABITS. Rather shy; keeps to high trees or tall bushes, hunting about inside cover. Assembles in flocks of up to 30 individuals in cold weather.

FOOD. Berries and insects.

VOICE and CALLS. On the whole rather silent except when quarreling. Song, sweet, typical bulbul, of two bold notes followed by a short trilling run; alarm, a harsh churring note like a laughing thrush's (SDR).

BREEDING. *Season*, April to July. *Nest*, a shallow cup of fern-roots, tendrils, twigs and dead leaves, strengthened here and there with cobweb, and lined with flowering ends of grasses. Placed in upright forks or between two or more vertical twigs, generally low down in bushes, rarely as high as three metres. The bird sneaks very quickly off the nest when disturbed and does not remain in the vicinity. *Eggs*, 2 or 3, one as often as the other, rarely 4, of *Pycnonotus* type: pale cream, with the whole surface minutely and profusely speckled with primary markings of light reddish, and numerous secondary freckles of light grey. On the whole they have a strong tint of violet or lilac characteristic of the species. Average size of 150 eggs, 22.1×16.4 mm (Baker). Both birds take part in incubation.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species.

Young (immature) like adult but upperparts rustier, under tail-coverts paler. Primary and tail characters present; postjuvinal moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS. Wing ♂♂ 85–89, ♀♀ 82–87 mm (Heinrich).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown to red-brown. Bill black. Legs and feet dark reddish brown to black.

PYCNONOTUS LUTEOLUS (Lesson)

Key to the Subspecies

Larger and slightly paler, wing ♂ ♀ c. 82-93 mm. . . . *P. l. luteolus*

Smaller and slightly darker, wing ♂ ♀ c. 78-88 mm. . . . *P. l. insulae*

1138. **Whitebrowed Bulbul.** *Pycnonotus luteolus luteolus* (Lesson)

Haematornis luteolus Lesson, 1841, Rev. Zool.: 354 (Bombay)

Baker, FBI No. 433 (part), Vol. 1: 417

LOCAL NAMES. *Khar būlbūl* (Marathi); *Poda pigli* (Telugu); *Manjat kondai kūrūvi* (Tamil).

SIZE. Redvented Bulbul; length c. 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A sober-coloured uncrested olive bulbul with pale underparts and conspicuous white forehead and supercilium. Sexes alike. A slight tuft noticeable when bird calling.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, commoner in the eastern side of the Peninsula than in the west where it is more local. Peninsular India roughly south of 23°N. lat. — south of a line from Ahmedabad (Gujarat) through southern Madhya Pradesh to Midnapur (West Bengal) — easternmost record c. Hooghly river east of Burdwan (Law, JBNHS 38: 620-1). In the Eastern Ghats up to c. 1200 m, but does not ascend the heavy-rainfall hills of Kerala and the Western Ghats. Affects dry, open scrub country, grazing grounds with scattered *Lantana* brakes, gardens, and euphorbia thickets near villages; avoids moist forest as well as extensive cultivation. Replaces the Yellowbrowed Bulbul (1143-4) in dry scrub jungle. (See map, p. 97.)

GENERAL HABITS. Mostly in pairs; very shy and skulking, more often heard than seen as it seems to prefer dense thickets.

FOOD. Fruits and berries (*Zizyphus*, *Lantana*, *Mimusops*, *Streblus* and various figs) and flower-nectar (*Erythrina*, *Salmalia*, etc.); also spiders and insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Very noisy. Song distinctive — a loud, explosive burst of pleasant, lively rattling (whistled) notes, frequently uttered from within dense shrubbery. Subsong recorded in sultry weather in April, May and November — a quiet warble, mimicking songs of chloropsis, drongo, and other species (Neelakantan, JBNHS 52: 616). Alarm-note a subdued throaty *churr* or *krr-kurr*.

BREEDING. *Season*, overall January to November, mainly April to August, less well-defined and earlier in the south; probably double-brooded. *Nest*, like that of *P. jocosus* but more loosely built; composed mostly of twigs bound together and fastened to supporting twigs with some cobweb; hair, rootlets or other materials also used; sometimes scantily lined with fine grass. Placed in thick bushes, as a rule under 1.5 m, rarely as high as 4 m above the ground. *Eggs*, invariably 2, similar to those of *P. jocosus*: reddish white, thickly speckled and blotched with reddish brown, sometimes coalescing into a zone at the large end. Average size of 60 eggs 22.9 × 15.8 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. Has 3 or 4 long filoplumes growing from nape.

Young (immature), similar to adult but upper plumage slightly duller and browner with less olive-green tinge; supercilium less distinct; ear-coverts uniform olive-brown; chin tinged with yellow, breast dull brown similar to upperparts; rectrices narrower and more pointed. Postjuvinal moult includes whole body plumage, all remiges except the three outer primaries and their coverts and one or two of the longest inner secondaries, and central pair or two or three pairs of rectrices, but not rest of tail.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♂	82-93	18-20	22-24	75-86 mm
♀ ♀	86-90	18-20	20-24	74-82 mm
				(HW, SA)

Weight 10 ♂ ♀ 28-43 (av. 34.7) g — SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris reddish brown to blood red. Bill black; mouth yellowish pink, pinkish grey or bright yellow. Legs and feet dark plumbeous or slaty black (SA).

1139. **Ceylon Whitebrowed Bulbul.** *Pycnonotus luteolus insulae*
Whistler & Kinnear

Pycnonotus luteolus insulae Whistler & Kinnear, 1932, Jour. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 35: 759 (Tellula, Ceylon)

Baker, FBI No. 433 (part), Vol. 1: 417

LOCAL NAMES. *Galu-guduwa* (Sinhala); *Kāhā kurullā* (Tamil).

SIZE. Redvented Bulbul $\pm$; length c. 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1138, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Race peculiar to Ceylon. Common resident in the entire low country, and hills up to c. 1000 m, (see map, p. 97). Affects scrub jungle particularly *Lantana*, bush country, glades and clearings, and along roads and stream-beds in forest areas, especially in the Dry zone; one of the commonest and most widely distributed birds in the Island.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1138.

BREEDING. Season, overall December to June, mainly March to May and in December; an occasional nest may be found during other months. Nest, a shallow cup, similar to that of the Redvented Bulbul, but generally slightly larger; made of fine plant-, flower- or creeper stalks, grass-stems and rootlets, loosely and irregularly put together, scantily lined with fine grass, or occasionally with rootlets or wing fern-stalks, quite red in colour; sometimes flimsy with the contents visible through the bottom. More or less suspended in a small fork, or placed among a few twigs or in an upright crotch and frequently bound to the supports with cobweb; sited in low bushes, usually between one and two metres from the ground. Eggs, normally 2, very similar to those of the Redvented Bulbul; coloration and size as in 1138.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Slightly darker and smaller than *luteolus*; but see remarks by H. Whistler in *Spolia Zeylanica* 23, pts 3 and 4, p. 142.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	84-88	19-20	20-22	73-81 mm
♀♀	78-85	18-20	20-22	70-75 mm (HW)

Weight 1 ♂ 34 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1138.

Genus CRINIGER Temminck

Criniger Temminck, 1821, Pl. Col. d'Ois., livr. 15. Type, by monotypy, *Criniger barbatus* Temminck

Distinguished from all other bulbuls by the presence of a long pointed crest and very long hairs or filoplumes springing from the nape and hindneck. Bill strong, about half the length of the head, culmen curved throughout. Wing blunt, tail short and rounded, rufous in the Indian species. Tarsus short but very strong. Plumage very soft. Female smaller than male.

1140. Whitethroated Bulbul. *Criniger flaveolus flaveolus* (Gould)

Trichophorus flaveolus Gould, 1836, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 6 (Nepal, vide Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 10)

Criniger flaveolus viridulus Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 10 (Sangau, Lushai Hills)

Criniger flaveolus aureolus Koelz, 1954, ibid. No. 1: 10 (Kohima, Naga Hills)
Baker, FBI No. 380, Vol. 1: 363

Plate 68, fig. 4, facing p. 112 and Vol. 9, plates 98, 100

LOCAL NAMES. *Kussap-eechiop-pho* (Lepcha); *Dao-bulip-gurrmo-didi* (Cachar).

SIZE. Myna $\pm$; length c. 23 cm (9 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A large crested bulbul. Above, olive-green with rufous-brown wings and tail. Lores and sides of head grey; a whitish supercilium, but not always conspicuous. Below, lemon-yellow with white chin and throat. Sexes alike. Perches with tail well fanned out.



STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident subject to vertical movements; common except in the westernmost part of its range. Central Nepal¹ east through Sikkim, Bhutan, NEFA, Assam south to Tripura, the hills of East Pakistan, Nagaland, Manipur, south to the Chin Hills in Burma. Breeds

¹ Baker and *Synopsis* both list Garhwal as the westernmost point of the range. The authority for this record is unknown; the species has not been recorded west of central Nepal.

at moderate elevations, up to 1800 m, optimum zone 600 to 1200 m, descending to the foothills, terai, duns and the plains of Assam in the cold weather. Entirely restricted to evergreen facies; affects shrubby undergrowth in heavy forest, and secondary jungle.

Extralimital. Extends to Arakan, central and northeastern Burma. *C. f. burmanicus* is found in southeastern Burma and western Thailand. A member of the *pallidus-bres-ochraceus* species-group.

GENERAL HABITS. A gregarious bulbul, more like a laughing thrush in habits. Creeps and clambers about bushes in chattering parties of 6 to 15, the individuals 'flowing' one after another from patch to patch of dense jungle; flight strong and direct. Feeds in bushes and tree canopy, but usually keeps within about three metres of the ground.

FOOD. Berries and wild figs; also insects, at times taken on the wing.

VOICE and CALLS. A noisy species. Has loud, harsh, nasal frog-like croaks *kāk-kāk* or *chake chake* (SA); loud and clear *teek*, *da-té-ek*, *da-té-ek* (Fleming); other calls have been described as sharp, whip-like notes, or loud, sweet notes.

BREEDING. *Season*, overall April to July, chiefly May and June. *Nest*, a heavily-built cup of dead leaves, fine roots and bamboo leaves fastened together with a few hair-like roots and stems of weeds and lined with dark fern-roots; the weed-stems are cleverly wound round the supporting twigs in and out of the other materials. Placed among masses of weeds, brambles and similar cover in a small bush or tangle of vines, usually within one metre from the ground (exceptionally higher) often close to a stream. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, rosy pink or carmine-pink, marked with broad scrawls, small and large irregular blotches of deep purple-red or reddish black, with similar secondary markings of brick-red, and faint spots of lavender and violet; markings occasionally form caps or rings at the broad end; among the most beautiful of all bulbul eggs. Average size of 60 eggs 26.9×18.6 mm. Incubation takes 13 days; both birds take part in incubation and perhaps construction of nest (Baker). Baker remarks that nestlings are apparently left untouched by leeches, however numerous.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species and Field Characters.

Young (immature), upperparts and head brown; upper tail-coverts and wings more rufescent; underparts suffused with brown; under tail-coverts fulvous. Primary and tail characters present; postjuvenile moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	101-107	20-25	19-24	92-102 mm
♀♀	98-105	20-23	25 (1)	88-93 mm
			(BB, SA, SDR)	

Weight 10 ♂♂ 38-54 (av. 48.3); 4 ♀♀ 38-48 g — BB, SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill whitish grey to greyish slate. Legs yellowish white (one) to fleshy brown, yellowish brown or greyish brown (SA, SDR).

Genus *Hypsipetes* Vigors

Hypsipetes Vigors, 1831, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 43. Type, by monotypy,

Hypsipetes Psaroides Vigors

Microscelis Gray, 1840, List Gen. Bds.: 28. Type, by subsequent designation,
Hypsipetes amaurotis (Temminck)

Iole Blyth, 1844, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 13: 286. Type, by monotypy,
Iole olivacea Blyth = *I. virescens* Blyth

Bill slender, about as long as the head, culmen carinated. Tarsus very short. Feathers of crown often pointed and lengthened. Colour more uniform than in *Pycnonotus*.

Key to the Species

	Page
A Colour of back ashy grey	
1 A black cap, no yellow on wing..... <i>H. madagascariensis</i>	109
2 No black cap, a large yellow patch on wing..... <i>H. flavalus</i>	108
B Colour of back olive-green	
3 Throat heavily striped..... <i>H. maclellandi</i>	107
4 Throat not striped	
a Underparts bright yellow..... <i>H. indicus</i>	104
b Underparts not bright yellow	
i Under tail-coverts very pale yellow, concolorous with belly.... <i>H. nicobariensis</i>	103
ii Under tail-coverts tawny, not concolorous with belly..... <i>H. viridescens</i>	102

1141. Olive Bulbul. *Hypsipetes viridescens cacharensis* (Deignan)

Microscelis viridescens cacharensis Deignan, 1948, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington 61: 3
(‘Chutla Bhil’, Surma Valley and Hill Division, Cachar)
Baker, FBI No. 420, Vol. 1: 406 (= *Iole olivacea virescens*)

LOCAL NAME. *Dao-bulip-gurmo* (Cachari).

SIZE. Redvented Bulbul $\pm$; length *c.* 19 cm (7½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A plain-coloured crestless bulbul. *Above*, olive, with rufous-brown tail; *below*, greyish yellow: brighter on belly, tawny on under tail-coverts. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Uncommon resident. Manipur, Assam in Khasi Hills and Cachar, East Pakistan in Sylhet south to Chittagong district; from the plains to *c.* 900 m. Affects well-wooded ravines, dense and humid evergreen forest and regrowth on abandoned cultivation.

Extralimital. The species ranges through Burma to the Shan States, central Tenasserim and southwestern Thailand. A member of the *propinquus-charlottae* species-group.

GENERAL HABITS. A bird of the canopy especially where trees are festooned with climbers. Usually singly or in pairs and small parties; sometimes large flocks of over a hundred individuals. Tends to be shy and is difficult to see.

FOOD. Berries; doubtless also insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A nasal or creaking, constantly repeated *chwa* or *jer-wee*, characteristic and arresting (Smythies). Also a soft whistling note resembling that of *Pycnonotus finlaysoni* of Burma (HW).

BREEDING. *Season*, the few nests known have been taken in May. *Nest*, a compact cup of the type of *Pycnonotus cafer* (1128) but more bulky; chief materials are long tough strips of bark and many fine elastic twigs, some dead leaves attached to the exterior; the whole fastened together and to the supports by cobwebs and lined with black fern-roots, long reddish fibres or tendrils. Placed in horizontal or vertical forks in bushes at about 1.5 m from the ground, with no attempt at concealment. *Eggs*, 3, like small eggs of *Pycnonotus cafer*. Size of three eggs, 23.1×16.3 , 22.2×16.5 and 22.4×16.2 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species and Field Characters; for details of plumage, Baker loc. cit.

Young (immature), more rusty on upperparts and on edges of wing and coverts; under tail-coverts paler. Primary and tail characters present; postjuvenile moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	78-85	18-20	16-17	71-77 mm (HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill horn-brown, dark above, pale below. Legs and feet brownish flesh (HW).

1142. Nicobar Bulbul. *Hypsipetes nicobariensis* Moore

Hypsipetes nicobariensis Moore, in Horsfield & Moore, 1854, Cat. Bds. Mus. E.I.

Co. 1: 257 (Nicobars)

Baker, FBI No. 423, Vol. 1: 408

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Redwhiskered Bulbul; length c. 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, uncrested head, nape, wings and tail dark brown, back olive; *below*, throat and breast whitish grey faintly streaked with yellow; belly and under tail-coverts pale yellow, the latter with brown centres. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Nicobar Islands except Car Nicobar. 'Apparently restricted to Central Nicobars' (Abdulali, JBNHS 64: 182). Affects forest and gardens.

GENERAL HABITS. Found singly, in pairs or small parties, sometimes congregating in assemblies of 50 or more in some large feeding tree, where they make a great chattering and uproar.

FOOD. Unrecorded; doubtless as in other bulbuls.

VOICE and CALLS. 'Chattering notes very similar to the other *Hypsipetes*' [Davison, SF 2: 224, presumably meaning Black Bulbul (1148-9) q.v.].

BREEDING. Very young birds have been collected in February (Davison). Nesting unrecorded.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species and Field Characters.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
8 ♂♂	97-102	23-25	21	83-87 mm
4 ♀♀	92-100	24	21	80-84 mm (Desfayes)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill deep brown, lower mandible and edge of upper dull yellow. Legs and feet dark greenish brown or greenish plumbeous (Hume).

HYPSIPETES INDICUS (Jerdon)

Key to the Subspecies

		Page
A	Duller and paler yellow..... <i>H. i. ictericus</i>	104
B	Richer in colour, especially on sides of head..... <i>H. i. indicus</i>	105
C	More greenish on upperparts; yellow of underparts tinged with green <i>H. i. guglielmi</i>	106

1143. **North Sahyadri Yellowbrowed Bulbul.** *Hypsipetes indicus ictericus*
(Strickland)

Criniger ictericus Strickland, 1844, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. 13: 411
(East Indies = Mahableshwar)
Baker, FBI No. 419 (part), Vol. 1: 405

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Redvented Bulbul; length c. 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1144, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. Western Ghats from the Poona and Satara districts (Khandala, Mahableshwar, etc.) south to Belgaum and Goa, from c. 600 to 1900 m, optimum zone around 1000 metres. Affects secondary jungle, undergrowth of evergreen, edges of thicker jungle, and occasionally gardens.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1144.

BREEDING. Similar to that of the nominate subspecies.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *indicus* in having the upperparts more greyish green, the underparts duller, paler yellow.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail
♂♂	90-97	18-21	76-87 mm
♀♀	88-91	18-20	75-83 mm

(SDR, Koelz)

Weight 33 ♂♀ 27-34 (av. 30.6) g—SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1144.

1144. **Yellowbrowed Bulbul.** *Hypsipetes indicus indicus* (Jerdon)*T. (richophorus) Indicus* Jerdon, 1839, Madras Jour. Lit. Sci. 10: 240

(West Coast, restricted to Wynaad by Ripley, 1961, Synopsis)

Iole icterica intensior Koelz, 1939, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington 52: 64

(Kunjapani, Nilgiri Hills)

Baker, FBI No. 419 (part), Vol. 1: 405

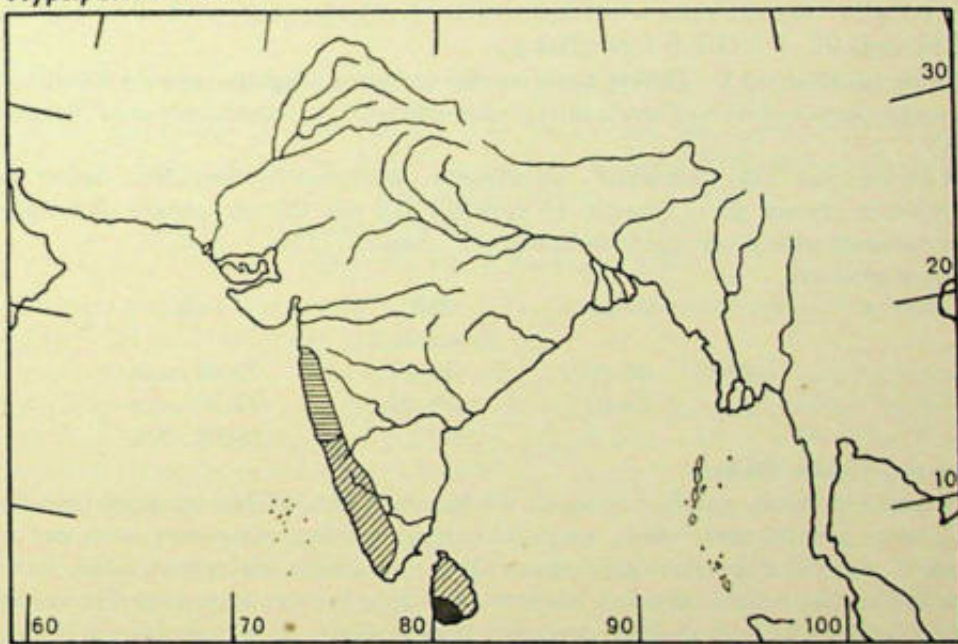
Plate 69, fig. 3, facing p. 128LOCAL NAMES. *Hāldi būlbūl* (Mysore); *Manjachinnan* (Malayalam).

SIZE. Redvented Bulbul; length c. 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. An uncrested forest bulbul olive-yellow above, with bright yellow forehead and eyebrow; lemon-yellow below. Sexes alike.

Young (immature), upperparts, head and breast dull brown, lacking the general yellow tinge of the adults, the only yellow being on the flanks.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Apparently the ecological counterpart of Whitebrowed Bulbul (1138) in evergreen biotope. Common resident. Western Ghats south of Belgaum and Goa through western Mysore, the

Hypsipetes indicus

Distributional ranges

ictericus (1143).

 indicus (1144).

 guglielmi (1145).

Nilgiris, Palnis, Nelliampathy and Cardamom hills; also Ceylon except in the southwest (Biddulph's record as common on Rameswaram Island, JBNHS 40: 241, is doubtless a confusion with *P. luteolus*). Most common above 900 m, optimum zone 1000 to 1500 m, up to 1950 m in the Nilgiris; occasionally down to near sea level. Affects sholas, coffee shade-trees and edges of thick jungle; almost entirely confined to evergreen biotope.

GENERAL HABITS. Found in pairs or small parties of six to seven birds (even when feeding young), sometimes congregating in flocks of up to 60

individuals, depending on food-supply; often forms the nucleus of foraging mixed assemblies. Feeds in the canopy of lofty trees as well as in shrubs and undergrowth, fluttering or hovering momentarily against a sprig to pluck berries. Winged insects disturbed in the process are seized in the air.

FOOD. *Almost entirely frugivorous — berries and drupes; also takes nectar, spiders and insects. Nestlings are fed with caterpillars and soft-bodied insects, and berries.

VOICE and CALLS. A clear, mellow, double whistle uttered frequently (SA). Alarm, a harsh, jarring note; song, a low-toned, pleasant warble sometimes uttered on the wing (Betts).

BREEDING. *Season*, February to May. *Nest*, quite unlike that of other members of the family and more like a large white-eye's (*Zosterops*) nest: a flimsy hammock of grass and skeleton leaves slung in a horizontal fork, with cobwebs and green moss on the exterior and lined with grass or black roots. Usual site is in a thinly foliated isolated shrub in the interior of light forest, generally within 1.5 m of the ground, exceptionally up to 4.5 m in a tree (Betts). *Eggs*, 2 or 3 (2 in Ceylon), pale creamy pink to warm salmon pink covered with numerous specks, freckles and blotches of various shades of red all over but somewhat more densely at the large end. Average size of 30 eggs 23.1×16.6 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *ictericus* in being brighter, more yellowish on the upperparts and sides of head; intergrades with *ictericus* in the Londa area (Belgaum dist.).

Young (not fully feathered), upperparts olivaceous brown; chin, throat and belly white; breast grey. When c. 14 days old and just left nest almost identical in every respect with comparable fledgling of *P. luteolus* (1138) — SA.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail
♂♂	88-97	19-21	75-87 mm
♀♀	89-91	19-21	77-83 mm
			(SDR, SA)

Tarsus c. 19 mm (Baker).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Adult, iris brownish red. Bill black; mouth brownish pink, slaty pinkish and yellow, or pinkish grey, varying apparently with age (or season?). Legs and feet slate-grey; claws black. Young, iris greyish olive; naked chin and circumorbital skin dull magenta. Bill pale brown; gape yellowish cream; mouth livid pink. Legs pinkish grey; feet pinkish flesh; claws pale brown (SA).

1145. Ceylon Yellowbrowed Bulbul. *Hypsipetes indicus guglielmi* (Ripley)

Microscelis ictericus guglielmi Ripley, 1946, *Spolia Zeylanica* 24: 230

(Depedene Estate, Rakwana, Ceylon)

Baker, FBI No. 419 (part), Vol. 1: 405

LOCAL NAME. *Kāhā kondayā* (Sinhala).

SIZE. Redvented Bulbul $\pm$; length c. 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1144.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Southwest Ceylon in the Rakwana and Pelmadulla areas, in the low-country Wet zone. Affects high forest.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1144.

BREEDING. Season, March–April and August–September. Nest, as in 1144, usually close to or overhanging a stream. Eggs, invariably 2, similar to those of *indicus*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *indicus* in being more greenish, less bronzy yellow on the upperparts; underparts more pure yellow tinged with green rather than the brighter yellow tinged with bronzy of *indicus*.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tail
5 ♂♂	87–91	18–19	74–79 mm
1 ♀	91	19	79 mm
			(SDR)

Weight 1 ♂ 35; 1 ♀ 27.5 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1144.

1146. Rufousbellied Bulbul. *Hypsipetes maclellandi maclellandi* Horsfield¹

Hypsipetes McClellandi Horsfield, 1840 (1839), Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 159 (Assam)

Ixos maclellandi vargus Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 10
(Bhimpedi, Nepal)

Baker, FBI No. 394, Vol. 1: 377

Plate 68, fig. 3, facing p. 112

LOCAL NAMES. *Chinchiok-pho*, *Chichiam* (Lepcha); *Dao-bulip-gadeba* (Cachari).

SIZE. Myna $\pm$; length c. 23 cm (9 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Above, crown dark brown with fine whitish streaks, slightly crested; rest of upperparts olive-green. Below, breast cinnamon with fine white streaks, paler on belly; under tail-coverts yellowish; throat dark grey heavily streaked with white, the tousled, lanceolate feathers very noticeable in the field when throat puffed out in calling. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident subject to vertical movements. The Himalayas from Mussooree east through Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, NEFA, Assam south to the hills of East Pakistan, Nagaland and Manipur. From c. 900 to 2700 m, optimum zone 1800–2100 m; descends in winter to the foothills, very occasionally entering the plains. Affects well-wooded secondary jungle, light gallery forest, oak, rhododendron and open pine forest, also overgrown cultivation clearings with scattered trees.

Extralimital. The species ranges east to Fukien, Kwangtung and central Vietnam, in the mountainous regions.

GENERAL HABITS. Less sociable than most other bulbuls. Usually found in pairs or small parties often in the mixed hunting flocks. Keeps to higher branches of trees but readily descends to fruiting bushes.

FOOD. Mainly berries and drupes.

¹ *H. virescens maclellandi* of the *Synopsis*; this species, however, appears more closely related to *H. philippinus* and *siquijorensis* than to *virescens*.

1148. **Himalayan Black Bulbul.** *Hypsipetes madagascariensis psaroides*
Vigors

Hypsipetes Psaroides Vigors, 1831, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 43

(Himalayan Mountains = Simla)

Baker, FBI No. 386, Vol. 1: 369

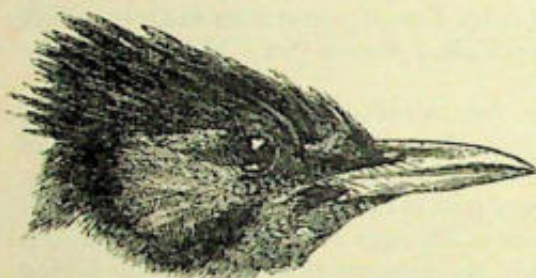
Vol. 9, plate 98

LOCAL NAMES. *Wān būlbūl*, *Kruhun būlbūl* (Kashmir); *Bān bākā* (Mussooree); *Darkal* (Chamba); *Phaki-pho* (Lepcha); *Kāki* (Paharia).

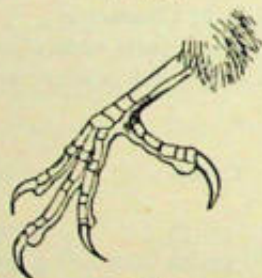
SIZE. Redvented Bulbul $\pm$; length c. 23 cm (9 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A slate-grey bird with black crest, slightly forked tail and bright red bill, legs and feet. Sexes alike.

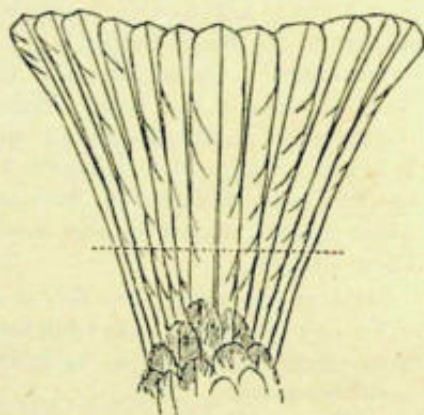
Young (immature), no crest; throat, lower breast and belly white, rest grey; bill and feet brown.



$\times c. 1$



$\times c. 1$

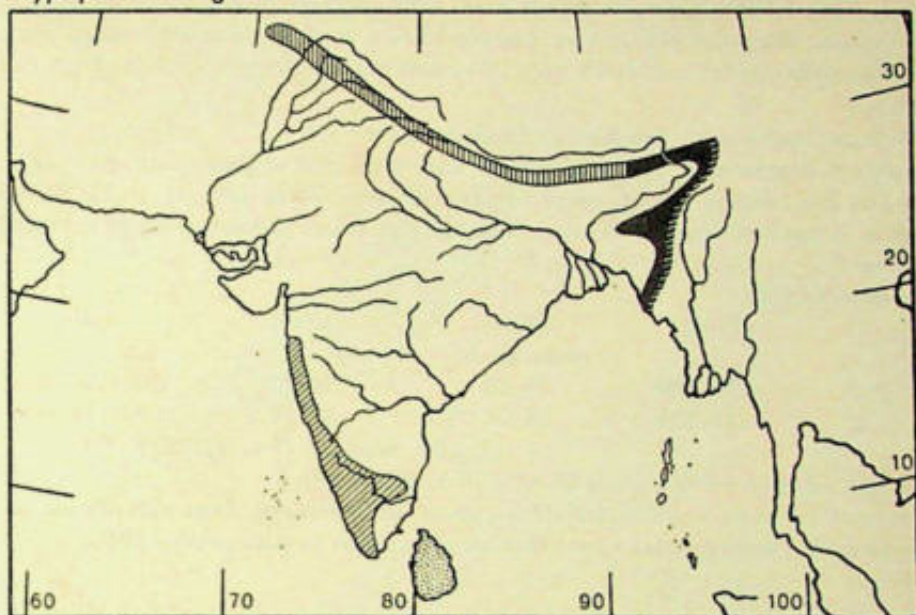


$\times c. \frac{1}{2}$

Dotted line to show distinctly forked tail and outcurving outer rectrices.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident subject to vertical movements; summer visitor only to the higher parts of its range. The Himalayas from the Kunar Valley (Afghanistan) and Chitral (N.W.F.P.) east through Kashmir south of the main range, Himachal Pradesh, northern Uttar Pradesh, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and NEFA to the Daffa Hills where it intergrades with *nigrescens*. Breeds between 1000 and 2400 m in the western part of its range and up to c. 3000 m in the east; optimum zone 1800 to 2100 m. Descends in winter, reaching the foothills in the west and commonly entering the plains in the east. Recorded at 3000 m in Sikkim in winter. Has straggled to Kohat, Ambala and Lahore. Affects tall forest, in particular of oak, pine and rhododendron; also enters gardens.

GENERAL HABITS. Arboreal, very noisy. In the non-breeding season, keeps in parties of six to ten, but sometimes numbering up to a hundred

Hypsipetes madagascariensis

Distributional ranges

▨ *psaroides* (1148).

■ *nigrescens* (1151).

▧ *ganeesa* (1149).

▩ *humii* (1150).

individuals, invading tree-tops in boisterous bands, seldom ever descending to undergrowth. Often perches on highest tips of trees, launching short aerial sallies after insects. Does not remain long on one tree, the birds of a party flying from one tree to another in loose, irregular order. Flight strong and swift.

Display, the male flutters from one tree to the next, his body held stiff and slightly bowed while uttering a rather melodious, excited *pip-per-tree*.

FOOD. Mainly fruits and berries (*Melia*, *Viburnum*, mulberries, etc.). Also insects. Visits flowers of *Erythrina*, *Salmalia*, rhododendron, etc. for nectar and insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Song, a long series of monosyllables of varying tone and pitch, punctuated at frequent intervals by a single, high, bell-like note; call, a loud, rapid *wurkiyu* repeated several times (Lister). See also *Display* above. Also a large variety of squeaky notes as the birds chase each other; a frequent call is a long drawn-out *weenh* likened to the squeal of a distressed pig; other notes described as *whew whé* or *whée whé* similar to the creaking of a gate-hinge, usually preceded by a drongo-like *squeaky-squeak*; another note, rarely heard, sounds like *geagluck* (Magrath).

BREEDING. *Season*, from the latter half of April to September, chiefly May, June and early July. *Nest*, a neat but flimsy cup of grasses, dead leaves, moss, bark fibres or lichen strengthened by cobweb, lined with rootlets, fine grass, bark-shavings or pine needles. Placed in the fork of a horizontal branch usually between seven and ten metres up, sometimes as low as two

1148. **Himalayan Black Bulbul.** *Hypsipetes madagascariensis psaroides*
Vigors

Hypsipetes Psaroides Vigors, 1831, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 43

(Himalayan Mountains = Simla)

Baker, FBI No. 386, Vol. 1: 369

Vol. 9, plate 98

LOCAL NAMES. *Wān būlbūl*, *Kruhun būlbūl* (Kashmir); *Bān bākṛā* (Mussooree); *Darkal* (Chamba); *Phaki-pho* (Lepcha); *Kāki* (Paharia).

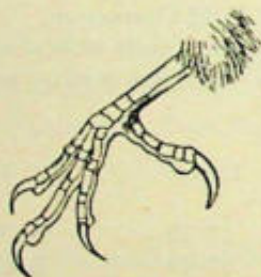
SIZE. Redvented Bulbul $\pm$; length c. 23 cm (9 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A slate-grey bird with black crest, slightly forked tail and bright red bill, legs and feet. Sexes alike.

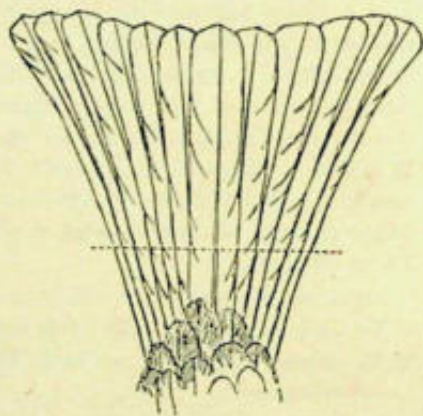
Young (immature), no crest; throat, lower breast and belly white, rest grey; bill and feet brown.



$\times c. 1$



$\times c. 1$

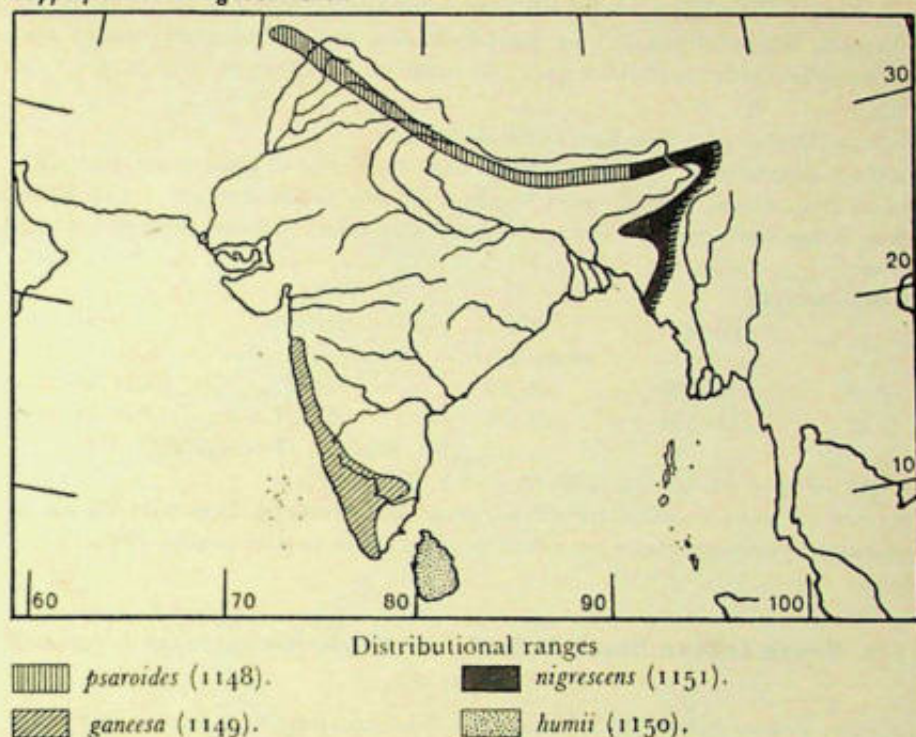


$\times c. \frac{1}{2}$

Dotted line to show distinctly forked tail and outcurving outer rectrices.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident subject to vertical movements; summer visitor only to the higher parts of its range. The Himalayas from the Kunar Valley (Afghanistan) and Chitral (N.W.F.P.) east through Kashmir south of the main range, Himachal Pradesh, northern Uttar Pradesh, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and NEFA to the Daffa Hills where it intergrades with *nigrescens*. Breeds between 1000 and 2400 m in the western part of its range and up to c. 3000 m in the east; optimum zone 1800 to 2100 m. Descends in winter, reaching the foothills in the west and commonly entering the plains in the east. Recorded at 3000 m in Sikkim in winter. Has straggled to Kohat, Ambala and Lahore. Affects tall forest, in particular of oak, pine and rhododendron; also enters gardens.

GENERAL HABITS. Arboreal, very noisy. In the non-breeding season, keeps in parties of six to ten, but sometimes numbering up to a hundred

Hypsipetes madagascariensis

individuals, invading tree-tops in boisterous bands, seldom ever descending to undergrowth. Often perches on highest tips of trees, launching short aerial sallies after insects. Does not remain long on one tree, the birds of a party flying from one tree to another in loose, irregular order. Flight strong and swift.

Display, the male flutters from one tree to the next, his body held stiff and slightly bowed while uttering a rather melodious, excited *pip-per-tree*.

FOOD. Mainly fruits and berries (*Melia*, *Viburnum*, mulberries, etc.). Also insects. Visits flowers of *Erythrina*, *Salmalia*, rhododendron, etc. for nectar and insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Song, a long series of monosyllables of varying tone and pitch, punctuated at frequent intervals by a single, high, bell-like note; call, a loud, rapid *wurkiyu* repeated several times (Lister). See also Display above. Also a large variety of squeaky notes as the birds chase each other; a frequent call is a long drawn-out *weenh* likened to the squeal of a distressed pig; other notes described as *whew whé* or *whée whé* similar to the creaking of a gate-hinge, usually preceded by a drongo-like *squeaky-squeak*; another note, rarely heard, sounds like *geagluck* (Magrath).

BREEDING. *Season*, from the latter half of April to September, chiefly May, June and early July. *Nest*, a neat but flimsy cup of grasses, dead leaves, moss, bark fibres or lichen strengthened by cobweb, lined with rootlets, fine grass, bark-shavings or pine needles. Placed in the fork of a horizontal branch usually between seven and ten metres up, sometimes as low as two

metres or as high as fifteen metres. *Eggs*, normally 3, sometimes 2, exceptionally 4, very faint pink covered all over with small primary blotches of deep red-brown, chocolate-brown or purple-brown with similar secondary small blotches of lavender and inky grey. Average size of 52 eggs 26.2×19.1 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies.

Young (immature). No crest; crown dark grey, rest of upperparts grey with a brownish cast. *Below*, throat, lower breast and belly white, rest grey; pale fulvous edges to wings and coverts. Primary and tail characters present; postjuvinal moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	116-130	26-29	20-22	102-116 mm
♀♀	111-124	26-28	20-21	93-111 mm

(BB, Schäfer, Fleming, SDR, SA)

Weight 10 ♂♂ 44-60; 6 ♀♀ 48-61 g (SA, BB, RAP).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill coral-red. Legs pale orange, feet deep [scarlet-] orange; claws pale brown; soles white to pale orange (BB).

1149. South Indian Black Bulbul. *Hypsipetes madagascariensis ganeesa* Sykes

Hypsipetes Ganeesa Sykes, 1832, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 86 (Ghauts, Dukhun)
Baker, FBI No. 389, Vol. 1: 372

LOCAL NAMES. *Mynā-būlbūl* (Kerala); *Karuppu kondai kūrūvi* (Tamil).

SIZE. Redvented Bulbul $\pm$; length c. 23 cm (9 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1148, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident but prone to local movements in the non-breeding season; locally abundant. Western Ghats from Matheran (near Bombay) in Maharashtra, south through western Mysore, the hills of Kerala and western Tamil Nadu and the Shevaroy Hills (Tamil Nadu). An old record from Berar is possibly erroneous. In the hills from c. 1000 m to the top, reaching the foothills in the cold weather. Affects evergreen forest, especially sholas, and eucalyptus or other shade-trees in tea, coffee and cardamom estates.

GENERAL HABITS. As in *psaroides*. A common member of mixed hunting parties of *Zosterops*, *Sitta*, *Garrulax*, *Muscicapa*, etc. each species keeping to its particular stratum.

FOOD. Mostly fruits and berries (*Zizyphus*, *Eugenia*, *Vaccinium*, etc.). Visits flowers of *Erythrina*, *Loranthus*, etc. and introduced *Grevillea* and *Eucalyptus* for nectar and insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Loud screechy whistles as in *psaroides*. One call often heard is rendered as *chirp*, *chee-chee-chee* (Nichols).

BREEDING. Season, March to June. At least two broods. Nest, as of *psaroides*. Eggs, almost invariably 2, rarely 3, white speckled with red-brown or purple-brown spots; blotched eggs are exceptional as are those with pinkish ground colour. Average size of 45 eggs 26.6×19.6 mm (Baker).



PLATE 68

- 1 *Chloropsis h. hardwickii*, Orangebellied Chloropsis (1106), ♀ above. 2 *Minla i. ignotincta*, Redtailed Minla (1357). 3 *Hypsipetes m. mcclellandi*, Rufousbellied Bulbul (1146). 4 *Crinifer f. flaveolus*, Whitethroated Bulbul (1140). 5 *Pycnonotus s. striatus*, Striated Green Bulbul (1133). 6 *Sitta formosa*, Beautiful Nuthatch (1837). 7 *Certhia f. mandellii*, Nepal Tree Creeper (1843). 8 *Tichodroma m. nepalensis*, Wall Creeper (1839).

1151. **Assam Black Bulbul.** *Hypsipetes madagascariensis nigrescens* Baker*Hypsipetes psaroides nigrescens* Baker, 1917, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 38: 15

(Upper Chindwin)

Baker, FBI No. 387, Vol. 1: 371

LOCAL NAME. *Dao-bulip gashim* (Cachari).SIZE and FIELD CHARACTERS. As in *psaroides* (1148).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident subject to local movements in the non-breeding season. NEFA, east of the Dafla Hills where it intergrades with *psaroides*, and the hills of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and East Pakistan; from c. 700 to at least 2400 m, reaching the foothills and plains in winter. Affects tall forest.

Extralimital. Extends to western Burma; the species ranges north and east to Szechuan, Chekiang, Formosa and the mountainous areas of the Indochinese subregion; also Madagascar, Aldabra and the Comoro Is.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in *psaroides*.

BREEDING. As in *psaroides*. Eggs, usually 3, often 2, occasionally 4, similar to those of *psaroides*. Average size of 64 eggs 27.1×19.9 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies. Differs from *psaroides* in being darker bluish grey both above and below, and having no grey patch above lores or behind eye; streak around ear-coverts present but less distinct; no contrast between crown and mantle.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1148.

Weight ♂ ♀ 53–64 g (SDR).

Family MUSCICAPIDAE

See Thomson, A. L. (ed.), 1964, article 'Muscicapidae', *A New Dictionary of Birds*, London & New York.

Key to the Subfamilies

- A Juvenal plumage spotted
 - 1 Bill slender and fairly strong.....Turdinae Vol. 8
 - 2 Bill broad and flat.....Muscicapinae Vol. 7
- B Juvenal plumage unspotted
 - 3 Bill small, slender; legs short and weak.....Sylviinae Vol. 8
 - 4 Bill very variable; legs and feet strong.....Timaliinae p. 114

Subfamily TIMALIINAE: Babblers

For description see Van Tyne, J. & Berger, A. J., 1959: 517 (Family Timaliidae). Cf. Delacour, J., 1946, L'Oiseau 16: 7–36.

Genus PELLORNEUM Swainson

Pellorneum Swainson, 1832, Fauna Borcali-Americana: 487. Type, by original designation, *Pellorneum ruficeps* Swainson

Terrestrial birds of thick brushwood. Tail shorter than wing (except in *P. palustre*) but equal to or longer than twice length of tarsus. Bill about equal to or a little more than three-quarters the length of head, straight and notched at the tip. Nostrils not overhung by hairs; rictal bristles very short.

