

LIBRARY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY
OF ILLINOIS

590.5

FI

v.31

cop.3

NATURAL
HISTORY SURVEY

NATURAL
HISTORY SURVEY
LIBRARY



5

FIELDIANA • ZOOLOGY

Published by
CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Volume 31

DECEMBER 30, 1948

No. 25

FIVE NEW BIRDS FROM THE PHILIPPINES

A. L. RAND
CURATOR, DIVISION OF BIRDS

In working out the collection made in the Philippine Islands by the 1946-47 Philippine Zoological Expedition of Chicago Natural History Museum it was found necessary to name five new subspecies of birds. It seems advisable to publish the present description of new forms in advance of the full report, which is in press. An introductory account of the expedition as a whole, by Mr. Hoogstraal, who was in charge of the expedition in the field, will soon be published.

Dr. Ernst Mayr, of the American Museum of Natural History, kindly lent material for comparisons, and compared the grebes for me in New York, and Mr. H. G. Deignan of the United States National Museum also lent comparative material and supplied information. To these gentlemen I wish to express my thanks.

Podiceps ruficollis cotabato subsp. nov.

Type.—Chicago Natural History Museum No. 183976, from Liguasan Marsh, near sea level, Cotabato Province, Mindanao Island, Philippine Islands. Adult male, collected December 18, 1946, by 1946-47 Philippine Zoological Expedition.

Diagnosis.—A rather small form with the under parts dark, the black of the chin much restricted, the chestnut shading the eye and extending more than halfway up the sides of the neck, and much white in the secondaries.

Compared with *philippensis* of Luzon the new form has the lower breast and belly much darker, upper parts darker and more blackish, and wing and bill slightly smaller.

Mayr, who compared this material with *tricolor* and *vulcanorum* in the American Museum, reports that this new race differs from *tricolor* in its smaller size, average lighter under parts, and extensive presence of white in the secondaries. The new form is distinguished from *vulcanorum* by its shorter bill, blacker under parts, and blackish breast collar. In regard to the amount of black on the chin, Mayr

writes that he cannot see much difference between *tricolor* and *vulcanorum* despite Rensch's comments in the original description of the latter.

Measurements.—Wing: male 98; female 98, 98. Measurements of two specimens of *philippensis* are: male, 113; female, 105. Hachisuka (1931–32, *The Birds of the Philippine Islands*, 1, p. 248) gives the wing as 100–107 mm., culmen 23 mm. Hartert (1912–21, *Vog. Pal. Fauna*, p. 1455) gives the wing as 109–112.5.

Range.—Known only from Mindanao.

Remarks.—Grebes from the Philippines have all been included under the name *philippensis* and have been described as having the belly white. The original description refers to the under side of the body as being white, which is clearly applicable to the Luzon Island birds in our collection but not to the Mindanao birds. The type locality of *philippensis*, hitherto given as the fresh waters of the Philippines, is hereby restricted to the island of Luzon.

The present series of three Mindanao birds presents some variation; in two the under parts are dark brownish gray with many of the feathers with buffy white tips; the third has more white in the central part of the under parts with the gray showing through, but it is still quite distinct from the white-bellied *philippensis*.

As we have no specimens of *vulcanorum* and *tricolor* in Chicago Natural History Museum, Dr. Mayr kindly compared my specimens with his series in New York.

In addition to the type, we have the following specimens of this form: Mindanao, 2 females, 2 downy young, December 15–18.

***Megalaema haemacephala mindanensis* subsp. nov.**

Type.—C. Natural History Museum No. 184583, from Todaya, altitude 2,800 feet, Mount Apo, Mindanao Island. Adult male, collected October 27, 1946, by 1946–47 Philippine Expedition.

Diagnosis.—Adults like those of *M. h. haemacephala* of Luzon but differ in the under parts generally having more of a yellowish wash; in the ventral streaking being heavier, with the streaks being deeper and more intensely green in color; and in the upper parts being slightly deeper green, more of a blue green, rather than yellow green.

Measurements.—Male adult: wing (5) 80–85 (av. 82.6); culmen (5) 21–23 (av. 22.4). Female adult: wing (4) 80–82 (av. 81.5 mm.); culmen (4) 22–23 (av. 22.5).

Range.—Specimens belonging to this race examined from Mindanao only; probably occurs also on some neighboring islands.

Remarks.—Two names are available for the yellow-throated barbets of the Philippines, *Bucco haemacephalus* of Müller, 1776, and *Bucco philippinensis* of Gmelin, 1788, both names without definite locality beyond the Philippine Islands. It seems advisable to restrict both of these names to Luzon and apply the new name to Mindanao birds.