Key to the Species

		Page
A	Underparts including throat uniform cinnamon..... <i>P. fuscicapillum</i>	122
B	Throat whitish	
1	Breast not striped, throat speckled..... <i>P. albiventris</i>	124
2	Breast striped	
a	Crown concolorous with back..... <i>P. palustre</i>	121
b	Crown not concolorous with back..... <i>P. ruficeps</i>	115

PELLORNEUM RUFICEPS Swainson

Key to the Subspecies

A	Mantle not streaked	
a	Crown rufous..... <i>P. r. ruficeps</i>	117
b	Crown dark chestnut..... <i>P. r. olivaceum</i>	119
B	Mantle streaked	
c	Less olive, more rufous..... <i>P. r. mandellii</i>	116
d	Rufous of crown richer, back more rufescent..... <i>P. r. ripleyi</i>	120
e	Rufous of crown and brown of back with a greyish cast <i>P. r. punctatum</i>	115
f	Rufous of crown and brown of back paler..... <i>P. r. chameum</i>	119
g	Rufous of crown and brown of back darker..... <i>P. r. pectorale</i>	120
h	Crown chestnut, back deep brown, streaks on mantle obsolescent <i>P. r. vocale</i>	121

Cf. Deignan, H. G., 1947, Smith. Misc. Coll. 107: 1-20.

1152. **Western Spotted Babbler.** *Pellorneum ruficeps punctatum* (Gould)

Cinclidia punctata Gould, 1838, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 137

(Himalayas = Kalka, Baghat, Simla, restricted by Deignan, op. cit.)

Pellorneum ruficeps jonesi Baker, 1920, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 41: 9

(Kalka, Baghat, Simla)

Baker, FBI No. 244, Vol. 1: 241

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Bulbul —; length c. 15 cm (6 in.).

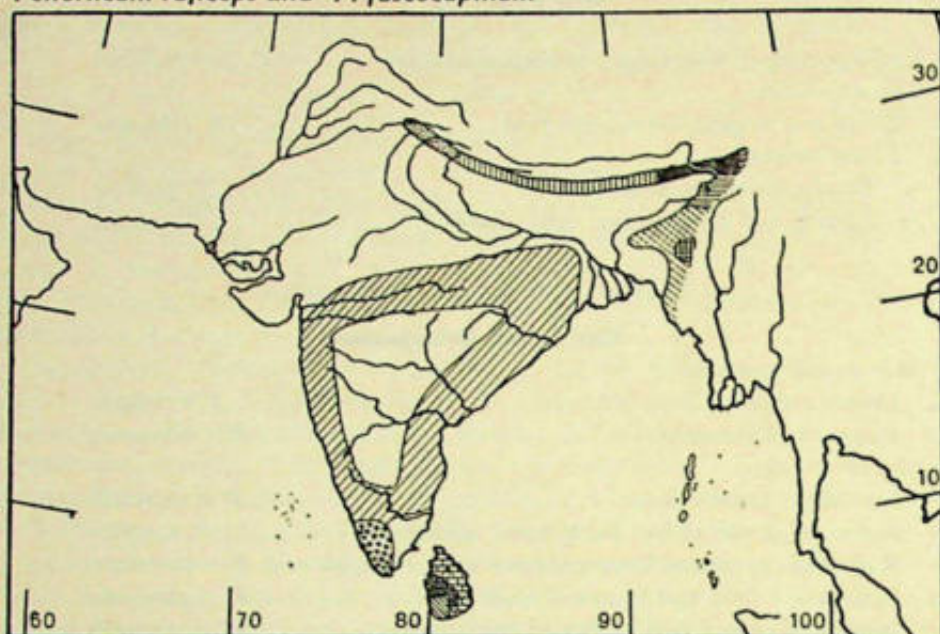
FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1154, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident; locally distributed. The Himalayan foothills from Kangra to Garhwal; from c. 300 to 1200 m. Affects heavy cut-over scrub, wooded ravines and nullahs, deciduous or evergreen jungle and tea-gardens.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1154.

VOICE and CALLS. A sweet song of four or five notes repeated two or three times, each repetition a little lower than the preceding (Osmaston). See also 1154.

BREEDING. *Season*, overall March to July, chiefly April to June. *Nest*, as in *ruficeps*. *Eggs*, 2 to 4, white, tinged with pale green or cream, blotched and speckled with red-brown and inky purple. Average size of 10 eggs 21.4 × 16.2 mm (Baker).

Pellorneum ruficeps and *P. fuscicapillum*

Distributional ranges

- P. r. punctatum* (1152). *P. r. mandellii* (1153). *P. r. pectorale* (1157).
P. r. ripleyi (1158). *P. r. chamelum* (1156). *P. r. vocale* (1159).
P. r. ruficeps (1154). *P. r. olivaceum* (1155). *P. f. fuscicapillum* (1161).
P. f. scortillum (1163). *P. f. babaulti* (1162).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from the nominate subspecies in being darker and more richly coloured; crown dark chestnut instead of rufous. From *mandellii* differs in having the upperparts, edges of wings and tail more olive, less rufous-brown.

MEASUREMENTS. As in *mandellii* (1153).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris red-brown. Bill brown, dusky yellow at base of lower mandible. Legs and feet fleshy.

1153. Mandelli's or Sikkim Spotted Babbler. *Pellorneum ruficeps mandellii* Blanford

Pellorneum Mandellii Blanford, 1871, Proc. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, No. 9: 216 (Sikkim)
 Baker, FBI No. 243, Vol. 1: 240

Vol. 7, plate 76

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Bulbul —; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in *ruficeps* (1154).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. The Himalayan foothills, from western Nepal through Sikkim, Bhutan and NEFA, east to the Subansiri river; from plains level up to *c.* 1800 m. Does not appear to move much with the seasons (Biswas); recorded in winter at 1700 m. Affects heavy brush, secondary growth, bamboo jungle and wooded ravines.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in *ruficeps* (1154), but calls and song clearly distinguishable in dialect.

BREEDING. Season, March to July, chiefly April to June. Nest, as in *ruficeps*. Eggs, 3 or 4, very exceptionally 5, white, sometimes tinged with buff, marked with red-brown, brown, purplish brown or blackish brown specks and small blotches scattered profusely over the whole surface, usually more at the large end. Average size of 200 eggs 22.4×16.3 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *ruficeps* in having the neck and back of head streaked with black and buff; crown brighter, near chestnut, ear-coverts darker; breast and belly suffused with ochraceous; spots on underparts darker, not so broad; upperparts, edge of wings and tail more rufous-brown. Differs from *punctatum* in having the upperparts, edges of wings and tail less olive, more rufous-brown.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	63-75	18-21	27-28	70-77 mm
♀♀	66-72	18-20	27-28	62-70 mm (BB, SA)

Weight 3 ♂♂ 24-28; 2 ♀♀ 28, 29 g (SA, BB).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris crimson to deep crimson (reddish brown in juvenile). Bill: upper mandible dark brown; lower mandible light yellow on posterior half, bluish white on the anterior half, with dusky tip. Legs, feet, claws and soles fleshy (BB).

1154. Peninsular Spotted Babbler. *Pellorneum ruficeps ruficeps* Swainson

Pellorneum ruficeps Swainson, 1832, Fauna Boreali-Americana: 487

(India = Coonoor, Nilgiris, restricted by Deignan, op. cit.)

Baker, FBI No. 240, Vol. 1: 238

LOCAL NAMES. *Saruhunni kūrūvi* (Tamil); *Adavi lika jittu* (Telugu).

SIZE. Bulbul —; length c. 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A small terrestrial babbler. *Above*, brown with a darker chestnut-brown cap, a light superciliary stripe extending well behind the eye; ear-coverts brown. *Below*, throat white, rest of underparts buff, boldly streaked and spotted with dark brown. Legs pale fleshy. Sexes alike. A passable miniature of the European Song Thrush (*Turdus ericetorum*).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. The hills of the Indian peninsula (Satpuras, hill tracts of Bihar and Orissa, Western and Eastern Ghats and their associated ranges, from the Narbada river and the Rajmahal Hills (west central Bihar) south to the Palghat Gap and the Chitteri Hills; from sea level to c. 1350 m. Not recorded from the Deccan plateau. Affects scrub, bamboo groves, sholas, thickets in ravines and along watercourses.

GENERAL HABITS. In pairs or small parties in dense thickets, undergrowth and bamboo in well-wooded areas. Feeds on the ground like Jungle Babbler, rummaging among dead leaves. Progresses by long thrush-like hops

or by running like quail. Usually very quiet and retiring, and easily overlooked.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Three or four, mellow plaintive whistling notes in an ascending scale, not unlike Iora's, variously transcribed as *he'll beat* or *he'll beat you, I'm right here, pret-ty-sweet*, etc. — the first syllable short, the second low and emphasized — repeated with persistence and monotony at intervals of five seconds or so for up to 15 minutes at a stretch, especially in the mornings and evenings. Uttered from a branch inside a dense thicket; on an observer's approach, the calls suddenly cease, the bird quietly drops into the undergrowth and disappears, to start calling again fifty yards away. Song, a percussive loud and pretty phrase of several rich and spirited whistling notes up and down the scale, often sustained practically without intermission for well over a minute, and soon repeated. It is heard mostly in the early morning and late afternoon; chiefly in the breeding season but sporadic bursts may be given at all times of the year. Alarm-notes, a harsh *chr-r*, *chr-r* or *kraa*, *kraa* while the bird is slinking away. Pairs and parties keep in touch by a musical subdued contact-note *wheet*. Also some chattering notes uttered when working through bushes.

BREEDING. *Season*, mainly during the monsoon: February to April in the south, April to June in Madhya Pradesh extending to September in the Western Ghats. *Nest*, a flimsy ball of dead leaves or grass about the size of a large melon, usually scantily lined with grass or fine stems of maidenhair fern; entrance on the side, always looking downhill. Placed on the ground, in drifts of dry leaves at the foot of bushes, preferably on a slope. *Eggs*, 2 or 3 in the south, usually 3 in the north, white, marked with numerous specks, spots and blotches of brown as a rule denser at the large end. Average size of 21 eggs 21.6×16.2 mm (Baker). Parents approach and leave the nest by running through the undergrowth like a mouse. Young leave the nest on the 12th or 13th day after hatching.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. For differences between the nominate race and *punctatum*; *mandellii* and *olivaceum* see under those subspecies (1152, 1153, 1155).

Young (immature), upperparts similar to adult but paler, no olive, less contrast between crown and back; all but primary coverts washed with fulvous on edges; underparts dull white, washed with dull ashy fulvous on the sides, no lanceolate spots; under tail-coverts dull ashy fulvous. No white tips to tail. Primary and tail characters present.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	68-78	17-20	25-30	61-73 mm
♀♀	66-73	16-20	25-27	57-69 mm
			(HW, SA, Koclz)	

Weight 15 ♂♀ 21-30 (av. 26) g — SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris orange-brown. Bill brown, fleshy below; mouth pale brownish and lemon-yellow. Legs and feet yellowish flesh.

1155. **Kerala Spotted Babbler.** *Pellorneum ruficeps olivaceum* Jerdon*Pellorneum olivaceum* Jerdon, 1839, Madras Jour. Lit. Sci. 10: 255

(Trichur, Cochin State, restricted by Deignan, op. cit.)

Pellorneum ruficeps granti Harington, 1913, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 33: 81

(Mynall, Travancore)

Baker, FBI No. 242, Vol. 1: 240

Plate 69, fig. 8, facing p. 128

LOCAL NAME. *Ganarāj* (Malayalam).

SIZE. Bulbul —; length c. 16 cm (6½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in *ruficeps* (1154). See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, generally distributed. The low country and hills of Kerala and presumably also of adjoining western Tamil Nadu (Palnis etc.), north to the Palghat Gap; from near sea level to 1800 m. Affects evergreen sholas, steep hillsides along nullahs, dry ravines and watercourses littered with rotting bamboo and brushwood and overgrown with thickets of *Acacia*, *Zizyphus*, etc.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in *ruficeps*.

BREEDING. Season, November to May. Nest and eggs, as in 1154. Average size of 7 eggs 21.9 × 16.3 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Like *ruficeps* but darker and more richly coloured. Crown and nape dark chestnut; upperparts, edges of wings and tail darker olive-brown; spotting on lower parts heavier and darker brown; darker on flanks and sides of head.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
4 ♂♂	73-76	19-20	28-29	66-73 mm (HW, SA)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris hazel-brown (immature) to reddish brown. Bill: upper mandible brown, lower mandible paler; mouth in breeding ♂ brownish pink, immature yellowish flesh. Legs and feet brownish flesh, claws dusker.

1156. **Assam Spotted Babbler.** *Pellorneum ruficeps chamelum* Deignan*Pellorneum ruficeps chamelum* Deignan, 1947, Smith. Misc. Coll. 107: 6

(Gunjong, Cachar)

Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAME. *Dao-priti-pit* (Cachari).

SIZE. Bulbul —; length c. 16 cm (6½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in *ruficeps*, but upper back streaked. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Assam in the Garo and Khasi Hills, Nagaland, and the hills of East Pakistan south to the Chittagong district; from the foothills to 1450 m. Affects evergreen or deciduous dense forest, bamboo and secondary growth.

Extralimital. The species ranges throughout the Indochinese subregion.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1154.

BREEDING. As in 1153.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Similar to *mandellii* in having sharply defined blackish brown centres to the feathers of the uppermost back, but differing in having the rufous of forehead, crown and nape, and the brown of the remaining upperparts paler and greyer.

MEASUREMENTS. As in 1153.

Weight ♂ 31; ♀ 26-28 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. ♂ upper mandible black, lower basally yellow, distally grey; ♀ upper mandible basally black, distally greyish brown, lower basally yellow, distally grey (SDR).

1157. Mishmi Spotted Babbler. *Pellorneum ruficeps pectorale*

Godwin-Austen

Pellorneum pectoralis Godwin-Austen, 1877, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 46: 41

(Sadiya, Assam)

Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Bulbul —; length c. 16 cm (6½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1154 but upper back streaked. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident in NEFA in the Mishmi Hills and the Sadiya Frontier Tract, probably extending west to the Subansiri river. Affects clearings in dense evergreen or deciduous forest.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD, VOICE and BREEDING. As in *mandellii* (1153), q.v.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *mandellii* in having the rufous of forehead, crown and nape much deeper in tone (rufous-chestnut); brown of the remaining upperparts darker; underparts more heavily washed with a richer buff. Differs from *chamelum* by its more saturate coloration above and below.

Young, edges of wings and tail more rusty; no white tip to tail; underparts fulvous white with dusky shadows on breast.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail
♂♂	70-76	18-20	67-74 mm
♀♀	66-71	17-19	62-68 mm
			(SDR, SA)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown or red-brown. Bill: upper mandible brown, lower yellow at base, pale brown at tip. Legs and feet fleshy.

1158. Lakhimpur Spotted Babbler. *Pellorneum ruficeps ripleyi* Deignan

Pellorneum ruficeps ripleyi Deignan, 1947, Smith. Misc. Coll. 107: 7

(Margherita, Assam)

Not in Baker, FBI

Plate 67, fig. 5, facing p. 64

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE and FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1154 but upper back streaked. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. Northeastern Assam in the Lakhimpur district south of Brahmaputra river. Same habitat as adjacent subspecies.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD, VOICE and BREEDING. As in 1154, q.v.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *mandellii* (1153) in having the rufous of the forehead, crown and nape slightly richer in tone; brown of remaining upperparts more strongly rufescent; underparts more heavily washed with a richer buff.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in *pectorale* (1157).

1159. Manipur Spotted Babbler. *Pellorneum ruficeps vocale* Deignan

Pellorneum ruficeps vocale Deignan, 1951, Postilla, Yale Peabody Mus., No. 7: 2

(Kanglatongbi, Manipur)

Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE and FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1154 but upper back streaked. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. Valley of central Manipur. Same habitat as *chamelum*.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD, VOICE and BREEDING. As in *mandellii*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Underparts like *chamelum* but differs in having the forehead, crown and nape chestnut rather than rufous; blackish brown centres to the feathers of the uppermost back obsolescent (*contra* sharply defined); brown of remaining upperparts deeper in tone.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in *pectorale* (1157).

1160. Marsh Spotted Babbler. *Pellorneum palustre* Gould

Pellorneum palustre Gould, 1872, Bds. Asia 3: pl. 65, pt. 24 (Cachar, Assam)

Baker, FBI No. 246, Vol. 1: 242

Plate 70, fig. 1, facing p. 176

LOCAL NAME. *Dao-priti-pit kashiba* (Cachari).

SIZE. Sparrow; length c. 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Upperparts and tail olive-brown; lores whitish; sides of neck, flanks and a band across the breast ochraceous, more or less streaked with brown; chin white; throat and upper breast white streaked with brown; centre of belly white, sides olive-brown; under tail-coverts ochraceous. Sexes alike.

Distinguished from *P. ruficeps* by its uniformly coloured upperparts, and from *P. albiventris* by its heavily striped throat.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. An endemic species. Resident, locally common. NEFA from the Miri Hills to the Mishmi Hills and Sadiya, Assam in the plains of the Brahmaputra, the plains and upland grass hills of Cachar and Khasi Hills, and East Pakistan in Sylhet and the Chittagong region; from the plains to 800 m. Affects great tracts of reeds and coarse high grass alongside swamps and rivers, elephant-grass and also bushes and low tree-jungle on marshy ground.

GENERAL HABITS. A great skulker, easily overlooked, though call-notes are constantly uttered. Difficult to observe; when flushed, flits in a rather lopsided manner from one patch of grass to another.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A loud double chirp *chi-chew* 'reverse of that of *Chrysomma altirostre*' (1234) (Stevens) heard in the same facies.

BREEDING. *Season*, during monsoon from the end of May onward. *Nest*, like that of the Spotted Babbler, a ball of grass lined with finer grass or a few rootlets, placed on the ground among grasses and roots, always more or less covered by the matted roots or fallen debris. *Eggs*, like small replicas of *P. ruficeps*. Average of 14 eggs 20.6×15.7 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species and Field Characters.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	62-68	c. 15	c. 26	64-69 mm (Baker)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible deep brown, lower pale brown. Legs and feet fleshy brown (Hume), pale horny blue (Stevens).

PELLORNEUM FUSCOCAPILLUM (Blyth)

Key to the Subspecies

	Page
A Crown fulvous with chocolate-brown tips..... <i>P. f. babaulti</i>	123
B Crown chocolate-brown	
a Darker..... <i>P. f. scortillum</i>	124
b Paler..... <i>P. f. fuscocapillum</i>	122

1161. Browncapped Babbler. *Pellorneum fuscocapillum fuscocapillum* (Blyth)

Dryocataphus fuscocapillus Blyth, 1849, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 18: 815
(Colombo, Ceylon)

Baker, FBI No. 249, Vol. 1: 245

LOCAL NAMES. *Parandel-kurullā*, *Redi diang* ('give me cloth', onomatopoeic, Sinhala).

SIZE. Bulbul —; length 16 cm ($6\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, brown with a darker brown cap. *Below*, and sides of head cinnamon; tail brown narrowly tipped with buff. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Ceylon, from the foothills to 1650 m, from the northern Dry zone in the west to the southwest Wet zone and east through the hills. (See map, p. 116.) Affects dense forest.

GENERAL HABITS. Very similar to those of the Spotted Babbler, as are also its nesting habits and voice. Found in pairs, spending most of the time on the ground, turning over dead leaves in search of insects. Very shy but may easily be discovered by its calls (q.v.) or by the rustling of dead leaves.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Very similar to those of the Spotted Babbler. A monotonously repeated, clear whistle rendered as *pri-tee dear* or *to meet you*, the middle note pitched higher. Song, uttered during the breeding season, a quaint little lilting song, whistling up and down the scale. Both call and song are easily imitated, thus the calling bird may be decoyed within view. Alarm-note, a sharp *wit* or rapid *quit-it-it*; scolding note a low *chr chr chr*.

BREEDING. *Season*, February to April and September to December; chiefly March–April. *Nest*, a ball of dead leaves loosely put together, with a large entrance at one side, sometimes taking up almost the whole of the side; lined with a few semi-decayed leaves and fine leaf- or fern-stalks neatly pressed around the inside. Usually placed on the ground among a litter of fallen leaves in which it blends perfectly, more generally at the foot of a large tree or cardamom clump, occasionally under a tea bush, or in a decayed hollow in a tree near the ground; once in a crevice in a bank, about one metre from the ground. The site is almost always in heavy forest. *Eggs*, generally 2, sometimes 3, white or nearly so, exceptionally tinged with buff or greyish green, profusely speckled or with small blotches of brown, red-brown, purplish brown or blackish brown, slightly more numerous at the large end, sometimes forming a ring or cap (Phillips). Average size of ten eggs 22.2×16.2 mm (Baker). The bird sits very closely and the majority of nests are found as it flies out suddenly at one's feet. Male shares in incubation.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
3 ♂♂	73–75	18–19	27–28	66–69 mm
3 ♀♀	67–70	17–18	25–26	57–60 mm (HW)

Weight 1 ♂ 30 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris red. Bill: upper mandible brown, lower pink. Legs and feet pinkish brown.

1162. Pale Browncapped Babbler. *Pellorneum fuscicapillum babaulti* (Wells)

Scotocichla fuscicapilla babaulti Wells, 1919, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 39: 69
(Trincomalee, Ceylon)

Baker, FBI No. 250, Vol. 1: 245

LOCAL NAMES. As in 1160.

SIZE. Bulbul —; length *c.* 16 cm ($6\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1160.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Ceylon, in the low-country Dry zone. (See map, p. 116.) Affects scrub and undergrowth.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1160.

BREEDING. *Season*, March and December. *Nest* and *eggs*, as in 1160.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from the nominate race (1161) in its paler coloration throughout. Crown and nape chocolate-brown instead of blackish; remainder of

upperparts olive-brown instead of chocolate-brown. Sides of head and whole lower plumage warm brownish buff instead of chestnut-buff.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
3 ♂♂	65-77	17-18	26	58-69 mm
1 ♀	70	18	25	59 mm

(HW, SDR)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris red-brown. Bill brown, pinkish at tip. Legs pinkish, feet more whitish.

1163. Dusky Browncapped Babbler. *Pellorneum fuscicapillum scortillum*
Ripley

Pellorneum fuscicapillum scortillum Ripley, 1946, *Spolia Zeylanica* 24: 226
(Rakwana, Ceylon)
Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAMES. As in 1161.

SIZE. Bulbul —; length c. 16. cm. (6½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1161.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Ceylon, in the low-country Wet zone and the southwest face of the hills. Affects thick secondary scrub 'in forest of the wettest areas (around the Sinharadja Forest)'—Phillips. (See map, p. 116.)

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1161.

BREEDING. Season, February. Nest and eggs, as in 1161.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *fuscicapillum* in being darker, more saturated on the lower parts and with a tendency to be darker on the upperparts. Differs from *babaulti* in being darker and smaller.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
2 ♂♂	67, 72	17	25	59, 63 mm
1 ♀	68	16	25	55 mm

(SDR)

Bill (from skull) 4 ♂♂ 18-20; 1 ♀ 18 mm (Desfayes).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1161.

PELLORNEUM ALBIVENTRE (Godwin-Austen)

Key to the Subspecies

Darker; white on belly more extensive.....*P. a. ignotum*

Paler; white on belly mostly washed with rusty....*P. a. albiventre*

Cf. Ripley, S. D., 1949, *Ibis* 91: 414-21.

Ripley, S. D., & Hall, B. P., 1954, *Ibis* 96: 486-7.

1164. **Assam Brown Babbler.** *Pellorneum albiventris albiventris*
(Godwin-Austen)

Neornis albiventris Godwin-Austen, 1876, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 45: 199
(Manipur Valley)

Turdinus nagaensis Godwin-Austen, 1877, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., Ser. 4, 20: 519
(Naga Hills)

Baker, FBI No. 247 (part), Vol. 1: 243

LOCAL NAME. *Dao-chiki* (Cachari).

SIZE. Sparrow $\pm$; length c. 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A small brown short-tailed babbler with whitish, faintly spotted throat, whitish belly with a rusty wash on breast and flanks. Sexes alike. See also Key to the Species.

The very similar Tickell's Babbler (1166) has a creamy buff unspotted throat concolorous with rest of underparts. Abbott's Babbler (1167) is also similar but larger, with an unspotted greyish white throat.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident subject to short vertical movements, locally common, more so in the higher parts of its zone. The foothills of Bhutan (Deothang) and NEFA, in the North Lakhimpur district, the hills of Assam from Margherita to Cachar, Nagaland, Manipur, and East Pakistan south to the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Affects scrub growth in low-lying forest land (winter), bamboo jungle and heavy cut-over scrub, from 500 to 1500 m, reaching the plains in winter.

Extralimital. Extends to western Burma (Chin Hills and Mt Victoria). The species ranges east to Vietnam.

GENERAL HABITS. Little known. A great skulker; very shy and retiring. Found in pairs near the ground in thick tangles of secondary or bamboo growth; avoids dense shady forest.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A sharp *chick*, some soft low chuckling notes, and a low clear whistle. Alarm, a low rippling note.

BREEDING. *Season*, May to July. *Nest*, a globular structure, sometimes only partially domed or even just a deep cup, made of grass and bamboo leaves and lined with grass; placed in bamboo clumps, bushes overgrown with creepers or occasionally in clumps of grass or weeds, between 60 and 120 cm from the ground, seldom higher or lower. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, rarely 5, pale cream to warm brick-colour profusely covered by speckles and tiny blotches of brick-red. Average size of 200 eggs 20×15.1 mm (Baker). Nests sometimes brood-parasitized by Hawk-Cuckoo, *Cuculus sparverioides* (Baker, JBNHS 17: 363).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *ignotum* (1165) in being paler, more rufous above; throat faintly spotted, white area of belly more restricted and, except for centre, washed with tawny-olive. Young birds have the edges of secondaries and greater wing-coverts more distinctly reddish brown.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♂	58-60	14-15	22	47-59 mm
♀ ♀	53-58	14-15	—	40-56 mm

(Kinnear, SDR)

Weight 2 ♂♂ 21, 22 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris reddish brown. Bill: upper mandible black, brown or pale bluish horny; lower mandible blue-grey. Legs brownish flesh.

1165. Mishmi Brown Babbler. *Pellorneum albiventris ignotum* Hume

Pellorneum ignotum Hume, 1877, Stray Feathers 5: 334 (Sadiya, N.E. Assam)
Baker FBI No. 247 (part), Vol. 1: 243

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow $\pm$; length c. 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1164, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to short vertical movements. Mishmi Hills and Sadiya. Affects bamboo jungle and secondary growth.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1164. Easily mistaken for Spotted Babbler (1153) when flitting for cover, but its short wren-like tail is diagnostic.

BREEDING. As in 1164.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *albiventris* in being darker on the upperparts; below mostly white, the throat mostly unspotted, a faint indication of greyish brown pectoral band; extensive area of white on belly.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
5 ♂♂	58-60	15	22	43-49 mm
4 ♀♀	54-57	—	—	41-45 mm (SDR)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1164.

Genus *TRICHASTOMA* Blyth

Trichastoma Blyth, 1842, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 11: 795. Type, by original designation, *Tr. (ichastoma) rostratum* Blyth

Malacocincla Blyth, 1845, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 14: 600. Type, by monotypy, *Malacocincla Abbotti* Blyth

Very similar to *Pellorneum*, *T. tickelli* being intermediate, but bill more compressed laterally and rictal bristles well developed.

Key to the Species

Larger; throat greyish white..... *T. abbotti*

Smaller; throat creamy buff..... *T. tickelli*

1166. Tickell's Babbler. *Trichastoma tickelli assamensis* (Sharpe)

Drymocapthus assamensis Sharpe, 1883, Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus. 7: 557 (Dhollah, Assam)
Baker, FBI No. 253, Vol. 1: 248

LOCAL NAME. *Dao-busha* (Cachari).

SIZE. Sparrow; length c. 15 cm (6 in.).



FIELD CHARACTERS. A small, long-legged, short-tailed, mostly terrestrial babbler. *Above*, olive-brown; *below*, buffish white. Sexes alike. Abbott's Babbler (1167) is larger and has a greyish white throat. For distinction between this and *Pellorneum* babblers, see under Brown Babbler (1164).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident subject to vertical movements, locally common. NEFA from the Dafla Hills to the Mishmi Hills; Assam from the Garo Hills to Margherita and East Pakistan in the northeastern and Chittagong hill tracts; presumably also the Naga Hills and Manipur. From the plains to 2100 m, optimum zone 1000–1400 m; reaches the plains in winter. Affects heavy cut-over scrub, bamboo thickets near streams, open or deep forest and practically any suitable cover.

Extralimital. Extends to northwestern Burma. The species is found throughout the Indochinese subregion and Sumatra.

GENERAL HABITS. Found in pairs skulking in dense undergrowth. Feeds on the ground; when disturbed hops to the nearest cover and flies only with reluctance.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A sharp *tsip* (Stevens); alarm-notes, a soft rippling *chir-chir* (Baker). Call-notes, a loud *pit-you . . . pit-you* uttered fairly rapidly (Smythies).

BREEDING. *Season*, March to June. *Nest*, a domed or semi-domed structure, much like that of *Pellorneum* species but more compact, tidy and well-built; materials are fine bamboo leaves and grass; lining scanty, of a few fine grasses. Placed on the ground or in bushes or bamboo clumps near the ground preferably in open glades by streams. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, of the *Pellorneum* type: pale olive-grey densely covered with freckles or small blotches of reddish brown or olive-brown. Average size of 60 eggs 19.9×15.7 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. Differs from *Pellorneum albiventris* by its buffish white underparts and unspotted throat.

MEASUREMENTS

♂ ♀ Wing 64–67; tail 50–55 mm (Baker).

1 ♂ Wing 62; bill (culmen) 16; tail 51 mm (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris reddish brown. Bill: upper mandible dark brown. Legs brownish grey.

1167. Abbott's Babbler. *Trichastoma abbotti abbotti* (Blyth)

Malacocincla Abbotti Blyth, 1845, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 14: 601

(Ramree Island, Arakan)

Malacocincla abbotti amabilis Koelz, 1952, Jour. Zool. Soc. India 4: 39

(Nichuguard, Naga Hills)

Baker, FBI No. 267, Vol. 1: 260

Plate 70, fig. 2, facing p. 176

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Bulbul —; length c. 15 cm (6 in.).



× c. 1

FIELD CHARACTERS. A brown, short-tailed terrestrial babbler. *Above*, olive-brown. *Below*, throat greyish white; centre of belly whitish, washed on breast and flanks with olive; under tail-coverts bright ochraceous. Sexes alike. Voice (q.v.) is distinctive.

Tickell's Babbler (1166) is smaller and has a buffish white throat.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. The Himalayan foothills from the terai of eastern Nepal and Sikkim east through the Bhutan foothills and NEFA to the Mishmi Hills, northern West Bengal, East Pakistan in the northeastern and Chittagong hill tracts; Assam, Nagaland and Manipur. In densely wooded valleys, ravines and broken land at the base of the hills and up to 600 m. Affects tangled thickets in wet deep jungle and original forest, especially edges of forest along the banks of streams; appears to have a predilection for the vicinity of palm-ferns.

Extralimital. Southern Burma and central and southern Thailand. Other subspecies in the Indochinese countries, Malaysia, Sumatra and Borneo.

GENERAL HABITS. Behaves much like the Spotted Babbler. Solitary or in pairs in brushwood near the ground, and in the same limited area day after day.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A loud distinctive call of three notes dropping in pitch on the middle note, or sometimes four notes, the first low, the other three higher and on the same pitch (Smythies). According to Fleming, this call is a duet, the male leading off with *poor'ol bear* followed by the female *dear dear*; the phrase sometimes becomes *poor'ol dear bear dear*.

BREEDING. *Season*, chiefly April and May, extending into July. *Nest*, a bulky cup of dead leaves, bracken fronds, weed-stems, a little moss and grass with a good lining of rather coarse red roots, averaging 12 to 15 cm in diameter. Placed near the ground in bushes, briars, weeds or in dwarf palm-trees at the base of the frond. *Eggs*, 3 to 5, bright salmon colour marked with a few bold blotches and a few short twisted lines of deep red; underlying spots of lavender. Average size of 20 eggs 21.8×16.2 mm (Baker). When disturbed, the birds slip quietly over the edge of the nest but then proceed for a few yards with rather a fussy flight before reaching the ground, when they soon get out of sight with long hops. Nests sometimes parasitized by Violet Cuckoo, *Chalcites xanthorhynchus* (Baker, JBNHS 17: 755).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species and Field Characters.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	74-80	20-21	25-26	47-52 mm (SDR, Baker)

Weight 5 ♂♂ 26-32.5; 2 ♀♀ 26.5, 27g (BB).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris reddish brown. Bill: upper mandible black, lower grey. Legs brownish flesh.

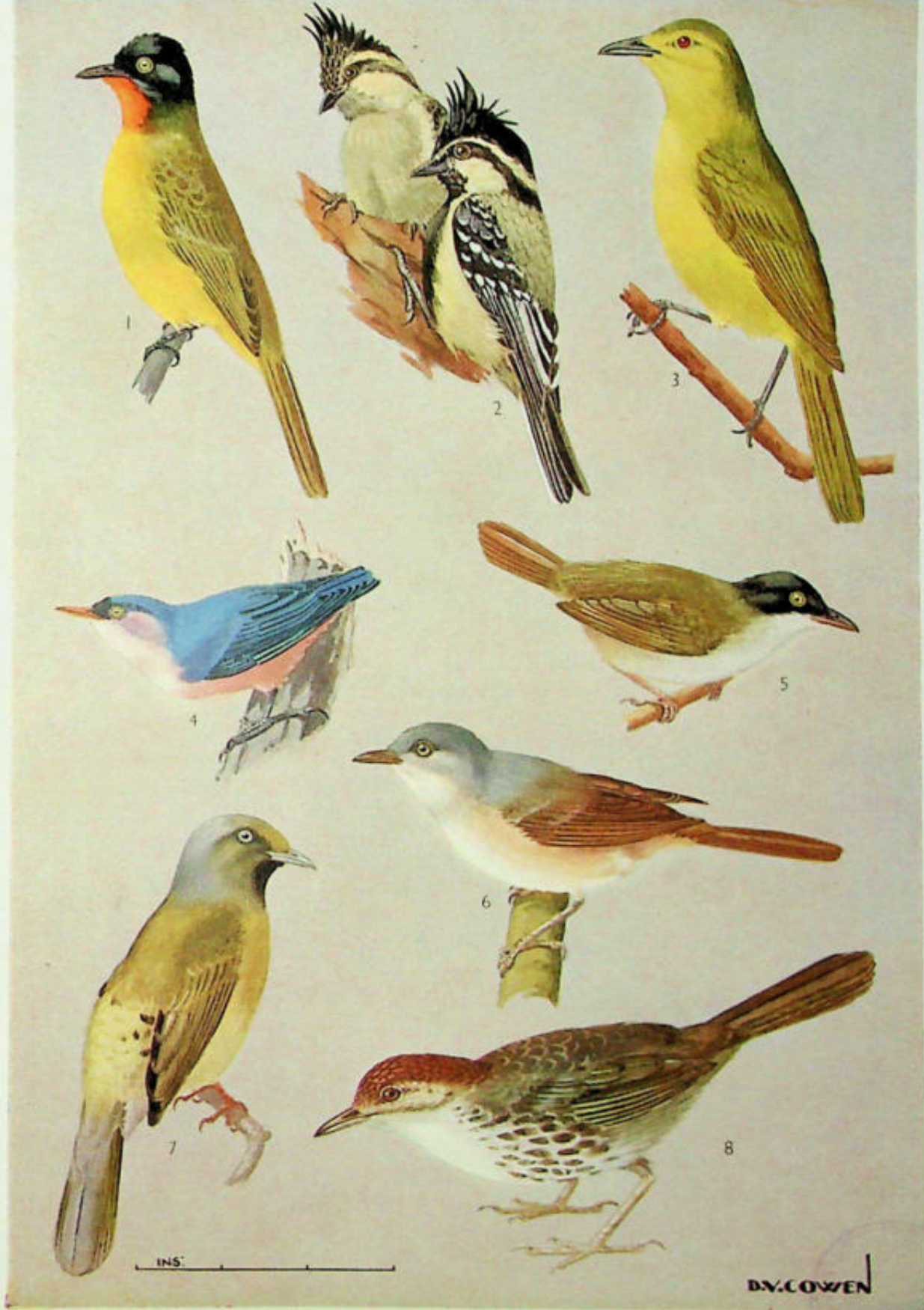


PLATE 69

1 *Pycnonotus m. gularis*, Rubythroated Bulbul (1116). 2 *Parus x. travancorensis*, Yellowcheeked Tit (1811), ♀ above. 3 *Hypsipetes i. indicus*, Yellowbrowed Bulbul (1144). 4 *Sitta f. frontalis*, Velvetfronted Nuthatch (1838). 5 *Rhopocichla a. bourdilloni*, Blackheaded Babbler (1225). 6 *Alcippe p. poiocephala*, Quaker Babbler (1390). 7 *Pycnonotus priocephalus*, Greyheaded Bulbul (1114). 8 *Pellorneum r. olivaceum*, Spotted Babbler (1155).

Genus POMATORHINUS Horsfield

Pomatorhinus Horsfield, 1821, Trans. Linn. Soc. London 13: 164. Type, by monotypy,
Pomatorhinus montanus Horsfield

Principal distinguishing feature is the long, slender bill, as long as or longer than the head, curved downwards, always compressed. Nostrils bare. Feathers of forehead short and rounded. Tail longer than wing, much graduated, the outer rectrices not exceeding three-quarters the length of the central pair. Noisy sociable birds. All species lay white, unspotted eggs; nest on or near the ground.

Key to the Species

	Page
A A white supercilium	
1 Throat and breast ferruginous or ochraceous..... <i>P. ferruginosus</i>	145
2 Throat white or whitish	
a Bill less than 25 mm..... <i>P. ruficollis</i>	138
b Bill more than 25 mm	
i Crown mostly slate-grey..... <i>P. schisticeps</i>	129
ii Crown tawny olive..... <i>P. ochraceiceps</i>	147
B No white supercilium	
3 Flanks ferruginous..... <i>P. erythrogenys</i>	141
4 Flanks slate-grey..... <i>P. hypoleucos</i>	144

POMATORHINUS SCHISTICEPS Hodgson

Key to the Subspecies

A Sides of neck chestnut	
1 Ear-coverts black..... <i>P. s. salimalii</i>	132
2 Ear-coverts slate-grey	
a Paler; rufous hind-collar more marked..... <i>P. s. cryptanthus</i>	133
b Darker; rufous hind-collar barely indicated	
i Wing over 100 mm..... <i>P. s. schisticeps</i>	131
ii Wing under 100 mm..... <i>P. s. leucogaster</i>	130
B Sides of neck not chestnut	
3 Flanks and under tail-coverts rufescent olive-brown; no black edging to plastron	
c Above bright ferruginous..... <i>P. s. melanurus</i>	137
d Above olive-brown..... <i>P. s. holdsworthi</i>	136
4 Flanks and under tail-coverts a cold grey-brown	
e No black edging to plastron	
iii General colour olive-brown..... <i>P. s. maderaspatensis</i>	136
iv General colour grey..... <i>P. s. obscurus</i>	133
f A black edging to plastron	
v General colour olive-brown..... <i>P. s. travancorensis</i>	135
vi Intermediate between iv and v..... <i>P. s. horsfieldii</i>	134

1168. **West Himalayan Slatyheaded Scimitar Babbler.** *Pomatorhinus schisticeps leucogaster* Gould

Pomatorhinus leucogaster Gould, 1838, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 137

(Himalayas = Simla)

Pomatorhinus pinwilli Sharpe, 1883, Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus. 7: 413 (NW. Himalayas)

Baker, FBI No. 202, Vol. 1: 208 (= *pinwilli*)

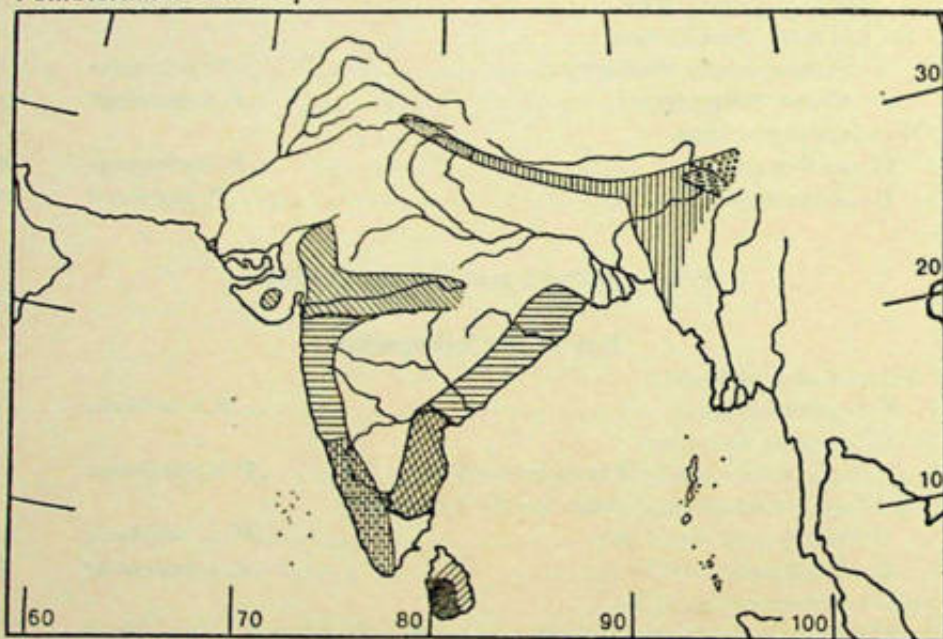
LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Between bulbul and myna; length *c.* 22 cm (8½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1169, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, fairly common. Western Himalayas from Kangra to Garhwal, from the foothills to *c.* 1500 m. Affects

Pomatorhinus schisticeps



Distributional ranges

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>leucogaster</i> (1168). | <i>schisticeps</i> (1169). | <i>salimalii</i> (1170). |
| <i>cryptanthus</i> (1171). | <i>obscurus</i> (1172). | <i>horsfieldii</i> (1173). |
| <i>travancorensis</i> (1174). | <i>maderaspatensis</i> (1175). | <i>holdsworthi</i> (1176). |
| <i>melanurus</i> (1177). | | |

thick jungle, well-wooded ravines, bamboo thickets and heavy patches of scrub. No seasonal movements.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1169.

BREEDING. Season, March to August. Nest, domed, made of grass bents, dead leaves and tendrils, lined with fine rootlets, usually placed on a sloping bank among herbage. Eggs, 3 or 4, white. Average size of 12 eggs, 25.4 × 19.5 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Like *schisticeps* (1169) but smaller and rather more olive-grey on upperparts and edges of wing, and slightly paler chestnut sides to neck and body. Not a very distinct form.

MEASUREMENTS

♂ ♀ Wing 85-95 mm, generally c. 90-91 mm (Baker).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1169.

1169. **East Himalayan Slatyheaded Scimitar Babbler.** *Pomatorhinus schisticeps schisticeps* Hodgson

Pomatorhinus schisticeps Hodgson, 1836, Asiat. Res. 19: 181 (Nepal)

Pomatorhinus assamensis Blyth, 1847, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 16: 451

(Assam, restricted to the Khasi Hills by Ripley, Synopsis: 349)

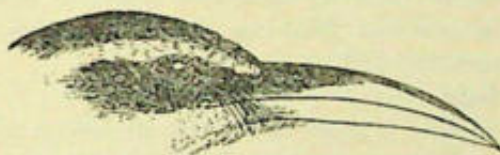
Baker, FBI No. 199, Vol. 1: 206

Plate 67, fig. 1, facing p. 64

LOCAL NAMES. *Pabdoa* (Bengali); *Phoyeum-pho*, *Pharreeum-pho* (Lepcha); *Bhiakuroh* (Parbutia); *Dao-buku-galao* (Cachari).

SIZE. Between bulbul and myna; length 22 cm (8½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, olive-brown, with dark slaty crown and a conspicuous white supercilium extending well behind the eye; curved black and yellow bill. *Lores* and *ear-coverts* blackish. *Below*, throat, breast and belly white bordered with chestnut; lower flanks and under tail-coverts olive-brown. Sexes alike.



× c. 1

P. ruficollis is smaller and the white below is restricted to throat. *P. erythrogenys* has no supercilium. *P. ochraceiceps* lacks any chestnut on the sides and has an orange bill. *P. hypoleucos* has slate-grey flanks and much longer bill and legs. *P. ferruginosus* has a coral-red bill.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. The Himalayan foothills from Kumaon through Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and NEFA to the Dihang river; northern West Bengal (sparingly in the plains), the Brahmaputra Valley (except for the range of *cryptanthus*), the hills of East Pakistan, Assam, Nagaland and Manipur; from the edge of the plains to 1500 m. Recorded in winter at 2000 m in Sikkim (Meinertzhagen) and above 2000 m in Nepal (Smythies). Affects heavy secondary growth, scrub jungle, undergrowth in forest, and mixed bamboo forest.

Extralimital. Northwestern Burma (Upper Chindwin district). The species, including *montanus*, is found throughout the Indochinese subregion, the Sunda Islands and Borneo.

GENERAL HABITS. Shy, secretive and a great skulker. In pairs during the breeding season, otherwise in small parties often in company with *Garrulax ruficollis* or *Gampsorhynchus rufulus*. Keeps to dense bushes rummaging for food among the mulch on the ground or hopping among the undergrowth, at times ascending trees.

FOOD. Insects, small seeds and berries.

VOICE and CALLS. Very similar to those of *horsfieldii* (1173) of the Western Ghats, q.v. When undisturbed and moving about in quest of food, the birds keep in touch by constant mellow, gurgling, flute-like calls and other mewing and churring notes. Ordinary call-note, a double whistle *tjoo-tjoo* or *gouk-gouk*; alarm, some very loud and shrill calls like *krry-krry-krrö-krrö-krrö* (Heinrich). Song, a series of short low whistled notes preceded by a single higher note *tji-u-u-u-u* or *woot-a-ah-hoot*. The male is easily attracted by an imitation of its song.

BREEDING. *Season*, from the end of March to June. *Nest*, domed, egg-shaped, with the entrance at the smaller end, usually lying on its side, less often standing on its broader end. Saucer-shaped nests have been reported but are exceptional. Usual materials are bamboo leaves and grass blades, but sometimes others are used such as rootlets, tendrils, strips of bark or bracken leaves, very loosely interlaced, the nest hardly bearing removal or handling. Lining is of rootlets and finer grass blades. Location varies but most often the nest is placed low down in bamboo clumps or thick bushes up to about one metre, occasionally in a clump of grass or in a bank at the foot of a tree. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, rarely 5, white. Average of 100 eggs 26.6×19.2 mm (Baker). The birds sit fairly close and when disturbed tumble out of their nest to the ground, seek refuge in undergrowth, proceeding by long hops, and within a few moments uttering their low *hoot-hoot*. Both sexes take part in building and in incubation. Making of nest averages a good ten days; incubation period undetermined.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies.

Young, a dull edition of the adult; slightly browner above and all colours and demarcations less pronounced. Biswas describes a young bird as being reddish olive on upper side; rufous on forehead, rusty on breast and flanks. Primary and tail characters present. Postjuvénal moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	98-107	31-32	37	104-115 mm
♀♀	93-100	31-32	—	106-110 mm
				(BB, SA, Fleming)

Weight 1♂ 40 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris yellow. Bill yellow, black at base of upper mandible; gape of juvenile bright yellow. Legs and feet plumbeous (HW); ♂ greyish brown, ♀ bluish slate (SDR).

1170. Mishmi Slatyheaded Scimitar Babbler. *Pomatorhinus schisticeps salimalii* Ripley

Pomatorhinus montanus salimalii Ripley, 1948, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington 61: 101
(Tezu, Mishmi Hills, NE. Assam)
Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Between bulbul and myna; length c. 22 cm ($8\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1169, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. Mishmi Hills, NEFA. Affects thick underbrush in evergreen forest.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1169.

BREEDING. As in 1169.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Compared to *schisticeps* has a darker, more blackish cap and black ear-coverts. Overall darker rufescent with darker wing-coverts and edges of wing-feathers than *cryptanthus*.

MEASUREMENTS

2 ♂♂ Wing 94, 97; bill (from skull) 31, 33; tail 95, 99 mm (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris pale red. Bill: upper mandible yellow, black at base; lower yellow. Legs brown, feet grey.

1171. **Lakhimpur Slatyheaded Scimitar Babbler.** *Pomatorhinus schisticeps cryptanthus* Hartert

Pomatorhinus schisticeps cryptanthus Hartert, 1915, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 36: 35
(Margherita, Assam)

Baker, FBI No. 200, Vol. 1: 207

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Between bulbul and myna; length c. 22 cm (8½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1169, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, plentiful in the foothills, sparingly in the plains. North Lakhimpur Division of Assam, from Dibrugarh to Margherita. Affects bamboo jungle, dense scrub and evergreen forest.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1169.

BREEDING. As in 1169.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Like *schisticeps* but rufous hind-collar more marked. For distinction from *salimalii* see 1170.

MEASUREMENTS. As in *schisticeps*.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris orange-yellow. Legs dark slate.

1172. **Mount Abu Scimitar Babbler.** *Pomatorhinus schisticeps obscurus* Hume

Pomatorhinus Obscurus Hume, 1872, Stray Feathers 1: 7 (Mount Aboo)

Baker, FBI No. 207, Vol. 1: 211

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Between bulbul and myna; length c. 22 cm (8½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1174, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. South-western Rajasthan (Mount Abu and adjacent parts of Aravalli Range), northern Gujarat (including Saurashtra in the Gir forest — Dharmakumar-sinhji, JBNHS 48: 188), intergrading with *horsfieldii* south to the Tapti river; Madhya Pradesh in the Vindhya and Satpura ranges east to Balaghat, but eastern limit needs re-determining. Confined to the hills. Affects bamboo groves, thorn jungle, deciduous and semi-evergreen forest.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1169.

BREEDING. *Season*, April to June. *Nest and eggs*, as in 1174.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Like *horsfieldii* (1173) but everywhere paler, more smoky grey; no black band separating white of breast from upper plumage. Bill longer and larger.

Young, like that of *horsfieldii* but reflects the racial differences.

MEASUREMENTS

7 ♂ ♀ Bill (from skull) 32–35 mm (HW); other measurements as in *horsfieldii*.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark red. Bill dirty yellow, blackish on the ridge at base of upper mandible. Legs and feet dark greenish plumbeous.

1173. Deccan Scimitar Babbler. *Pomatorhinus schisticeps horsfieldii* Sykes

Pomatorhinus horsfieldii Sykes, 1832, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 89
(Mahableshwar, Western Ghats)
Baker, FBI No. 206, Vol. 1: 210

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Between bulbul and myna; length c. 22 cm (8½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1174, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. Southern Gujarat from the Tapti river south through Maharashtra in the Western Ghats complex to Goa and northern Mysore (Londa) (intergrades with *obscurus* in the north and *travancoreensis* in the south); eastern Orissa hills from about Hindol (c. 21°N. lat.) south through the Eastern Ghats complex to the Krishna river in eastern Andhra Pradesh where it intergrades with *maderaspatensis*. From the foothills to c. 1000 m. Affects bamboo patches, thorn scrub, dense bush jungle, deciduous and evergreen forest.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1174. A mellow fluty oop-pū-pū-pū or oop-pū-pū-pū-pū.

BREEDING. *Season*, February to May. *Nest and eggs*, as in 1174. Average size of 24 eggs 25.7 × 19.4 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Less grey than *obscurus*, less richly coloured than *travancoreensis* and intermediate between the two; back dark earthy brown; dark edge of plastron blackish brown.

Young (immature), crown uniform dark olive-brown without the black lateral streaks; upperparts more golden olive-brown, especially on wings and coverts; white feathers of lower throat with faint black tips; black edging to plastron replaced by bright ferruginous and continuing behind as a diffused nuchal collar; remainder of lower plumage washed and mottled with rufous. This plumage, in a more accentuated form, resembles that of adults of the Himalayan races of *P. schisticeps*.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♂	91–100	29–35	31–35	95–102 mm
♀ ♀	89–98	29–35	31–33	92–108 mm
				(SA, HW)

Weight 12 ♂ ♀ 33–53 (av. 43) g—SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Adult. Iris reddish brown. Bill orange with variable amount of dark brown at base of upper mandible; mouth pink. Legs and feet dusky plumbeous; soles lemon-yellow. Young. Lower mandible and tip of upper mandible pinkish flesh; base of upper mandible horny; gape pinkish flesh. Legs and feet plumbeous.

1174. **Kerala Scimitar Babbler.** *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*
travancoreensis Harington

Pomatorhinus horsfieldii travancoreensis Harington, 1914, Jour. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.

23: 333 [Peermell (= Peermed), Travancore]

Baker, FBI No. 208, Vol. 1: 211

LOCAL NAME. *Cholakkutuvan* (Malayalam).

SIZE. Between bulbul and myna; length c. 22 cm (8½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A dark olive-brown and white babbler of the undergrowth with conspicuous white supercilium, white throat, breast and centre of belly, and a long, curved yellow bill. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. The Western Ghats and associated hills of southwest India from Goa and northern Mysore (where it intergrades with *horsfieldii*) south through western Mysore, Kerala and western Tamil Nadu. From almost sea level to the highest elevations (up to 2400 m in the Nilgiris). Affects evergreen and deciduous forest, patches of *Strobilanthes*, thorn and *Lantana* scrub, bamboo jungle and cardamom sholas.

GENERAL HABITS. Very elusive. Found in pairs during the breeding season, otherwise in small parties of four to ten, either by themselves or in association with mixed hunting parties. Rummages under dense undergrowth in search of insects, flicking aside or turning over dead leaves or digging vigorously in the mulch with the long bill; also hops along moss-covered branches or up the trunks of trees in this quest, diving into the undergrowth when alarmed.

FOOD. Largely insects, grubs, spiders; also berries and flower-nectar.

VOICE and CALLS. Very similar to those of the Himalayan races (see 1169). Members of a flock or pairs keep in touch by mellow bubbling or gurgling calls and duets: a musical flute-like *wot-ho-ho-ho* (*oo-pū-pū* or *oo-pū-pū-pū*) (male) immediately followed by the subdued reply of the female *krūkrū* or *krokānt*, so promptly that it sounds like the ending of the same phrase. Alarm, a sharp *kir-r-r-r*.

BREEDING. Season, overall October to May, chiefly November to March. Nest, like that of the nominate race (q.v.): a loosely built ball of dead leaves, occasionally of moss, about 17 cm in diameter, lined with fine grasses or rootlets. Placed on the ground, on a sloping bank or under a bush; occasionally off the ground in a bush. Eggs, 3 or 2, white. Average size of 20 eggs 25.6 × 18.8 mm (Baker). Both sexes share in building, incubation (?) and tending the young. Incubation period undetermined.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Like *horsfieldii* but upperparts a richer olive-brown; head darker than the back; plastron edged by a broad black band (v. narrow and blackish brown in *horsfieldii*); bill shorter.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	90-104	27-38	33-35	94-107 mm
♀♀	85-98	28-33	33 (2)	93-100 mm
				(SA, HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris reddish brown. Bill yellow, basal half of culmen including nostrils horny brown; mouth pinkish flesh. Legs and feet slaty or greyish brown; claws horny brown.

1175. **Tamil Nadu Scimitar Babbler.** *Pomatorhinus schisticeps maderaspatensis* Whistler

Pomatorhinus horsfieldii maderaspatensis Whistler, 1936, Jour. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 38: 699 (Kurumbapatti, Salem District, Madras)
Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAMES. *Nāmāla pitta*, *Dasari pitta* (Telugu).

SIZE. Between bulbul and myna; length *c.* 22 cm (8½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1174, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. The southern Eastern Ghats and associated hills in Andhra and Tamil Nadu, from the Krishna river south to the Cauvery river; from the foothills to the highest elevations. In same biotope as *travancoreensis*.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1174.

BREEDING. As in 1174.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Like *horsfieldii* but lacks the black edge to the white plastron.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	89-100	29-33	31-35	94-103 mm
♀♀	90-98	30-33	31-34	91-98 mm
				(SA)

Weight 7 ♂♀ (June-Aug.) 43-50 (av. 47.8) g — SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris reddish brown. Bill orange-yellow, a variable area of dark brown at base of culmen; mouth pink. Legs and feet dusky plumbeous; soles lemon-yellow.

1176. **Common Ceylon Scimitar Babbler.** *Pomatorhinus schisticeps holdsworthi* Whistler

Pomatorhinus horsfieldii holdsworthi Whistler, 1942, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 62: 51-2 (Ohiya, Ceylon)
Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAME. *Parandel-kurullā* (Sinhala).

SIZE. Between bulbul and myna; length *c.* 22 cm (8½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1174, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Ceylon in the eastern hills and low-country Dry zone, from the plains to 1800 m. Affects deciduous and evergreen forest and well-wooded gardens.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1174.

VOICE and CALLS. A variety of chirps and rattles uttered while feeding or when suspicious; other noises are *pop pop-prrr* and a deep guttural *woch wohorro*. Pairs sing in duets; sonorous and pleasant notes *pawp-a-pawp* (male) answered by a quiet *ka-kree* (female) (Henry).

BREEDING. Season, November to June, chiefly February to April. Nest, an untidy, rather deep, generally semi-domed cup of decaying leaves or dead grass, mixed with plant stems, rootlets or strips of bark. In some nests the dome is well made, in others almost lacking; a scanty lining of rootlets, grass or dead leaves. Placed almost on the ground at the base of cardamom plants or other low vegetation, or among dead leaves at the foot of a bank, occasionally in crevices and hollows in trunks of trees or in bushes, 30 to 60 cm above the ground, exceptionally up to 180 cm (once). Eggs, 3 sometimes 2, white. Average size of 32 eggs, 25.1×18.6 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Like *melanurus* (1177) but upperparts, flanks and wings olivaceous brown instead of rufous olive-brown; crown and tail nearly black. Differs from the south Indian races in having the flanks, vent and under tail-coverts olive-brown instead of grey-brown. Also lacks the black edging to the plastron like *maderaspatensis*. Complete moult takes place between the end of June and the beginning of December.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	87-94	26-29	30-33	85-90 mm
♀♀	82-88	27-29	30-32	82-86 mm
				(HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris reddish brown; orbital region dull blue. Bill yellow, blackish at base of upper mandible. Legs and feet plumbeous grey.

1177. **Southern Ceylon Scimitar Babbler.** *Pomatorhinus schisticeps melanurus* Blyth

Pomatorhinus melanurus Blyth, 1847, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 16: 481

[Uragaha (restricted by Whistler), Ceylon]

Baker, FBI No. 209, Vol. 1: 212

LOCAL NAME. *Parandel-kurullā* (Sinhala).

SIZE. Between bulbul and myna; length *c.* 22 cm ($8\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1174, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Ceylon, in the low-country Wet zone and western hill zone from the hills east of Matale south through the Peak range to the Sinharadja Forest area, west to Uragaha and east to Ratnapura. From the plains to *c.* 2000 m. Affects moist-deciduous and evergreen forest.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1174.

VOICE and CALLS. As in 1176.

BREEDING. As in 1176.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from the south Indian races in having the flanks, vent and under tail-coverts rufous olive-brown instead of grey-brown. Also lacks the black edging to plastron like *maderaspatensis*. Differs from *holdsworthi* in having the upperparts, flanks and wings rufous olive-brown.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
4 ♂♂	88-90	28	31-33	84-89 mm
1 ♀	86	28	31	84 mm (HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in *holdsworthi*.

POMATORHINUS RUFICOLLIS Hodgson

Key to the Subspecies

		Page
A	Upperparts olive-brown..... <i>P. r. bakeri</i>	140
B	Upperparts ruddy brown	
1	More richly coloured..... <i>P. r. godwini</i>	139
2	Less richly coloured, more rusty tinge below..... <i>P. r. ruficollis</i>	138

1178. **Nepal Rufousnecked Scimitar Babbler.** *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*
ruficollis Hodgson

Pomatorhinus ruficollis Hodgson, 1836, *Asiat. Res.* 19: 182
(Nepal, restricted to Kathmandu Valley by Ripley, *Synopsis*)
Baker, *FBI* No. 214, Vol. 1: 216

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Bulbul $\pm$; length *c.* 19 cm ($7\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, olive-brown; a conspicuous white supercilium from bill to nape; a black band from lores to ear-coverts; a rufous-chestnut patch on sides of neck. *Below*, throat white, rest of underparts rusty brown, the breast streaked with white. Bill shorter, less curved than in other scimitar babblers. Sexes alike. For distinction from other scimitar babblers, see 1169.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, with some downwards movement in winter; locally common. The Himalayas from Kumaon (Almora and Lohaghat) east through western and central Nepal to the Arun-Kosi; from 1400 to 3300 m, descending in winter as low as 800 m. Affects thick forest, or open forest with dense undergrowth and scrub on hillsides.

GENERAL HABITS. In pairs during the breeding season, otherwise in small parties of a half-dozen individuals, sometimes in company with other babblers, working over areas of twenty or thirty metres across, usually foraging on the ground where they noisily throw up dead leaves while looking for food. Occasionally clings upside down, like a woodpecker or nuthatch, on the underside of a moss-covered branch in the quest. Very

shy; when disturbed, flies up into thicker cover, soon descending to the ground again to resume activities. Often flutters up into a larger bush and stands flirting its tail, or gradually hopping further up towards the top of the bush and then flying down into lower bushes again. Flight rather heavy and ungainly.

FOOD. Insects and grubs.

VOICE and CALLS. Has the same range of harsh churring notes and pleasant flute-like calls as other scimitar babblers. When questing for mate which has become separated, utters a double-noted call very reminiscent of the Redvented Bulbul, but louder and with a thrush-like clearness, repeated persistently every few seconds while hopping around, in obvious expectancy of an answer (SA). Another call rendered as *pra — pre-dee-dee* (Fleming). For description of song, see 1179.

BREEDING. Season, April to June. Nest and eggs, as in *bakeri* (1180).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. The nominate subspecies differs from *godwini* (1179) in being less richly coloured above and with a more rusty tinge below. Tarsus and hindclaw shorter.

Young (immature), like adult but upperparts, tail, edges of wings and streaks of underparts more rufous, less olive. Primary and tail characters present; postjuvinal moult complete. Subadult more rusty above than adult.

NOTE: This species is much subject to foxing; old skins become very rufous and look more distinct from fresh skins than from other races (Whistler).

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Hindclaw	Tail
♂ ♀	76-83	22-23	31-34	11-12	80-87 mm (Kinnear)
♂ ♂	74-83	23-25	—	—	84-86 mm
♀ ♀	73-84	23-24	—	—	80-91 mm (BB, Fleming)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris ♂ pale red to crimson, ♀ reddish brown to pale brown; eyelids plumbeous. Bill: upper mandible black with yellow tip, lower yellow or yellowish white. Legs brown, feet slate; soles dull yellow.

1179. Sikkim Rufousnecked Scimitar Babbler. *Pomatorhinus ruficollis godwini* Kinnear

Pomatorhinus ruficollis godwini Kinnear, 1944, Ibis 86: 79
(Chungkar, Trashigong-Duwengiri Road, SE. Bhutan, 6000 ft)
Not in Baker, FBI
Vol. 7, plate 73

LOCAL NAME. *Bhiakuroh* (Parbatiya).

SIZE. Bulbul $\pm$; length c. 19 cm (7½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1178, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident, with some downwards movement in winter. Eastern Nepal from the Arun-Kosi east through Sikkim, Bhutan, south Tibet and NEFA to the Daffa Hills (and presumably farther east though records are lacking). Of the scimitar babblers, this species occupies the highest zone — from 1500 to 3000 m,

optimum zone c. 1800–2400 m. Descends in winter to 700 m, but has also been recorded as high as 3000 m at this season. Affects thick forest, scrub-covered hillsides, rhododendron shrubs and bracken at the higher altitudes, tea-gardens and edges of jungle near them.

GENERAL HABITS AND FOOD. As in 1178.

VOICE AND CALLS. Frequently indulge in what seems to be calling and answering each other, several individuals joining in. Call a soft, musical, double- or triple-noted *off'n on* or *off-an-on* (accent on *off*) reminiscent of call of Redvented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer* — 1128), invariably followed by female's prompt squeak in response (SA). Song varied but with one or two phrases forming the basis of the theme: *pouki-wurki pouki-wurki* (rising) or *pruruti-witeu-witeu* (falling), these notes with variations often combined into phrases of fair length (Lister). A common call [same as first?] consists of three whistled notes, the first being accentuated, the second on the same tone, the third about three tones lower; when heard at a short distance, reminds one of some cuckoo's call (Heinrich).

BREEDING. Season, April to June. Nest and eggs, as in 1180. Average size of 13 eggs 24×17.9 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. More richly coloured than *ruficollis*; rusty tinge below much reduced. Tarsus (?) and hindclaw longer.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Hindclaw	Tail
♂♂	78–86	22–26	30–34	12–14	81–95 mm
♀♀	76–86	22–24	30–37	12–15	80–92 mm

(Kinnear, SA)

Weight 8 ♂♂ 30–39 (av. 33.1); 5 ♀♀ 26–35 (av. 30.2) g — SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris reddish brown. Bill yellow, basal two-thirds of upper mandible black. Legs and feet brownish plumbeous.

1180. Cachar Rufousnecked Scimitar Babbler. *Pomatorhinus ruficollis bakeri* Harington

Pomatorhinus ruficollis bakeri Harington, 1914, Jour. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 23: 336 (Shillong, Khasia Hills)

Pomatorhinus ruficollis recter Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 4 (Blue Mountain, Lushai Hills, Assam)
Baker, FBI No. 215, Vol. 1: 217

LOCAL NAME. *Moh-mera* (Angami Naga).

SIZE. Bulbul $\pm$; length 19 cm ($7\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1178, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT. Resident, locally common. The hills of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and East Pakistan, from 900 to 1500 m. Affects evergreen forest with dense undergrowth, open bamboo jungle, scrub-covered hillsides and thickets in scrub pastures.

Extralimital. Extends to southwest Burma (on Mt Victoria mostly between 2000 and 3000 m). The species ranges east to North Vietnam, Hainan, Formosa and north to Hupeh.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1178.

BREEDING. *Season*, April to July. *Nest*, domed, made of bamboo leaves, each layer at right angle to the next, some fern leaves and grass, sometimes strengthened with a few roots or weed-stems, but usually without binding and easily falling to pieces when moved; lined with rootlets. Most nests are placed on sloping ground, sometimes low down in bushes, rarely above one metre. Humid tree-forest with a good deal of undergrowth is preferred as a site. *Eggs*, 3 to 5, generally 4, white. Average size of 50 eggs 23.4×17.4 mm (Baker). Birds sit close and when disturbed leap away into cover, generally remaining in the vicinity, every now and then giving an impatient hoot-hoot or chuckle.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *godwini* in being paler and olive-brown above rather than rufous-brown; below more fulvous.

MEASUREMENTS

Wing 10 ♂♂ 77-84; 9 ♀♀ 75-79 mm (Heinrich).

Weight 2 ♂♂ 31, 32; 2 ♀♀ 27, 29 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dull maroon. Bill pale yellow, dusky to about the nostrils. Legs and feet pale grey-flesh (HW).

POMATORHINUS ERYTHROGENYS Vigors

Key to the Subspecies

		Page
A	Flanks olivaceous.....	<i>P. e. maclellandi</i> 143
B	Flanks rusty	
1	Throat white	<i>P. e. erythrogenys</i> 141
2	Throat greyish	<i>P. e. haringtoni</i> 143

1181, 1182. West Himalayan Rustycheeked Scimitar Babbler.

Pomatorhinus erythrogenys erythrogenys Vigors

Pomatorhinus erythrogenys Vigors, 1832, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 172
(Himalayas = Simla-Almora area)

Pomatorhinus ferrugilatus Hodgson, 1836, Asiat. Res. 19: 180 (Nepal)¹
Baker, FBI No. 219, Vol. 1: 220

Plate 70, fig. 5, facing p. 176

LOCAL NAMES. Bān-bākra (Mussooree); Khokiya bhekura (Nepal).

SIZE. Myna $\pm$; length c. 25 cm (10 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Above, olive-brown; below, lores, sides of head, neck, flanks, thighs and under tail-coverts rusty; rest of underparts mostly white. Long curved bill and light-coloured iris. Sexes alike. For distinction from other scimitar babblers, see 1169.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. The western Himalayas from the Jhelum valley (Murree) east to west Nepal, intergrading extensively in central Nepal with *haringtoni*; from 450 to 2200 m,

¹ Most of Nepal is occupied by a variable, intergrading population; it appears unnecessary to uphold the name *ferrugilatus* (1182). See Biswas, 1962, JBNHS 59: 202-3; and Fleming & Traylor, 1964, Fieldiana 35: 528-9.

optimum zone c. 1800–2400 m. Descends in winter to 700 m, but has also been recorded as high as 3000 m at this season. Affects thick forest, scrub-covered hillsides, rhododendron shrubs and bracken at the higher altitudes, tea-gardens and edges of jungle near them.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1178.

VOICE and CALLS. Frequently indulge in what seems to be calling and answering each other, several individuals joining in. Call a soft, musical, double- or triple-noted *off'n on* or *off-an-on* (accent on *off*) reminiscent of call of Redvented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer* — 1128), invariably followed by female's prompt squeak in response (SA). Song varied but with one or two phrases forming the basis of the theme: *pouki-wurki pouki-wurki* (rising) or *prurti-witeu-witeu* (falling), these notes with variations often combined into phrases of fair length (Lister). A common call [same as first?] consists of three whistled notes, the first being accentuated, the second on the same tone, the third about three tones lower; when heard at a short distance, reminds one of some cuckoo's call (Heinrich).

BREEDING. Season, April to June. Nest and eggs, as in 1180. Average size of 13 eggs 24×17.9 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. More richly coloured than *ruficollis*; rusty tinge below much reduced. Tarsus (?) and hindclaw longer.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Hindclaw	Tail
♂♂	78–86	22–26	30–34	12–14	81–95 mm
♀♀	76–86	22–24	30–37	12–15	80–92 mm

(Kinnear, SA)

Weight 8 ♂♂ 30–39 (av. 33.1); 5 ♀♀ 26–35 (av. 30.2) g — SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris reddish brown. Bill yellow, basal two-thirds of upper mandible black. Legs and feet brownish plumbeous.

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Pomatorhinus ruficollis bakeri Harington, 1914, Jour. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 23: 336 (Shillong, Khasia Hills)

Pomatorhinus ruficollis recter Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 4 (Blue Mountain, Lushai Hills, Assam)
Baker, FBI No. 215, Vol. 1: 217

LOCAL NAME. *Moh-mera* (Angami Naga).

SIZE. Bulbul $\pm$; length 19 cm ($7\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1178, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. The hills of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and East Pakistan, from 900 to 1500 m. Affects evergreen forest with dense undergrowth, open bamboo jungle, scrub-covered hillsides and thickets in scrub pastures.

Extralimital. Extends to southwest Burma (on Mt Victoria mostly between 2000 and 3000 m). The species ranges east to North Vietnam, Hainan, Formosa and north to Hupeh.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1178.

BREEDING. *Season*, April to July. *Nest*, domed, made of bamboo leaves, each layer at right angle to the next, some fern leaves and grass, sometimes strengthened with a few roots or weed-stems, but usually without binding and easily falling to pieces when moved; lined with rootlets. Most nests are placed on sloping ground, sometimes low down in bushes, rarely above one metre. Humid tree-forest with a good deal of undergrowth is preferred as a site. *Eggs*, 3 to 5, generally 4, white. Average size of 50 eggs 23.4×17.4 mm (Baker). Birds sit close and when disturbed leap away into cover, generally remaining in the vicinity, every now and then giving an impatient hoot-hoot or chuckle.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *godwini* in being paler and olive-brown above rather than rufous-brown; below more fulvous.

MEASUREMENTS

Wing 10 ♂♂ 77-84; 9 ♀♀ 75-79 mm (Heinrich).

Weight 2 ♂♂ 31, 32; 2 ♀♀ 27, 29 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dull maroon. Bill pale yellow, dusky to about the nostrils. Legs and feet pale grey-flesh (HW).

POMATORHINUS ERYTHROGENYS Vigors

Key to the Subspecies

		Page
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B	Flanks rusty	
1	Throat white	<i>P. e. erythrogenys</i> 141
2	Throat greyish	<i>P. e. haringtoni</i> 143

1181, 1182. West Himalayan Rustycheeked Scimitar Babbler.

Pomatorhinus erythrogenys erythrogenys Vigors

Pomatorhinus erythrogenys Vigors, 1832, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 172
(Himalayas = Simla-Almora area)

Pomatorhinus ferrugilatus Hodgson, 1836, Asiat. Res. 19: 180 (Nepal)¹

Baker, FBI No. 219, Vol. 1: 220

Plate 70, fig. 5, facing p. 176

LOCAL NAMES. *Bān-bākra* (Mussooree); *Khokiya bhekura* (Nepal).

SIZE. Myna $\pm$; length c. 25 cm (10 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, olive-brown; *below*, lores, sides of head, neck, flanks, thighs and under tail-coverts rusty; rest of underparts mostly white. Long curved bill and light-coloured iris. Sexes alike. For distinction from other scimitar babblers, see 1169.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. The western Himalayas from the Jhelum valley (Murree) east to west Nepal, intergrading extensively in central Nepal with *haringtoni*; from 450 to 2200 m,

¹ Most of Nepal is occupied by a variable, intergrading population; it appears unnecessary to uphold the name *ferrugilatus* (1182). See Biswas, 1962, JBNHS 59: 202-3; and Fleming & Traylor, 1964, *Feldiana* 35: 528-9.

occasionally higher (up to 2700 m above Chakrata). Inhabits thick scrub at the edge of forest and bramble thickets, dense overgrown nullahs and bush-clad grassy hillsides. Avoids heavy forest.

GENERAL HABITS. Spends most of its time on the ground among fallen leaves but at times will ascend trees with thrush-like hops. Mostly in pairs in summer, in parties of half a dozen in winter. When perched on a branch, the head and curved bill are held up while the tail droops down and jerks when the head is moved from side to side.

FOOD. Insects, larvae, chrysalises, seeds and berries.

VOICE and CALLS. Sing in duets. The male with neck upstretched utters a loud melodious whistle *cue-pee* or *Q-P* (accent on first syllable) and is promptly answered by the female invariably in close attendance, with *kip* or *quip*. The female's response follows so immediately that the three syllables sound as a single call coming from the same bird thus, *q-p . . quip*, *q-p . . quip*, and so on (SA); also rendered as *took-took-teek*. This duetting continues during the year except at nesting time when the female often fails to respond. See also 1184. Alarm-note, a gurgling *quoik* answered by the female's *chur*; also a variety of loud harsh quick-repeated chattering *che-che-che-che* notes like a jay's (*Garrulus*) when agitated.

BREEDING. *Season*, from mid March to June. *Nest*, domed or sometimes cup-shaped when well protected by thick foliage or projecting rock. Made of grass, dead fern or bamboo leaves sparingly lined with fibres. Placed on sloping ground in an earth pocket or under the shelter of a bush, rock or tussock of grass, looking very like a natural accumulation of rubbish. Breeds much more in the open than is usual with other scimitar babblers. *Eggs*, normally 3, white. Average size of 30 eggs 27.9×20.3 mm (Baker). Both sexes take part in nest-building, incubation and feeding the young. Incubation period undetermined.

In a pair observed, copulation followed invitation by the ♀ raising open and vibrating her wings, one at a time, uttering a soft *chut-ūk*, *chut-ūk*, *chut-ūk*, etc. and lowering the forepart of her body whereupon the male hopped onto her back. The act, with the same preliminaries, was repeated after c. 10 minutes, both birds collecting nest material in the interval (SA).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *haringtoni* in being paler above and having the throat white. Nepal birds are intermediate and highly variable.

Young (immature), like adult but all rusty parts paler. Upperparts, edges of wings and coverts have a rusty wash. Primary and tail characters present; postjuvenile moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	95-101	36-39	36-38	96-108 mm
♀♀	90-96	35-39	—	96-99 mm

(Rand & Fleming, SDR, BB)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris greyish white. Bill greyish or pale horny brown, ivory white at base of lower mandible. Legs and feet fleshy brown.

1183. **Sikkim Rustycheeked Scimitar Babbler.** *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys haringtoni* Baker

Pomatorhinus haringtoni Baker, 1914, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 33: 123 (Darjeeling)
Baker, FBI No. 220, Vol. 1: 220

LOCAL NAMES. *Tongo-hut-pho* (Lepcha); *Khokiya bhekura* (Nepal).

SIZE. Myna $\pm$; length c. 25 cm (10 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1181, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. East Nepal (intergrading extensively in central Nepal with *erythrogenys*), Sikkim, northern West Bengal duars, and Bhutan; from the foothills to c. 2100 m. Affects dense scrub on the edge of forest and about abandoned cultivation, ravines and scrub-covered hillsides.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1181.

VOICE and CALLS. See 1181 and 1184.

BREEDING. Season, April to June. Nest and eggs, as in 1181.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Like *erythrogenys* but darker olive above; ferruginous parts darker, nearer chestnut; throat, chin and upper breast dusky grey with whitish edges.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	92-99	34-39	36-40	91-103 mm
2 ♀♀	88, 93	34, 35	35, 36	96 (1) mm (SA)

Weight 8 ♂♂ 62-70; 3 ♀♀ 59-61 g (SA, BB).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris creamy or greyish white. Bill brownish flesh, dark brown for about half basal portion. Legs and feet brownish flesh; claws pale horny. Not different from other races.

1184. **Assam Rustycheeked Scimitar Babbler.** *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys maclellandi* Godwin-Austen

Pomatorhinus maclellandi Godwin-Austen, 1873, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 39: 103,
pl. 2 (Khasia Hills)

Pomatorhinus erythrogenys erythrotis Koelz, 1952, Jour. Zool. Soc. India 4: 38
(Karong, Manipur)

Baker, FBI No. 221, Vol. 1: 221

LOCAL NAME. *Dao-gurru buku* (Cachari).

SIZE. Myna $\pm$; length c. 25 cm (10 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1181, q.v. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. NEFA and the hills of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and East Pakistan; from 750 to 1800 m and probably higher in NEFA and in the Naga Hills. On Mt Victoria (Burma) it is found between 1400 and 2400 m, exceptionally up to 2600 m. Affects dry or moist forest, scrub jungle, secondary growth in clearings or abandoned cultivation.

Extralimital. Extends to western Burma. The species ranges north to Shensi and east to North Vietnam and Formosa.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1181.

VOICE and CALLS. The song is a two-syllabled rather deep and strong whistle, the first note being about four tones higher than the second (Heinrich), also answered without interruption by the female's third note *quip*. See 1181. The bird often sings for long periods of time from the crown of a tall tree, so well hidden however that it is almost impossible to discover.

BREEDING. Season, April to June. Nest, as in 1181. Eggs, 3 or 4, white. Average of 40 eggs 26.5×19.3 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *haringtoni* in having the flanks olivaceous instead of rufous, and the breast streaked with dark ashy brown.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	86-96	34-37	36-40	91-101 mm
♀♀	83-88			

(SA, Heinrich)

Weight 7 ♂♂ 57-70; 3 ♀♀ 47-61 g (SDR, SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris yellowish cream, creamy white or pale straw; orbital skin dark purplish blue; upper mandible greyish brown, blackish or dark brown at base, lower greyish or whitish brown, base yellow; legs and feet brown to greyish brown (SDR). Not different from other races.

1185. **Large Scimitar Babbler.** *Pomatorhinus hypoleucos hypoleucos* (Blyth)

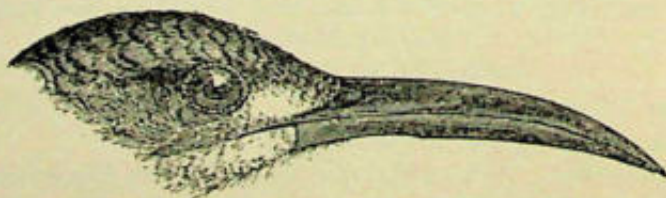
Orthorhinus hypoleucos Blyth, 1844, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 13: 371 (Arakan)

Baker, FBI No. 224, Vol. 1: 222

LOCAL NAME. *Dao-hoot* (Cachari).

SIZE. Myna $\pm$; length c. 28 cm (11 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A large, strong-footed babbler with a long and stout curved bill. Above, olive-brown, wings and tail brown; a rusty line from eye to nape. Below, throat, breast and belly white, flanks slaty, streaked with white on sides of breast. Sexes alike. For distinction from other scimitar babblers see 1169.



$\times c. 1$

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. NEFA in the Daffa and Miri Hills, the head of Assam valley, Assam, Nagaland (?), Manipur (?) and the hills of East Pakistan south and east of the Brahmaputra; in the foothills up to 1200 m, and adjacent plains. Keeps to the densest bamboo, scrub or cane jungle, reeds and elephant-grass; sometimes in heavy undergrowth in forest.

Extralimital. Western and northern Burma. The species ranges east to Vietnam and Hainan.

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps much more to the ground than any other scimitar babbler, hopping about in a very ungainly manner. Does not fly into trees unless pressed very closely. Usually keeps in pairs, occasionally in small parties; very skulking and more often heard than seen.

FOOD. Insects, snails.

VOICE and CALLS. A short chuckling note when feeding and undisturbed. Alarm, a loud and full *hoot-hoot-hoot*.

BREEDING. *Season*, January to April. *Nest*, a big semi-domed structure usually made of bamboo leaves, sometimes mixed with grass or other materials, more or less scantily lined with rootlets, measuring about 35 by 25 cm. Placed on the ground in tangles of cane-brake, bamboo or scrub, looking like a mass of wind-blown bamboo leaves. When disturbed, the bird leaves the nest by huge hops. *Eggs*, 2 or 3, white. Average size of 12 eggs 30.1×21.7 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Bill heavier, less laterally compressed, and less curved than in other scimitar babblers. See Key to the Species and Field Characters; for details of plumage Baker, loc. cit.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	105-112	c. 40	c. 38	110-120 mm (Baker)
		(from skull)		
1 ♂	103	45	41	91 (worn) mm
1 ♀	102	41	41	90 „ mm (Desfayes)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown to deep red-brown; naked patch behind eye dull livid or bluish flesh-colour. Bill pale horny with a yellow, grey or green tinge in it. Legs and feet pale plumbeous or slaty grey (Baker).

POMATORHINUS FERRUGINOSUS Blyth

Key to the Subspecies

	Page
A Crown black; breast ferruginous..... <i>P. f. ferruginosus</i>	145
B Crown olive-brown; breast ochraceous	
a Crown slightly darker than back..... <i>P. f. formosus</i>	146
b Crown concolorous with back..... <i>P. f. phayrei</i>	147

1186. Sikkim Coralbilled Scimitar Babbler. *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus ferruginosus* Blyth

Pomatorhinus ferruginosus Blyth, 1845, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 14: 597 (Darjeeling)
Baker, FBI No. 210, Vol. 1: 175

Vol. 7, plate 73

LOCAL NAMES. *Te churi*, *Pee-gongor* (Dafla); *Bhotetet* (Bhutia); *Piong-kohut*, *Poniong-hut* (Lepcha).

SIZE. Between bulbul and myna; length c. 22 cm (9 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, back and tail olive-brown, top of head black; a conspicuous white supercilium, a broad black band from lores to ear-coverts. *Below*, chin and malar stripe white, throat and breast ferruginous; rest of underparts olive-brown. Sexes alike.

The coral-red bill distinguishes it from all scimitar babblers except *P. ochraceiceps* which has a more slender and curved orange bill, and buffy underparts.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, rather scarce in the western part of its range, commoner in the east. East Nepal (there are no post-Hodgsonian records), Sikkim, Bhutan and NEFA east to the Dihang river. Normally from c. 1200 to 3800 m, the latter altitude even in winter; also recorded from the duars and at 600 m in the Abor Hills. Affects dense shrubbery and ringal bamboo jungle.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in *formosus* (1187).

BREEDING. *Season*, late April to end of June. *Nest*, as in 1187. *Eggs*, 3 to 5, white. Average size of 20 eggs 25.6×18.8 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *formosus* and *phayrei* in having a black cap and ferruginous (not ochraceous) breast.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	87-95	27-28	29-30	99-110 mm (Baker, SA)

Weight 1 ♀ 40 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris yellow or golden yellow. Bill deep coral-red. Legs and feet light yellowish brown, sometimes with a greenish or leaden tint.

1187. Assam Coralbilled Scimitar Babbler. *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus formosus* Koelz

Pomatorhinus ferruginosus formosus Koelz, 1952, Jour. Zool. Soc. India 4: 39

(Tura Mountain, Garo Hills)

Baker, FBI No. 211 (part), Vol. 1: 214

LOCAL NAMES. *Dao-buku-gajao* (Cachari); *Inrui-gogo* (Kacha Naga).

SIZE. Between bulbul and myna; length c. 22 cm (9 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1186 but crown more or less concolorous with back, not black; breast much lighter in colour, ochraceous not ferruginous.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. The hills of Assam south of Brahmaputra river, Nagaland, south to and including Manipur. From c. 900 to 1500 m; up to 2400 m in the Naga Hills. Affects thick forest and dense undergrowth, especially along streams, bamboo jungle and outskirts of forest.

GENERAL HABITS. Very elusive and easily overlooked. Found in pairs or small parties, rummaging on the ground among fallen leaves, slinking about in rat-like manner, moving from cover to cover in big hops, only taking to wing when forced to do so. Flies much like a laughing thrush with alternate sailings and flappings. Very inquisitive and may be attracted by any novel sight or sound.

FOOD. Insects and larvae.

VOICE AND CALLS. Very similar to those of *schisticeps*. A number of musical fluty calls — *oo-pū-pū* or *oo-pū-pū-pū*; alarm-note, a low, grating *churr*. Like other scimitar babblers, has a curious habit of calling until one is almost upon it and then quietly, without noise or exposure, disappearing, only to call again some fifty metres farther on.

BREEDING. *Season*, end of April to July. *Nest*, more or less oval, placed on its side, the entrance generally at the small end, measuring about 20 by 10 or 15 cm made of bamboo leaves criss-crossed in layers, grass, vegetable fibres or bracken fronds held together by tendrils and weed-stems. The lining is of fibrous strips, rootlets or fine grass. Placed on the ground or low down in scrubby bushes, tangled grass or bamboo clumps; sometimes as high as a couple of metres in bushes or saplings. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, sometimes 5, white. Average size of 50 eggs 27.1×19.3 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies. Similar to *phayrei* but colour denser; crown olive-brown, darker than back; lores white not rusty; a distinct black line above supercilium; colour of underparts richer.

MEASUREMENTS AND COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1186.

1188. Mizo Coralbilled Scimitar Babbler. *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus phayrei* Blyth

P.(omatorhinus) Phayrei Blyth, 1847, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 16: 452 (Arracan)
Baker, FBI No. 211 (part), Vol. 1: 214

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Between bulbul and myna; length *c.* 22 cm (9 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1187.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT. Resident. Assam in the Mizo (Lushai) Hills, from 900 m up to at least 1500 m. Affects dense forest, bamboo jungle and thick secondary growth.

Extralimital. Chin Hills and Arakan Yomas. The species ranges east through Burma, northwestern Thailand, northern Laos to North Vietnam.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD AND VOICE. As in 1187.

BREEDING. As in 1187.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See 1187, and Key to the Subspecies.

POMATORHINUS OCHRACEICEPS Walden

Key to the Subspecies

Underparts paler, more whitish.....*P. o. stenorhynchus*

Underparts darker, more ochraceous.....*P. o. austeni*

Cf. Ripley, S.D., 1948, JBNHS 48: 24.

1189. Mishmi Longbilled Scimitar Babbler. *Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps stenorhynchus* Godwin-Austen

Pomatorhinus stenorhynchus Godwin-Austen, 1877, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 46: 43
(Near Sadiya, Assam)

Baker, FBI No. 217, Vol. 1: 219 (= *austeni*)

Plate 70, fig. 4, facing p. 176

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Bulbul +; length c. 23 cm (9 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1190. See Museum Diagnosis.



STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Mishmi Hills, NEFA, and north Burma, above 1500 m but apparently descending to the foothills in winter. Affects dense forest and bamboo jungle.

Extralimital. Upper Chindwin and Myitkyina areas, Burma. The species ranges east to Vietnam.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1190.

BREEDING. As in 1190.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *austeni* (1190) in being paler, more whitish on breast and centre of abdomen.

MEASUREMENTS

		Wing	Bill (from skull)
2	♂♂	90, 94	34, 38 mm
8	♀♀	85-94	32-38 mm (SDR)

2 ♂♂ tarsus 27, 28; tail 106, 110 mm (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brownish grey ['biscuit colour' SA]. Bill orange; nares brown. Legs and feet yellowish brown, greenish brown or olive (SDR).

1190. **Manipur Longbilled Scimitar Babbler.** *Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps austeni* Hume

Pomatorhinus austeni Hume, 1881, Stray Feathers 10: 152 (E. Manipur)
Baker, FBI Nos. 217 and 218, Vol. 1: 218-19

LOCAL NAME. *Inrui-gna* (Kacha Naga).

SIZE. Bulbul +; length c. 23 cm (9 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A very slim, long-tailed babbler with a long, deeply curved orange bill. *Above*, back olive, wings and tail brown; crown and nape tawny-olive; a conspicuous white supercilium; black lores and dark ear-coverts. *Below*, chin and throat white, breast and belly creamy white washed with buff. Very similar to *P. ferruginosus* which has darker, rusty underparts and a shorter, less curved coral-red bill. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. Assam in the Cachar Hills and from Margherita south through Nagaland and Manipur; between 1500 and 2400 m, probably reaching the foothills in winter. Affects dense undergrowth in evergreen or mixed forest and bamboo jungle.

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps in pairs or in parties of half-dozen individuals, in brushwood and lower branches of trees, among bushes in fairly open rocky ground as well as denser scrub; feeds on the ground but also probes into flowers of forest trees for nectar.

FOOD. Mainly insects; also nectar.

VOICE and CALLS. A single musical call-note unlike that of any other scimitar babbler (Smythies) but recognizable as of the genus. Also described are a soft full *hoot-hoot* and a pleasant whistling chuckle.

BREEDING. *Season*, May to July. *Nest*, an oval ball of broad grass-blades, bamboo leaves and a few other dead leaves loosely put together and lined with finer materials and rootlets. Placed on the ground, nearly covered by fallen leaves, or low down in undergrowth or creepers. *Eggs*, 3 to 5, white. Average size of 30 eggs 25.2×18.3 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See 1189, and Key to the Subspecies.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail
♂ ♀	84-92	31-36	— mm (SDR)
3 ♀ ♀	92	36-37	104-107 mm (Mayr)

Weight 1 ♀ 34 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dull pinkish cream. Bill orange-coral. Feet dull greenish brown (SDR).