It is interesting that the color of the back and of the breast and belly of *mindanensis* resembles more closely that of examples of the red-throated form *intermedia* than that of Luzon specimens of *haemacephala*.


Material from Mindoro (seven adults) resembles Luzon birds (twelve adults) more closely than it does Mindanao material (nine adults).

***Irena cyanogaster hoogstraali* subsp. nov.**

Type.—Chicago Natural History Museum No. 184278, from Burungkot, Upi Municipality, Cotabato Province, Mindanao Island, Philippine Islands. Adult male, collected January 5, 1947, by 1946-47 Philippine Zoological Expedition.

Diagnosis.—Similar to *I. c. melanochlamys* of Basilan but the glossy blue of crown, wings and upper and under tail coverts is paler and bluer, less purplish tinged; the brilliant blue of the upper tail coverts is of greater extent, reaching nearly to the rump; and the dull blue of the lower back, rump, tail, breast and abdomen is bluer, lacking a purplish tinge.

Measurements.—Male: wing 125, 125; tail 98, 100; culmen 28, 30.5; tarsus 18.5, 19 mm.

Range.—Island of Mindanao in the Philippines 

Remarks.—Though I have but two Mindanao and three Basilan birds, the National Museum has one Mindanao bird and nine from Basilan, and Mr. Deignan writes that the differences stated above hold for this material.

The race *melanochlamys* was described from the Steere collection from Basilan.

The other races in the Philippines are *I. c. cyanogaster* Vigors, with the upper back blue (not black), from Luzon and Polillo, and *I. c. ellae* Steere, with back black and under parts "deep velvety black, feathers of abdomen slightly washed with blue," from Leyte and Samar.

Rhabdornis inornatus alaris subsp. nov.

Type.—Chicago Natural History Museum No. 184455, from east slope of Mount McKinley at 3,000 feet, Davao Province, Mindanao Island, Philippine Islands. Adult male, collected September 18, 1946, by 1946-47 Philippine Expedition.

Diagnosis.—Similar to *R. i. inornatus* from Samar but differs in the great reduction of the white streaks in the upper wing coverts; in the reduced amount of white in the stripe over and extending behind the eyes; in the reduced amount of white on the side of the neck, posterior to the black cheek patch; in the slightly more brownish, less grayish top of the head; in the heavier and more extensive streaking of the under parts; and in the more earthy brown, less ochraceous-white lining to the under wing. This new race appears to have on the average a slightly longer wing.

Measurements.—*R. i. inornatus*: Samar, male, wing 79, 85; tail 41, 48; culmen 18, 19; tarsus 19, 21. Grant's original measurements (1897, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, 6, p. xviii) were: total length 6.2 in., culmen 0.74 in.; wing 3.2 in.; tail 2.0 in.; tarsus 0.8 in. *R. i. alaris*: Mindanao, male, wing 88, 89, 90; tail 51, 53, 53; culmen 18, 18.5, 19; tarsus 20, 21, 21; female, wing 85, 92; tail 46, 47; culmen 18, 18; tarsus 20, 21.

Material examined.—*R. i. inornatus*: Samar, 2 males (A.M.N.H.). *R. i. alaris*: Mindanao, 2 females (A.M.N.H.), 3 males (C.N.H.M.).

Range.—Mindanao.

Remarks.—This species was first recorded from Mindanao by McGregor (1907, Philippine Jour. Sci., p. 296), and the specimen was the first known female. McGregor compared this with the plate published by Ogilvie-Grant (1897, Ibis, pl. 6) and noted that while it agreed quite closely with the plate, the top of the head was browner, less gray. The Samar birds, judging by present material, do have grayer heads, but this is overemphasized in the plate. The faint white streaks in the upper back of the bird shown in the plate agree with those of one of the present Samar birds, but the other has them barely indicated; the characteristic extensive white in the side of the neck is well shown in the plate.

The two old female specimens from Mindanao (1903 and 1915) are slightly more rusty brown (as are the two Samar males, 1896) than the three fresh 1946 Mindanao males. This difference is attributed to foxing and females appear inseparable from males in plumage.

Anaimos plateni culionensis subsp. nov.