Genus *XIPHIRHYNCHUS* Blyth

Xiphirhynchus Blyth, 1842, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 11: 175. Type, by monotypy,

Xiphirhynchus superciliaris Blyth. (Not *Xiphorhynchus* Swainson, 1827)

Xiphorhamphus Blyth, 1843, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 12: 929-47. Type, by monotypy,

Xiphirhynchus superciliaris Blyth

Only differs from *Pomatorhinus* by its extremely long, slenderer and more curved bill.

XIPHIRHYNCHUS SUPERCILIARIS Blyth

Key to the Subspecies

- Crown dark slaty *X. s. intextus*
 Crown paler *X. s. superciliaris*

1191. **Slenderbilled Scimitar Babbler.** *Xiphirhynchus superciliaris superciliaris* Blyth

Xiphirhynchus superciliaris Blyth, 1842, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 11: 176 (Darjeeling)

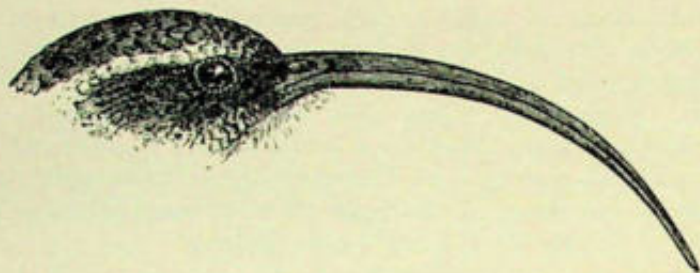
Baker, FBI No. 226 (part), Vol. 1: 224

Vol. 7, plate 73

LOCAL NAME. *Karriok-tameesp* (Lepcha).

SIZE. Bulbul; length c. 20 cm (8 in.) including bill.

FIELD CHARACTERS. The disproportionately long, slender, curved bill makes this species unmistakable. *Above*, head slaty, a long white supercilium; bill black. Back rufous-brown, wings and tail dark brown. *Below*, throat ashy, lightly streaked with white; rest of underparts cinnamon. Sexes alike.



x c. 1

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to vertical movements, locally common. East Nepal (apparently confined to the Mai Valley), Sikkim, Bhutan and probably NEFA east to the range of *intextus*. A babbler of high altitude, breeding between 2100 and 3400 m, mostly 2400–3300 m, descending in winter to between 2000 and 600 m; it is not known whether it withdraws entirely from the summer zone. Affects thick ringal bamboo growth, bushes on steep grassy hillsides, and bramble thickets.

GENERAL HABITS. A shy and restless babbler going about in pairs or small noisy parties in follow-my-leader style, sometimes in association with other babblers. Hunts on the ground progressing by long rat-like hops, or in undergrowth, commonly mounting up into leafless *Salimalia* and other flowering trees for nectar. 'If one mounts a bush and then hops down and climbs another all the party are sure, one by one, to do just the same' (Baker).

FOOD. Beetles, ants and other insects, larvae; also berries and nectar.

VOICE and CALLS. A 3-noted rather interrogative rippling whistle and a single mellow high-pitched hoot (SA). Song, a soft hoot consisting of seven or eight notes uttered rapidly on the same tone, after the manner of *Stachyris chrysaea* (Smythies), this probably being the same as the 'pleasing ripple of whistling notes' described by Kinnear. Alarm, a harsh swearing or chattering note, not unlike a similar call uttered by *Pomatorhinus ruficollis* (Smythies). Very noisy.

BREEDING. Season, April to July. Nest, a large, globular structure of dry bamboo leaves and green grass, intermingled and lined with fine roots and fibres. Usually placed on, or almost on the ground. Eggs, 3 to 5, white. Average size of 30 eggs 23.7×17.8 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *intextus* in having a paler, grey crown.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	74–83	43–57	28–35 (Kinnear, Deshayes, SA)	82–92 mm

Weight 2 ♂♂ 27, 27; 1 o? 30 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris pale grey (Ludlow), stone-yellow (Stevens). Bill black, tip of lower mandible paler. Legs and feet plumbeous.

1192. **Assam Slenderbilled Scimitar Babbler.** *Xiphirhynchus superciliaris intextus* Ripley

Xiphirhynchus superciliaris intextus Ripley, 1948, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington 61: 105
(Dreyi, Mishmi Hills, NE. Assam)

Xiphirhynchus superciliaris arquatellus Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration,
No. 1: 4 (Blue Mountain, Lushai Hills)
Baker, FBI No. 226 (part), Vol. 1: 224

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Bulbul; length c. 20 cm (8 in.) including bill.

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1191, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to vertical movements. NEFA in the Mishmi Hills, Assam in the Khasi, Cachar and Mizo (Lushai) hills, Nagaland, Manipur and East Pakistan in the northeastern and Chittagong hill tracts. Breeds up to 2700 m, descends to the foothills in winter. Affects thick secondary scrub, stunted oak forest with heavy undergrowth, oak and rhododendron forest, and bamboo thickets.

Extralimital. Probably extends to the neighbouring hills of western Burma. Other subspecies are found in Yunnan and North Vietnam.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1191.

BREEDING. As in 1191.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from the nominate race in having a darker, slaty head.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	72-77	55-60	c. 30	c. 90 mm (Baker)
1 ♀ (type)	77	55	29	84 mm (SDR)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris red. Bill black. Legs slaty brown; feet bluish grey; soles yellow (SDR).

Genus *RIMATOR* Blyth

Rimator Blyth, 1847, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 16: 154. Type, by monotypy,

Rimator malacoptilus Blyth

Remarkable for its long bill and very short tail. Bill equal to, or longer than head, slightly curved; rectal bristles short. Legs and feet strong. Plumage very lax.

1193. **Longbilled Wren-Babbler.** *Rimator malacoptilus* Blyth

Rimator malacoptilus Blyth, 1847, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 16: 154 (Darjeeling)
Rimator malacoptilus amadoni Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1:
5 (Mawphlang, Khasia Hills)
Baker, FBI No. 262, Vol. 1: 255

Vol. 7, plate 76

LOCAL NAMES. *Karriak-tungbrek-pho* (Lepcha); *Dao-mojo-buku-galao* (Cachari).

SIZE. Sparrow $\pm$; length c. 12 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A brown, stub-tailed, fluffy-plumaged babbler with a long slightly curved bill. *Above*, dark rufescent brown with buff shaft-streaks. *Below*, chin white, throat, breast and abdomen pale rufescent brown with whitish shaft-streaks. Sides of body plain rufescent brown; under tail-coverts ferruginous. Sexes alike.



× c. 1

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Scarce resident, probably subject to some vertical movements. Sikkim, Bhutan,

NEFA (Miri Hills), Assam (Khasi, Cachar and Mizo hills), Manipur and, presumably, Nagaland; from 900 to 2700 m. Affects forest undergrowth and dense scrub in steep, broken country.

Extralimital. Extends to northeastern Burma. Disjunct populations in N. Vietnam and western Sumatra.

GENERAL HABITS. A great skulker; though fearless and allowing a very close approach, it excels in keeping unseen and it is extremely difficult to follow its movements for more than a brief instant. Chiefly terrestrial; hops about the ground in low shrubs in the manner of *Pnoepyga*, rummaging among fallen leaves and mulch, possibly probing into the ground as the bills of some birds collected were caked with mud. Keeps in pairs. Flight weak; when disturbed flies only a few yards.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Said to have a 'sweet chirping whistle'.

BREEDING. *Season*, May and June. *Nest*, a globular structure of leaves, grass, roots, bracken fronds and other dark materials, rather loosely and clumsily put together and held by roots and weed-stems. Lining is of dry dead leaves. Placed on the ground, generally among a mass of fallen dead leaves, often at the foot of some large tree. *Eggs*, normally 4, unmistakable for those of any other species except some types of *Alcippe* eggs: white with a faint tinge of lilac, marked with blotches of deep red-brown or purple-brown with short, irregular lines and smears of the same colour. The secondary markings of lilac-grey are often more numerous than the primary markings and give the eggs a pronounced lilac tint. Average size of 30 eggs 21.2×15.5 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	57-60	22-24	23-24	25-31 mm (Baker, SA)

Weight 4 ♂♂ 18-21 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris light red-brown. Bill: upper mandible dark horny, blackish at base, paler at tip; gape and edge of lower mandible blackish, remainder pale horny. Legs and feet pale livid fleshy, tinted with brown; soles and claws very pale.

Genus *NAPOTHERA* G. R. Gray

Napothera G. R. Gray, 1842, Appendix List Gen. Bds.: 8. Type, by original designation, *Myiothera epilepidota* Temminck. [*Nopthera* Macklot, 1830, *Napothera* Boie,

1832, *Napothera* S. Müller, 1835, *Napothera* G. R. Gray, 1840, are all *nomina nuda*.]

Turdinus Blyth, 1844, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 13: 382. Type, by monotypy, *Malacopteron macrodactylum* Strickland

Turdinulus Hume, 1878, Stray Feathers 6: 235. Type, by monotypy, *Pnoepyga roberti* Godwin-Austen & Walden

Gypsophila Oates, 1883, Handb. Bds. Brit. Burma 1: 61. Type, by monotypy, *Turdinus crispifrons* Blyth

Wren-like, mostly terrestrial birds with tail much shorter than wing. Plumage soft, lax, squamated on upperparts. Bill slender, straight; nostrils exposed.

Key to the Species

Tail more than half the length of wing.....*N. brevicaudata*

Tail less than half the length of wing.....*N. epilepidota*

1194. Streaked Wren-Babbler. *Napothera brevicaudata striata* (Blyth)

Turdinus striatus Blyth, 1870, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 39: 269 (Khasia Hills)

Napothera brevicaudata naphaea Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 5 (Sangau, Lushai Hills)

Baker, FBI No. 256, Vol. 1: 251

Plate 70, fig. 7, facing p. 176

LOCAL NAME. *Dao-pulli* (Cachari).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 12 cm (4½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A small, short-tailed, wren-like babbler. Above, brown, the feathers margined with brown, producing a scaly appearance. Rump-feathers very thick and fluffy. Tail and wings brown, the greater and median coverts and secondaries tipped with buff in some individuals (young birds?). Below, throat grey-brown streaked with white. Centre of abdomen whitish, flanks, vent and under tail-coverts ochraceous. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. Assam in the Garo, Khasi and Cachar hills, Lakhimpur district south of the Brahmaputra (north to Sadiya and Dening), Manipur and, presumably, Nagaland. From c. 700 to 2100 m with probably some downward movement in the cold weather, the lowest records being winter data. Affects damp and shady hill forest broken up by rocky ravines and steep slopes.

Extralimital. Southwestern Burma. The species ranges east to Vietnam and south through the Malay Peninsula.

GENERAL HABITS. A most secretive bird, quiet and retiring rather than skulking, haunting deep forest on broken ground, apparently not scrub jungle or secondary growth as many babblers do. Runs in and out of great moss-covered boulders, very active and quick on its legs but loath to fly, scurrying away through the undergrowth rather than seeking safety by flight. Generally keeps in pairs.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm, a loud *tsik* (SDR) and some chattering and churring notes. Also a mournful single *piou* (Smythies).

BREEDING. Season, May to July. Nest, domed or nearly so, made of dead leaves and grass, semi-decayed bracken and fern fronds, a little moss and grass bound together with fine roots, lined with dry dead leaves. Most of the materials are in a rotten condition. The position is upright, the

entrance near the top. External measurements are roughly 17×11 cm, the cavity being about 7 cm in diameter. Nearly always placed on the ground, generally between boulders, but sometimes in a hollow in the face of a pile of boulders, or wedged in among the roots of a tree, or on a mossy bank with no other protection than ferns and weeds growing about it. It is well hidden in a damp situation, often so wet the outside is quite sodden. Eggs, 3 or 4, white with numerous freckles of pinkish red, denser and forming little caps at the large end. Average size of 30 eggs 21.3×16 mm (Baker). Both birds take part in incubation. When disturbed they slip quietly off the nest but keep close by, the two birds running about within a few metres, uttering low scolding notes.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. Distinguished from species *epilepidota* also by its ochraceous flanks (not brown), the greyish brown throat streaked with white (v. white streaked with dark brown), and the lack of a supercilium.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	56-61	c. 16	c. 24	c. 44-46 mm (Baker)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill dark brownish horn. Legs and feet brownish flesh.

NAPOTHERA EPILEPIDOTA (Temminck)

Key to the Subspecies

Darker and browner above; no rufous on breast and flanks..

.....*N. e. guttaticollis*

Paler above; breast and flanks rufous-brown.....*N. e. roberti*

1195. Austen's Small Wren-Babbler. *Napothera epilepidota roberti*
(Godwin-Austen & Walden)

Pnoepyga roberti Godwin-Austen & Walden, 1875, Ibis: 252 (Chakha, Manipur)
Baker, FBI No. 258, Vol. 1: 253

LOCAL NAMES. *Dao-mojo gashim*, *Dao-pufli kashiba* (Cachari).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A small, short-tailed, wren-like babbler. *Above*, dark brown with a scaly appearance; wing-coverts and secondaries tipped with light spots; a light supercilium from lores to nape. *Below*, throat white streaked with dark brown. Centre of breast and belly whitish buff, flanks and vent brown. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common, subject to vertical movements. Assam in the Cachar Hills, Nagaland and Manipur. Breeds from c. 1000 to 1800 m; reaches the plains in winter. Affects dense, dark forest wherever there are openings for streams or natural small glades; specially affects places strewn with mossy boulders, fallen trees covered with ferns and orchids, old stumps, etc.

GENERAL HABITS. Very tame. Keeps in pairs, hopping among the fallen leaves, turning them over for insects, creeping about in bracken and scrub like a true babbler, or dodging about boulders like a wren. Very reluctant to fly.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Alarm-note, a rather shrill *chir-r-r*; song, a pleasant but low set of whistling notes (Baker).

BREEDING. *Season*, April to June. *Nest*, domed or deep cup-shaped, generally the former, made of the same semi-decayed materials used by *N. brevicaudata* from whose the nest only differs in its smaller size. Usually wedged among boulders. *Eggs*, usually 4, rarely 5 or 3, similar to those of *brevicaudata* but smaller. Average size of 44 eggs 19.3×14.8 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Distinguished from species *brevicaudata* by presence of supercilium, brown flanks and white chin and throat with three black-dotted lines down to breast. See Key to the Subspecies.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	50-55	12-13	c. 18	c. 18 mm (Baker)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris red. Bill: upper mandible dark plumbeous; tip and lower mandible paler. Legs and feet fleshy brown; claws paler (Baker).

1196. **Grant's Wren-Babbler.** *Napothera epilepidota guttaticollis*
(Ogilvie-Grant)

Turdinulus guttaticollis Ogilvie-Grant, 1895, Ibis: 432 (Miri Hills, Assam)
Baker, FBI No. 259, Vol. 1: 254

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1195.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Scarce resident. From eastern Bhutan to the Mishmi Hills and the Patkai Range; from the foothills to c. 1500 m. Same biotope as 1195.

Extralimital. Upper Chindwin, Burma. The species extends to Vietnam, Hainan, the Malay peninsula, Sumatra, Java and Borneo.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1195.

BREEDING. *Season*, March and April. *Nest* and *eggs*, as in 1195. Average size of 45 eggs 19.4×14.8 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *roberti* (1195) in being darker and browner above. No rufous on breast and flanks.

MEASUREMENTS. As in 1195.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible dark horn colour, lower paler. Legs and feet horny brown.

Genus PNOEPYGA Hodgson

Microua Gould, 1837, Icones Av., pl. 5. Type, by monotypy, *Microua squamata* Gould. *Nomen oblitum*¹

Pnoepyga Hodgson, 1844, Zool. Misc.: 82. Type, by subsequent designation (Zimmer & Vaurie, 1954, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 74: 41), *Tesia albiventer* Hodgson

Genus characterized by an extremely short tail of six soft feathers, completely concealed by long, ample rump-feathers. Other characters as in *Spelaornis* (p. 159).

¹ This name has been placed on the Official Index of Rejected Names (Opinion 695).

Key to the Species

	Page
Tarsus over 21 mm..... <i>P. albiventer</i>	156
Tarsus under 21 mm..... <i>P. pusilla</i>	158

PNOEPYGA ALBIVENTER (Hodgson)

Key to the Subspecies

More olive above..... <i>P. a. pallidior</i>
Browner, less olive above..... <i>P. a. albiventer</i>

1197. **Western Scalybreasted Wren-Babbler.** *Pnoepyga albiventer pallidior* Kinnear

Pnoepyga albiventer pallidior Kinnear, 1924, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 45: 10
(Dharmasala, Punjab, 4000 ft)

Baker, FBI No. 471 (part), Vol. 1: 458

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1198, q.v.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to vertical movements, common. The western Himalayas from Duala Dhar east to central Nepal where it intergrades with *albiventer*. Breeds between 2400 and 3600 m and probably higher; descends in winter to *c.* 1000 m. In summer affects dense undergrowth and moss-covered boulders in birch or fir forest, especially near streams; in winter it is found in small nullahs with plenty of exposed rocks and stones but keeping to thick bracken and evergreen undergrowth in damp and secluded situations.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1198.

BREEDING. Season, April to June. Nest and eggs, as in 1198. Average size of 15 eggs 21.5 × 15.6 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Like *albiventer* but upperparts more olive and underparts paler in the fulvous form.

MEASUREMENTS. As in 1198.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill blackish brown, base of lower mandible whitish. Legs and feet pale brown.

1198. **Eastern Scalybreasted Wren-Babbler.** *Pnoepyga albiventer albiventer* (Hodgson)

Tesia albiventer Hodgson, Feb. 1837, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 6: 102 [Nepal, restricted by Ripley (Synopsis: 357) to Ilam dist., eastern Nepal, re-restricted to Chandragiri above Thankot by Biswas (JBNHS 59: 204-5)]

Microura squamata Gould, Aug. 1837, Icones Av., pl. 5 (Cachar)

Pnoepyga albiventer vegeta Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 11 (Kohima, Naga Hills)

Baker, FBI No. 471 (part), Vol. 1: 458

Plate 70, fig. 3, facing p. 176

LOCAL NAMES. *Marchok-bong* (Lepcha); *Inrui-ba gadeba* (Kacha Naga).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A plump, tail-less, squamated little wren. Dimorphic, in two colour phases; sexes alike in both.

White phase: *Above*, olive-brown with a slightly scaly appearance. *Below*, throat nearly white; breast and belly white, each feather with a dark centre and a narrow dark margin producing a very scaly effect. Flanks scaly olive-brown.

Fulvous phase: *Above*, olive-brown with a fulvous drop on each feather. *Below*, as in white phase but white replaced by fulvous. Intermediates occur, though uncommonly. Distinguished from *pusilla* (1199) only by slightly larger size.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident subject to vertical movements, common in the Himalayas, rather scarce in Assam. From central Nepal where it intergrades with *pallidior*, east through Sikkim, Bhutan (and probably NEFA since Ludlow found it common in the Tsangpo bend at 2000 m); also Assam in the Khasi and Cachar hills, Dibrugarh, and Nagaland. In the Himalayas, breeds mostly between 2700 and 3900 m, in a higher zone than *P. pusilla*, yet overlapping its upper limit. Descends in winter mostly below 2700 m and as low as 600 m (seen at 2850 m in southeast Tibet); in Assam it breeds from c. 1000 to at least 1800 m, and in the Naga Hills from 2100 to 2700 m. Affects wet ravines, thick forest with plenty of undergrowth, particularly in the neighbourhood of streams, waist-high growth of ferns, *Strobilanthes* and nettles; also cardamom plantations in winter.

Extralimital. Extends to southwestern Szechuan, Yunnan and N. Vietnam.

GENERAL HABITS. Terrestrial; solitary in winter, in pairs during the breeding season. Creeps about in dense, tangled undergrowth, nervously flicking its wings like a *Phylloscopus*, searching for insects among the mulch, roots, fern-stems and moss-covered fallen logs. A great skulker, very difficult to observe, but also very inquisitive.

FOOD. Insects. Seeds also recorded (Stanford).

VOICE and CALLS. Its presence in dense growth is given away by its loud, squeaky long-drawn double-noted *seek . . . sik* like an uncoiled 'patla' (Indian swing bed) swinging back and forth (SA); also likened to 'nothing so realistic as an ill-mannered person loudly sucking his teeth' (Ludlow). These notes are markedly ventriloquial, the *seek* seeming to come from an entirely different direction to the *sik* that follows a half-second later. Alarm-note, a shrill, piercing whistle and a scolding, chattering *tsik, tsik* indistinguishable from that of the Brown Wren-Babbler and reminiscent also of the Nepal Wren, *Troglodytes* (SA), each time jerking its short wings. The song is short and trilling like the first part of the song of the Whitebrowed Shortwing (Heinrich); also said to remind one of *Troglodytes* (Baker).

BREEDING. Season, April to June. Nest, globular, made of green moss and rootlets, very similar to that of *Troglodytes* and, like it, placed in moss-covered banks, under a moss-clad rock or among moss growing on the trunks of large trees. Eggs, 3 to 5, white, longish ovals; apparently sometimes with a few reddish brown specks (Jones, JBNHS 47: 228). Average size of 54 eggs 19.1 × 14.1 mm (Baker). Both sexes take part in, at least, incubation. Period undetermined.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Upperparts browner than *pallidior*; underparts of the fulvous form darker.

Young. Upperparts warm rufous-brown without marks; underparts greyish olive in the white phase, golden brown in the fulvous phase. Postjuvenal moult of body, wing-coverts and ? wings.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	57-65	13-15	23-25	17-23 mm
			(SA, BB, HW, Kinnear)	

No significant difference of size in the sexes.

Weight 4 ♂♂ 21-23; 1 ♀ 20 g (SDR, SA). 10 ♂♀ 17-24 (av. 20.9) g — SA, BB.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible horny brown, lower brownish flesh excepting tip which is horny brown. Legs, feet and claws horny brown or brownish flesh.

1199. **Brown Wren-Babbler.** *Pnoepyga pusilla pusilla* Hodgson

Pnoepyga pusillus Hodgson, 1845, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, pt. 13: 25 (Nepal)

Pnoepyga pusilla pygmaea Koelz, 1952, Jour. Zool. Soc. India 4: 40 (Karong, Manipur)

Baker, FBI No. 472, Vol. 1: 459

Vol. 8, plate 85

LOCAL NAME. *Inrui-ba gadeba* (Kacha Naga).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 9 cm (3½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. An exact miniature of the Scalybreasted Wren-Babbler (1198, q.v.) with the same colour dimorphism.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, subject to vertical movements, common. From central Nepal east through Sikkim, northern West Bengal, Bhutan, NEFA, Assam in the Khasi and Cachar hills, Nagaland, and East Pakistan in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. In the Himalayas breeds in a lower zone than 1198, mostly between 1500 and 3000 m (optimum 2100-2500 m), overlapping the lower range of *albiventer* at its upper limit; in Assam it breeds from c. 1000 m up. Descends in winter to the foothills and extends into the plains; it has however been recorded as high as 3500 m in the cold season. Inhabits the same biotope as *albiventer*: wet evergreen forest with mossy boulders, fallen logs and decaying vegetation and ground nettles — particularly in the vicinity of streams.

Extralimital. Ranges east to North Vietnam and Fukien. Other subspecies in Formosa, Central Vietnam, Malay Peninsula, Sunda Islands.

GENERAL HABITS. Similar to those of the Scalybreasted Wren-Babbler (1198). Terrestrial, solitary in winter, skulking, restless and inquisitive; has a maddening habit of appearing almost under one's feet, then dashing into dense cover, seldom flying more than a metre or two. Scuttles away mouse-like, through the tangled undergrowth when pressed, hopping from stem to stem but so lightly that hardly a leaf stirs to betray its progress. Has the same restless acrobatic habits as *Tesia*. Flicks its wings frequently and nervously like a leaf-warbler.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Very like 1198. Utters a sharp single *tsik* every half-second or so, alternately higher and lower with a semitone difference; this note is given more frequently and over longer periods than in the case of *albiventer*. Alarm-note, a sharp, explosive, scolding *chiruk, chiruk*. Song, 'a slow, drawn-out *se-e-e-s-a-w*, each syllable a second in length, followed by a two-second interval' (Fleming).

BREEDING. *Season*, April to July. *Nest*, a little ball of moss and rootlets usually built in the moss hanging down tree-trunks or vertical rocks in shady forest, usually at a height of one to two metres from the ground, more rarely up to six metres. *Eggs*, as a rule apparently 4 in Assam and 3 in the Himalayas, white. Average size of 25 eggs from Sikkim 18.3×13.8 mm, and of 50 eggs from Assam 17.1×13.1 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *albiventer* only in being smaller; has the same colour dimorphism.

Young, like adult but lacks all fulvous spots on upperparts, median and greater coverts. Underparts uniform dark brown, greyish brown on throat. Postjuvenile moult of body feathers and wing-coverts.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	48-53	12-14	18-20	12-15 mm
			(SA, BB, Kinnear)	

No significant difference of size in the sexes.

Weight 8 ♂ ♀ 11-14 (av. 12) g—SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill: upper mandible blackish, lower greyish brown. Legs and feet pale brown.

Genus SPELAEORNIS David & Oustalet

Spelaeornis David & Oustalet, 1877, Oiseaux de la Chine: 228. Type, by subsequent designation, *Pnoepyga troglodytoides* Verreaux

Elachura Oates, 1889, Fauna Brit. India, Bds. 1: 339. Type, by original designation, *Troglodytes punctatus* Blyth

Cf. Ripley, S. D., 1950, *Auk* 67: 390-91; 1952, JBNHS 50: 492-4; 1954, *Postilla*, Yale Peabody Mus., No. 20: 1-4.

Tail short and rounded, of 10 rectrices. Plumage soft and full. Bill straight and thin. Tarsus long and strong.

Key to the Species

		Page
A	Tail barred	
1	Throat white..... <i>S. troglodytoides</i>	165
2	Throat cinnamon, speckled with white..... <i>S. formosus</i>	166
B	Tail not barred	
3	Throat white, finely speckled..... <i>S. chocolatinus</i>	163
4	Throat buff, unspotted..... <i>S. longicaudatus</i>	162
5	Throat ferruginous or chestnut	
a	Chestnut restricted to throat..... <i>S. badeigularis</i>	161
b	Ferruginous extending to breast and flanks..... <i>S. caudatus</i>	160

1200. **Tailed Wren-Babbler.** *Spelaeornis caudatus* (Blyth)*Tesia caudata* Blyth, 1845, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 14: 588 (Darjeeling)

Baker, FBI No. 470, Vol. 1: 456

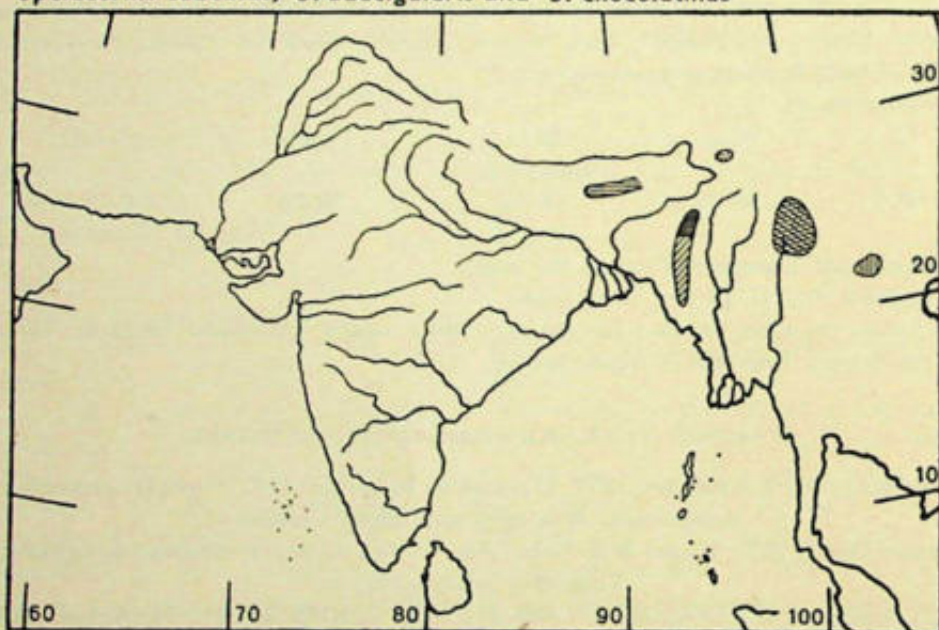
Vol. 8, plate 85

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 9 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, dark brown with a scaly appearance. *Below*, throat, breast and flanks ferruginous, spotted with black on latter two. Belly slaty, spotted with white. Sexes alike. Distinguished from other wrens by its ferruginous throat.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. An endemic species. Scarce, resident. East Nepal (Ilam district), Sikkim, Darjeeling district, Bhutan. Appears

Spelaeornis caudatus, *S. badeigularis* and *S. chocolatinus*

Known distributional ranges

■ *S. caudatus* (1200). ■ *S. badeigularis* (1201). ■ *S. c. chocolatinus* (1203).
 ■ *S. c. oatesi* (1204). ■ *S. c. reptatus* (RE). ■ *S. c. kinneari* (RE).

to breed above 2400 m. Recorded in winter at 3100 and 1800 m. Affects damp undergrowth in thick forest.

GENERAL HABITS. Typically wren-like. Terrestrial, solitary, restless, very elusive and silent.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Has a higher-pitched *tzit* than either *Tesia* or *P. albiventer* (Fleming). Alarm-note, a low quiet *birrh birrh birrh* uttered for rather lengthy periods when disturbed (Ludlow). Song unrecorded.

BREEDING. Little known; published records not entirely reliable. *Nest*, described as egg-shaped, made of leaves, fine twigs, bracken and grass,

lined with vegetable down or other matter looking like papier-mâché of earthy brown colour (Masson). Other nests are described as a dense mass of moss, cup-shaped and placed about the roots of trees or in a hole in fallen logs (Hodgson). Eggs, 3 or 4, like those of *S. longicaudatus*. Average size of 14 eggs (whether of this species?) 18.1×14.1 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	46-47	11	—	32 mm
♀♀	45-49	11-12	18	27-35 mm
				(SDR, Ludlow)

Weight 1 ♂ 12; 1 ♀ 10 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill blackish. Legs and feet brown.

1201. **Mishmi Wren-Babbler.** *Spelaeornis badeigularis* Ripley

Spelaeornis badeigularis Ripley, 1948, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington 61: 103

(Dreyi, Mishmi Hills, N.E. Assam)¹

Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 9 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, dark brown with a scaly appearance. *Below*, chin whitish, throat chestnut finely streaked; breast, belly and flanks olive-brown conspicuously spotted with white. Distinguished from *caudatus* in having the chestnut restricted to the throat. (For colour plate see JBNHS 48: 1.)

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Known only from the type: Dreyi, Mishmi Hills (NEFA), c. 1600 m, (see map, p. 160). Affects subtropical wet forest (in winter).

GENERAL HABITS. Presumably those of *caudatus*. Shy and skulking.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Unrecorded.

BREEDING. Unrecorded.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. *Above*, bistre (sooty brown), each feather with a dark area in the centre bordering the shaft approaching clove-brown in tone; tail seal-brown. Wing-feathers chocolate on the outer, seal-brown on the inner webs. *Below*, throat chestnut, each feather with a narrow sepia-coloured centre. Breast-feathers bistre with a black terminal and a white subterminal bar. Feathers of abdomen more greyish than breast, white subterminal bars enlarged, black terminal bars much

¹ A re-examination of the unique type of *Spelaeornis badeigularis* and comparison with freshly collected *Spelaeornis caudatus* from Bhutan confirms the separation of *badeigularis* as a species. The differences still appear strongly marked. The white chin, the dark chestnut feathers with darker-streaked centres of the throat and upper breast, and the extensive area all over the lower breast, abdomen, flanks and vent of the subterminal white-tipped bistre feathers, give an entirely different appearance to this bird. The upperparts are on the other hand roughly similar.

An added point of difference which I (SDR) had not noted in my original description is the stouter tarsus of *badeigularis*. The type measures 20 mm in tarsal length but also appears thicker and stronger. Three specimens of *caudatus* measure 17-18 mm, a small difference on paper, but appearing significant when these tiny birds are in the hand.

reduced. Along the shaft of breast-feathers runs a narrow white stripe margined on the external side of the web with black.

MEASUREMENTS

1 ♀ (type) Wing 48; bill 11; tarsus 20; tail 31 mm.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill black. Legs brown.

1202. **Longtailed Wren-Babbler.** *Spelaeornis longicaudatus* (Moore)

Pnoepyga longicaudata Moore, 1854, in Horsfield & Moore, Cat. Birds Mus. E.

I. Co. 1: 398 (Afghanistan *errore* = Khasi Hills, Assam)

Baker, FBI No. 464, Vol. 1: 452

Plate 70, fig. 10, facing p. 176

LOCAL NAME. *Tinglin-rui* (Kacha Naga).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 11 cm ($4\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, brown with a scaly appearance, paler than in other wren-babblers; a very small pale streak above the eye, and ear-coverts grey-brown. *Below*, ochraceous-buff with a whitish chin and white centre of belly. Sexes alike.



x c. 1

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. An endemic species. Scarce resident, more abundant in the Khasi Hills. Assam in the Khasi and Cachar

hills, and Manipur, from c. 1000 to 2000 m.¹ Affects deep evergreen forest mainly of oak and rhododendron with ample undergrowth, keeping to ravines or steep hillsides with rock and boulder outcrops covered with moss, ferns and orchids.

GENERAL HABITS. Terrestrial, solitary or in pairs. Creeps and climbs about boulders in typical wren fashion. Very reluctant to fly; when disturbed seeks safety by scurrying away on foot or dodging into crevices and holes between boulders.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. On the whole very silent; has a loud, clear whistle much like that of *Pnoepyga* and a soft, chirring alarm-note given for some minutes after being disturbed (Baker). Song unrecorded.

BREEDING. *Season*, April to June. *Nest*, domed or egg-shaped, occasionally a very deep cup when shelter is afforded by natural protection. The outer part is made almost entirely of dead leaves, rather loosely put together and mixed with a few roots and scraps of grass; these materials are dark in colour, decayed and almost soaked through. Inside is built a compact structure of rootlets, leaves and grass; finally comes the lining which distinguishes the nest at a glance from all others: a texture of soft fibrous material, skeleton leaves or other vegetable matter about 3 to 6 mm thick, having the aspect of papier-mâché covering the bottom and the greater part of the sides. This layer is apparently placed in position when in the form of pulp which hardens and makes a damp-proof lining. The nest is placed on the ground or among boulders in luxuriant undergrowth

¹ R. L. Fleming reports a specimen collected in eastern Nepal in March, JBNHS 65: 331.

of moss and ferns. *Eggs*, normally 4, white, rarely with a faint tinge of cream or pink, marked with spots or small blotches of reddish pink to reddish brown, usually scattered over the whole surface, sometimes forming a zone at the large end. Average size of 50 eggs 18.4×19.4 mm (all notes on breeding by Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species and Field Characters.

Young, like adult but uniform rufous-brown above; the ferruginous feathers of the breast with paler streaks.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	49-60	c. 12	19-20	45-48 mm (Baker)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris red (adult), brown (young). Bill dark brown to blackish. Legs and feet light brown.

SPELAEORNIS CHOCOLATINUS (Godwin-Austen & Walden)

Key to the Subspecies

Sides of neck and body brown, less rufous *S. c. chocolatinus*

Sides of neck and body more rufous-brown *S. c. oatesi*

1203. **Streaked Longtailed Wren-Babbler.** *Spelaeornis chocolatinus chocolatinus* (Godwin-Austen & Walden)

Phoebe chocolatina Godwin-Austen & Walden, 1875, Ibis: 252 (Kedimai, Manipur)

Elachura haplonota Baker, 1892, Ibis: 62 (Hangrum, N. Cachar)

Spelaeornis chocolatinus nagaensis Ripley, 1951, Postilla, Yale Peabody Mus., No. 6: 4 (Mount Japvo, Naga Hills)

Baker, FBI Nos. 463 and 465, Vol. 1: 450 and 453

Plate 70, fig. 8, facing p. 176

LOCAL NAME. *Tinglin-rui-gadeba* (Kacha Naga).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male. *Above*, dark brown with a scaly appearance. *Below*, chin white, throat white finely speckled, the white extending to centre of belly. Sides of neck and flanks olive-brown washed with ochraceous and spotted with white and dark brown.

Female similar to male but more rufescent above and below.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. Assam in north Cachar (Barail Range) east to the Naga Hills and south to Kedimai in Manipur, (see map, p. 160). From 1200 m (winter) to at least 2400 m (summer); vertical movements if any, unknown. Affects deep evergreen forest with undergrowth of bracken, ferns or *Strobilanthes*, on steep hillsides broken with rocks and huge boulders covered with rich vegetation and green moss.

GENERAL HABITS. Resemble those of *Phoebe pusilla* (1199). Very active and restless, quick on legs but slow and feeble in flight. Not so exclusively a ground bird as *P. albiventer*, being often seen hopping here and there one or two feet above the ground.

FOOD. Ants, small beetles and other insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A loud, melodic, explosive whistle *weeuwo* (SDR) [needs confirming]; alarm-note, a constantly uttered soft *chir* (Baker). For renderings of song see 1204.

BREEDING. *Season*, the only nest ever found was in May (Baker). *Nest*, a deep cup with the back wall much prolonged though not enough to form a roof, measuring about 8 cm across; diameter of cup 5 cm, depth 3 cm. The greater part of material consisted of skeleton leaves bound together with dark, coarse fern roots, a few bents and some fine elastic twigs; the inner part was compactly lined with skeleton leaves alone. (This nest may not be typical; see 1204, Breeding.) It was built under a big fallen log, on a pile of dead leaves, broken twigs and branches. *Eggs*, 3, white with very pale reddish marks especially near the broad end. Measurements: 17×13.2 , 17.2×13 , 17.4×13.1 mm (Baker). See also 1204, Breeding.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species. Differs from *oatesi* (1204) in being more greyish brown about the head, the spots and terminal edgings on the feathers of the lower parts being strikingly different, much finer and more delicate in pattern and form.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
5 ♂♂	48-52	13-14	18	40-44 mm
1 ♀	48	13	—	41 mm

Weight 5 ♂♂ 10-14; 1 ♀ 14 g.

(SDR)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris light red. Bill dark brown, paler on tip; gape black, mouth bluish fleshy. Legs and feet fleshy.

1204. **Chin Hills Longtailed Wren-Babbler.** *Spelaeorhis chocolatinus oatesi* (Rippon)

Urocichla oatesi Rippon, 1904, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 14: 83 (Mount Victoria)

Baker, FBI No. 469, Vol. 1: 455

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1203.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. Assam in the Mizo (Lushai) Hills, from 1300 m up (1400 to 2800 m on Mount Victoria, optimum zone 2000-2500 m). (See map, p. 160.) Affects thick low, often thorny bushes and dwarf bamboo, especially at the edge of evergreen forest and in clearings.

Extralimital. The Chin Hills of Burma; the species is found in northeastern Burma and southwestern Szechuan, with an isolated population in north-western Vietnam.

GENERAL HABITS and FOOD. As in 1203.

VOICE and CALLS. Song, a loud warbling strophe of mostly three, often two syllables repeated quickly many times: *tititātjui* or just *titjui* with accent on the last note. Also a quick and sharp *ticki-ticki-ticki-tcki* (Heinrich).

It has also been described as a rattling song of four or five notes similar to that of *Troglodytes*. While singing, the bird puffs out the head- and breast-feathers and jerks itself up and down in a remarkable way. Other call-notes as in 1203.

BREEDING. *Season:* April to June. *Nest*, domed, oval-shaped, composed of an outer layer of dead leaves, coarse grass etc., and an inner layer of grass stems, fibres and a little moss and a peculiar waterproof lining about 3 mm thick of a papier-mâché-like substance, apparently made of vegetable stuff worked into a pulp and spread over the interior. Size of nest: exterior height c. 15 cm, width 10 to 12 cm; entrance near the top, about 5 by 4 cm; interior dimensions c. 5 cm each way; depth of cup from entrance c. 2.5 cm. Placed on the ground under dense undergrowth or among dead leaves between standing stems. *Eggs*, normally 3, white with a tinge of pink, speckled with reddish and faint purple. Average size of 20 eggs, 18.1 × 14.6 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Much like the nominate race (1203) above, but chin, throat, middle of breast and belly white with black tips; sides of neck and of body brown, less rufous, with dark tips and subterminal white streaks.

MEASUREMENTS

Wing 10 ♂♂ 47-52; 5 ♀♀ 47-52 mm (Heinrich).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1203.

1205. Spotted Longtailed Wren-Babbler. *Spelaeornis troglodytoides*
sherriffi Kinnear

Spelaeornis souliei sherriffi Kinnear, 1934, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 54: 107 (Donga La, between Lingtse and Trashigang, East Bhutan, 10,500 ft)

Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Adult.* Above, umber-brown spotted with black and white; tail and wings narrowly barred. A white mark behind the eyes very conspicuous. *Below*, throat and breast white, this colour extending on to the belly; sides of neck and flanks tawny olive. Sexes alike.

Young, much darker than adult, blackish brown above, back barred as wings and tail, not speckled; throat whitish, breast and belly buff.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Rare resident. Within our limits only recorded from eastern Bhutan (Ludlow) between 3000 and 3300 m in summer. Affects undergrowth and bamboo in wet temperate forest.

Extralimital. The species ranges from northeastern Burma through Szechuan to Shensi.

GENERAL HABITS. More arboreal than most wren-babblers; clammers about on bamboo stems and mossy tree-trunks though not to any great height from the ground. Tame and rather less restless in its movements.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A low song of four or five notes. Call, a subdued cheep. Alarm, a faint churr (Stanford).

BREEDING. Unknown.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species; for details of plumage (and coloured plate) Ludlow & Kinnear, *Ibis* 1937: 252.

MEASUREMENTS

Wing 3 ♂♂ 47-51; 2 ♀♀ 47 mm (Kinnear).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris red-brown. Bill: upper mandible horny black, lower pale fleshy. Legs and feet horny brown.

1206. **Spotted Short-tailed Wren-Babbler.** *Spelaecornis formosus* (Walden)

Troglodytes formosus Walden, 1874, *Ibis*: 91 (Darjeeling)

Baker, FBI No. 462, Vol. 1: 449

Vol. 8, plate 85

LOCAL NAME. *Marchek-pho* (Lepcha).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, head, back and wing-coverts olive-brown speckled with white; rump, wings and tail chestnut brown barred with black. *Below*, cinnamon, densely spotted with white on throat and breast, speckled with black on belly. Sexes alike.



× c. 1

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Rare resident, subject to vertical movements. Sikkim, Darjeeling, Bhutan and NEFA east to at least the Dafla Hills, also Assam in the Khasi and

Mizo hills, Nagaland, Manipur (Koelz collection) and East Pakistan in the northeastern hill tracts. Affects dank rhododendron forest with thick fern ground-cover, mossy rocks and decaying trunks of fallen trees, and brushwood, at high altitude (a March record at 2300 m in Sikkim). Obtained in winter at 1200 m (Dafla Hills and Bhutan) in long grass and scrub.

Extralimital. Western Burma (Mount Victoria), southeastern Yunnan and northwestern Fukien. Monotypic.

GENERAL HABITS. Little known. Much as in other wren-babblers.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A note resembling that of *P. pusilla* but sharper (Ludlow); a squeaky *seek . . . sick* almost identical with that of *P. albiventer* (SA).

BREEDING. Not authentically recorded. Four fully fledged young collected in Khasi Hills on 10 May (Koelz). Nests reported to belong to this species were described as deep semi-domed cups of leaves, dead grass, roots, etc., densely lined with feathers and placed on the ground on a bank, half hidden in fallen rubbish or well concealed by undergrowth (Masson in FBI). The 3 or 4 eggs are white with a few reddish brown specks. Size, c. 16.5 × 12.5 mm.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species.

Young (immature). Similar to adult but much darker, almost blackish brown.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
1 ♂	46	14	18	30 mm
1 ♀	46	14	18	25 mm

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill, legs and feet horn brown.

Genus SPHENOCICHLA Godwin-Austen & Walden

Sphenocichla Godwin-Austen & Walden, 1875, Ibis: 250. Type, by monotypy,*Sphenocichla roberti* Godwin-Austen & Walden

Stout and rather squat birds of heavy build and large, powerful legs and feet. Bill conical, sharp-pointed, about the length of the head or a little shorter. No rictal bristles. Wing short and rounded. Tail of twelve feathers, greatly graduated. One species.

SPHENOCICHLA HUMEI (Mandelli)

Key to the Subspecies

Feathers of throat and breast black with pale shafts . . . *S. h. humei*Feathers of throat and breast ashy brown with black margins and white submargins *S. h. roberti*1207. Sikkim Wedgebilled Wren. *Sphenocichla humei humei* (Mandelli)*Heterorhynchus humei* Mandelli, 1873, Stray Feathers 1: 415 (Sikkim)

Baker, FBI No. 473, Vol. 1: 461

Plate 70, fig. 11, facing p. 176

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Bulbul $\pm$; length c. 18 cm (7 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A stout, heavy-looking bird with powerful legs and feet, and a pointed, conical bill. *Above*, very dark brown, crown and upper back mottled with golden brown and with fine white shaft-streaks especially conspicuous on forehead; lower back, tail and wings finely barred. A conspicuous pale stripe behind the eye breaking up into spots on the sides of neck. *Below*, throat and breast dark brown with fine shaft-streaks; centre of belly pale grey; posterior flanks and lower belly mottled with golden brown. Sexes alike.



x c. 1

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT. Very rare resident. Sikkim (not recorded since 1875), NEFA in the Aka Hills, Balipara Frontier Tract (a winter record at 1200 m) and the Mishmi Hills (not recorded since 1879). Probably breeds at high altitudes, moving down in winter. Biotope undescribed (but see 1208).

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD AND VOICE. As in 1208.

BREEDING. Unknown.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	70-74	22-24	26-27	64-71 mm (Baker)
1 ♂?	72	(from skull) 26	26	66 mm (Desfayes)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris dark brown. Bill slate, darker on culmen. Legs and feet dark brown.

1208. **Cachar Wedgebilled Wren.** *Sphenocichla humei roberti*
Godwin-Austen & Walden

Sphenocichla roberti Godwin-Austen & Walden, 1875, Ibis: 251

(Hemes Peak, North Cachar hills)

Baker, FBI No. 474, Vol. 1: 461

LOCAL NAME. *Tinglin-rui-gadeba* (= 'bird which runs up trees' — Kacha Naga).

SIZE. Bulbul —; length c. 17 cm (7 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1207, but throat, breast and upper belly ashy brown edged with black and inside this evenly bordered with white.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Rare resident. Nagaland, Manipur, and Assam in the Cachar Hills and in the Margherita area, from 1500 to 2300 m and probably higher, descending to 900 m in winter. Affects evergreen forest with large trees, and bamboo on the edge of dense jungle.

Extralimital. Northern Burma.

GENERAL HABITS. Little known. Goes about in parties of 10 and 15 affecting secondary jungle by preference (Hume). More a tree creeper than a wren in its habits. A very active climber about the rough bark of bigger trees, though not on the higher branches; also hunts in undergrowth as other babblers do. Flies well with a quick flight from tree to tree or bush to bush, but seems to prefer legs to wings as means of progression.

FOOD. Insects, mostly wood-lice and small boring beetles.

VOICE and CALLS. Unrecorded.

BREEDING. *Season*, May and June. The only nest described was a pad of moss on top of a mass of fine grasses and a few tendrils with no other lining than the soft moss. It was wedged behind a long hanging slip of bark on a very high tree, about six metres from the ground. It contained four eggs which measured 20.7×17 to 22.3×17.4 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	71-74	25	26-27	58-64 mm (Baker)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris rich brown or dark crimson. Bill pale bluish slaty, base of maxilla and culmen darker. Legs dark brown, claws and soles pale slaty.

Genus *STACHYRIS* Hodgson

Stachyris Hodgson, in Blyth, 1844, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 13: 378. Type, by original designation, *Stachyris nigriceps* Hodgson

Stachyridopsis Sharpe, 1883, Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus. 7: 596-7. Type, by original designation, *Stachyris ruficeps* Blyth

Thringorhina Oates, 1889, Fauna Brit. Ind., Bds. 1: 155. Type, by original designation, *Turdinus guttatus* Blyth

Characterized by an operculum covering the nostrils. Plumage variable; bill stout to thin.

Key to the Species

		Page
I	Tail narrowly barred.....	<i>S. oglei</i> 177
II	Tail not barred	
A	Underparts bright yellow.....	<i>S. chrysaea</i> 172
B	Underparts not bright yellow	
1	Crown striped blackish and white.....	<i>S. nigriceps</i> 174
2	Crown not striped with white	
a	Chin black.....	<i>S. pyrrhops</i> 171
b	Chin not black, crown rufous	
i	Chin white.....	<i>S. rufifrons</i> 169
ii	Chin yellowish.....	<i>S. ruficeps</i> 170

1209. **Assam Redfronted Babbler.** *Stachyris rufifrons ambigua*
(Harington)

Stachyridopsis rufifrons ambigua Harington, 1915, JBNHS 23: 631

(Gunjong, north Cachar)

Baker, FBI No. 280, Vol. 1: 270

Vol. 7, plate 77

LOCAL NAME. *Dao-pere-gajao* (Cachari).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 12 cm (4½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Very similar to *S. ruficeps* (1210). Distinguished from it by white chin, ochraceous throat and whitish belly (v. all pale yellow in *ruficeps*). Flanks and lower belly washed with ochraceous. Black streaks on chin and throat hardly discernible in the field. Rufous of crown not sharply defined from rest of upper plumage which is olive-brown tinged with rufous. A pale grey supercilium. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. The foothills of Sikkim, Bhutan, NEFA to the head of Assam Valley, sparingly in the plains, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and East Pakistan in the north-eastern and Chittagong hill tracts; from the edge of the plains up to c. 900 m. Also the northern Eastern Ghats (Sankrametta) between 1000 and 1200 m. Occupies a lower zone than *S. ruficeps*. Affects dense undergrowth, thick forest in ravines, jungle with grass in open forest, light deciduous or semi-evergreen forest, and bamboo or scrub jungle.

Extralimital. The species ranges east to N. Vietnam and Laos and south through the Malay peninsula, Sumatra and Borneo.

GENERAL HABITS. In pairs during the breeding season, otherwise in small restless foraging parties often in mixed company with other babblers, creeping through undergrowth and also the crowns of bamboo clumps and medium-sized trees. Often catches insects on the wing.

FOOD. Insects; occasionally berries.

VOICE and CALLS. Mellow musical iora-like 4-noted whistles, *whi-whi-whi-whi*, and conversational chittering as in 1210 (SA). The song consists of six to seven notes on a monotone with a pause after the first note and the rest uttered rapidly (Smythies).

BREEDING. Season, April to July. Nest, domed or sometimes semi-domed or deep cup-shaped, made chiefly of bamboo leaves, occasionally of grasses

alone, lined with rootlets. Placed upright between supporting twigs or on a bed of rubbish and leaves inside a clump of bamboo, usually within one metre from the ground, sometimes up to two metres, more rarely on the ground on banks. Deserted clearings are favourite nesting places. Eggs, 3 to 5, normally 4, undistinguishable from those of *S. ruficeps*. Average size of 100 eggs 16.1×12.4 mm (Baker). Both sexes take part in incubation. Period undetermined. Occasionally brood-parasitized by *Cuculus sparveroides* and *C. fugax* (Baker, JBNHS 17 : 368. 686).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters; for details of plumage Baker, loc. cit. Specimens fox and fade rapidly so that old material in collections is valueless for comparison.

Young, like adult but edges of wings and tail more rusty; black shafts on throat barely visible; rufous cap less pronounced; underparts paler. Primary and tail characters present; postjuvenile moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	50-56	13-15	17-22	43-51 mm (HW, SA)

Weight 2 ♂♂ 10, 10; 1 ♀ 9 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown to red. Bill dark grey or slaty blue. Legs and feet greenish yellow.

1210. **Redheaded Babbler.** *Stachyris ruficeps ruficeps* Blyth

Stachyris ruficeps Blyth, 1847, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 16: 452 (Darjeeling)

Stachyris ruficeps rufipectus Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 6 (Kohima, Naga Hills)

Baker, FBI No. 277, Vol. 1: 268

LOCAL NAME. *Syak-birang-pho* (Lepcha).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length 12 cm ($4\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, crown rufous-brown sharply defined from greyish olive back. Lores and orbital area pale yellowish. *Below*, chin and throat pale yellow finely streaked with black. Rest of underparts pale yellow tinged with olivaceous on flanks and lower belly. Sexes alike. For distinction from *S. rufifrons*, see 1209.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. From central Nepal (Sheopuri ridge, Smythies JBNHS 49: 514) east to the Mishmi Hills,¹ the hills of Assam, Nagaland and Manipur; also Orissa (Simlipal Hills, Sálim Ali, BNHS coll.). From c. 1000 to 2700 m (in winter to 600 m), optimum zone 1500-2400 m. Occupies a higher zone than *rufifrons* though overlapping at the lower altitudes. Affects thick secondary growth of bushes in clearings, heavy evergreen forest, bamboo jungle, nearly always in dense undergrowth.

Extralimital. Northwestern Burma. The species ranges north to Szechuan, east to Anhwei, Formosa, south to Hainan and south-central Vietnam.

¹ Ripley's records from the Mishmi Hills (JBNHS 48: 25) pertain to *S. r. ruficeps*, not *rufifrons*.

GENERAL HABITS. In pairs in the breeding season, otherwise in small foraging parties often in mixed company of other small babblers etc. keeping to low undergrowth. Actions rather tit-like.

FOOD. Insects; occasionally berries.

VOICE and CALLS. A low conversational chittering reminiscent of *Dumetia hyperythra* as the birds move about; also a low soft 4-noted whistle indistinguishable from that of 1209 (SA). Song, very similar to that of *S. chrysaea* but a tone lower and without pause between the first and the following notes (Heinrich).

BREEDING. *Season*, April to July. *Nest*, either domed or deep cup-shaped, made chiefly of bamboo leaves with grassy fibres and other dead leaves, lined with very fine grass stems. On the whole better made and more compact than that of *S. chrysaea*. Placed in low bushes or bamboo clumps within one metre from the ground, sometimes on the ground. *Eggs*, normally 4, white, marked with small spots and blotches of brown or reddish brown, generally more numerous at the large end. Average size of 50 eggs 15.8 × 12.6 mm (Baker). Occasionally brood-parasitized by *Cuculus poliocephalus* (Baker, JBNHS 17: 685).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters; for details of plumage Baker, loc. cit. Young, like adult rather less olive above; crown paler; faint rufous edges to wing. Primary and tail characters present; postjuvinal moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	53-58	15-16	17-20	50-52 mm
1 ♀	54	—	—	—
			(SDR, SA, Baker)	

Weight 3 ♂♂ 10-12; 1 ♀ 10 g (SDR, SA). 16 ♂♀ (Oct.-Nov.) 8-12 (av. 10.2) g — SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris red. Bill: upper mandible blackish or brownish, lower basally purple, distally grey, or, pearly horn to pinkish horn. Legs and feet brownish green, brownish yellow, greenish brown or yellowish grey (SDR).

1211. Blackchinned Babbler. *Stachyris pyrrhops* Blyth

Stachyris pyrrhops Blyth, 1844, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 13: 379 (Nepal)

Stachyris pyrrhops ochrops Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 6 (Kotla, Kangra Dist., Punjab)

Baker, FBI No. 281, Vol. 1: 271

Plate 70, fig. 9, facing p. 176

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, olive-brown with a dull tawny olive head; lores black. *Below*, chin black, sides of head and breast ochraceous, belly buff, flanks tinged with olivaceous. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. The Himalayas from Murree east to central Nepal. From 750 to 2400 m at all seasons, optimum breeding zone 1500-2000 m; occasionally descends in winter to 300 m. Affects light forest, scrub jungle, bamboo, small nullahs and hedgerows.

GENERAL HABITS. In the non-breeding season associates in small flocks of 8 to 10 birds occasionally with the mixed itinerant foraging parties, feeding mostly on the ground turning over fallen leaves in search of insects, or hopping about in the undergrowth, paying special attention to dead leaves. Rarely ascends trees as high as three or four metres. The birds pair off in March.

FOOD. Insects; occasionally berries.

VOICE and CALLS. A soft *chir*. Alarm, a slow *pee-ve-ve*; some song phrases include *phir-dee-dee*, *chur-de-du* (Fleming). Song aptly likened to the ringing of a tiny bell (Proud); reminiscent also of an iora's calls — a soft mellow whistling *wit-wit-wit-wit* etc. repeated quickly 7 or 8 times (SA). Song period in Nepal end February till October (Proud).

BREEDING. *Season*, April to July. *Nest*, domed — a ball of grass or dead leaves loosely put together, lined with fibres or pine needles. Usually placed low down in scrub, occasionally as high as 1.5 m. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, white, lightly speckled and spotted, chiefly at the larger end with pinkish red or brick-red. Unmarked eggs are rare. Average size of 32 eggs 16.5 × 13 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters; for details of plumage Baker, loc. cit.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	52-56	15-16	c. 18	48-52 mm
♀♀	50-54	15-16	—	45-51 mm

(BB, Rand & Fleming)

Weight 5 ♂♂ c. 10-11.5; 4 ♀♀ c. 8-11 g (Diesselhorst).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris ♂ crimson, ♀ red. Bill dark brown, lower mandible flesh-coloured. Legs, feet and claws pale brownish flesh.

STACHYRIS CHRYSAEA Blyth

Key to the Subspecies

- Back yellowish olive, underparts bright chrome-yellow.....*S. c. chrysaea*
 Back greyish olive, underparts dull orange-yellow...*S. c. binghami*

1212. Nepal Goldenheaded Babbler. *Stachyris chrysaea chrysaea* Blyth

Stachyris chrysaea Blyth, 1844, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 13: 379 (Nepal)

Stachyris chrysaea chrysocoma Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 5
 (Karong, Manipur)

Baker, FBI No. 273, Vol. 1: 265

Vol. 7, plate 77

LOCAL NAMES. *Syak-birang-pho* (Lepcha); *Pra-li-ne* or *Pe-ma-ra* (Mishmi).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, forehead, crown and nape golden yellow, the last two streaked with black; lores and a short moustachial stripe black. Back and ear-coverts yellowish olive. *Below*, bright yellow. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. From west central Nepal (Pokhara, Proud, JBNHS 53: 58, the only post-Hodgsonian record) east through Sikkim, Bhutan, NEFA to the Mishmi Hills, the hills of Assam south to the range of *binghami*, Nagaland and Manipur.

In the Himalayas from 1200 to 2600 m; optimum zone 1500–2000 m; in Assam from 900 to 1800 m, and in Lakhimpur down to 300 m. Affects dense bushes, bamboo and seedling undergrowth and *Rubus* thickets in humid secondary jungle and evergreen forest, deserted cultivation and clearings.

Extralimital. Northern Burma to western Yunnan. The species ranges east to Vietnam and south to the Malay peninsula and western Sumatra.

GENERAL HABITS. An active and restless species found in mixed parties of babblers, flycatchers, and warblers, slipping through bamboo and undergrowth, as well as up in the foliage canopy of trees though seldom ascending very high; clinging to sprigs and peering under leaves in search of insects like a tit. The flocks work feverishly, and sweep on rapidly from tree to tree. Shy but very inquisitive, hopping ceaselessly in tangled undergrowth around 'frozen' observer with the restlessness of a flycatcher, tail cocked and wings drooping at the sides.

FOOD. Insects; occasionally berries.

VOICE and CALLS. Members of a party keep up a constant, soft, low twittering which rises to shriller and louder notes — *chirik-chirik*, etc. if the birds become agitated or suspicious. The song consists of seven or eight notes on the same tone *pee pi-pi-pi-pi-pi-pi* very like the song of *S. ruficeps* (1210) but with a noticeable pause after the first note; another song consists of three sibilant notes rising in pitch *tzu-tzu-tzu*, somewhat like the song of Franklin's Wren-Warbler (Smythies).

BREEDING. *Season*, April to July. *Nest*, normally domed, made of bamboo leaves with an inner cup or lining of rootlets, measuring about 10 to 15 cm in height by 7 to 10 cm in width. Placed in bamboo clumps about 30 to 60 cm from the ground, often buried in fallen leaves, or on the ground, well screened by sheltering bushes and weeds, almost always on a bank. *Eggs*, 4, white, rarely spotted with reddish brown. Average size of 70 eggs 15.4 × 12.2 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies; for details of plumage, Baker, loc. cit.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	47–56	13–14	17–19	40–50 mm (SDR, SA)

Weight 7 ♂♂ 6–10; 1 ♀ 7 g (SDR, SA, BB).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris light brown. Bill dark slaty horn above, paler below. Legs and feet pale yellowish brown to greenish brown.

1213. **Chin Hills Goldenheaded Babbler.** *Stachyris chrysaea binghami* Rippon

Stachyris binghami Rippon, 1904, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 14: 84
(Mount Victoria, Chin Hills)

Stachyris chrysaea crocina Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 6
(Sangau, Lushai Hills)

Baker, FBI No. 274, Vol. 1: 266

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1212.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Assam in the Mizo Hills south to the hills of East Pakistan, from 1200 m up. Habitat as in 1212.

Extralimital. The Chin Hills and Arakan in Burma.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1212.

BREEDING. As in 1212.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1212.

STACHYRIS NIGRICEPS Blyth

Key to the Subspecies

		Page
A	Throat feathers edged with white..... <i>S. n. nigriceps</i>	174
B	Throat feathers not edged with white	
a	Ear-coverts rufous-brown..... <i>S. n. coltarti</i>	177
b	Ear-coverts brown	
1	Darker; ear-coverts seal-brown..... <i>S. n. coei</i>	176
2	Paler; ear-coverts burnt umber..... <i>S. n. spadix</i>	176

1214. Blackthroated Babbler. *Stachyris nigriceps nigriceps* Blyth

Stachyris nigriceps Blyth, 1844, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 13: 378 (Nepal)

Baker, FBI No. 270, Vol. 1: 264

Vol. 7, plate 77

LOCAL NAMES. *Moostay* (Paharia); *Sangriam-pho* (Lepcha).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 12 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, crown blackish striped with white; a black supercilium extending to nape; rest of upperparts olive-brown. *Below*, chin and throat slate-grey bordered by white malar stripes; rest of underparts fulvous tinged with olivaceous on flanks and lower belly. Sexes alike.



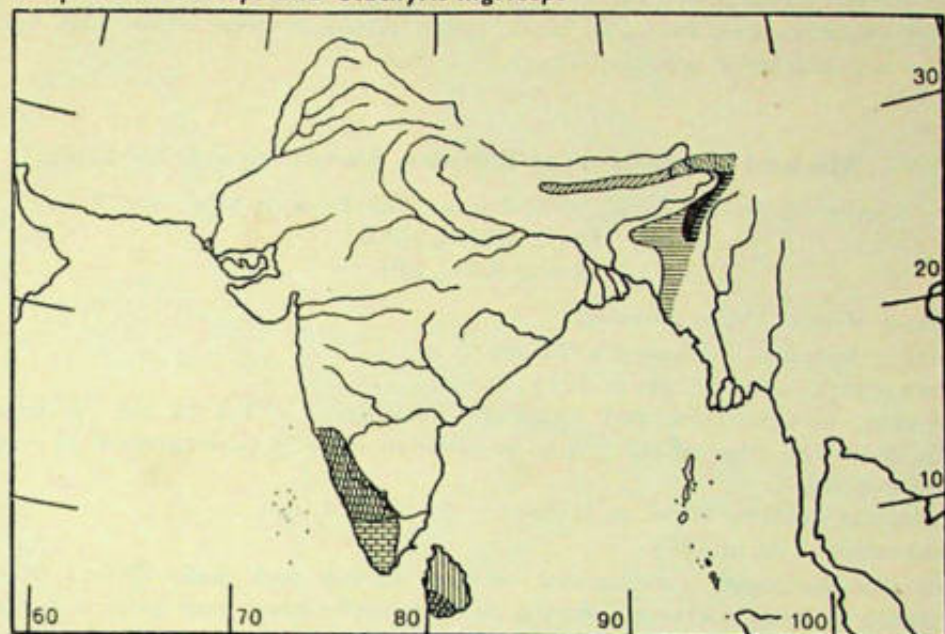
x c. 1

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. From central Nepal east through Sikkim, Bhutan and NEFA to the

Miri Hills where it intergrades with *coei*. From *c.* 760 to 1800 m, breeding mostly above 1000 m in the western parts of its range, but descending to the edge of the plains farther east. Affects secondary scrub and bamboo jungle in light or dense forest.

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps in parties of 5 to 20, commonly in association with other species of small babblers. Very active, incessantly on the move. When one bird flies to another thicket, the rest promptly follow in twos and threes. Frequents the lower growth. Pairs form in late March.

FOOD. Almost entirely insects; berries and nectar also taken.

Rhopocichla atriceps and *Stachyris nigriceps*

Distributional ranges

- R. a. atriceps* (1224). *R. a. bourdilloni* (1225). *R. a. siccatus* (1226).
R. a. nigrifrons (1227). *S. n. nigriceps* (1214). *S. n. coei* (1215).
S. n. coltarti (1217). *S. n. spadix* (1216).

VOICE AND CALLS. Alarm, an explosive *chhrrri* repeated several times; call-note, a repeated, loud, insistent *tweeye-t'twa* (rising-low) (Lister). Song, a peculiar single note followed by a trill which sounds like a small bell rung faster and faster, then stopping abruptly (Proud). A low, sweet, rather mournful whistle (SA).

BREEDING. *Season*, chiefly April to July. *Nest*, domed, outwardly made of bamboo leaves very loosely put together, interiorly built of rootlets, moss, a few dead leaves and fern fronds, lined with finer moss and fern roots. Nearly always placed on the ground, generally on a bank and well concealed in shrubs, grass or fallen debris; rarely in a bamboo clump or a bush up to 60 cm. *Eggs*, 4, rarely 5 or 3, white. Average size of 50 eggs 18.8×14.4 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *coei* in being paler and having the throat feathers edged with white.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	52-62	17-19	21-22	50-56 mm
♀♀	56-63	17-18	21-22	47-51 mm

(BB, SDR, SA, Rand & Fleming)

Weight 10 ♂♂ 14-17; 7 ♀♀ 10-17 g (GD, BB).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris pinkish biscuit colour, orange-brown or reddish brown. Bill: upper mandible horny brown, lower pale flesh, darker in summer.

Legs and feet olive-yellow (SA). *Or*: Iris dull brownish white or dull whitish yellow. Upper mandible dark brown to black, lower whitish to fleshy white. Legs dull yellow to dull greenish yellow (SDR).

1215. **Mishmi Blackthroated Babbler.** *Stachyris nigriceps coei* Ripley

Stachyris nigriceps coei Ripley, 1952, Postilla, Yale Peabody Mus., No. 14: 2

(Dreyi, Mishmi Hills)

Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 12 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1214.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. NEFA in the Mishmi Hills, from the edge of the plains to 1800 m. Affects undergrowth in wet evergreen forest.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1214, q.v.

BREEDING. As in 1214.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Intermediate between *nigriceps* and *spadix*. Differs from the former in being darker and having an unstreaked throat; from *spadix* in being darker with a more blackish throat and dark seal-brown ear-coverts; from *coltarti* in having dark brown rather than rufous-brown ear-coverts, and by being a purer less rufescent brown below.

MEASUREMENTS. As in 1214.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Upper mandible black, lower greyish horn. Legs dull greenish yellow.

1216. **Assam Blackthroated Babbler.** *Stachyris nigriceps spadix* Ripley

Stachyris nigriceps spadix Ripley, 1948, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 68: 89

(Laisung, north Cachar)

Stachyris nigriceps ravida Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 5

(Sangau, Lushai Hills)

Baker, FBI No. 271 (part), Vol. 1: 265

LOCAL NAME. *Dao-riaphong* (Cachari).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 12 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1214.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Assam in the Garo, Khasi, Cachar and Mizo (Lushai) hills, and East Pakistan in the northeastern hills and the Chittagong region, from the edge of the plains to 1800 m. Affects undergrowth in evergreen forest.

Extralimital. Southern Burma south and east to northern Tenasserim; northwestern Thailand. The species ranges east to Vietnam and south to the Malay peninsula, Sumatra and Borneo.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1214.

BREEDING. *Season*, March to August. *Nest and eggs*, as in 1214. Average size of 200 eggs 19.1 × 14.7 mm (Baker). Female does most of the building; both birds incubate; incubation period about twelve days.



PLATE 70

- 1 *Pellorneum palustre*, Marsh Spotted Babbler (1160). 2 *Trichastoma a. abbotti*, Abbott's Babbler (1167).
- 3 *Pnoepyga a. albiventer*, Scalybreasted Wren-Babbler (1198). 4 *Pomatorhinus o. stenorhynchus*, Longbilled Scimitar Babbler (1189).
- 5 *Pomatorhinus e. erythrogenys*, Rustychecked Scimitar Babbler (1181).
- 6 *Dumetia h. hyperythra*, Rufousbellied Babbler (1222). 7 *Napothera b. striata*, Streaked Wren-Babbler (1194).
- 8 *Spelaeornis e. chocolatinus*, Streaked Longtailed Wren-Babbler (1203).
- 9 *Stachyris pyrrhops*, Blackchinned Babbler (1211).
- 10 *Spelaeornis longicaudatus*, Longtailed Wren-Babbler (1202).
- 11 *Sphenocichla h. humei*, Wedgebilled Wren (1207).
- 12 *Stachyris oglei*, Austen's Spotted Babbler (1218).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *coei* in being paler and having a more slate-grey throat.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in *nigriceps*.

1217. Nagaland Blackthroated Babbler. *Stachyris nigriceps coltarti*
Harington

Stachyris nigriceps coltarti Harington, 1913, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 33: 61
(Margherita, Assam)

Baker, FBI No. 271 (part), Vol. 1: 265

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 12 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1214.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Northeast Assam in the Margherita area, and Nagaland, from the edge of the plains to 1800 m. Affects bamboo and undergrowth in wet evergreen forest and thick scrub jungle.

Extralimital. Northern Burma.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1214.

BREEDING. As in 1214.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *spadix* in having the ear-coverts rufous-brown rather than brown; from *coei* by the same character and also by being a more rufescent brown below.

MEASUREMENTS. As in 1214.

Weight 3 ♂♂ 16–17 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1215.

1218. Austen's Spotted Babbler. *Stachyris oglei* (Godwin-Austen)

Actinura oglei Godwin-Austen, 1877, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 46: 42 (Sadiya, Assam)

Baker, FBI No. 268, Vol. 1: 262

Plate 70, fig. 12, facing p. 176

LOCAL NAME. *Chum-pitti* (Trans-Dikku Naga).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, crown and nape rich golden brown, back duller. Wings and tail narrowly barred. A conspicuous white supercilium from lores to nape, breaking up into spots on the sides of neck and bordered above by a black line from forehead to nape; ear-coverts black. *Below*, throat white, breast slate-grey; rest of underparts umber-brown. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Rare resident with a very restricted range. Evidently confined to northeastern Assam in the Patkai Range near Margherita and the hills north of Sadiya. Nests were brought in from an altitude of 1800 m or higher. Appears to inhabit moist dense scrub in rocky ravines.

GENERAL HABITS. Very little known. According to native collectors, keeps much to the heaviest undergrowth, is silent, skulking and does not go about in flocks.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Unrecorded.

BREEDING. *Season*, April to June. *Nest* (not seen *in situ* by any ornithologist), a large, globular structure made of bamboo leaves mixed with roots, twigs, dead leaves and a little moss. Said by the native collectors to be placed on the ground, under bushes in rocky ravines. *Eggs*, about 4, white. Average size of 15 eggs 22.8×17.1 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	68-76	c. 17	c. 27	c. 53 mm (Baker)
1 ♀	63	(from skull) 20	26	53 mm (SDR)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris crimson. Bill dark horny, paler below. Legs and feet brown (Coltart).

Genus DUMETIA Blyth

Dumetia Blyth, 1849, Cat. Bds. Mus. Asiat. Soc.: 140, 185. Type, by subsequent designation (G. R. Gray, 1855, Cat. Gen. Subgen. Bds. Brit. Mus.: 45),
Timalia hyperythra Franklin

Similar to *Timalia*, also with stiff shafts to feathers of forehead and crown but bill slenderer and smaller.

DUMETIA HYPERYTHRA (Franklin)

Key to the Subspecies

	Page
A Throat concolorous with rest of underparts..... <i>D. h. hyperythra</i>	181
B Throat white	
1 Reddish brown of head brighter and extending to crown..... <i>D. h. abuensis</i>	178
2 Reddish brown duller and more or less restricted to forehead	
a Darker below, bill more slender..... <i>D. h. albogularis</i>	179
b Paler below, bill heavier..... <i>D. h. phillipsi</i>	182

1219, 1220. **Mount Abu Whitethroated Babbler.** *Dumetia hyperythra abuensis* Harington

Dumetia albogularis abuensis Harington, 1915, Jour. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 23: 429
(Mount Abu)

Dumetia hyperythra navarroii Abdulali, 1959, Jour. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 56: 333
(Khandala, Poona District, Western Ghats)
Baker, FBI No. 231, Vol. 1: 230

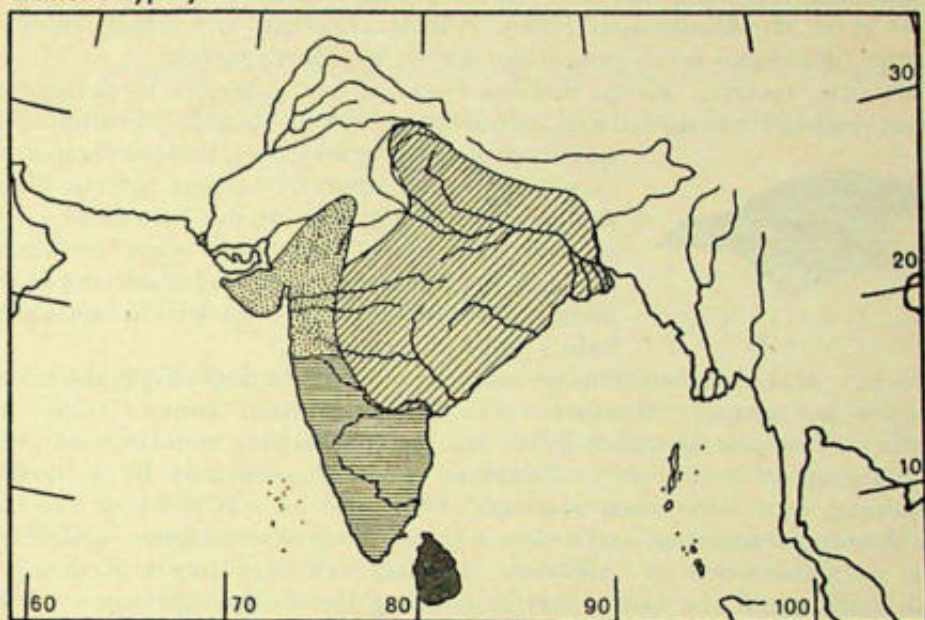
LOCAL NAME. *Karamadi lalédo* (Gujarati).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As of 1221. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Southern Rajasthan (Sambhar and Mount Abu), Saurashtra peninsula, eastern Gujarat,

Dumetia hyperythra



Distributional ranges

 *abuensis* (1219).

 *hyperythra* (1222).

 *albogularis* (1221).

 *phillipsi* (1223).

westernmost Satpuras, and the Western Ghats south to Poona (where it intergrades with *albogularis*) and east to about Kannad in Marathwada, c. 20°N., 75°E. Affects well-wooded country and scrub.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD, VOICE and CALLS. As in 1221, q.v.

BREEDING. Season, from the latter part of June when the rains have well set in, till September. Nest and eggs, as in 1221.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *albogularis* in having the whole crown chestnut and the underparts paler.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1221.

1221. **Whitethroated Babbler.** *Dumetia hyperythra albogularis* (Blyth)

M.(alacocercus) (?) *albogularis* Blyth, 1847, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 16: 453

(southern India, restricted to Mysore by Baker, 1921, Handlist: 24)

Baker, FBI No. 230, Vol. 1: 229

LOCAL NAMES. *Shah dumri* (Hindi); *Pandi-jitta* ('pig-bird'—Telugu); *Chinna chilappan* (Malayalam).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Above, olive-brown with a reddish brown cap. Below, throat white, rest of underparts ochraceous. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Southern India south of the Krishna river and Mahabaleshwar; intergrades with *hyperythra* in the Nallamalai range, with *abuensis* in the Poona district and with *phillipsi* in southern Kerala. From near sea level generally up to c. 1200 m (up to 1800 m in the Cardamom Hills). Affects grassland and scrub, bamboo clumps, deciduous scrub jungle and forest; avoids evergreen.

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps in loose flocks of five to twelve birds hopping about restlessly among tall grass, undergrowth or on the ground rummaging quietly among the dead leaves, flicking them aside or peering under them for lurking insects. Great skulkers, scattering and diving into thick cover on the least alarm, the flock soon re-uniting through the agitated cheeps and chittering of the members. Closely resembles *Stachyris* in behaviour, habits and appearance.



x c. 1

FOOD. Mainly insects. Flower-nectar (e.g. *Erythrina*, *Salmalia*) is also taken.

VOICE and CALLS. Members of a flock maintain contact with one another by means of rather feeble but sharp cheeping notes *sweech-sweech* (reminiscent of a sunbird — *Nectarinia*) varied occasionally by a harsher twittering, especially when alarmed (SA). Also 'a soft *tack-tack* like two pebbles tapped together, and a clear whistling song of seven notes' (Nichols). This song described as 'pleasant, the first half very like a Redwinged Bush Lark's and the latter part resembling the canary-like notes of the sunbird, the two running into each other without a break' (Lowther).

BREEDING. *Season*, not well defined, mostly during the monsoon (June to October). *Nest*, a neat ball-shaped structure about 15 cm in diameter, made of coarse grasses and bamboo leaves, lined with finer grasses, with the entrance on the side. One nest was reportedly made of curly paper shavings used in packing bottles. Usually placed in some thorny bush overgrown with monsoon creepers within two metres from the ground, most often near, or on the ground in clumps of grass. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, white, spotted and blotched with reddish brown. Average size of 50 eggs 17.4 x 14.1 mm (Baker). Brood-parasitized by the Baybanded Cuckoo (582).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from the nominate subspecies (1222) in having a white throat; from *abuensis* in having the reddish brown restricted to forehead; *phillipsi* is paler and has a heavier bill. Prenuptial moult takes place in January and February.

Young, has the whole upper plumage a brighter, more rufous brown, without reddish brown on forehead or crown; lower plumage duller, more fulvous brown, with mere traces of white on the chin, throat and central abdomen. Postjuvenile moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	53-65	14-15	18-20	59-69 mm
♀♀	52-58	14-15	18-21	55-69 mm

(HW, SA, Koelz)

Weight 10 ♂ 10-15 (av. 12.9) g — SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris creamy white. Bill pale horny brown, paler on lower mandible; mouth pale yellowish flesh to pink, apparently varying with age. Legs and feet yellowish flesh, duskier on anterior tarsus; claws brown.

1222. **Rufousbellied Babbler.** *Dumetia hyperythra hyperythra* (Franklin)

Timalia hyperythra Franklin, 1831, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 118

(Ganges near Benares)

Baker, FBI No. 229, Vol. 1: 228

Plate 70, fig. 6, facing p. 176

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1221, but underparts entirely clay-coloured; no white.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident, but unevenly distributed. From Simla along the Himalayan foothills through Uttar Pradesh, Nepal terai to Darjeeling duars, West Bengal and East Pakistan west of the Brahmaputra, south to the Krishna river and west approximately to a line Hyderabad-Jalna-Mhow-Jhansi. Intergrades with *albogularis* in the Nallamalai range and with *abuensis* in the Jalna area. In the plains and hills up to *c.* 900 m. Affects tall grass and thorn scrub jungle.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1221.

BREEDING. Season, March to mid September (monsoon). Nest, of two types, either an oval ball of dead bamboo leaves lying on its side, with the entrance at the end or, more commonly, a ball of coarse grass with the entrance about half-way up the side, without lining or with a slight one of fine fern stems or grasses. Usually placed near the ground among grass and weeds surrounding a small bush, exceptionally in a bush up to about 1.5 m. May be situated on the outskirts of jungle or a little way inside, but most often alongside some path. Eggs, usually 4, sometimes 3, white with reddish brown spots and blotches. Average size of 50 eggs 17.3 × 13.8 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Distinguished from other subspecies by its uniformly clay-coloured underparts (no white on throat or abdomen). Postnuptial moult complete in October and November. A partial prenuptial moult in April and May, confined to head, neck and breast.

Young, differs from adult in lacking the reddish brown tinge of the forehead. Colour of underparts duller and paler. May also be recognized by the broad, soft round-tipped first primary and soft narrow tail-feathers. Postjuvenile moult complete and remarkable for the sudden casting of rectrices.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	53-58	13-14	19-21	57-64 mm
♀♀	52-55	13-14*	19-20	58-63 mm
				(HW, SA)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris hazel brown or yellowish red. Bill pale brown; mouth pale fleshy pink. Legs and feet light brown or pale yellowish.

1223. **Ceylon Whitethroated Babbler.** *Dumetia hyperythra phillipsi*
Whistler

Dumetia hyperythra phillipsi Whistler, 1941, Ibis: 319
(Kumbalgamuwa, Ceylon, 3000 ft)
Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAMES. *Batechia*, *Parandel-kurullā* (Sinhala).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1221. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, well distributed and moderately plentiful. Ceylon in the low country and hills up to 1500 m or higher in some districts. Affects scrub and high grasslands in both the Wet and Dry zones.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1221.

BREEDING. *Season*, ill-defined; in the hills, mostly March to May and again in August and September, but nests have been found in every month except November and December. In the low-country Wet zone, chiefly January and February and also in September. In the Dry zone, in the south as well as in the north, the season starts with the November rains and may continue well into June, though the majority of nests are found during December, January and February. Appears to have two broods. *Nest*, as in 1221. *Eggs*, generally 3, occasionally 2, rarely 4, white, spotted and blotched with reddish brown, c. 18 × 14 mm.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *albogularis* (1221) in being paler rufous below, with the white of the central abdomen more extensive. Bill larger and heavier.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	54-59	14-15	19-20	54-63 mm
♀♀	54-59	c. 14	19-20	55-61 mm (HW)

Weight 1 ♂ 14 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1222.

Genus RHOPOCICHLA Oates

Rhopocichla Oates, 1889, Fauna Brit. India, Bds. 1: 159. Type, by original designation, *Brachypteryx atriceps* Jerdon

Differs from *Alcippe* in having the nostrils roundish, exposed, and pierced in the anterior part of the membrane, and the tail shorter than the wing. Eggs of the two genera also different.

RHOPOCICHLA ATRICEPS (Jerdon)

Key to the Subspecies

		Page
A	Entire crown very dark brown	
1	Crown blackish brown, almost black.....	<i>R. a. atriceps</i> 183
2	Crown sooty brown.....	<i>R. a. bourdilloni</i> 183
B	Dark brown restricted to forehead	
3	Upperparts olivaceous-fulvous.....	<i>R. a. siccatus</i> 184
4	Upperparts a more saturated rusty fulvous.....	<i>R. a. nigrifrons</i> 185

1224. **Blackheaded Babbler.** *Rhopocichla atriceps atriceps* (Jerdon)*Brachypteryx atriceps* Jerdon, 1839, Madras Jour. Lit. Sci. 10: 250

(Trichoor = Wynaad vide Whistler, 1935, JBNHS 38: 82)

Baker, FBI No. 294, Vol. 1: 281

LOCAL NAME. *Poti chilappan* (Malayalam).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, head blackish brown, looking black at a distance, sharply defined from the rest of upper plumage which is olive-brown (bistre). Eyes pale yellow. *Below*, whitish, lower belly olive-brown. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. The Western Ghats from Belgaum south to the Palghat Gap, and east to Shimoga and the Biligirirangan Hills (Mysore). From the lowlands to 1800 m, optimum elevation 600 to 1200 m (see map, p. 175). Essentially a bird of evergreen biotope. Affects sholas, thickets near streams, dense and marshy jungle, reed-beds, bamboo jungle, cardamom cultivation; particularly fond of cane brakes in dank ravines.

GENERAL HABITS. Moves about the undergrowth, much in the manner of *Dumetia*, in parties of up to a dozen birds or more, often with other babblers. Seldom ascends more than a metre or two above the ground, but when having ventured too far up, has a habit of dropping perpendicularly like a falling leaf into the thickets below on the slightest alarm.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Utters sundry squeaks and a harsh, rather subdued *chur-r chur-r*, like an iora's, when a flock is working through undergrowth. Alarm, a rattling *chur-r*. Song, if any, not recorded.BREEDING. *Season*, ill-defined, practically the whole year, but there appear to be two main periods, before and after the monsoon (Betts); main season seems to be March to July. *Nest*, a rough ball of dead bamboo or grass blades lined with black rootlets and grass, well hidden in thick shrubs, usually within one metre from the ground. This species builds 'cock nests', very loosely and untidily made balls of bamboo leaves, unlined and usually in full view; they are not used for breeding though the birds, at times up to four individuals, roost in them. Wherever the species occurs, one finds many of these nests at all times of the year, often two or three, sometimes more, close together, thus leading some observers to believe that the species may be 'semi-colonial' in its breeding habits. *Eggs*, normally 2, white, speckled or spotted with brownish red, slightly more so at the larger end. Average size of 24 eggs 19.3×13.8 mm (Baker).MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *bourdilloni* in having the crown blackish brown instead of sooty brown.MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in *bourdilloni*.1225. **Kerala Blackheaded Babbler.** *Rhopocichla atriceps bourdilloni* (Hume)*Alcippe bourdilloni* Hume, 1876, Stray Feathers 4: 485 (Mynall, Travancore)

Baker, FBI No. 295, Vol. 1: 282

Plate 69, fig. 5, facing p. 128

LOCAL NAME. *Poti chilappan* (Malayalam).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1224. See Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. The hills of Kerala and western Tamil Nadu south of the Palghat Gap; from the lowlands to c. 1800 m, (see map, p. 175). Habitat as in 1224.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1224, q.v.

BREEDING. As in 1224. Average size of 24 eggs 19.1×14.1 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Intermediate between *atriceps* and *nigrifrons*. Differs from *atriceps* in having the crown, nape, lores and cheeks sooty brown instead of very dark blackish brown, and the underparts from lower breast to under tail-coverts ferruginous. Adult and juvenal plumages agree in being brown-headed, but there is a certain amount of individual variation.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	55-61	14-16	—	46-52 mm
♀♀	54-58	14-16	21-22	43-48 mm

(SA, HW, Koelz)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris lemon-yellow or pale yellow. Bill: upper mandible dark horny brown; commissure and lower mandible pale greyish flesh; adult mouth pale pinkish flesh, young mouth and gape yellow. Legs and feet pinkish grey; claws dusky.

1226. Ceylon Dry Zone Blackheaded Babbler. *Rhopocichla atriceps siccatus* Whistler

Rhopocichla atriceps siccatus Whistler, 1941, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 62: 37
(Kalawewa, N.C.P., Ceylon)

Baker, FBI No. 296 (part), Vol. 1: 282

LOCAL NAMES. *Parandel-kurullā*, *Battichecha* (Sinhala).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1224, but blackish restricted to forehead and ear-coverts.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Ceylon in the low-country Dry zone and Hill zone up to over 2100 m, (see map, p. 175). Affects undergrowth in forest, scrub and bamboo.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1224, q.v.

BREEDING. *Season*, breeds the year round but chiefly from February to the end of May and during October and November. *Nest* and *eggs*, as in 1224.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Similar to *nigrifrons* (1227) but fulvous-brown of upper-parts, wings and tail olivaceous-fulvous instead of a more saturated rusty fulvous; brown of lower flanks, vent and under tail-coverts olivaceous-brown v. earth-brown.

Young. Similar to adult but black of sides of head less sharply defined; edges of wings, tail and wing-coverts more rusty.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	55-60	14-16	21-23	43-50 mm
♀♀	54-60	14-15	21-23	42-48 mm

(HW, SDR)

Weight 1 ♀ 16 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris yellow or yellowish. Upper mandible brownish horn, lower whitish horn. Legs pearly pink or flesh-coloured.

1227. **Ceylon Wet Zone Blackheaded Babbler.** *Rhopocichla atriceps nigrifrons* (Blyth)

Alcippe nigrifrons Blyth, 1849, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 18: 815
(Uragaha, S.P., Ceylon)

Baker, FBI No. 296 (part), Vol. 1: 282

LOCAL NAMES. *Parandel-kurullā*, *Battichcha* (Sinhala).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 13 cm (5 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1224, but blackish restricted to forehead and ear-coverts.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Ceylon in the low-country Wet zone and the hills of the southwest (see map, p. 175). Affects scrub and evergreen forest.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1224, q.v.

BREEDING. Season, nests have been found in every month except December and January, but main periods are April and May, and October and November. Nest, as in 1224. As many as four or five birds have been observed working on the same nest used as roosting-shelter. After a nest has been used for rearing young, it may be used long afterwards as a family roost. Eggs, almost invariably 2, similar to those of 1224. Average size of 30 eggs 19.6×13.7 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *siccatus* in being a much richer, warmer brown on back, wings and tail.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
3 ♂♂	59-60	15	22-23	44-48 mm
2 ♀♀	56, 58	15	22, 23	44 mm (HW)

Weight 1 ♂ 17; 1 ♀ 16 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1226.

Genus *MACRONOUS* Jardine & Selby

Macronous Jardine & Selby, 1835, Ill. Orn., text to pl. 150. Type, by monotypy,

Macronous ptilosus Jardine & Selby

Mixornis Blyth, 1842, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 11: 749, footnote. Type, by original designation, *Iora chloris* Hodgson MS = *Timalia chloris* Blyth

Differs from other slender-billed Timaliinae in having the nostrils oval, exposed and not covered by a scale or membrane.

1228. **Yellowbreasted Babbler.** *Macronous gularis rubricapilla* (Tickell)

Motacilla rubricapilla Tickell, 1833, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 2: 576 (Borabhum)

Macronus [sic] *gularis mayri* Koelz, 1951, Jour. Zool. Soc. India 3: 27

(Sukna, Darjeeling District, Bengal)

Macronus [sic] *gularis assamicus* Koelz, 1951, Jour. Zool. Soc. India 3: 27

(Tura, Garo Hills, Assam)

Baker, FBI No. 283, Vol. 1: 273

Plate 67, fig. 4, facing p. 64 and Vol. 7, plate 76

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 11 cm (4 in.).