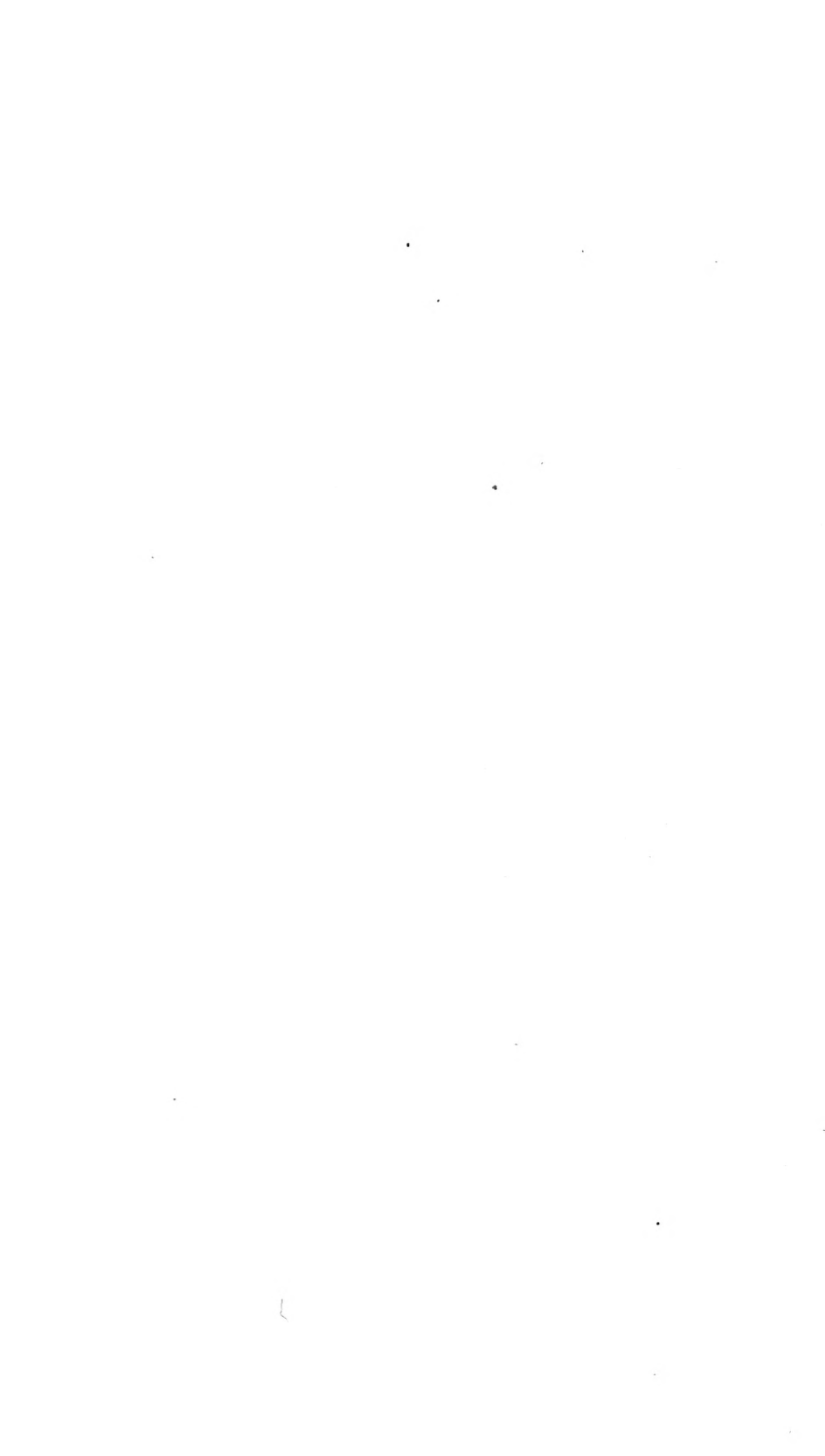
Type.—Chicago Natural History Museum No. 184810, from San Pedro, Culion Island, Calamianes group, Philippine Islands. Adult male, collected March 27, 1947, by 1946-47 Philippine Zoological Expedition.

Diagnosis.—Similar to *A. p. plateni* of Palawan but adult male with yellow of under parts distinctly more orange yellow, less clear yellow; red pectoral spot somewhat larger; yellow of rump more orange tinged; white malar stripe averaging slightly smaller. Adult female averages somewhat deeper yellow below, with more of a tendency toward an orange pectoral spot. In size this subspecies averages slightly smaller than *A. p. plateni*.

Measurements.—Male, wing 52, 52, 53, 54; culmen 12, 12, 12. Female, wing 49, 51, 53; culmen 11, 11.5, 12 mm. A series of *A. p. plateni* from Palawan measures: male, wing (6) 53-56 (av. 54.5); culmen 12-13; female, wing 51, 53; culmen 12, 12.5.

Range.—Probably throughout the Calamianes group, northeast of Palawan, in the Philippines, though I have specimens only from Culion Island.

Remarks.—Bourns and Worcester reported this species abundant in the Calamianes Islands, and commented on the average slightly smaller size (McGregor, 1909, *A Manual of Philippine Birds*, p. 638).





UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



3 0112 027924171