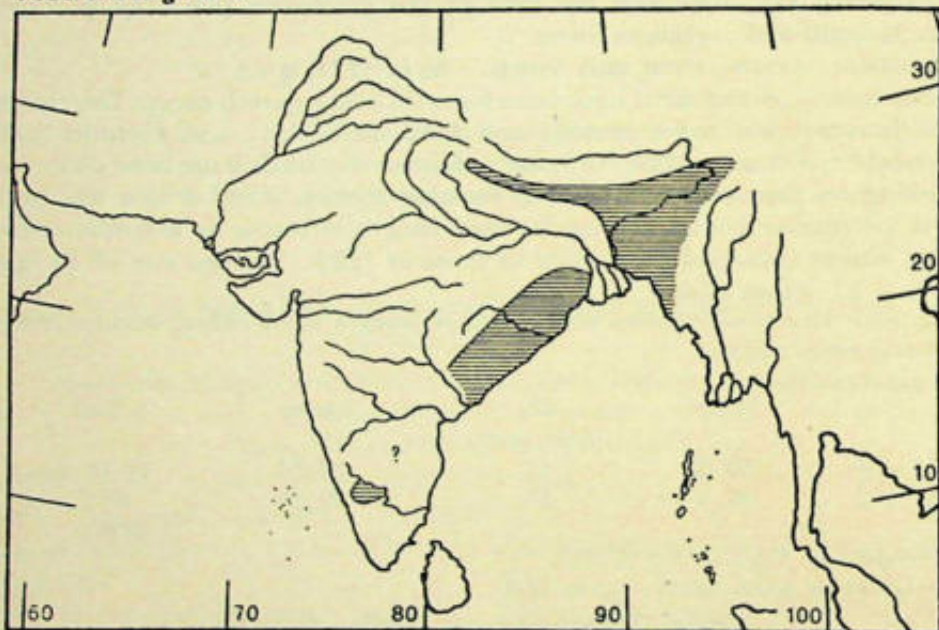
FIELD CHARACTERS.



x c. 1

Above, greyish olive with tawny olive cap and wings. Lores and supercilium pale yellow. *Below*, chin, throat and breast pale yellow with dark streaks. Belly pale yellow; sides of body olive-buff. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. From western Nepal in the bhabar, duns and terai east through Darjeeling and Sikkim duars and Bhutan foothills; the plains and base of hills in Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, East Pakistan, West Bengal, southeast Bihar (Chota Nagpur), Orissa, southeast Madhya Pradesh (Bastar district),

Macronous gularis

■ Distributional range of *M. g. rubricapilla* (1228).

northeast Andhra Pradesh (Vishakhapatnam Ghats) and south Mysore (Mysore District); usually below 600 m (up to 900 m in the Peninsula). Affects both light and dense forest among bushes and undergrowth, bamboo jungle, long grass and brushwood.

Extralimital. Numerous subspecies throughout the Indochinese countries, Malaysia, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, Palawan, and neighbouring islands.

GENERAL HABITS. A low-elevation babbler; one of the noisiest of the tribe, thus unlikely to be overlooked wherever occurring. Keeps in parties up to a dozen or more — singly or pairs during breeding season — often in mixed company. Hunts in the foliage canopy or up amongst bamboos, the flocks quickly moving on, or 'flowing' from tree to tree. Actions and behaviour rather tit-like — similar to *Alcippe*, *Minla* and other small babblers: clinging to leaves upside down and sideways and scanning the undersurface for insects. Occasionally feeds on the ground.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A rich, mellow, rather metallic *kew-kew-kew-kew-kew* repeated monotonously for minutes, with short breaks between the runs — rather like one of the Tailor Bird's calls but even more surprisingly loud for the size of the bird; occasionally varied by a harsh *chichoo* or *chrr-chichoo* (SA). Birds of a feeding party keep up a soft, conversational *pick pick* etc. Alarm, a sharp *chr-r-r*. Apparently also has a song, but this has not been intelligibly described.

BREEDING. *Season*, April to July, chiefly May and June. *Nest*, globular, varying in size from 10 to 20 cm in diameter, made of bamboo leaves, broad grass blades or palm strands, lined with fine grass and fine fibrous rootlets. Placed fairly low down in bushes or bamboo clumps, looking very much like a wind-blown cluster of bamboo leaves. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, occasionally 5, white, marked with very small blotches and specks of reddish brown, generally forming a ring at the large end. Average size of 120 eggs 16.6×12.6 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	55-63	14-16	17-19	47-57 mm
♀♀	52-61	14-16	18-19	46-55 mm

(BB, HW, SA, Rand & Fleming)

Weight 5 ♂♂ 10-14; 4 ♀♀ 10-12 g (SA, GD, BB).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris whitish yellow. Bill slate. Legs pale brown.

Genus TIMALIA Horsfield

Timalia Horsfield, 1821, Trans. Linn. Soc. London 13: 150, pl. 1. Type, by monotypy,
Timalia pileata Horsfield

Characterized by the peculiar rigid shafts of the feathers of forehead and crown and by its deep black bill. Tail longer than wing, much graduated.

1229. Redcapped Babbler. *Timalia pileata bengalensis* Godwin-Austen

Timalia bengalensis Godwin-Austen, 1872, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 41: 143
(Khasi Hills)

Timalia pileata arundicola Koelz, 1952, Jour. Zool. Soc. India 4: 153
(Karong, Manipur)

Baker, FBI No. 227, Vol. 1: 226

Plate 67, fig. 2, facing p. 64 and Vol. 7, plate 76

LOCAL NAMES. *Vongnavi* (Mikir); *Dao-maogasha gashim* (Cachari); *Ingéto* (Kacha Naga).

SIZE. Sparrow +; length c. 17 cm (6½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, forehead white continued as a streak over the eye; crown chestnut; lores and stout bill black; ear-coverts white, sides of neck slate grey. Back olive-brown, slightly streaked on upper back; tail

brown, narrowly barred, graduated. *Below*, chin and throat white, the latter with fine black streaks; belly buff, flanks olive-brown. Sexes alike.



x c. 1

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. From the western Nepal terai east to Gorakhpur (east U.P.), the plains of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts (duars), the foothills of Sikkim and Bhutan, the flood plains of the Brahmaputra, West Bengal (Calcutta), East Pakistan, Assam, Nagaland and Manipur. From the lowlands to about

900 m, in the Khasi Hills on the grass-covered plateaux up to c. 1200 m. Affects low-lying swampy areas — tall grass, reed-beds, brushwood and scrub jungle, often along streams and roads.

Extralimital. Northwestern Burma and northern Arakan. The species extends north and east to Kweichow, Kwangsi and Vietnam; nominate race in Java.

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps in pairs during the breeding season, otherwise in small parties of up to 6 or 8 birds. Hunts in the lower cover working from stem to stem, picking insects off the twigs and leaves, threading its way through the tangles of tall grass and bushes, seldom exposing itself to view.

FOOD. Insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Ordinary call-note, a quiet *tit, tit* (Fleming). Alarm-notes harsh and rasping, very similar to the *korchuck* of the Great Reed Warbler (Bates); also a (conversational?) rolling *prrew* (SA). Song, a curious combination of a flute-like trill and a whistle, of about half a dozen notes, descending in pitch, distinctive and unlike any other bird-call. Another call commonly uttered as the bird climbs about in cover resembles *chew-aye, chit, chit, chit, chit*, or sometimes *scree . . . chit, chit, chit*; also one consisting of five or six notes harsh and rising in pitch (Smythies).

BREEDING. *Season*, March to October, *Nest*, a roughly made ball of coarse grass or strips of bamboo leaves with occasionally a few leaves or rootlets, and scantily lined with finer grass; the whole nest looks like an accumulation of rubbish. The entrance is large in proportion to the size of the nest (c. 5 cm); one nest is described (Roseveare) as cup-shaped. Placed low down in a bush or on the ground under the shelter of a bush or tussock of grass. *Eggs*, 3 to 5, white, marked with small blotches of dark umber-brown and a few secondary ones of dark inky grey, more numerous at the large end. Average size of 50 eggs 19 × 14.5 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. Colour of cap varies from chestnut to almost brick-red or maroon.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	58-62	18-19	23-24	65-71 mm
		(from feathers)		
♀♀	56-60	15-17	c. 22	c. 66 mm
				(BB, SDR, SA)

Weight 1 ♂ 17; 1 ♀ 15 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris reddish brown. Bill black; mouth black. Legs and feet dark brown; soles yellowish.

Genus *CHRYSOMMA* Blyth

Chrysomma Blyth, 1843, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 12: 181. Type, by original designation, *Timalia hypoleuca* Franklin = *C. sinense hypoleucum* (Franklin)

Bill short, deep, without a notch; nostrils oval and exposed. Tail graduated, the outer rectrices about half the length of the central ones.

Key to the Species

		Page
Bill black.....	<i>C. sinense</i>	189
Bill yellowish brown.....	<i>C. altirostre</i>	192

CHRYSOMMA SINENSE (Gmelin)

Key to the Subspecies

A Nostrils black, bill stouter.....	<i>C. s. nasalis</i>	192
B Nostrils yellow		
a Paler and greyer.....	<i>C. s. hypoleucum</i>	189
b Darker and browner.....	<i>C. s. sinense</i>	190

1230. **Western Yellow-eyed Babbler.** *Chrysomma sinense hypoleucum* (Franklin)

Timalia hypoleuca Franklin, 1831, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 118 (between Calcutta and Banaras = U.P., restricted by Ticehurst, 1922, Ibis: 543)

Chrysomma sinensis saurashtrense Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 4 (Sasan, Saurashtra)

Baker, FBI No. 234 (part), Vol. 1: 233

Plate 67, fig. 3, facing p. 64

LOCAL NAMES. *Bārā-pōdnā*, *Bārā-piddā*, *Gōtah* (Hindi).

SIZE. Bulbul —; length c. 18 cm (7 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1231.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common; absent from pure desert. West Pakistan and northwest India from Kohat and the Indus Valley, east to northern and eastern Uttar Pradesh, northwestern Madhya Pradesh and extreme northeastern Maharashtra. Intergrades with *sinense* in northern U.P. (Dehra Dun); eastern U.P. (Gorakhpur), western M.P. (Sagar, Schore, Indore) and Khandesh (Nasik, Igatpuri). In the plains and at the base of hills up to 1200 m. Affects scrub, thorn jungle, tamarisks, brushwood by streams, scrub-covered eroded ravines, edges of cultivation, reed-beds, bamboo, cane fields and tall coarse grass.

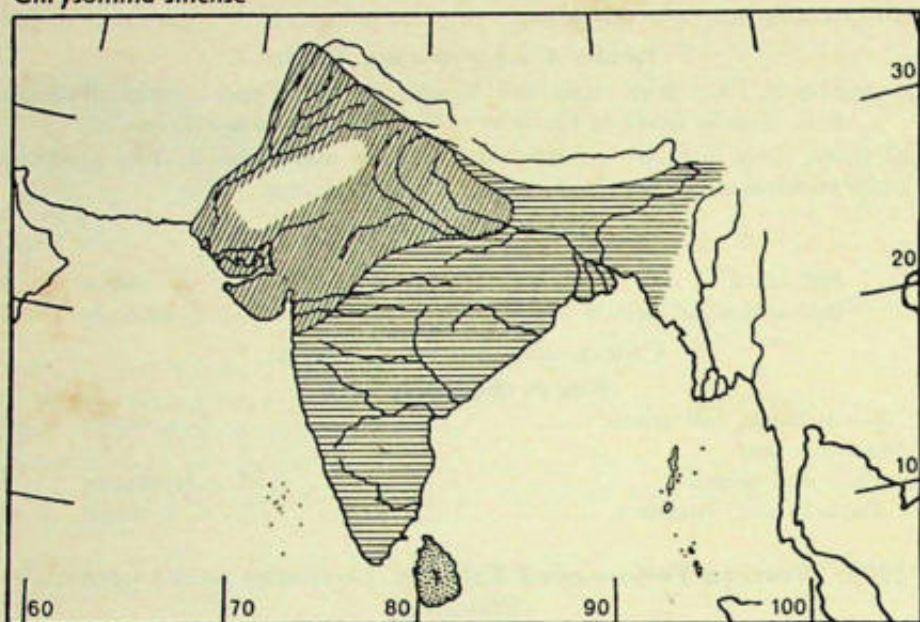
GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1231, q.v.

BREEDING. *Season*, June (rarely April) to September (monsoon). *Nest* and *eggs*, as in 1231. Average size of 46 eggs 19.1 × 14.5 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies. Postnuptial moult takes place in October-November.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	61-71	14-15	22-27	80-104 mm
♀♀	61-67	13-16	25-27	84-94 mm
				(HW, SA)

Chrysomma sinense

Distributional ranges

▨ *hypoleucum* (1230). ▤ *sinense* (1231). ▤ *nasalis* (1232).

Weight 10 ♂ ♀ 12–20 (av. 16.1) g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1231.

1231. **Yellow-eyed Babbler.** *Chrysomma sinense sinense* (Gmelin)

Parus sinensis Gmelin, 1789, Syst. Nat. 1: 1012 (China)

Pyctorhis sinensis saturator Ticehurst, 1922, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 42: 57 (Bhutan Duars)

Chrysomma sinensis nagaense Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1:4 (Karong, Manipur)

Baker, FBI No. 234, Vol. 1: 233

LOCAL NAMES. *Gulāb-chāshm*, *Būlāl-chāshm* (Hindi); *Terra kali-jitta* (Telugu).

SIZE. Bulbul —; length c. 18 cm (7 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, rufescent brown, wings cinnamon. Lores and a short supercilium white; eye yellow, conspicuous orange-yellow eye-rim. Bill black. *Below*, white, washed with buff on lower belly. Tail long and graduated. Sexes alike.



× c. 1

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, widely distributed. India south and east of a line Nasik-Indore-Sagar-Gorakhpur, south to the Nilgiris and the Cauvery river, east through East Pakistan, Assam, Nagaland and Manipur, and north along the terai from western Nepal through the plains and duars of Darjeeling

and Jalpaiguri districts, Bhutan foothills and Brahmaputra valley. Usually under 1000 m in the hills. Affects scrub, bush-clad grassy hillsides, secondary growth, tall grass and bushes, sugarcane fields, hedges and bamboo.

Extralimital. Extends east to Vietnam and through south China to Kwangtung.

GENERAL HABITS. After the breeding season keeps in small parties of five to fifteen individuals often in association with the various species of *Prinia* (wren-warblers) which share its habitat, working through thick cover, clinging to twigs or reed-stems sideways or upside down in the manner of tits. Very elusive. Clammers up to exposed tops of reeds now and again for a few seconds to utter its cheeping notes, and dives into the thicket again to resume hunting. Flight feeble, jerky and undulating.

FOOD. Caterpillars, grasshoppers and other insects and spiders; berries (lantana, *Salvadora persica*, etc.); also nectar (*Erythrina*, *Salmalia*, etc.).

VOICE AND CALLS. Normal call-note a loud, clear, somewhat plaintive *cheep-cheep-cheep*. Alarm, *churrr*. Song, in breeding season a sweet, powerful whistling phrase resembling *twee-twee-ta-whit-chu* with accent on the penultimate *whit*, and also a loud *cheep-cheep-cheep cheep-cheep*, about two notes per second, alternating with a low *kru-kru-kru* (Smythies). The song is delivered from the top of a bush or the extremity of some tall grass-stem. Males continue to sing even in heavy postnuptial moult.

BREEDING. *Season*, from June (occasionally April and May) to November, chiefly July and August (monsoon). *Nest*, a beautiful cone-shaped, deep cup of coarse grasses and blades lined with finer material, sparsely to copiously cemented on the outside with cobwebs. Hung hammockwise between upright stems of grasses or monsoon plants, or wedged into some crotch of a bush 50 to 150 cm from the ground. The supporting stems are incorporated into the wall of the nest which is sometimes carefully concealed, at others very conspicuous. *Eggs*, 3 to 5, usually 4, pinkish white, thickly marked all over with chestnut-red; for descriptive details, see Baker, *Nidification*, Vol. 1: 197. Average size of 100 eggs 17.9×14.9 mm (Baker). Both sexes incubate and feed the young, which leave the nest 12 or 13 days after hatching. Period of incubation undetermined. When approached, the parents slip off the nest and skulk away through cover before taking flight. A bird near the nest has been described to 'feign in a most realistic manner to be wounded, swaying with wings and tail outspread on a twig, as if about to topple over and fall at any moment' (HW).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies.

Young, very similar to adult but wings are a paler chestnut. Postjuvenile moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	62-70	14-15	22-27	73-102 mm
♀♀	62-70	13-16	25-27	78-100 mm
				(HW, SA)

Weight 15 ♂♀ 15-21 (av. 18.3) g — SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris yellowish to orange-yellow; eye-rim orange. Bill black; mouth apparently differs seasonally, black in the breeding season, otherwise orange-brown.

Nestling. Iris greenish brown. Bill pale horny brown; gape lemon-yellow; mouth bright chrome-yellow or orange, with two black spots on posterior fork of tongue. Legs and feet pinkish flesh.

1232. **Ceylon Yellow-eyed Babbler.** *Chrysomma sinense nasalis* (Legge)

Pycnorhis nasalis Legge, 1879, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 3: 169 (Ceylon)

Baker, FBI No. 236, Vol. 1: 235

LOCAL NAME. *Hambu-kurullā* (Sinhala).

SIZE. Bulbul —; length *c.* 18 cm (7 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1231.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident; widely distributed but nowhere common. Ceylon, in all zones up to nearly 1800 m. Affects scrub, high grass, 'patanas', low grassy jungle, swamps and fernlands.

GENERAL HABITS. As in 1231, q.v.

FOOD. Mainly insects; also berries (*Lantana* etc.) and flower-nectar.

VOICE and CALLS. Song of male, a briskly whistled phrase rendered as *cuttykra-weerko wiwiwiwiwi*; a loud call *peerpeer kowhihihihi* (Henry). Other notes as in 1231.

BREEDING. *Season*, ill-defined: November to May, chiefly February to May; nests also recorded in July. *Nest*, as in 1231. *Eggs*, usually 3, sometimes 4, similar to those of *sinense*. Average size of 16 eggs 17 × 13.8 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Bill stouter than in the continental races; nostrils black. Upperparts slightly more saturated, with little difference between crown and mantle.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
5 ♂♂	63-69	14-15	25-26	70-86 mm
3 ♀♀	63-69	14	24-25	72-79 mm
				(HW, SDR)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1231.

CHRYSSOMMA ALTIROSTRE Jerdon

Key to the Subspecies

Throat whitish.....*C. a. scindicum*

Throat grey.....*C. a. griseigularis*

1233. **Sind Babbler.** *Chrysomma altirostre scindicum* (Harington)

Pycnorhis altirostris scindicus Harington, 1918, Jour. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 23: 424

(Sukkur, Sind)

Baker, FBI No. 239, Vol. 1: 237

LOCAL NAME. *Mullala* (? Urdu).

SIZE. Bulbul —; length *c.* 17 cm (6½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, fulvous. *Below*, chin and throat white; breast and remainder of lower plumage ochraceous. Tail long and graduated.



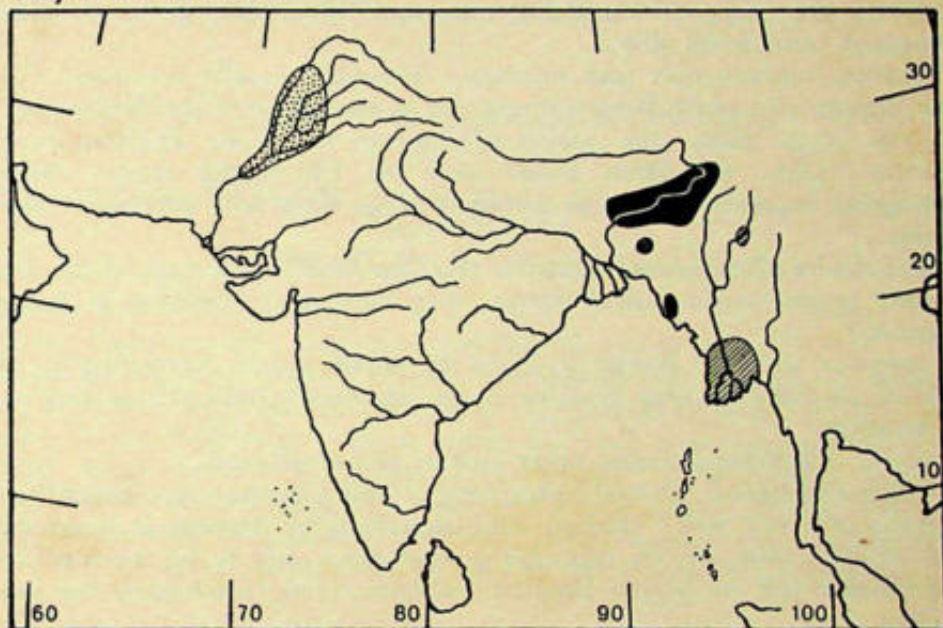
PLATE 71

- 1 *Garrulax maximus*, Giant Laughing Thrush (1297). 2 *Babax w. waddelli*, Giant Babax (1271). 3 *Garrulax a. albogularis*, Whitethroated Laughing Thrush (1274). 4 *Garrulax nuchalis*, Ogle's Laughing Thrush (1285). 5 *Garrulax a. bethelae*, Blackfaced Laughing Thrush (1323). 6 *Garrulax v. variegatus*, Variegated Laughing Thrush (1290). 7 *Garrulax cinereifrons*, Ashyheaded Laughing Thrush (1272). 8 *Garrulax g. galbanus*, Austen's Laughing Thrush (1286). 9 *Paradoxornis g. gularis*, Greyheaded Parrotbill (1249). 10 *Turdoides nipalensis*, Spiny Babbler (1269). 11 *Panurus b. russicus*, Bearded Tit-Babbler (1235). 12 *Paradoxornis u. unicolor*, Brown Parrotbill (1237).

Distinguished from the Yellow-eyed Babbler by the following: eye brown, bill yellowish brown; no white supercilium; forehead black with ashy margins. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, very local; range disjunct from that of *griseigularis*. West Pakistan in the plains of the Indus, near

Chrysomma altirostre



Distributional ranges

■ *scindicum* (1233). ■ *griseigularis* (1234). ▨ *altirostre* (RE).

Mianwali, Muzaffargarh, Jampur and Sukkur. Appears to be confined to the 'khan' grass jungle (*Saccharum arundinaceum*).

GENERAL HABITS. Found in parties of six to twelve or more in the non-breeding season. 'To suit it there must be a regular "sea" of khan, preferably not less than six feet (180 cm) high. If the grass is eaten down by cattle or grows in separate clumps one is not likely to come across it' (H. W. Waite).

BREEDING. Only a single nest (with 2 eggs) known from Sukkur dist., Sind — *vide* Holmes & Wright (JBNHS 66: 20). No details. See 1234.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *griseigularis* in having a white chin and throat (*v.* grey), and the remainder of lower parts ochraceous.

MEASUREMENTS. (Type, probably an immature)

	Wing	Bill	Tarsus
♂	65	13	24 mm
			(HW)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Unrecorded.

1234. **Hume's Babbler.** *Chrysomma altirostre griseigularis* (Hume)

Pyctorhis griseigularis Hume, 1877, *Stray Feathers* 5: 116 (Assam)
Baker, FBI No. 238, Vol. 1: 236

LOCAL NAME. *Tiri-sorāi* (Assam).

SIZE. Bulbul —; length *c.* 17 cm (6½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, dark ferruginous brown, paler on rump; a hoary grey supercilium. *Below*, chin and throat ashy grey, remainder brownish buff. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, locally common. From the Bhutan and north Bengal duars east in the plains of the Brahmaputra to the Naga Hills, the plains of Cachar and East Pakistan in the Surma Valley, the Haor Basin¹ and the Chittagong region. Affects the great expanses of ekra or elephant grass, reeds and vegetation along rivers.

Extralimital. Northeastern Burma (Kachin State). The race of the Irrawaddy plains, south-central Burma, may be extinct (Deignan in Peters's *Check-list*).

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps in pairs or small parties according to the season, skulking in long grass or reeds, constantly flitting from one reed to another.

FOOD. Grasshoppers and other insects; also small seeds.

VOICE and CALLS. 'A sweet little song of half a dozen notes uttered from the top of a tall reed' (Baker). Call described by Stevens as resembling the syllables *chew*, *chi*, *chi* repeated several times, and to be the reverse of the *chi-chew* call of Marsh Spotted Babbler (1160) inhabiting the same facies.

BREEDING. *Season*, mainly June and July (monsoon). *Nest*, a neat, deep cup of tightly drawn grass, plastered with cobwebs and lined with fine fibres. Most nests are built on a single stout stem at the junction of leaf-blades or sometimes embracing several thinner stems. *Eggs*, average size of fourteen 18.1 × 14.6 mm. 'All my nests have contained two or three eggs only, but one would imagine four or five to be the full clutch' (Baker). They are of the same types as those of the Yellow-eyed Babbler, pale or bright pink with blotches or smears of reddish brown or light red; their similarity to those of the genus *Alcippe* is striking.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters and Key to the Subspecies.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
o? (type)	65	13	24	82 mm (HW)
1 ♂	64	13	25	91 mm (Desfayes)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown or golden brown; eye-rim yellowish green. Bill pale horny. Legs pale fleshy or orange-brown; feet darker.

¹ The low-lying country northeast of the central region of East Pakistan dotted with perennially flooded depressions known as *haors*, adjacent to the Surma Valley.

Genus PANURUS Koch

Panurus Koch, 1816, Syst. baier. Zool.: 201. Type, by monotypy, *Parus biarmicus* Linnaeus

Bill short, culmen rounded with uncinat tip. Nostrils mostly covered by bristly plumules. Rictal bristles soft and short. Tail long and strongly graduated, the outermost rectrices scarcely half as long as median pair. Under tail-coverts very long, equal to outermost rectrices.

1235. **Bearded Tit-Babbler** or **Reedling**. *Panurus biarmicus russicus* (Brehm)

Mystacinus Russicus Brehm, 1831, Handb. Naturg. Vög. Deutschland: 472 (Russia)
Not in Baker, FBI

Plate 71, fig. 11, facing p. 192

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow, with long tail; length c. 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Male (adult). Distinguished at once by the striking head pattern. Above, head lavender grey with broad, tapering black moustachial stripe. Bill yellow. Back, rump and tail mostly cinnamon-buff. Closed wings banded lengthwise with whitish (outer border), rufous, blackish and pale buff (scapulars and inner border). Below, chin and throat white, breast and belly tinged with pink; flanks tawny; under tail-coverts black. Tail long and graduated, the shorter rectrices tipped or edged with white.

Female (adult). Duller; head concolorous with back, moustachial stripe lacking; under tail-coverts buff, not black.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Accidental winter visitor. One record: a flock of eight to twelve birds near Attock, West Pakistan (Whistler, JBNHS 32: 217). Affects reed-beds; the flock observed near Attock was in dense *sarpat* grass (*Saccharum* sp.) and tamarisk scrub.

Extralimital. Middle Eurasia from western Europe to Manchuria and Japan. The nominate race is restricted to western Europe.

GENERAL HABITS. Gregarious outside the breeding season, in flocks up to forty or fifty. Moves up and down reeds with jerky action assuming a variety of acrobatic postures, or creeps among vegetation at their base.

FOOD. Insects. In winter chiefly seeds of reeds.

VOICE and CALLS. A distinctive, ringing, vibrant 'ping ping' and more distinctive 'tic'. Parties keep up a twitter mingled with a more plaintive 'tūū'. Notes of alarm or anxiety described as a scolding, guttural 'p'whut', a plaintive 'ee-ar, ee-ar', and churring 'chirrr-irr-irrrrrr' (Witherby, 1938, 1: 275).

BREEDING. Not recorded in our limits, Season, elsewhere, April to July. Nest, built low down among reeds, made of reed-blades lined with the flowering tops of reeds.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. For details of plumages and structure (also bionomics) of nominate race, see Witherby, 1938, 1: 274-7.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	58-65	c. 10	c. 21	83-99 mm
♀♀	53-62	c. 10	c. 21	83-92 mm

(Wing and tail by Dementiev)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS (of nominate race). Iris pale buff. Bill, ♂ deep straw-colour; ♀, upper mandible and base and cutting edges of lower mandible greenish horn; rest of lower mandible yellow. Legs and feet black (Witherby).

Genus *CONOSTOMA* Hodgson

Conostoma Hodgson, 1841, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 10: 856-7. Type, by original designation, *Conostoma aemodius* Hodgson

Size large. Bill longer, less deep than in *Paradoxornis*, cutting edges gently curved, not sinuous. Nostrils entirely covered by stiff feathers. Tail longer than wing, not strongly graduated. Legs, feet and hindclaw very strong.

1236. **Great Parrotbill.** *Conostoma aemodium* Hodgson

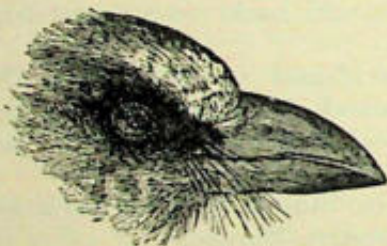
Conostoma aemodius Hodgson, 1841, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 10: 857 (Nepal)
Baker, FBI No. 89, Vol. 1: 104

Vol. 5, plate 63

LOCAL NAMES. *Tūti* (Paharia); *Lho-rannio-pho* (Lepcha).

SIZE. Myna; length 28 cm (11 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A large grey-brown bird resembling a laughing thrush with an upright carriage and a stout, orange-yellow bill. *Adult.* Above, forehead whitish, lores and supercilium brown. Back olive-brown. Below, entirely mouse-grey. Sexes alike.



x c. 1

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, sparingly distributed. The Himalayas from central Nepal through Sikkim, Bhutan, and presumably NEFA; from 2700 to 3600 m at all seasons, perhaps down to 2100 m in winter. There are no records of it descending to 4000 ft

(c. 1200 m) as stated in the FBI. Affects ringal bamboo and rhododendron bushes.

Extralimital. Extends to southeastern Tibet, northern Burma, north-western Yunnan and southwestern Szechuan.

GENERAL HABITS. In pairs or small parties, often associated with various species of laughing thrushes. Keeps very much to bamboo jungle, hopping about with a rather upright carriage. Resembles somewhat the laughing thrushes in habits, but instead of hopping up the branches, usually moves about two metres or so off the ground and parallel with the forest floor. Also feeds a good deal on the ground, even in snow, venturing a little way into the open for the purpose. Though large and clumsy, it is skilful at keeping out of sight but at the same time intensely curious, readily allowing itself to be called up.

FOOD. Green bamboo shoots, crab-apple seeds, wild raspberries and insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Very noisy with much churring and chattering like a *Turdoides*; also a characteristic note, very harsh *krarchah*, *krarch krarchah* (Proud). A fourfold grating croak and a clear musical *wheou wheou* (Stanford).

BREEDING. Little known. *Season*, May to July. *Nest*, a very regular hemisphere, both inside and outside, compactly built of dry coarse grass and strips of bamboo leaves and thickly lined with very fine green grass-stems. Exterior diameter *c.* 15 cm, height *c.* 8 cm, diameter of cup *c.* 11 cm, depth *c.* 5 cm. Placed in clumps of bamboo. *Eggs*, the two nests known contained 2 and 3 eggs, dull white, sparsely blotched, streaked and smudged with pale yellowish brown, with pale secondary inky purple spots and smudges about the large end, or white with a few specks and tiny blotches of reddish, fairly numerous at the larger end. Size of two eggs 27.8 × 20.4 and 28.1 × 20.8 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters; for details of plumage Baker, loc. cit.

Young (immature). Like adult, but upperparts and edges to wing more rufescent. Tail-feathers narrower and more pointed.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
Yunnan				
2 ♂♂	120, 132	24	39, 40	129, 140 mm
6 ♀♀	130-132	23-25	40-42 (one 44)	134-155 mm
Sikkim				(Desfayes)
4 (o?)	120-128	23	40	122-130 mm (Stevens, Mayr)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris pale yellow or pale orange-yellow. Bill orange-yellow at base, yellow at tip of upper and base of lower mandible. Legs very dull plumbeous green (Stanford).

Genus PARADOXORNIS Gould

Paradoxornis Gould, 1836, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 17. Type, by monotypy,

Paradoxornis flavirostris Gould

Suthora Hodgson, 1837, Ind. Rev. 2 (1): 32. Type, by monotypy,

Suthora nipalensis Hodgson

Psittiparus Hellmayr, 1903, Das Tierreich, lief. 18: 163. New name for *Scaeorhynchus*

Oates, 1889. Type, by original designation, *Paradoxornis ruficeps* Blyth

Neosuthora Hellmayr, 1911, Genera Avium (Wytsman), pl. 18: 74. Type, by original designation, *Suthora davidiana* Sclater

Characterized by the very deep and short bill with more or less sinuous cutting edges, used for tearing up bamboo stems. Plumage very soft and lax.

Key to the Species

		Page
A	Large size, total length over 13 cm	
1	Entire plumage grey and olive.....	<i>P. unicolor</i> 198
2	Crown ashy, forehead black.....	<i>P. gularis</i> 209

	Page
3 Crown rufous	
a Ear-coverts black, throat dark brown.....	<i>P. flavirostris</i> 210
b Ear-coverts black, throat black-speckled buff.....	<i>P. guttaticollis</i> 212
c Ear-coverts not black	
i Larger; wing well over 80 mm.....	<i>P. ruficeps</i> 207
ii Smaller; wing well under 80 mm.....	<i>P. atrosuperciliaris</i> 205
B Small size; total length under 13 cm	
4 Throat black.....	<i>P. nipalensis</i> 200
5 Throat ochraceous.....	<i>P. fulvifrons</i> 199

1237. **Brown Parrotbill.** *Paradoxornis unicolor* (Hodgson)

H. (eteromorpha) unicolor Hodgson, 1843, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 12: 488
(the Cachar, Nepal)

Baker, FBI No. 92, Vol. 1: 108

Plate 71, fig. 12, facing p. 192

LOCAL NAME. *Lho-ramnio-pho* (Lepcha).

SIZE. Bulbul; length c. 21 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A dull olive-brown babbler-like bird with dark head, conspicuous black eyebrow and very short thick yellow bill. *Above*, head greyish brown with a hoary aspect especially on the sides; a pale ring round the eye; a dark eye-stripe; rest of upperparts olive-brown. *Below*, throat and breast greyish brown; rest of underparts olive-brown. Sexes alike.



x c. 1

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Uncommon resident. From east Nepal to Sikkim, Darjeeling, Bhutan, NEFA (Tawang and presumably through the Agency); from c. 2700 to 3400 m at all seasons, but descending to 2000 m in winter. Keeps almost exclusively to dense *malig* bamboo (*Arundinaria* sp.) and dwarf rhododendron growth.

Extralimital. Southeast Tibet, northeastern Burma, northwestern Yunnan and southwestern Szechuan.

GENERAL HABITS. In small noisy parties of half a dozen or so, sometimes in company with *Conostoma*, skulking, and reluctant to fly long distance. Sits very upright and keeps edging up to the top of bamboo stems, occasionally clinging upside down and pecking about on mossy branches. Flight slow, weak, fluttering and babbler-like.

FOOD. Bamboo and bracken buds, moss or other vegetable matter, and insects — beetles etc.

VOICE and CALLS. When alarmed, flutters into the densest cover uttering chirrups and a sort of bleating sound (Meinertzhagen). Other notes, a faint *churr, churr* (Stanford).

BREEDING. Unknown. *Season*, appears to be late since birds collected in May were not breeding and a male collected in late June had gonads enlarged.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species and Field Characters. Young very similar to adult.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	85-92	16	c. 31	99-107 mm
♀	88	—	—	— mm

(Stevens, SDR, Deshayes)

Weight 1 ♂ 32, 1 o? (Sept.) 36 g — SDR.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris olive-yellow. Bill very dirty horny green (in January birds dull yellow, yellow-brown at base of lower mandible). Legs and feet dark leaden-brown (Stanford).

Female: Iris iron-grey. Bill cornelian yellow. Feet greenish lead colour (Meinertzhagen).

PARADOXORNIS FULVIFRONS (Hodgson)

Key to the Subspecies

- Paler above; fulvous of underparts not extending below breast
 *P. f. chayulensis*
 Darker above; fulvous of underparts darker and extending to
 upper abdomen..... *P. f. fulvifrons*

1238. **Fulvousfronted Parrotbill.** *Paradoxornis fulvifrons fulvifrons*
 (Hodgson)

T. (emnoris) fulvifrons Hodgson, 1845, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 31 (Nepal)
 Baker, FBI No. 100, Vol. 1: 113

Vol. 9, plate 96

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 12 cm (4½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A small bird recognized by its general fulvous colour and very short globular bill; tail comparatively longer than in others of the genus. *Above*, forehead and crown ochraceous with a wide olive supercilium extending to nape and a smaller ochraceous eye-stripe below; back olive; a rufous patch along wing; tail brown, rufous at base. *Below*, throat and breast ochraceous; belly pale grey, looking practically white in the field. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, sparingly distributed. From east Nepal through Sikkim, Darjeeling and Bhutan; from 2700 to 3400 m at all seasons. Keeps almost exclusively to dense bamboo (maling, *Arundinaria racemosa* and prong, *A. aristata*).

GENERAL HABITS. In large parties of 20 to 30 birds, quite fearless, spending most of their time clambering up and down the bamboo stems in feverish haste to scrutinize them from top to bottom.

FOOD. Mostly vegetable: bamboo and birch buds, tiny seeds; also insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A continual twittering and a faint, mouse-like *cheep* uttered as they flit from stem to stem.

BREEDING. Unknown. *Season*, probably June-July.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See 1239.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	56-57	c. 7	—	— mm
♀♀	55-56	c. 7	c. 18	c. 60 mm

(Stevens, Desfayes)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris red-brown. Bill horny pink, culmen with a broad band dark horny. Tarsus brownish plumbeous (Stevens).

1239. **Tibetan Fulvousfronted Parrotbill.** *Paradoxornis fulvifrons chayulensis* (Kinnear)

Suthora fulvifrons chayulensis Kinnear, 1940, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 60: 56

(Lung, Chayul Valley, SE. Tibet)

Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 12 cm (4½ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1238.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. Southeast Tibet south of the main range in the hills adjacent to northeastern Bhutan, and the northern Daffa-Miri hill tracts of NEFA (and presumably through the Agency). Affects dense bamboo.

Extralimital. The species extends to northwestern Yunnan, western Szechuan and southern Shensi.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1238.

BREEDING. Undescribed. *Season*, June-July (nestling taken in early July by Ludlow).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from the nominate race in having the upperparts paler, especially on rump. *Below*, the fulvous does not usually extend below the breast and is paler. Abdomen and thighs greyer.

MEASUREMENTS. Wing 8 ♂♂ 54-59; 4 ♀♀ 53-57 mm (Ludlow).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1238.

PARADOXORNIS NIPALENSIS (Hodgson)

Key to the Subspecies

	Page
A Ear-coverts ochraceous or orange-chestnut	
1 Paler; a larger area of grey between ear-coverts and back.....	
..... <i>P. n. crocotius</i>	204
2 Darker; a smaller area of grey between ear-coverts and back....	
..... <i>P. n. humii</i>	202
B Ear-coverts slaty	
3 Crown smoky grey	
a Paler; grey of crown fading gradually into rufescent back....	
..... <i>P. n. garhwalensis</i>	201
b Darker; grey of crown ending abruptly on nape.... <i>P. n. nipalensis</i>	202
4 Crown bright ochraceous	
c Breast deep fulvous..... <i>P. n. patriciae</i>	204
d Breast pale grey..... <i>P. n. poliotis</i>	203

1239a. **Garhwal Parrotbill.** *Paradoxornis nipalensis garhwalensis*
Fleming & Traylor

Paradoxornis nipalensis garhwalensis Fleming & Traylor, 1964, Fieldiana: Zoology
35: 531 (Kurumtoli, Garhwal, Uttar Pradesh)
Not in Baker, FBI

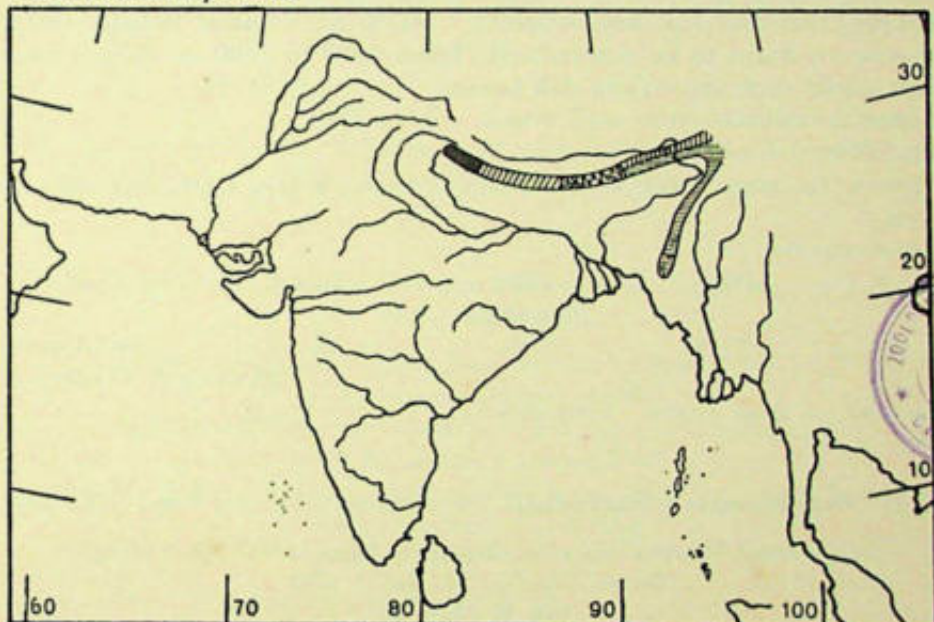
LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in *nipalensis* (1240).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. Northeast Garhwal and

Paradoxornis nipalensis



Distributional ranges

■ *garhwalensis* (1239a). ▨ *nipalensis* (1240). ▩ *humii* (1241).
▤ *crocotius* (1243). ▧ *poliotis* (1242). ▦ *patriciae* (1244).

northern Almora, between 2100 and 2700 m. Habitat undescribed, probably as in *nipalensis*.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1241.

BREEDING. Unknown.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Paler above and below than *nipalensis*. Rufous of back less intense; pale grey-brown of crown fades gradually into rufescent back rather than terminating abruptly on the nape; superciliary stripe brown rather than blackish.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
3 oo?	52-53	7-8	18-19	56-57 mm

(Fleming & Traylor)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Unrecorded.

1240. **Ashy-eared Parrotbill.** *Paradoxornis nipalensis nipalensis* (Hodgson)

Suthora Nipalensis Hodgson, 1837, Ind. Rev. 2 (1): 32 (Nepal; restricted to Kathmandu Valley by Ripley, Synopsis: 370)
Baker, FBI No. 93, Vol. 1: 109

LOCAL NAME. *Suthora* (Nepal).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A tiny orange-brown bird with conspicuous black supercilium, white moustache and black throat. *Above*, crown grey, back tawny olive, brighter on rump; a broad white moustache. Wings blackish with rufous and white edges. *Below*, chin and throat black. Sides of neck grey, breast pale grey, belly whitish washed with tawny. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. Central Nepal; eastern and western limits to be determined. From 2000 to 2900 m. Affects ringal bamboo and undergrowth in oak forest.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1241.

BREEDING. Unknown.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *humii* in having a grey crown and slaty ear-coverts.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	47–52	7–8	17–18	54–58 mm (Fleming & Traylor)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Unrecorded.

1241. **Blackfronted Parrotbill.** *Paradoxornis nipalensis humii* (Sharpe)

Suthora humii Sharpe, 1883, Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus. 7: 487 (Darjeeling)¹
Baker, FBI No. 95, Vol. 1: 110
Vol. 9, plate 96

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length *c.* 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in *nipalensis* (1240) but crown and ear-coverts ochraceous, not grey.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Uncommon resident. From east Nepal, Sikkim, Darjeeling to east Bhutan (where it intergrades with *poliotis*); from 1200 to 3300 m at all seasons, mostly in a lower zone than *P. fulvifrons*; more addicted to a varied tree-and-scrub growth than the latter and therefore more widely distributed. Affects mixed deciduous and bamboo jungle, rhododendron and bamboo undergrowth in oak forest, generally in very broken country and steep hillsides.

GENERAL HABITS. A gregarious and confiding bird reminiscent of the Redheaded Tit, found in parties of 3 to 30 or more, often in association with other babblers and tits, hunting with feverish activity among bamboo clumps and low bushes, clinging to sprigs and leaves in acrobatic positions. When a bird suddenly decides to fly off to the next tree, the entire party

¹ See Biswas, JBNHS 59: 406 for restriction of type locality.

'flows' after it in a disorderly rabble. Interspersed in this round of restless activity are short pauses when the birds may be seen huddled together side by side, looking rather like miniature munias at a distance. When angry, puffs out the black coronal stripes and black throat.

FOOD. Insects and vegetable matter (bamboo buds etc.).

VOICE and CALLS. Members of a party keep up a continual high-pitched twittering, a variety of *cheeps* and *chirrs* and (alarm) a loud purring chatter. Also a plaintive little bleat.

BREEDING. Unknown.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *nipalensis* in having the crown and ear-coverts ochraceous or orange-chestnut.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	45-51	7-8	c. 19	52-57 mm (SA, Stresemann)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris pale pearly brown; bill horn yellow; feet slate-blue (Meinertzhagen). Iris brown; bill black (Stevens).

1242. Blyth's or Assam Orange Parrotbill. *Paradoxornis nipalensis poliotis* (Blyth)

Suthora poliotis Blyth, 1851, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 20: 522
(Cherrapoonji, Khasi Hills)

Suthora manipurensis Godwin-Austen & Walden, 1875, Ibis: 250
(near Karakhul, Manipur hills)

Suthora daslaensis Godwin-Austen, 1876, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. 17: 32
(Toroputu Peak, Dafla Hills)
Baker, FBI No. 94, Vol. 1: 109

LOCAL NAME. *Dao mougasha kashiba* (Cachari).

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in *nipalensis* (1240) but crown bright ochraceous, conspicuous in the field.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. From east Bhutan through NEFA to the Mishmi Hills, Nagaland and Manipur; from c. 1500 to at least 2600 m, and the hills of Assam from 600 to 1200 m. Affects bamboo jungle and dense evergreen forest with tangled undergrowth in very broken country, steep hillsides with rocky ravines.

Extralimital. Northeastern Burma and northwestern Yunnan. The species extends north to Szechuan, east to Fukien and Formosa and south to southeastern Burma, northern Thailand and Laos.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1241.

BREEDING. *Season*, May and June. *Nest*, a tiny, neat and compact cup of bamboo leaves and fine grasses, coated on the outside with cobwebs, lined with finer grasses and root hairs. Fixed in a cluster of twigs springing from a bamboo node or in a thick bush, less than two feet (60 cm) from the ground. *Eggs*, 2 to 4, generally 3, pale blue, very like those of *Zosterops* but darker and less glossy. Average size of 20 eggs 15.7 × 11.9 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *humii* in having the ear-coverts slaty, the crown, including forehead, a brighter ochraceous, the back more olive; feathers of black chin faintly tipped with white; rest of underparts pale grey becoming whitish on abdomen and lacking any ochraceous.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	44-46	c. 7	c. 18	c. 52 mm (Baker, Desfayes)

Weight ♂ ♀ 5-6 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown. Bill fleshy yellow. Legs and feet slate-grey or bluish slaty. [Bill in spring grey-black, base of lower mandible bright pink (Stanford).]

1243. Tibetan Small Parrotbill. *Paradoxornis nipalensis crocotius* Kinnear
Paradoxornis poliotis crocotius Kinnear, 1954, Ibis 96: 484, new name for *Suthora poliotis intermedia* Kinnear, 1944, Ibis 86: 70 (Yönpu La, near Trashigong, E. Bhutan),
preoccupied
Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1241.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. Eastern Bhutan and south-east Tibet (Shakti, Mōnyul) at 2100 to 2400 m. Affects tall grass, deciduous and bamboo jungle.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1241.

BREEDING. Unknown.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Similar to *humii* but generally paler especially on the head which is dull cinnamon-yellow; cheeks paler with a large area of pale grey separating them from the darker cinnamon-yellow of the back. Differs from *poliotis* by the bright crocus-yellow cheeks.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail
2 ♂♂	50, 51	—	— mm
1 ♀	50	7	57 mm (Ludlow)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in *humii*.

1244. Mizo Hills Parrotbill. *Paradoxornis nipalensis patriciae* Koelz
Paradoxornis nipalensis patriciae Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1:
2 (Blue Mountain, Lushai Hills)
Not in Baker, FBI

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Sparrow —; length c. 10 cm (4 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1242.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. Southeastern Assam in the Mizo (Lushai) Hills; from 1500 to 2400 m.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1241.

BREEDING. Unknown.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. More richly coloured than *ripponi* of Mount Victoria; grey of the ear-coverts less extensive; black of throat separated from deep fulvous of breast by less intervening grey. Differs from *poliotis* in having the breast fulvous, not pale grey.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Unrecorded.

PARADOXORNIS ATROSUPERCILIARIS (Godwin-Austen)

Key to the Subspecies

A short black supercilium.....*P. a. atrosuperciliaris*

No supercilium.....*P. a. oatesi*

1245. Lesser Redheaded Parrotbill. *Paradoxornis atrosuperciliaris oatesi* (Sharpe)

Suthora oatesi Sharpe, 1903, Handl. Gen. Bds. 4: 70. New name for *Chleuasicus ruficeps* Blyth (1845), *nec Paradoxornis ruficeps* Blyth (1842)

Chleuasicus ruficeps Blyth, 1845, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 14: 578 (Darjeeling)
Baker, FBI No. 101, Vol. 1: 114

Vol. 9, plate 96

LOCAL NAME. *Chongto-phep-pho* (Lepcha).

SIZE. Sparrow; length *c.* 15 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1246 but lacks the black superciliary stripe. Easily confused with *P. ruficeps* from which it differs in its smaller size, smaller and blunter bill, and more graduated tail; ear-coverts are much lighter in colour, ochraceous rather than dark ferruginous.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Very rare. Obtained only from Sikkim and Darjeeling at *c.* 2100 m. Not recorded since the last century. Habitat not described; probably as in 1246.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. Unrecorded.

BREEDING. Unknown.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters. Differs from the nominate race (1246) in being less richly coloured and lacking the short black supercilium.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	75-78	<i>c.</i> 8	<i>c.</i> 23	<i>c.</i> 80 mm (Baker)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris bright red-brown. Bill creamy, fleshy white or pale horny. Legs greenish plumbeous (Baker).

1248. **Assam Redheaded Parrotbill.** *Paradoxornis ruficeps bakeri* (Hartert)*Scaeorhynchus ruficeps bakeri* Hartert, 1900, Novit. Zool. 7: 548 (Hungrum, N. Cachar)*Psittiparus ruficeps psithyrus* Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 2
(Sangau, Lushai Hills)*Psittiparus ruficeps rufitinctus* Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 2
(Cherrapunji, Khasia Hills)

Baker, FBI No. 105, Vol. 1: 117

LOCAL NAMES. *Dao mougasha gajao* (Cachari); *Indo-rui ingaoria* (Naga); *Wohtéra* (Mikir).SIZE. Bulbul—; length *c.* 18 cm (7 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1247, but entire underparts buff.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident; locally common. NEFA in the Mishmi Hills east and south of the Dibang river, the Patkai Range, Nagaland, Manipur and the adjacent hills of Burma, the hills of Assam south to the Mizo (Lushai) Hills, and the hills of East Pakistan south to Sylhet and the Chittagong region. From the foothills to at least 1800 m, more usually above 600 m. Affects wet forest, bamboo and scrub jungle and, in the foothills, reed-beds and elephant grass.

Extralimital. Northern and eastern Burma. Another subspecies in northern Vietnam.

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps in pairs or small parties, often consorting with other babblers. Actions very tit-like but slower. Spends much of its time clambering about the smaller twigs and branches, sometimes hanging head downwards and in this fashion proceeding along the lower side of some thin branch. In reeds and long grass, moves about like babblers, taking short flights from stem to stem, alighting on the ground, then climbing again to the summit of a reed before once more taking flight. A skulker like other members of the genus; when disturbed makes its way through cover without showing itself and disappears. Flight level but weak, never long-sustained — a few wing-flaps followed by a short glide; in flying the wings make a soft whirr peculiar to the species.

FOOD. Insects and seeds.

VOICE and CALLS. A very characteristic squirrel-like chitter interrupted with a series of rather slowly pronounced double notes *tee-ur* (SDR). When feeding, utters a constant *chir-chirrup* and when separated from one another, its call is the typical bleat of the family. 'So curiously like is it to the plaintive bleat of a small kid in distress that I have more than once been deceived by it' (Baker). A peculiar snapping of the bill may be heard as a party moves about.BREEDING. *Season*, April to July. *Nest and eggs*, as in 1247. Average size of 47 eggs 21.5 × 16.7 mm (Baker).MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *ruficeps* in having the entire underparts buff; there is a considerable variation in the shade of colour of the head and of the upperparts.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	89-95	15	28	82-85 mm (Baker, MD)

Wing ♂♂ 86-90; ♀♀ (2) 84 mm (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown to reddish brown; orbital skin blue. Bill: upper mandible dark brownish or blackish horn; lower and tip of upper greyish horn. Legs and feet bluish grey.

PARADOXORNIS GULARIS Gray

Key to the Subspecies

Underparts white *P. g. gularis*

Underparts suffused with fulvous *P. g. transfluvialis*

1249. Greyheaded Parrotbill. *Paradoxornis gularis gularis* Gray

Paradoxornis gularis Gray, 1845, Gen. Bds. 2: 389 (Bhutan, ex Horsfield MS.)

Baker, FBI No. 106, Vol. 1: 118

Plate 71, fig. 9, facing p. 192

LOCAL NAME. *Chongto phep-pho* (Lepcha).

SIZE. Bulbul —; length c. 16 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, head dark grey with black forehead continued behind in a black supercilium extending to the nape. Loes and eye-ring white. Bill yellow. Rest of upperparts rufous-brown, wings and tail darker. *Below*, white, with a black bib. Sexes alike. The conspicuous head pattern renders this species unmistakable.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident; scarce and local. Darjeeling, Sikkim and through Bhutan and NEFA east to Sadiya; from c. 900 to 1500 m (once 2400 m), reaching the duars and plains in winter. Affects bamboo, bushes and low trees.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1250, q.v.

BREEDING. *Season*, April to June. The only nest recorded was said to have been placed in the fork of a tree, 9 metres from the ground. *Nest and eggs*, as in 1250.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. — Differs from *transfluvialis* (1250) in having the underparts suffused with fulvous.

Young. Similar to adult but upperparts brighter rust colour; crown not so pure grey; black chin-patch less defined. First primary rounded; tail-feathers narrower.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	85-95	13-14	c. 27	74-80 mm
♀♀	84-89	12 (1)	23 (1)	74 (1) mm

(Ludlow, Baker, SA)

Weight 1 ♂ 29; 1 ♀ 29 g (SA).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris red-brown. Bill chrome-yellow. Legs and feet greenish horn (HW). Bill orange-yellow. Legs slaty green (Stanford).

1250. Assam Greyheaded Parrotbill. *Paradoxornis gularis transfluvialis* (Hartert)

Seaeorhynchus gularis transfluvialis Hartert, 1900, Novit. Zool. 7: 584

(Guilang, N. Cachar)

Psittiparus gularis schoeniparus Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 2

(Karong, Manipur)

Baker, FBI No. 107, Vol. 1: 118

LOCAL NAMES. *Dao mougasha gophu* (Cachari); *Indo-rui gahabale* (Kacha Naga).

SIZE. Bulbul —; length c. 16 cm (6 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1249, but underparts suffused with fulvous.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. The hills of Assam, East Pakistan in the Chittagong region, Manipur and Nagaland, north in the Patkai Hills to the range of *gularis*; from 600 to 2100 m. Affects bamboo jungle and various types of forest.

Extralimital. Burma and northwestern Thailand; the species extends to central Vietnam, Hainan, Fukien and Anhwei.

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps in small parties of six to eight birds in trees as well as bushes, low tree jungle or undergrowth in lofty forest; less restricted to bamboo than other parrotbills, less of a skulker, and apparently does not associate with them or other babblers. 'Their way of picking up a bud, carrying it to a convenient twig and holding under their feet while picking it to pieces is very tit-like' (La Touche).

FOOD. Vegetable matter, grubs and insects (La Touche).

VOICE and CALLS. A loud call of four notes on the same tone when one bird of a pair is calling to the other; alarm, a harsh chattering note (Smythies).

BREEDING. *Season*, April to July. *Nest*, a very neat, compact cup of grass well bound with cobweb, lined with fine grass stems and shreds of grass bark. Placed in saplings, usually between two and three metres above the ground. *Eggs*, 2 or 3, rarely 4, variable in colour and markings but similar to those of *P. ruficeps* (1247). Average size of 71 eggs 21.1×15.9 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Field Characters.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	86-90	12-13	c. 25	c. 78 mm
		(Depth at base 9-10)		(Baker)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris deep red-brown. Bill chrome-yellow to almost orange horny yellow. Legs and feet slaty brown, occasionally with a bluish tinge.

1251. Gould's or Blackthroated Parrotbill. *Paradoxornis flavirostris* *flavirostris* Gould¹

Paradoxornis flavirostris Gould, 1836, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 17 (Nepal)

Baker, FBI No. 90, Vol. 1: 105

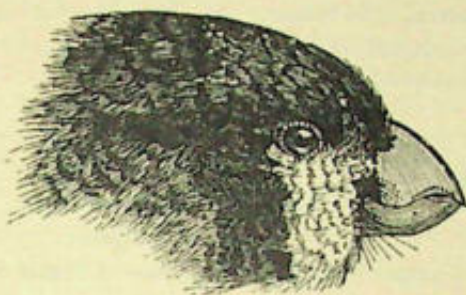
LOCAL NAMES. *But-but sorāi* (plains Miris); *Dao mougasha gadeba* (Cachari).

SIZE. Bulbul; length c. 19 cm ($7\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, crown and nape rufous-chestnut; back

¹ *Paradoxornis flavirostris* and *P. guttaticollis* should be listed as a superspecies, most closely related to each other; the differences in calls, size, hind toe and bill size (the latter not apparent in measurements) and lack of intergradation in their area of overlap with strict ecological and altitudinal replacement, incline us to think that they are species, perhaps a double invasion of Assam of similar ancestral stock after long isolation.

olive-brown; wings and tail brown; ear-coverts black, cheeks white; a very deep, parrot-like yellow bill. *Below*, chin black; upper throat barred white and brown; throat deep brown; rest of underparts fulvous. Sexes alike.



x c. l.

The black ear-coverts distinguish this species from all parrotbills except *P. guttaticollis* which has whitish underparts and almost no black on throat.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT.

Resident; scarce in the hills, locally common in the plains. From east

Nepal (two specimens in the British Museum, including type) east along the foothills through Darjeeling, Sikkim, Bhutan and NEFA to the Mishmi Hills, the plains of the upper Assam Valley and surrounding hills, Nagaland, Assam and East Pakistan in Sylhet and the Chittagong region. In the terai, duars and base of hills (once at 1900 m, Sikkim), up to 1500 in the Assam hills and to 2400 m in the Naga hills; also in the lowlands of the Assam Valley. In the latter region, affects dense thickets of reeds, elephant-grass, wild cardamom, and mixed grasses along the banks of rivers; in the hills, mixed grass and bamboo but keeps mostly to the valleys where there is plenty of ekra or elephant-grass.

GENERAL HABITS. In the non-breeding season, keeps in small parties of up to a dozen birds, more often only seven or eight. Very shy and reluctant to take flight but greatly adept at concealing itself. When undisturbed, often mounts to the tops of reeds, now and then taking short flights into the air much in the manner of some *Prinias*, uttering a loud *chirrup* as it rises (display?). Keeps low down when under observation. The noise made by their mandibles as they nibble at the reeds is distinctly audible though the birds may not be visible.

FOOD. Chiefly vegetable matter (bamboo shoots, seeds); also insects and their larvae found in the crevices of reeds, especially during the breeding season.

VOICE and CALLS. A striking whistle rendered as *phew, phew, phew, phuit* commencing in a low tone and rapidly ascending in scale and volume (Stevens). Other notes: a bleating or mewing cry (Baker), and a mellow warble of three notes (Cripps).

BREEDING. *Season*, April to July. *Nest*, a very neat and compact, deep cup, made with fine strips of bark or coarse grasses and bamboo, mixed with fine strips of bamboo or grass blades, bound with cobwebs, lined with grass, bark and fine grass stems, occasionally with hair. The clear, yellow colour of the nest is remarkably bright but blends perfectly with the surroundings. Usually affixed to three or four reed-stems or in a cluster of twigs jutting out from a bamboo node, at a height of one to one and a half metres above the ground, exceptionally in saplings. This species seems to have a predilection for wet places and even in the hills selects a wet patch where there is some grass, cane or reeds. *Eggs*, 2 or 3, occasionally

4, white, sparsely speckled at the larger end with pale reddish. Average size of 50 eggs 21.9×16.2 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *P. guttaticollis* as follows: upperparts including crown darker; chin barred black and white; throat dark brown; rest of underparts fulvous. It is also a little larger and somewhat stouter.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	85-90	c. 12	c. 30	100-110 mm (Baker)

Bill from skull, 19 mm; greatest depth of upper mandible c. 10 mm. Length of hind toe including claw c. 20 mm.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris deep red or red-brown. Bill wax-yellow to bright yellow. Legs clear slate to plumbeous grey.

1252. Whitethroated Parrotbill. *Paradoxornis guttaticollis* David

Paradoxornis guttaticollis David, 1871, Nouv. Arch. Mus. Paris 7: 14
(Moupin, east Chwanben, China)

Paradoxornis austeni Gould, 1874, Bds. Asia 3, pt. 26, pl. 73
(near Kuchai, Naga Hills and Shillong, Assam)

Baker, FBI No. 91, Vol. 1: 106

LOCAL NAME. *Dao mougasha gadeba* (Cachari).

SIZE. Bulbul; length c. 19 cm ($7\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Above, crown and nape rufous-cinnamon; rest of upperparts olive-brown; cheeks white; ear-coverts black. Below, pale creamy buff lightly speckled with black on throat. Sexes alike.

Distinguished at once from *P. flavirostris* in lacking the dark brown throat, and from other parrotbills by its black ear-coverts.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident; locally common. East Pakistan in Sylhet and the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the hills of Assam north to Nagaland and the Patkai Range; from c. 900 to over 2100 m, mostly 1500 to 1800 m. Replaces *P. flavirostris* at higher elevations. Affects scrub and grass on abandoned cultivation, bushes, and bamboo jungle but is less restricted to the latter than Blackthroated Parrotbill (1251).

Extralimital. Extends east to northern Vietnam, Kwangtung and Fukien.

GENERAL HABITS. A noisy, pugnacious bird found in small parties, sometimes in association with other babblers, e.g. *Garrulax ruficollis*. Carriage upright as in others of the genus.

FOOD. Insects and seeds (including cultivated millet).

VOICE and CALLS. A series of 6 or 7 harsh, peculiar notes on the same tone, lasting about two seconds; alarm, a variety of chittering and strident notes (Smythies). Also a bleating call (Baker).

BREEDING. Season, April to June. Nest, similar to that of *P. flavirostris*, made with the same yellow material and lined with yellowish, rarely dark-coloured strips of grass. As a rule placed between 90 and 180 cm above the ground in bamboo clumps, or occasionally in a shrub or stout weed. Little attempt is made at concealment and attention is drawn to it by the

fussy and noisy behaviour of the owners. Eggs, 2 or 3, variable but indistinguishable from those of *P. flavirostris*. One variety is described as pale green-grey with numerous but faint blotches and smudges of sepia and brown, and underlying spots of lavender and a few scrawly lines of dark brown. Average size of 34 eggs 22.2×16.4 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *P. flavirostris* in having the underparts pale cream-buff, not fulvous, lightly speckled with black on throat; upperparts paler, less rufous; bill smaller and legs weaker.

Young. Similar to adult but crown paler; upperparts and edges of wings and tail tinged with pale rust. First primary (as.) more rounded with broader outer web; rectrices narrower and more pointed.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	80-85	8-9	c. 26	c. 100 mm (Baker)

Bill from skull 17 mm; greatest depth of upper mandible 10 mm. Length of hind toe including claw 17 mm.

Weight 1 ♀ 26 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown to red-brown. Bill wax-yellow. Legs and feet slaty grey (Baker). Iris brown. Bill yellow. Feet bluish grey (SDR).

Genus TURDOIDES Cretzschmar

Turdoides Cretzschmar, 1826, in Rüppell's Atlas zu der Reise in n. Afrika, (Vög.): 7, pl. 4. Type, by monotypy, *Turdoides leucocephala* Cretzschmar

Argya Lesson, 1831, Traité d'Orn.: 402. Type, by subsequent designation (Gray, 1855), *Malurus squamiceps* Cretzschmar

Acanthoptila Blyth, 1855, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 24: 478. Type, by original designation, *Timalia nipalensis* Hodgson

Differs from *Garrulax* in having the covering membrane of the nostrils more or less covered by plumes. Rictal bristles short and stout; feathers of the forehead short, firm and close. Legs very strong.

Key to the Species

		Page
I	Breast with distinct black streaks.....	<i>T. nipalensis</i> 234
II	Breast not distinctly streaked	
A	Throat cinnamon.....	<i>T. rufescens</i> 231
B	Throat not cinnamon	
a	Forehead with white shaft-streaks.....	<i>T. malcolmi</i> 220
b	Whole crown heavily streaked with dark brown	
1	Throat white or pinkish buff.....	<i>T. caudatus</i> 214
2	Throat fulvous with dark shaft-streaks.....	<i>T. earlei</i> 216
c	Crown unstreaked	
3	Crown cream-buff paler than back or concolorous but back with a varying amount of rufous.....	<i>T. affinis</i> 232
4	Forehead deep grey.....	<i>T. subrufus</i> 222
5	Crown concolorous with or darker than back	
i	Lores and chin white, bill black.....	<i>T. longirostris</i> 219
ii	Lores and chin not white, bill yellow.....	<i>T. striatus</i> 224

TURDOIDES CAUDATUS (Dumont)

Key to the Subspecies

- Paler and greyer *T. c. huttoni*
 Darker and browner *T. c. caudatus*

1253. **Afghan Babbler.** *Turdoides caudatus huttoni* (Blyth)

Malacocercus Huttoni Blyth, 1847, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 16: 476
 (Kandahar, Afghanistan)

Cf. Vaurie, C., 1953, *Amer. Mus. Novit.*, No. 1642: 5-8

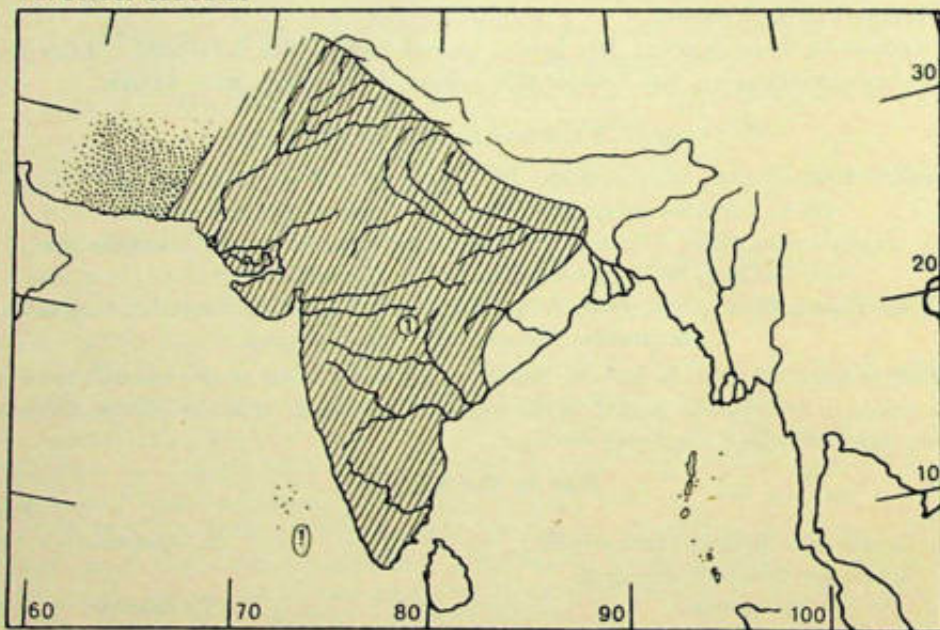
Baker, FBI No. 193, Vol. 1: 199

LOCAL NAMES. *Pinkulag* (Baluchi); *Susu*, *Dām dārāz* (Persian).

SIZE. Bulbul +; length c. 23 cm (9 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1254.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. West Pakistan

Turdoides caudatus

Distributional ranges

▨ *huttoni* (1253).

▨ *caudatus* (1254).

in Baluchistan roughly west of a line from Kalat to the Basul river on the Makran coast. Affects scrub in the plains and lower hills up to 1200 m.

Extralimital. Southeastern Afghanistan and eastern Iran. The species extends west to southwestern Iran and southeastern Iraq.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1254, q.v.

BREEDING. Season, April and May. Nest and eggs, as in 1254.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Similar to *caudatus* but paler and greyer, the central marks on the feathers less defined and not so dark.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	85-94	21-25	28-30	112-128 mm (HW, Ticehurst)

Weight 1 ♀ 38; 1 ♂? 31 g (BB).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1254.

1254. **Common Babbler.** *Turdoides caudatus caudatus* (Dumont)

Cossyphus caudatus Dumont, 1823, Dict. sci. nat. (ed. Levrault) 29: 268 (India)

Chatorhea [sic] *eclipses* Hume, 1877, Stray Feathers 5: 337

('Punjab, Trans-Indus' = Peshawar)

Baker, FBI No. 192, Vol. 1: 198

LOCAL NAMES. *Heddo*, *Lailo* (Sind); *Chilchil*, *Sor*, *Genga*, *Chhōta gengā*, *Dumri* (Hindi); *Shērādi* (Gujarati); *Chinna sida* (Telugu); *Huni* (Tamil); *Chilappan* (Malayalam).

SIZE. Bulbul +; length c. 23 cm (9 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A slim earthy brown babbler with a long, graduated, loosely attached tail. *Above*, head and back drab brown heavily streaked with dark brown. Tail narrowly cross-barred. *Below*, throat white; rest of underparts creamy buff or pinkish-buff lightly streaked with dark on sides of breast. Legs yellow. Sexes alike. For distinction from other members of the genus see Key to the Species.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident; generally common and widely distributed, more locally so, south of the Godavari river. West Pakistan (except for the range of *huttoni*) and India from the N.W.F.P. along the foothills to Dehra Dun and the plains east to eastern Bihar (possibly northwestern East Pakistan) and eastern Madhya Pradesh (not recorded in Orissa), and the whole Peninsula south to Cape Comorin and Rameswaram Island; also the Laccadive Islands. In semi-desert and the dry plains and stony lower hills normally up to 900 m in the Peninsula; sometimes up to 2100 m in the Himalayas (Dharmasala). Affects xerophytic thorn scrub jungle, sandy flood plains dotted with clumps of tamarisk, sarpat grass (*Saccharum*), and ber bushes (*Zizyphus*), etc. Occasionally enters cultivation, gardens and compounds especially in the north.

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps in flocks of six to twenty individuals, sometimes even in the breeding season, spending its time on the ground, hopping about rapidly with a bouncing gait, more commonly scuttling like a rat under the sparse vegetation and hedges, uttering pleasant whistling trills. Switches tail before commencing to run, sometimes cocking it up to look like an oversize *Prinia*. When alarmed, e.g. at the appearance of a cat or mongoose, the birds nervously twitch their wings and hop from bush to bush, peering down at the intruder, loosely jerking their tails, the whole sisterhood combining to hurl invectives at it in disorderly chorus. Loath to take flight; when leaving one patch of cover for another, fly off singly, one after another with a weak flight — a few rapid flaps followed by a glide on outspread wings and tail, close to the ground. Roosts at night

in a tightly packed row along a favourite branch, all heads facing the same way, preceded by much characteristic community trilling.

FOOD. Mainly insects — ants, caterpillars, beetles, grasshoppers, etc. Flying termites frequently captured in mid-air, like bulbul, by springing a metre or so vertically from a bush-top; also spiders, grains and berries especially *Lantana*. In season, feeds largely on the nectar of *Capparis aphylla* flowers; the birds get their forehead thickly coated with pollen and thus act as important fertilization agents.

VOICE and CALLS. A number of pleasant musical whistles *which-which-which-ri-ri-ri-ri-ri* constantly uttered as the flock moves about. Squeaky alarm-notes when suddenly come upon, very like those of a covey of bush quails (*Perdica*) when flushed and scattering.

BREEDING. *Season*, varying locally to cover almost the whole year; mostly March to July, extending into October. Double-brooded. *Nest*, a neat compact cup of grass and rootlets, practically always lined with the same but finer material. It is typical, and once seen cannot be mistaken for any other, the most noticeable points being symmetry of form, cleanliness and the great thickness of the walls. Almost invariably placed low down in thorny bushes (e.g. *Zizyphus*, *Prosopis*, *Lantana*), generally between 60 and 120 cm from the ground, sometimes lower or up to 180 cm. A favourite situation is in hedges of prickly pear (*Opuntia*). Fronds of low date palms also availed of. *Eggs*, commonly 4, often 3, exceptionally 5, turquoise blue. Average size of 180 eggs 21.2×16.1 mm (Baker). Incubation takes 13 to 15 days. Both sexes share in construction, incubation, and nest-feeding. Frequently brood-parasitized by the Pied Crested Cuckoo (*Clamator jacobinus*) and Hawk-Cuckoo (*Cuculus varius*).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Subspecies.

Young. Like adult but dark markings on head and nape rounder, occupying most of the feathers; tips and pale outer webs of wing-feathers paler. Postjuvenile moult complete.

Moults of adult are irregular and practically every stage of moult may be seen in different individuals at any time of the year.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	76-85	20-23 (once 25)	26-29	113-130 mm
♀♀	72-82	20-22	27-29	(1) 101 mm (HW, SA, Waite)

Weight 2 ♂♂ 40, 40 g (Roonwal). 10 ♂♀ 30-40 (av. 36) g — SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris brown, yellow or orange-yellow. Bill fleshy brown or brown, base of lower mandible yellow; mouth pale flesh. Legs and feet yellow; claws horny brown. Gape and mouth of young bright yellow.

TURDOIDES EARLEI (Blyth)

Key to the Subspecies

- Throat darker..... *T. e. earlei*
Throat paler..... *T. e. sonivius*

1255. **Western Striated Babbler.** *Turdoides earlei sonivius* (Koelz)

Argya earlei sonivia Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 3
(Khinjar Lake, Sind)

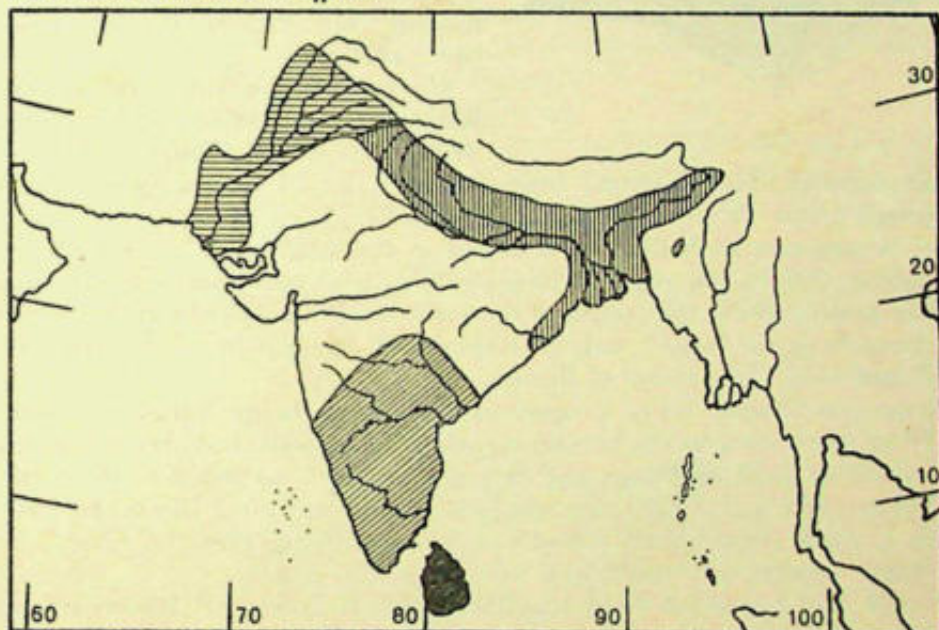
Baker, FBI No. 191 (part), Vol. 1: 197

LOCAL NAME. *Lelo* (Sind).

SIZE. Bulbul; length c. 20 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1256.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident; very local. The plains of the Indus river system, from Peshawar and Bannu east to the Sutlej

Turdoides earlei and *T. affinis*

Distributional ranges

 *T. e. sonivius* (1255).

 *T. e. earlei* (1256).

 *T. a. affinis* (1267).

 *T. a. taprobanus* (1268).

river, south to Sibi (Baluchistan) and the mouths of the Indus. Affects reeds, bulrushes and high grass on swampy ground. Inhabits better wooded and moister localities than *T. caudatus*.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1256.

BREEDING. *Season*, March to August. Probably double-brooded. *Nest and eggs*, as in 1256.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Similar to 1256 but throat paler.

MEASUREMENTS. 1 ♂ Wing 95; bill from skull 22 mm (SA). Other measurements and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS as in 1256.

1256. **Striated Babbler.** *Turdoides earlei earlei* (Blyth)

Malacocercus Earlei Blyth, 1844, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 13: 369 (vicinity of Calcutta)
Baker, FBI No. 191 (part), Vol. 1: 197

Plate 72, fig. 9, facing p. 224

LOCAL NAMES. *Bādā-phenga* or *genga*, *Chilchil* (Hindi); *Dorā chhātārē* (Bengali).

SIZE. Bulbul; length *c.* 21 cm (8 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. An earth-brown bird with a long graduated tail and streaked head and back. *Above*, head and back drab brown streaked with dark brown; tail finely cross-barred. *Below*, fulvous with dark shaft-streaks on throat and breast. Sexes alike.



x c. 1

Distinguished from *T. caudatus* by its fulvous (not white) throat; habitat (q.v.) different.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT.

Resident; common in suitable biotope.

The plains of the Ganges and of the Brahmaputra river systems, from Punjab (east of the range of *sonivius*) through Uttar Pradesh, Nepal terai, Bihar (?), West Bengal, East Pakistan and Assam east to Sadiya; also Orissa in the Mahanadi river delta, and Manipur. Affects tall grass, elephant-grass, rushes and reed-beds in swampy areas, mainly along the course of the great rivers; also observed in dry grass and acacia scrub (winter only?). Replaces *T. caudatus* in moist terrain.

Extralimital. The plains of Burma.

GENERAL HABITS. Very gregarious and noisy, being found in flocks of 7-10 or more even in the breeding season. Clambers about reeds and grass in search of food and does not descend as much to the ground as other babblers. When one bird flies the rest follow one after the other, sailing with a weak flight, head poked out, then pitching into the grass.

FOOD. Insects and snails; also some vegetable matter.

VOICE and CALLS. A loud trisyllabic whistle *keep quiet* (Roseveare) and a rather slow *cheer cheer cheer* (Donahue).

BREEDING. *Season*, overall March to October or later, but with two main periods: March to May and August to October. Double-brooded. *Nest*, a neat, compact and rather massive, cup-shaped structure, made of grass, reed-leaves and rootlets, lined with the same but finer material and firmly bound to some close-growing reed-stems or placed in some little bush surrounded by high grass. Nearly all nests are found in the vicinity of water. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, pale blue. Average size of 60 eggs 22.8×17.6 mm (Baker). Brood-parasitized by Pied Crested Cuckoo (*Clamator jacobinus*).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *sonivius* in having a darker throat. Specimens from Assam are somewhat richer in colour.

Young. As adult but paler. Primary and tail characters present; postjuvenile moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	85-93	c. 20	c. 32	120-130 mm (Baker)

Weight 1 ♂ 46 g (Diesselhorst). 1 o? 48 g (BB).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris yellow; eyelids plumbeous. Bill fleshy yellow, culmen, nostrils and tip darker horn colour; mouth yellow. Legs and feet plumbeous or fleshy plumbeous; claws pinkish.

1257. **Slenderbilled Babbler.** *Turdoides longirostris* (Hodgson)

Pyctorhis longirostris Hodgson, 1854, in Horsfield & Moore, Cat. Bds. Mus. E. I.

Co. 1: 408 (Nepal)

Baker, FBI No. 197, Vol. 1: 202

LOCAL NAME. *Dao ling titri* (Cachari).

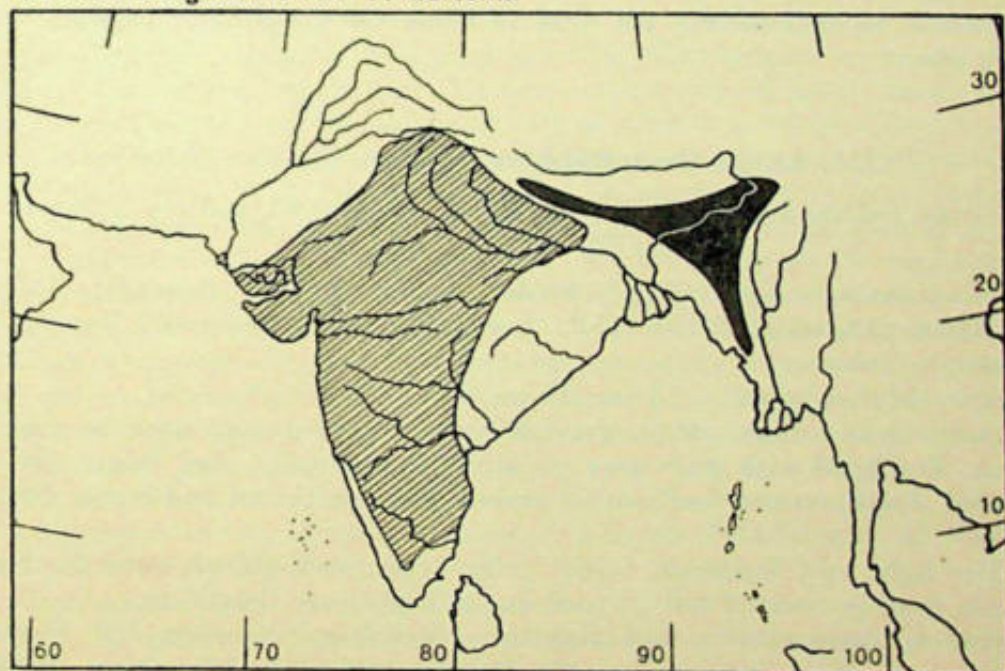
SIZE. Bulbul +; length c. 23 cm (9 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, deep reddish brown; lores and cheeks whitish; ear-coverts ferruginous. Bill black, slender and curved. *Below*, chin and upper throat whitish; rest of underparts ferruginous becoming albescent on abdomen. Tail cross-barred. Sexes alike.

The whitish cheeks distinguish this species.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident; locally common, especially so in the Manipur basin. Oudh terai (specimen in British Museum), Nepal terai (Hodgson) and east through Jalpaiguri district, the Sikkim, Bengal

Turdoides longirostris and *T. malcolmi*



Distributional ranges

■ *T. longirostris* (1257).

▨ *T. malcolmi* (1258).

and Assam duars, east Lakhimpur district near Sadiya, Assam in the Khasi Hills and Cachar, and Manipur (common round Logtak Lake). In the lowlands in long grass, usually near water, ditches or lakes; on the grassy plateaux of the Khasi Hills between 900 and 1200 m.

Extralimital. Northern Arakan.

GENERAL HABITS. Gregarious and noisy like others of the genus; also singly (when quiet), and in pairs. An inveterate skulker. Keeps closely to the grass and rarely shows itself; threads its way through the densest growth with ease. Feeds both on the ground and above in grass and reeds.

FOOD. Mostly insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A variety of notes, some pleasant, some discordant.

BREEDING. *Season*, May and June. *Nest*, a neat cup of leaves, grass-blades, stems and a few twigs, bound together with fibres and rootlets and lined with fine grass-stems and rootlets; placed in small, scrubby bushes growing in a sea of grass. *Eggs*, 3 to 5, pale blue, similar to those of *T. caudatus*. Average size of 20 eggs 21.5×16.7 mm (Baker). The birds sit close; when leaving the nest they slink quietly into the grass and are not as noisy and demonstrative as most members of the genus. Not gregarious in the breeding season.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species and Field Characters.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	75-79	c. 18-19	c. 30	115-120 mm (Baker)

Weight 1 ♀ 35 g (SDR).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris white or bluish white. Bill black. Legs and feet dark brown.

1258. Large Grey Babbler. *Turdoides malcolmi* (Sykes)

Timalia malcolmi Sykes, 1832, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 88 (Dukhun = Poona)

Baker, FBI No. 195, Vol. 1: 200

LOCAL NAMES. *Ghogoi*, *Gāugāi*, *Sātbhāi* (Hindi); *Gongya* (Kannada); *Kōkātti* or *Khēkta* (Marathi); *Bhaina* (U.P., Lucknow); *Lalēdo* (Gujarati); *Verri-chinda*, *Goiva-sida* (Telugu).

SIZE. Myna; length c. 28 cm (11 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, greyish brown mottled with dark brown on back. Forehead with pale ashy (whitish) shaft-streaks. Tail faintly cross-barred. *Below*, creamy buff with a pinkish tinge on throat and breast. Sexes alike.

The light ashy forehead, bright yellow eyes, and whitish outer feathers of the long graduated tail (spread out in flight) are diagnostic.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident; common but locally distributed; most common on the Deccan tableland. May have spread recently with increase in cultivation. From Punjab (Ferozepore and Ludhiana) east along the edge of the plains to eastern Uttar Pradesh (Gorakhpur and Ghazipur), south through Rajasthan (east of the Thar Desert) to Kutch and Saurashtra, and through the Peninsula south to Tamil Nadu (Nilgiris and Palnis), and east to a line Ghazipur-Ambikapur (east M.P.)-Nellore. Its occurrence in Sind (Sehwan *vide Ibis* 1922: 541) and in Kerala needs confirmation. Ascends the hills to c. 1200 m in the

Peninsula. Affects dry, open, sparsely scrubbed country, babool and dhāk (*Butea*) jungle, cultivation, city gardens and village environs (though not everywhere). Usually found in less dry facies than that of *T. caudatus* and not so wooded as that of *T. striatus*, but locally side by side with either. (See map, p. 219.)

GENERAL HABITS. Very gregarious; keeps in parties usually of five to twelve birds even during the breeding season, though nesting birds separate into pairs; flocks of twenty are common and sometimes as many as forty keep together. Frequently seen in association with Common and Jungle Babblers in appropriate facies. Feeds on the ground and in low vegetation. Active on legs, feeble on wings. Very excitable; if one member is set upon by a hawk or other enemy, the rest of the flock combines in its defence with much noise and bluster and may succeed in driving off the marauder. In scrub jungle it is the first bird to give warning of an intruder's approach, thus causing annoyance to observers by alerting other species.

FOOD. Mostly insects; also grain, seeds and berries. Sometimes ripening jowari on cob in standing fields.

VOICE and CALLS. Unmistakable for that of the Jungle Babbler, being flatter and less squeaky. Common call, a monotonous, plaintive, drawling *kay-kay-kay-kay* etc., kept up in chorus for minutes at a stretch. A short alarm-note, and noisy chattering on espying an enemy.

BREEDING. *Season*, ill-defined; nests are found in every month, but most birds breed during the hot months and the monsoon, from March to September, with possibly two peak periods: March–April and June–July with some regional variation. *Nest*, an untidy cup of grass, small twigs and roots, either without lining or with a slight one of fine rootlets and grass-bents. Generally placed low down in scrub, but quite often in small trees up to five, rarely nine metres. *Eggs*, 4, often 3, glossy blue. Average size of 36 eggs 24.2×19.5 mm (Baker). Commonly brood-parasitized by Pied Crested Cuckoo (*Clamator jacobinus*), two fledglings of the latter along with one or two (or none) of the babbler frequently observed with a flock. Communal nesting common (or usual?). Pairs continue to remain with the flock throughout, merely detaching themselves from time to time to attend to their domestic chores. More than one pair often seen working on the same nest and sharing in incubation and feeding the nestlings. The 'sisterhood' takes corporate action in the care of the nest and the fledglings after they leave it, even though these be only impostor cuckoos. (For an interesting note on communal nesting see Malcolm Macdonald, JBNHS 56: 132, and editorial comment.)

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species.

Young. Like adult but no spots on mantle and more buffish, less grey on upper coverts. Primary characters present; postjuvenile moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♂	108–120	22–27	35–36	129–145 mm
♀ ♀	110–118	23–24	34–35	128–136 mm
				(HW, SA)

Weight 27 ♂ ♀ 63–92 (av. 75.7) g—SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris bright lemon-yellow. Bill horny brown, darker at gape and paler at base of lower mandible; mouth blackish brown (bright lemon-yellow in juvenile). Legs and feet brownish grey; claws dusky.

TURDOIDES SUBRUFUS (Jerdon)

Key to the Subspecies

More richly coloured.....*T. s. hyperythrus*
Less richly coloured.....*T. s. subrufus*

1259. Rufous Babbler. *Turdoides subrufus subrufus* (Jerdon)

Timalia subrufa Jerdon, 1839, Madras Jour. Lit. Sci. 10: 259 (Manantoddy, Wynaad)

Timalia poecilorhyncha Lafresnaye, 1840, Rev. Zool.: 65 (Nilgiris, restricted to the northern slopes by Ripley, 1953, Postilla No. 17: 4)

Baker, FBI No. 196 (part), Vol. 1: 201

Vol. 7, plate 74

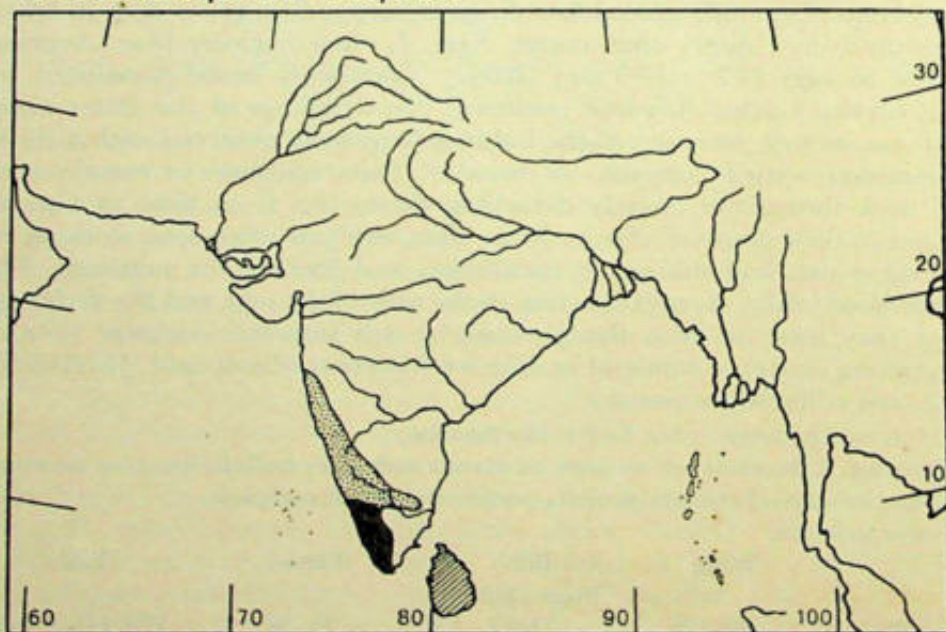
LOCAL NAME. *Jungli-khyr* (Hindi).

SIZE. Myna —; length *c.* 25 cm (10 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1260.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, rare in the northern parts, commoner in the southern. Maharashtra in the Western Ghats from Mahableshwar south through Mysore to the northern slopes of the Nilgiri Hills and east in northern Tamil Nadu to the Shevaroy Hills. From the

Turdoides subrufus and *T. rufescens*



Distributional ranges

 *T. s. subrufus* (1259).
  *T. s. hyperythrus* (1260).
  *T. rufescens* (1266).

plains and foothills to c. 1000 m. Affects dense scrub undergrowth, particularly where intermixed with tall coarse grass and bamboo brakes, edges of forest and abandoned coffee clearings.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1260, q.v.

BREEDING. As in 1260.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Like *hyperythrus*, but less richly coloured.

MEASUREMENTS and COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1260.

1260. **Kerala Rufous Babbler.** *Turdoides subrufus hyperythrus*
(Sharpe)

Argya hyperythra Sharpe, 1883, Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus. 7: 390 (Madras, restricted to

Palghat by Ripley, 1953, Postilla No. 17: 4)

Baker, FBI No. 196 (part), Vol. 1: 201

Vol. 7, plate 74

LOCAL NAME. *Chenchilappan* (Malayalam).

SIZE. Myna —; length c. 25 cm (10 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, forehead deep grey; rest of upperparts olive-brown tinged with rufous. Tail slightly cross-barred. *Below*, bright ferruginous. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident; fairly common. Kerala and western Tamil Nadu; plains and foothills to c. 1000 m. Affects secondary jungle and dense scrub undergrowth in evergreen or moist-deciduous biotope — especially where intermixed with tall coarse grass and bamboo brakes as on the edge of forest clearings for cultivation and plantations. Though habitat sometimes overlaps that of the Jungle Babbler locally, the two species do not intermingle.

GENERAL HABITS. Usually keeps in parties of six to eight individuals rummaging among fallen leaves, flicking them aside or turning them over in search of insects. A great skulker, more often heard than seen, creeping in and out of bamboo stems with the agility of a rat. Especially wary when venturing up into the branches of trees for flower-nectar, and will dive headlong into the undergrowth on the slightest suspicion.

FOOD. Mainly insects, but also berries, particularly of *Lantana*, and nectar of *Erythrina*, *Salmalia* and other flowers.

VOICE and CALLS. A continual shrill but not unpleasant whistling *tree-tree-tree*, rather of the quality of the chirping of a large cricket, sometimes without a break for ten seconds or more, preceded and punctuated now and then by one or two typical harsh babbler squeaks (SA). Same squeaks on alarm.

BREEDING. *Season*, not well-defined: overall February to November, mostly February to May. *Nest*, a deep, massive cup of leaves, grass blades, and creeper stems carelessly and roughly wound about the exterior, lined more neatly with fine rootlets. Placed in a fork in bushes or small trees. *Eggs*, normally 4, dark blue. Average size of 17 eggs 25 × 18.1 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. More richly coloured than *subrufus*.

Young. Like adult but upperparts deeper, richer brown. Postjuvenile moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	89-94	21-25	c. 33	115-118 mm
♀♀	88-92	21-22	c. 33	103-105 mm

(HW, SA, Koelz)

Weight ♂♀ 2-2.7 oz (c. 57-78 g) — Davison.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Adult. Iris creamy white. Bill: upper mandible dark horny brown except at gape; lower mandible, gape and mouth bright yellow. Legs and feet dusky yellow; claws dusky. Young. Iris dark grey. Legs patchy brown and yellow in front, yellow behind. Rest as in adult.

TURDOIDES STRIATUS (Dumont)

Cf. Ripley, S. D., 1958, *Postilla*, Yale Peabody Mus., No. 35: 5-10Naik, R. M. & Andrews, M. I., 1966, *Pavo* 4: 22-47Andrews, M. I. & Naik, R. M., 1966, *Pavo* 4: 48-57

Key to the Subspecies

A	Tail ashy at base, general colour ashy	Page
1	General colour paler, belly cream-buff..... <i>T. s. sindianus</i>	224
2	General colour darker, belly more fulvous buff	
a	Greyer; throat and breast less heavily mottled..... <i>T. s. striatus</i>	230
b	Browner; breast heavily streaked..... <i>T. s. orientalis</i>	226
B	Tail rufous- or warm brown, general colour browner	
3	Rump buff, paler than back..... <i>T. s. somervillei</i>	228
4	Rump concolorous with back	
c	Breast and upper belly heavily streaked..... <i>T. s. malabaricus</i>	228
d	Breast and upper belly fulvous, hardly streaked.....	
	 <i>T. s. orissae</i>	229

1261. Sind Jungle Babbler. *Turdoides striatus sindianus* (Ticehurst)*Crateropus terricolor sindianus* Ticehurst, 1920, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 40: 156

(Karachi, Sind)

Baker, FBI No. 185, Vol. 1: 193

LOCAL NAMES. *Sātbhāi* (Hindi); *Vānā lalēdo* (Gujarati); *Nelō, Kaugō* (Bhil).

SIZE. Myna; length c. 25 cm (10 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1262, but tail grey-brown, visibly barred.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident; common but unevenly distributed. West Pakistan, Punjab, Rajasthan and Kutch, from the Himalayan foothills (Kohat to Simla) south along the Indus valley to Karachi

1 *Parus major (ambiguus)*, Grey Tit (1796 RE). 2 *Sitta f. frontalis*, Velvetfronted Nuthatch (1838), ♀. 3 *Sitta castanea (neglecta)*, Chestnutbellied Nuthatch (1830 RE), ♂. 4 *Melanochloria s. sultanea*, Sultan Tit (1789), ♂. 5 *Garrulax chinensis propinqua*, Blackthroated Laughing Thrush (SE). 6 *Garrulax sannio (sannio)*, White-browed Laughing Thrush (1306 RE). 7 *Garrulax leucolophus (belangeri)*, White-crested Laughing Thrush (1283 RE). 8 *Garrulax pectoralis (meridionalis)*, Black-gorgeted Laughing Thrush (1277 RE). 9 *Turdoides e. earlei*, Striated Babbler (1256). 10 *Turdoides gularis*, Whitethroated Babbler (SE).



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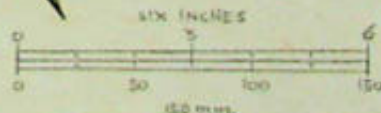
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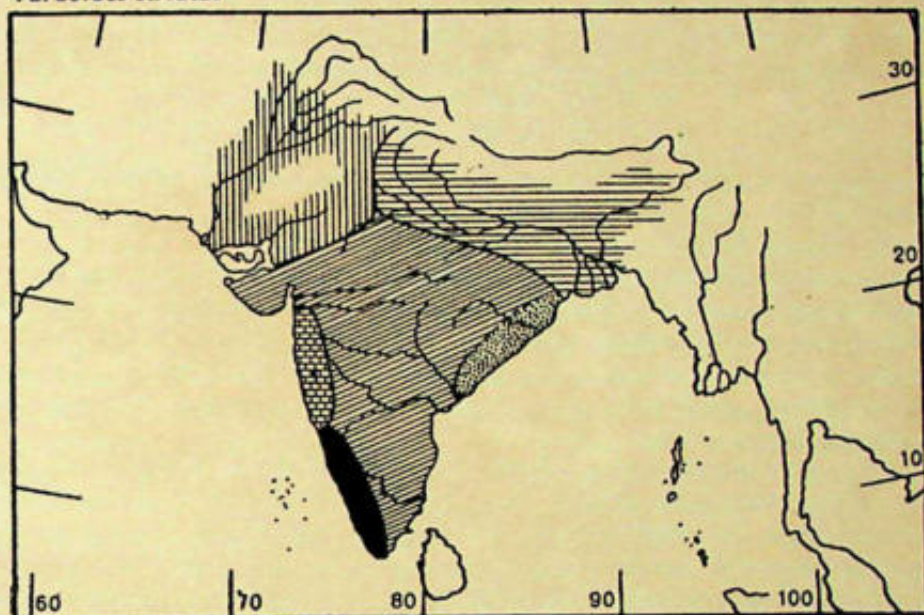
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Am. Hughes
1939.

and east from the Gulf of Kutch to the Yamuna and Chambal rivers, including the Aravalli Range but excluding the Thar Desert. Intergrades with other subspecies along its eastern limits. In the plains and foothills

Turdoides striatus



Distributional ranges

- sindianus* (1261).
 striatus (1265).
 orientalis (1262).
 somervillei (1263).
 malabaricus (1264).
 orissae (1264a).

up to 1200 m, locally up to 1800 m. Affects cultivation, gardens, mango groves, sheesham plantations with tall coarse grass (where it is found side by side with *T. earlei*), tamarisk jungle, and scrubby hillsides.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1262, q.v.

BREEDING. Season, ill-defined, mostly March to September. Nest and eggs, as in 1262. Average size of 21 eggs 24.1×17.9 mm (Osmaston); of 30 eggs 25×19.4 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from nominate *striatus* (1265) in being more ashy above; belly paler, cream-buff. Differs from *orientalis* in having the breast mottled as the throat, not heavily streaked; *somervillei* is much browner, has a rufous-brown tail, blacker wing-quills, darker throat and ochraceous-buff belly.

Young, like adult but paler. Primary and tail characters present; postjuvenile moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	104-111	21-25	35-37	100-114 mm
♀♀	99-110	23-25	35	104-110 mm
				(HW)

Weight 2 ♂♂ 66, 77; 3 ♀♀ 68-77; 1 o? 59 g (BB, Paynter).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris white to pale straw. Bill yellow (breeding), horn-brown (winter). Legs and feet dull yellow.

1262. **Peninsular Jungle Babbler.** *Turdoides striatus orientalis* (Jerdon)

Malacocircus orientalis Jerdon, 1847, Ill. Ind. Orn. text to pl. 19 ('jungles of the Carnatic, and . . . Eastern Ghauts,' restricted to Horsleykonda, west of Nellore, by Ripley, 1958, Postilla No. 35: 9)
Baker, FBI No. 183 (part), Vol. 1: 191

LOCAL NAMES. *Vānā lalēdo* (Gujarati); *Sātbhāi*, *Pengya myna*, *Jāngli-khyr*, *Ghōughāi*, *Gayanga* (Hindi); *Pedda-sida*, *Adavi-sida* (Telugu).

SIZE. Myna; length c. 25 cm (10 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. A familiar earthy brown bird of tousy untidy appearance with creamy white eyes, yellowish bill and legs, and longish tail which appears to be loosely stuck into the body. *Above*, drab grey-brown, a little greyer on head and nape. Rump and tail-coverts buff; tail rufous-brown. *Below*, throat drab-grey; breast streaked with pale brown; belly creamy buff. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident. One of the commonest birds of the Peninsula. Gujarat and the western half of Madhya Pradesh south through the Peninsula to the Nilgiris and Palnis (except for the ranges of *somervillei*, *malabaricus* and *orissae* qq.v.). Intergrades with *sindianus* in the Little Rann of Kutch, and with *striatus* in southwestern Uttar Pradesh along the Yamuna river. In the plains and hills up to 1500 m. Affects deciduous forest, bamboo and cultivation.

GENERAL HABITS. Very gregarious; seen the year round in parties of six to twelve, well deserving its Hindi name of *Sātbhāi* (= 'seven brothers', or 'Seven Sisters' as transmuted into English!). Large flocks break up into smaller groups during the breeding season. Jungle Babblers often form the nucleus of the mixed itinerant hunting parties. They spend much of their time hopping about on the ground, vigorously turning over or flicking aside dead leaves in search of food, taking to trees and bushes at the slightest disturbance. Each flock keeps to a more or less restricted territory. All the members of a 'sisterhood' roost together sitting side by side with their bodies touching each other. Individuals may frequently be seen shuffling themselves among the dripping foliage of a bushy tree after a shower. When curious or agitated, has a habit of fluffing out its plumage, especially that of the back which assumes an arched appearance, drooping the wings, spreading and depressing the tail, and pivoting uneasily from side to side, peering at and chivvying the intruder all the while. Very plucky in united defence of individuals from attacks by predators, and a flock may successfully rescue a 'sister' from the talons of a hawk simply by blustering noisy demonstrations against the aggressor.

FOOD. Mainly insects: grasshoppers, ants, beetles, cockroaches, caterpillars, etc., and spiders. For insects (mostly injurious) identified among stomach contents in an intensively cultivated area in Bihar, see Mason & Lefroy, 1912: 51-4. Four out of the 36 birds examined had taken frogs! Also eats grains, seeds, banyan figs, *Lantana*, *Zizyphus* and other berries.

Very fond of nectar of *Salmalia*, *Butea*, *Erythrina* and other blossoms which it doubtless helps to cross-pollinate.

VOICE and CALLS. A harsh conversational *kē-kē-kē* uttered as the birds move about which frequently breaks out into a loud, discordant chorus of squeaking and chattering under any sort of excitement.

BREEDING. *Season*, ill defined; mainly March to October with a peak period from June to August, after the onset of the rains; nests may be found every month. For details of gonadal cycles, weights and sexual maturity see M. I. Andrews & R. M. Naik, 1966, *Pavo* 4: 48-57. *Nest*, a loosely put together cup of twigs, roots, grass and various other material, scantily lined with rootlets and fine grass. Placed in bushes and trees from one to nine metres above the ground, usually between two and four metres, often in gardens, orchards, hedges or euphorbia thickets. *Eggs*, normally 4, frequently 5 or 6, once 7; the larger clutches may be the product of more than one hen. Colour, deep turquoise blue. Average size of 100 eggs (including those of nominate *striatus*) 25.2×19.6 mm (Baker). Both sexes share in building, incubation and tending the young. Breeding not synchronized or 'colonial'. More than one concurrent nest per sisterhood unrecorded. Apparently pairs breed consecutively rather than concurrently. Breeding birds continue to remain with the flock during this period, only detaching themselves from time to time to attend to their domestic chores. More than two birds have been frequently observed building a single nest and feeding nestlings communally. Commonly brood-parasitized by *Clamator jacobinus* and *Cuculus varius*. The impostor hawk-cuckoo continues to be tended by its foster-parents and is accepted by the unsuspecting sisterhood even when it has grown considerably larger than themselves. However, the moment the youngster moves from one tree to another in order to keep up with the flock, its hawk-like flight and appearance immediately arouse their suspicion. The members give the 'Ware-hawk' alarm-call and make as if to scatter with every sign of nervousness, notwithstanding that as soon as it has settled some of them (even besides the foster parents?) will resume feeding the importunate fledgling as before!

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *sindianus* and *striatus* by the darker throat and more heavily streaked breast. Differs from *somervillei* in having the base of the tail ashy brown, not rufous- or warm brown. Very similar to *malabaricus* but greyer, less brown, especially on tail. *T. s. orissae* is more rufescent brown on back, has a more rufous-brown tail and the breast and belly fulvous without the heavy streaking.

Young, a pale edition of the adult. Primary and tail characters present, and postjuvinal moult complete.

For details of moults, age determination and pterylosis, see R. M. Naik & M. I. Andrews, 1966, *Pavo* 4: 22-47.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	94-109 (mostly c. 106)	21-25	33-36	100-117 mm
♀♀	94-111	21-25	34-36	93-112 mm (HW, Roonwal)

Weight 10 ♂♀ 60-80 (av. 66) g — SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Adult. Iris creamy white. Bill pale yellow, pale horny at tip; mouth and commissure near gape bright yellow. Legs, feet and soles pale yellow; claws fleshy horny. Fledgling. Iris greyish brown. Bill: upper mandible brownish flesh, lower yellow; gape creamy yellow. Legs, feet and claws pale flesh-colour.

1263. **Bombay Jungle Babbler.** *Turdoides striatus somervillei* (Sykes)

Timalia Somervillei Sykes, 1832, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 88

(' Ghauts ' = Bombay Ghats)

Baker, FBI No. 188, Vol. 1: 194

LOCAL NAMES. *Sātbhāi* (Hindi); *Khēktā* (Marathi).

SIZE. Myna; length c. 25 cm (10 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1262, but with blacker wing-quills and markedly red tail-coverts and tail. Breast more heavily streaked.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Southeastern Gujarat and coastal Maharashtra, from the Tapti river south along the western flank of the Ghats to Goa (where it intergrades with *malabaricus*); from the coast to the tops of the hills. Intergrades in the north and east with *orientalis*. Affects gardens, scrub and patches of moist-deciduous forest.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1262, q.v.

BREEDING. As in 1262.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *orientalis* (1262) and *striatus* (1265) in having the upperparts more rusty brown; striations on mantle less marked; rump and upper tail-coverts rufous or ferruginous; flight-feathers blacker. Breast with pale centres to feathers more pronounced; under tail-coverts and tail ferruginous, the last obsoletely cross-rayed or not at all.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	98-109	22-26	35-37	98-111 mm
	(av. of 11, 102.5)			(SA, HW)

Weight 8 ♂ ♀ 59-72 (av. 60.5) g — SA.

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1264.

1264. **Malabar Jungle Babbler.** *Turdoides striatus malabaricus* (Jerdon)

Malacocircus malabaricus Jerdon, 1847, Ill. Ind. Orn. text to plate 19 (' forests of Malabar and on the side of the Neilgherries ' = Travancore [Kerala]), vide Whistler, 1935,

JBNHS 38: 72

Baker, FBI No. 184, Vol. 1: 192

LOCAL NAME. *Kariyilakkili* (Malayalam).

SIZE. Myna; length c. 25 cm (10 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1262; see Museum Diagnosis.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident; common but somewhat unevenly distributed: Kerala and coastal Mysore. Intergrades with *somervillei* about Goa and with *orientalis* in the hills of eastern central Kerala. Chiefly low country, but also in the hills up to 1200 m. Affects mixed

deciduous bamboo forest and scrub jungle with *Lantana*. Avoids evergreen but occasionally present in secondary growth on its outskirts. Partial to cashew and jack-fruit gardens surrounding homesteads.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1262, q.v.

BREEDING. *Season*, the entire year, but chiefly January to March. Nesting, as in 1262. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, turquoise blue. Average size of 30 eggs 25.4×19.7 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. For distinction from adjacent subspecies see 1262 and 1263; also 1264a.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	101-107	24-25	c. 36	105 mm
♀♀	101-109	22-24	33-35	99-102 mm

(SA, Koelz)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris creamy or yellowish white. Bill and orbital skin pale yellow; mouth and gape bright deep yellow. Legs and feet yellowish flesh.

1264a. **Orissa Jungle Babbler.** *Turdoides striatus orissae* Jerdon

Turdoides striatus orissae Jerdon. See Ripley, 1969, Jour. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 66: 168

(Barkot, alt. 120 m, Bamra, Sambalpur dist., Orissa)¹

Baker, FBI No. 183 (part), Vol. 1: 191

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Myna; length c. 25 cm (10 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1262, but more rufescent brown; underparts uniformly fulvous; breast unstreaked.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Orissa east of the Ghats and perhaps northeastern Andhra Pradesh south to (and including?) the Godavari river delta. Biotope as in 1262.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1262, q.v.

BREEDING. As in 1262.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *striatus* in being more rufescent brown above and more fulvous, less grey below. Differs from *orientalis* by the same characters and by lacking the heavy streaking on the breast. *Malabaricus* (which it most resembles) is darker but less rufescent above, more heavily streaked on back; its underparts, especially throat, are much darker; breast, upper belly and flanks heavily streaked (*v.* unstreaked in *orissae*).

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
2 ♂♂	103, 104	25	35	102, 107 mm
2 ♀♀	94, 99	25, 23	35	96, 102 mm

(Desfayes)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. As in 1265.

¹ The description of this form (1969, JBNHS 66: 168) calls properly for the designation of a *Neotype* rather than *Holotype*. Thus the specimen in the collection of the Bombay Natural History Society (No. 15956) should be so described (SDR).

1265. **Bengal Jungle Babbler.** *Turdoides striatus striatus* (Dumont)

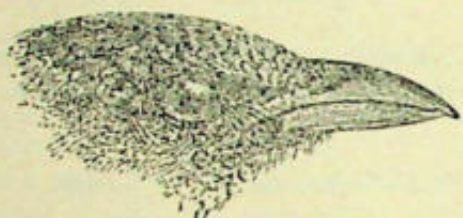
Cossyphus striatus Dumont, 1823, Dict. sci. nat. (ed. Levrault) 29: 268 (Bengale)
Maina Terricolor Hodgson, 1836, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 5: 711 (Nipal). *Nom. nud.*
M. (alacocercus) terricolor 'Hodgson' = Blyth, 1844, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 13:
 367 (Bengal, Nepal and Assam = Nepal)
 Baker, FBI No. 183 (part), Vol. 1: 191

LOCAL NAMES. *Sātbhāi*, *Pengya myna* (Hindi); *Kāch-bāchiā* (Bihar); *Chatarhia* (Bengali).

SIZE. Myna; length c. 25 cm (10 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1262, but tail dark grey-brown, noticeably barred.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident; locally common. Northern India east of the Yamuna river in the Gangetic plain north to Dehra Dun, Nepal terai and duns, Sikkim and Bhutan foothills, West Bengal, Assam Valley as far as Dibrugarh, and East Pakistan east to Comilla; plains and foothills, locally up to c. 1600 m. Affects gardens, orchards, hedges in cultivation, bushes on waste ground, and secondary scrub forest.



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GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1262, q.v.

BREEDING. As in 1262.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Description: *Above*, pale brown including coverts, and tertials; greyish on head and rump, slightly fulvous on upper tail-coverts, the back with dark brown streaks and whitish shaft-stripes. Tail brown, paler at base, darker at tip and cross-rayed. Wings dark brown, ashy on outer edges. Lores whitish with a narrow dark line above. *Below*, chin and throat grey with faint darker bars; breast fulvous ashy with paler centres and shafts to the feathers. Belly, vent, and under tail-coverts fulvous, tinged brown at sides and with faint white shafts.

Differs from *sindianus* in being browner, less ashy; underparts more fulvous buff; grey of throat not extending so far down on breast; *orientalis* has a more heavily streaked breast; *orissae* is more rufescent brown above, has a fulvous belly, unstreaked breast and rufous-brown tail.

Young, a pale edition of the adult. Upperparts and head pale brown, not grey. Underparts rufescent, brownish on breast. Edges of primaries ochraceous.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	103-111	c. 24	32-34	95-111 mm
♀♀	96-107	23-24	c. 33	102-104 mm

(BB, Rand & Fleming)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris yellowish white or creamy white; orbital skin pale yellow. Bill yellow, yellowish white, dirty whitish or, rarely, pale horny yellow. Legs, feet and claws yellow, fleshy yellow or yellowish white.

1266. **Ceylon Rufous Babbler.** *Turdoides rufescens* (Blyth)¹*M. (alacocercus) rufescens* Blyth, 1847, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 16: 453 (Ceylon)

Baker, FBI No. 189, Vol. 1: 195

LOCAL NAMES. *Ratu-demalichchā* (Sinhala); *Vēlaikkāra-kūrūvi* (Tamil).

SIZE. Myna; length c. 25 cm (10 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Superficially like Jungle Babbler but entirely rufous-brown with cinnamon throat and breast and somewhat greyer head and darker ear-coverts. Bill and legs bright yellow. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident; moderately plentiful. Endemic to Ceylon in the Wet zone and neighbouring hills to over 2100 m. Affects deep primeval forest, thickets and bamboo scrub in well-wooded areas. (See map, p. 222.)

GENERAL HABITS. Unlike the Jungle Babbler, it is a forest-loving species found only in the dampest forest tracts and seldom away from deep jungle. Very sociable and noisy; keeps in parties of six to twelve or more, actively working about the lower limbs of trees, and threading its way through the branches of low jungle, thus resembling more a laughing thrush than a babbler. It has the quick movements of the former, jerking up its wings and tail, restlessly jumping to and fro on its perch. Its flight is weak and consists of little more than fluttering from tree to tree, with an occasional glide across a ravine. Appears not to mix with other species but has, in common with *T. affinis* and *Garrulax cinereifrons*, a curious association with small squirrels of the *Funambulus* group. 'Whenever a flock of these birds is on the feed, a squirrel is almost sure to be found in their near neighbourhood' (Henry).

FOOD. Chiefly insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A continual chattering, squeaking and chirping (Henry). According to Legge, its notes resemble those of *Garrulax* more than *Turdoides*, and it seems not to indulge in long periods of silence as does the latter, but a continual low babble from the flock usually betrays its whereabouts in the jungle.BREEDING. Season, March to May. Unlike *affinis* and *striatus*, this species is such an adept at concealing its nest that little is known of its nesting habits. Nest, said to be similar to that of *affinis*, a cup of grass and small twigs, placed among creepers surrounding the trunk of a tree or in a low fork of a tree. Eggs, 2 or 3, very similar to those of *affinis* according to Legge. Measurements of 4 eggs: length 23.3 to 24.2 mm; width 17.8 to 18.1 mm (Baker).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Rectrices, secondaries and outer web of secondaries very faintly cross-barred.

Wing formula:

	<i>T. rufescens</i>	Primaries (as.)	<i>T. striatus</i> ssp.
1st	c. 24 mm > primary-coverts		c. 36 mm > primary-coverts
2nd	c. 18 mm > 1st		c. 23 mm > 1st
3rd	c. 17 mm > 2nd		c. 10 mm > 2nd
4th	c. 6 mm > 3rd		c. 4 mm > 3rd
5th	c. 3 mm > 4th		
	5th longest (= 6th)		4th longest (= 5th)

¹ In view of the differences in ecological choice, wing formula, possibly also in voice and behaviour, as well as the lack of any intergradation, *T. rufescens* is better retained as a full species, not a subspecies of *T. striatus*.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	104-113	22-24	33-34	112-119 mm
♀♀	97-106	22-24	32-35	107-121 mm

(HW, SDR)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris white or yellowish white; orbital skin pale greenish yellow. Bill orange-yellow, deepest on basal half. Legs and feet chrome-yellow.

TURDOIDES AFFINIS (Jerdon)

Key to the Subspecies

Crown cream-coloured contrasting with back..... *T. a. affinis*

Crown greyish, concolorous with back..... *T. a. taprobanus*

1267. **Whiteheaded Babbler.** *Turdoides affinis affinis* (Jerdon)

Malacocircus affinis Jerdon, 1847, Ill. Ind. Orn., text to pl. 19
(Travancore, [Kerala])

Turdoides polioplocamus Oberholser, 1920, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington 33: 84, new name
for *Turdus griseus* Gmelin (Coromandel Coast, India), nec *Turdus griseus* (Boddaert)
Baker, FBI No. 186, Vol. 1: 193

Vol. 7, plate 75

LOCAL NAMES. *Kariyilakkili* (Malayalam); *Chinda sida* (Telugu); *Thavittu-kūrūvi*, *Pandri-kūrūvi* (Tamil).

SIZE. Bulbul +; length c. 23 cm (9 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, crown cream colour; ear-coverts greyish brown. Upper back and rump drab brown; dorsal feathers dark brown fringed with grey, giving the middle back a somewhat scaly appearance. Wings dark brown, drab brown when folded. Tail cross-barred in the middle, basal half grey-brown, distal half dark brown. *Below*, throat and breast dark brown, each feather edged with grey. Belly and under tail-coverts ochraceous buff, flanks greyish. Bill and feet pale yellow. Sexes alike.

The dingy cream-coloured crown contrasting with the dark ear-coverts, as well as its sharper, more musical call-notes distinguish this species.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident; locally common. Andhra Pradesh from the Godavari and Penganga rivers, and western Mysore from the Belgaum area, south through Tamil Nadu and Kerala to Kanyakumari (Cape Comorin) and Rameswaram Island. Birds from the latter place are intermediate between peninsular and Ceylon races. Absent or scarce in Mysore east of the Western Ghats. In the low country and foothills up to c. 300 m, exceptionally 1000 m. Affects dense secondary jungle, dry scrub, particularly *Lantana*, often in the vicinity of cultivation, precincts of villages and homesteads; also orchards and urban gardens and compounds; the common babbler of Hyderabad City and Madras. Prefers drier and more open low scrub country than the Jungle Babbler, but both are frequently found side by side and sometimes in association where their respective preferences overlap. (See map, p. 217.)

GENERAL HABITS. Similar to those of the Jungle Babbler with which it often associates. Most of its food is taken on the ground. Has a habit of

holding down underfoot morsels too large to swallow, while it tears off pieces. Flight weak; if any distance is to be covered, prefers to hop to the top of a tree and take off from there, proceeding in a series of rapid flutterings alternating with sailings, the birds usually following each other one at a time.

FOOD. Insects and vegetable matter — wild figs, berries of *Lantana* and *Zizyphus*, paddy grains, nectar of *Erythrina*, *Butea* and other large flowers, kitchen scraps around human habitations etc. Also recorded are whip-scorpions and (once) a lizard (*Calotes versicolor*).

VOICE and CALLS. Sharper and more musical than those of the Jungle Babbler, very distinct. A musical trill *trr-ri-ri-ri* uttered by one or more members of a flock from the ground or some low perch while the rest hop about for food. The tail of the calling bird is spread out and hangs loose while it nervously twitches or flicks its wings and pivots from side to side (SA). Also some noisy conversational squeaks.

BREEDING. *Season*, ill-defined. Overall January to November, mainly March to June with a second peak period in October-November. *Nest*, much as that of the Jungle Babbler, an open bowl of twigs and rootlets, coarse grass, some green weeds and leaves or other material (old newspaper recorded), lined with fern stems or rootlets. Diameter about 8 cm at the rim, depth of cup about 5 cm. Built in similar sites but rather lower down, usually between one and two metres from the ground, less often up to six metres or higher. Bushy mango grafts are much favoured. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, turquoise blue. Average size of 60 eggs 24×18.8 mm (Baker). Frequently brood-parasitized by *Clamator jacobinus*. Incubation period, 14 to 17 days. Both sexes build the nest and feed the young. When the young leave the nest, they accompany their parents and join the sisterhoods; they are then fed by the other members of the party, as well as by their own parents. Communal or cooperative nest-building and feeding of young as described in JBNHS 61: 181-3 (P. J. Sanjeeva Raj) is probably normal in the *Turdoides* group of babblers.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *taprobanus* in being browner and less washed with grey and having the crown and nape creamy, contrasting with dark ear-coverts. Differs from the Jungle Babbler, among other characters, by the colouring and squamation of throat and breast.

Young, resembles adult but streaking on mantle, and squamation on throat and breast very indistinct, pale and almost unicolorous. Primary and tail characters present. Postjuvénal moult complete.

Complete postnuptial moult takes place from June to November, but odd body-feathers are being moulted practically throughout the year.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	94-109	20-22	32-35	95-107 mm
♀♀	99-110	19-23	31-35	95-109 mm
				(HW, SA)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Adult. Iris from creamy or greyish white to pale blue. Bill, legs, feet and claws pale yellow. Mouth pale pinkish yellow. Young. Iris greenish grey. Bill pale flesh; mouth bright orange-yellow.

1268. **Ceylon Whiteheaded Babbler.** *Turdoides affinis taprobanus* Ripley
Malacocircus striatus Swainson, 1833, Zool. Ill., ser. 2, 3, pl. 127 and text (Ceylon),
nec Cossyphus striatus Dumont, 1823 = *Turdoides striatus* (Dumont)
Turdoides affinis taprobanus Ripley, 1958, Postilla, Yale Peabody Mus., No. 35: 10
 (Alawna, Ceylon)

Baker, FBI No. 187, Vol. 1: 194

LOCAL NAMES. *Demalichchā* (Sinhala); *Vēlaikkāra-kūrūvi*, *Kalani-kūrūvi*, *Puliny-kūrūvi* (Tamil).

SIZE. Bulbul +; length c. 23 cm (9 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. As in 1267, but crown concolorous with back. 'Its pale orbital region and bluish white eye give it a curiously anaemic look' (Henry).

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Ceylon, all zones, in the lowlands and lower hills to c. 1500 m. Affects semi-open country, scrub jungle and gardens. Avoids heavy forest.

GENERAL HABITS, FOOD and VOICE. As in 1267, q.v.

BREEDING. *Season*, throughout the year but chiefly March to May and again September to October in the hills and in the Wet zone, and mainly November to March in the low-country Dry zone. Nesting, as in 1267. *Eggs*, in the hills 3 to 5, generally 4; in the lowlands usually 3, rarely 4, similar to those of *affinis*. Average size of 50 eggs 23.8 × 18.4 mm (Baker). Frequently brood-parasitized by *Clamator jacobinus*.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. Differs from *affinis* (1267) in having a much greyer wash on head and body, with reduced or absent subterminal blackish spots, and lacks the cream-coloured crown.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂	102-110	21-22	31-32	101-102 mm
♀♀	101-107	21-22	31-34	92-103 mm
				(HW, SDR)

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris creamy white. Bill, legs, feet and claws pale lemon. Mouth pale yellow.

1269. **Spiny Babbler.** *Turdoides nipalensis* (Hodgson)

Timalia nipalensis Hodgson, 1836, Asiat. Res. 19: 182 (Nepal)

Baker, FBI No. 198, Vol. 1: 204

Plate 71, fig. 10, facing p. 192

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Bulbul +; length c. 25 cm (10 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. *Above*, dark olive-brown with whitish ear-coverts, eye-ring and short supercilium. Eye white. Tail faintly cross-barred. *Below*, breast creamy buff finely streaked with black. Throat white or streaked like breast. Belly whitish. Flanks and under tail-coverts tawny olive. Tail strongly graduated. Sexes alike.

The streaked breast and usually whitish ear-coverts distinguish this babbler.



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STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Resident, very local but not uncommon; some downward movement in winter. Not recorded in more than a hundred years since Hodgson's days, it was believed to be extinct until its rediscovery in 1948 (Proud, JBNHS 48: 699, Ripley, JBNHS 49: 393). It has since proved to be fairly common in some areas, even within easy reach from Kathmandu (Fleming, JBNHS 51: 941; Proud, JBNHS 56: 330; Rand & Fleming, *Fieldiana* 4: 126; Fleming & Traylor, *Fieldiana* 35: 477 and 35: 532). From the Nepal-Kumaon border east to central Nepal (Kathmandu Valley); from 1500 to 2000 m in summer (Proud, loc. cit.); recorded in winter from 900 to 1600 m. Affects dense secondary scrub on hillsides.

GENERAL HABITS. In pairs during the breeding season, in small groups of three to ten birds during the winter. Feeds almost entirely on the ground, searching for food among low bushes, turning over dead leaves, occasionally venturing into the open. Disappears at the slightest disturbance, only to come creeping out a minute or two later. Pairs form in March.

Pre-breeding activities. The male sits on some prominent bush, usually in full view but not quite on top, whence it sings from morning till night. Particularly noisy after rain and in the middle of the day. As soon as a bird starts to call, it is answered by another and another, usually some 200 metres apart. During March and April the singing male is usually accompanied by a female, low in the scrub. She spends a good deal of time preening herself, uttering low churring calls. The male may occasionally pick up a leaf and offer it to the female. While moving through the bushes, she frequently picks up dead pine needles and leaves, carries them for a short distance before dropping them; the male occasionally does the same. At times both birds fly, just skimming the bushes, sometimes for a considerable distance, but in an awkward, top-heavy manner. Pairs may occasionally preen each other, uttering low churring notes and raising the feathers of the head into a crest. The female may be seen begging food like a young bird, with drooping wings and tail (Proud).

FOOD. Chiefly insects.

VOICE and CALLS. Usual call, a clear *el-el-el-el-ele* uttered as it hops about on the ground. Alarm, a low *churrrr*. Female, in addition to churring notes, has a loud *wick-er-wick-er-wick-er*. A pair will sometimes burst out in a wild crescendo of screaming calls, when they sound very like the Jungle Babbler. Song: The male has a great variety of notes, but the tone, a peculiar harsh yet ringing whistle, is always the same. It is unlike that of a typical *Turdoides*, nor does it have the beautiful pure whistle of so many *Garrulax* species. A phrase most often heard starts with a few fine whistles, then continues up the scale: *ter-ter-ter-tee-ter-ter*. It has also, in the breeding season only, a very distinctive and peculiar phrase down the scale: *tee-tee-ker-chee-ker-chee-ker-chee*, sometimes preceded by a running trill. There are many other variations. The song can be heard most of the year but is more frequent from March to September (Proud). Other renditions of song:

there, chir, chir, wee wee
right here, right here, right here
tee-ter, tee-ter, tee-ter, tee-ter
pwink, chip, chip

pookil, pookil, pookil, chupu, chupu, etc. (Fleming).

Bursts of song often culminate in three or four clear and loud *teer-teer-teer-teer*, a characteristic feature.

BREEDING. *Season*, April, May and June (?), between c. 1500 and 1800 m. *Nest*, a deep grass cup placed in a small bush or built into a sturdy grass clump, not specially well concealed ['A very loose shallow grass cup in the fork of a tree' — Hodgson]. *Eggs*, 3 or 4, pale blue measuring about 28×16.5 mm. Both parents feed the young. Share of the sexes in incubation, and period, unknown (R. L. Fleming, Jr. in *epist.*).

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. The shiny black, rigid and pointed shafts of the feathers on head, nape, sides of neck and breast are characteristic. Shafts of chin and throat feathers have the same character but may be white or, in part or all, black. In a few specimens the throat is mostly brown with only a little white mottling.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tarsus	Tail
5 ♂♂	79-86	21-25	30-32	104-117 mm
7 ♀♀	81-87	20-26	30-33	107-117 mm

(Rand & Fleming)

Weight 2 ♂♂ 58, 64 g (Diesselhorst, Paynter).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris white. Bill: upper mandible brownish black, lower light grey on the basal half. Legs and feet light brownish grey.

Genus *BABAX* David

Babax David, 1875, Jour. troisième Voy. Expl. Chine 1: 181. Type, by original designation, *Pterorhinus lanceolatus* Verreaux

Close to *Turdoides*. Wing short and rounded; tail long, much graduated. Bill rather slender, slightly curved; rictal bristles long and strong; nostrils oval, exposed, overhung by numerous hairs.

Key to the Species

- Wing under 115 mm; upper plumage rich brown . . . *B. lanceolatus*
 Wing over 120 mm; upper plumage grey *B. waddelli*

1270. Chinese Babax. *Babax lanceolatus woodi* Finn

Babax woodi Finn, 1902, Jour. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 71: 125
 (Kanpetlet, Mount Victoria, Chin Hills)

Babax victoriae Rippon, 1905, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 15: 97
 (Mount Victoria, Chin Hills)

Babax lanceolatus oribata Koelz, 1954, Contrib. Inst. Regional Exploration, No. 1: 3
 (Blue Mountain, Lushai Hills)
 Baker, FBI No. 180, Vol. 1: 187

LOCAL NAMES. None recorded.

SIZE. Myna +; length c. 28 cm (11 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. An unmistakable babbler. *Above*, head and back boldly striped chestnut-brown and grey; a black moustachial stripe. Rump and tail dark brown. *Below*, cream colour, streaked with chestnut-brown, more heavily so on belly and flanks. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Rare resident. The Mizo (Lushai) Hills, from c. 1500 m up (found breeding at 1800 m in the Chin Hills, but on Mount Victoria restricted to a higher zone, 2600–3000 m). Affects thin, scattered forest and the more open hillsides covered with bracken, brambles and reedy grass.

Extralimital. The Chin Hills of Burma. The species extends north to Shensi and east to Fukien.

GENERAL HABITS. A shy species found in pairs or small parties. Hops with great agility through dense bushes as well as on the ground. In this respect it behaves like a laughing thrush though it is less confined to the ground; on the contrary, it freely ascends trees and may often be seen in the highest crowns of deciduous trees, especially in the mornings and evenings (Heinrich).

FOOD. Unrecorded. Presumably insects.

VOICE and CALLS. A full, far-sounding double whistle of wailing quality *ou-phée ou-phée* repeated six or eight times at short intervals; the second, emphasized note lies about two tones higher than the first (Heinrich). Also keeps up a continual flow of soft musical notes, varied occasionally by a harsher outburst, rendered as *auā quā qua quo, qui wa wa wa*, and *zerr-zerr-zerr-zerr* (Schäfer). 'A harsh noise like a creaking gate-hinge' (H. C. Smith).

BREEDING. *Season*, April to June. *Nest*, cup-shaped, made of dead leaves, grass, bits of bracken, etc., lined with rootlets. Placed in low bushes within a metre from the ground. *Eggs*, 2 to 4, generally 3, spotless, deep blue approaching those of *Garrulax squamatus*. Average size of 15 eggs 27.3×20.3 mm.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species.

Young, like adult, but pale markings on upperparts and wing-coverts largely absent, except on hindneck. Streaks on flanks much less defined, but lower throat more streaked than in adult. Primary and tail characters present, i.e. first primary rounder at tip; outer rectrices narrower and more pointed. Postjuvénal moult complete.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from feathers)	Tarsus	Tail
♂ ♀	c. 100	c. 25	c. 35	c. 140 mm (Baker)

Wing 7 ♂♂ 98–103; 9 ♀♀ 98–102 mm (Heinrich).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris white to bright orange. Bill horn or black. Legs and feet horny grey.

1271. **Giant Babax.** *Babax waddelli waddelli* Dresser

Babax waddelli Dresser, 1905, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 54

(Tsangpo Valley, Tibet = Chaksam)

Babax lanceolatus lumsdeni Kinnear, 1938, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. 58: 76

(Le La, between Chayul Dzong and Charme, SE. Tibet)

Baker, FBI No. 182, Vol. 1: 189

Plate 71, fig. 2, facing p. 192

LOCAL NAMES. *Jomo, Soio, Teh-teh, Kyu-mo* (Tibetan).

SIZE. Pigeon; slimmer. Length c. 31 cm (12 in.).

FIELD CHARACTERS. Very similar to *B. lanceolatus* (1270) but larger; bill longer and more curved. Plumage greyer above; tail blackish instead of brown. *Above*, ashy grey with broad stripes of blackish brown. Black moustachial stripe less prominent than in *lanceolatus*. *Below*, ashy grey with narrower streaks of chestnut. Belly and under tail-coverts ashy. Sexes alike.

STATUS, DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT. Common resident. Extreme north-eastern Sikkim (and possibly northern NEFA) in Tibetan facies, north of the main range; from 2800 to 4500 m. Affects arid scrub, especially thickets of *Hippophae rhamnoides*.

Extralimital. Southeast Tibet from Gyantse to the Tsangpo bend.

GENERAL HABITS. Keeps in parties of five or six in the non-breeding season, mainly to the ground, hopping about and turning over dead leaves and skulking in dense bushes. Very difficult to see even in leafless bushes in winter.

FOOD. Mostly insects; also berries (*Hippophae*).

VOICE and CALLS. 'Its spring call is a rapid series of quavering whistling notes, whilst in early mornings it has a pleasant thrush-like song' (Ludlow). Also a harsh grating call.

BREEDING. *Season*, April to June. *Nest*, a large ragged structure of twigs, fibres, dried grass and bits of wool, generally placed in a thorn bush about two metres from the ground. *Eggs*, usually 3, deep turquoise blue. Average size of 24 eggs 33.1×21.6 mm (Baker), and of 9 eggs 34×22.2 mm (Ludlow). Both sexes incubate.

MUSEUM DIAGNOSIS. See Key to the Species.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Bill (from skull)	Tail
8 ♂ ♀	130-138 (av. 134)	34-40 (av. 36)	150-155 mm
♂ ♂	136-142	34-39	(Vaurie) — mm
♀ ♀	128-135	31-39	— mm
		(Ludlow, Kinnear)	

♂ ♀ Tarsus 40-43 mm (Baker).

COLOURS OF BARE PARTS. Iris greyish white. Bill, legs, and feet blackish horn colour (Hartert).

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BLIND
TOOL
RANGE

SAND

