

I.—An Apparently New Race of Flower-pecker from Borneo. By EINAR LÖNNBERG.

In December 1923 Dr. E. Mjöberg collected on his way back from Mt. Murud at Rumah Tamabo Perak in the Kalabit country, N. Sarawak, a Flower-pecker which he kindly has sent to me for identification. When dissecting the bird Dr. Mjöberg observed that the testicles were "enormously developed," so that there could be no mistake about its being a male. Considering this it was apparent that it belonged to the plain-coloured *minullum*-group, as the length of its wing was only 45 mm.

Upper parts of the head dark olive-brown with comparatively broad olive-green edges to the feathers, so that thus each feather shows a dark central disk and a green margin. Remaining upper parts olive-green, more greyish on nape and neck, more strongly green on the back and finally inclining to olive-yellow on the lower rump and upper tail coverts. Wing coverts edged like the back, the quills with more olive-yellow outer margins, better developed on the secondaries than on the primaries, on which the light margin is quite narrow and even absent on the outermost one. Tail almost black, obsoletely tipped with brownish-white. Lores and sides of head grey with a slight olive tinge. Throat and fore neck ashy-grey. Centre of breast and belly creamy-whitish, sides of body and flanks pale olive-green, vent and lower tail coverts sulphur-yellow, strongly contrasting both with flanks and belly. Under wing-coverts and axillaries silky-white with a hardly perceptible tinge of sulphur-yellow on the outer ones. Culmen not quite 8 mm. Tail 22 mm.

If now a comparison is made with the other plain-coloured races, two, viz., *concolor* Jerdon and *obscurum* Ogilvie Grant, may be discarded at once in consequence of their much larger size.

D. m. sollicitans Hartert from Java has a buff patch on the lores, and *D. m. subflavum* Stuart Baker from Belgaum

(Bombay Presidency) has forehead and lores white, *olivaceum* Walden, recorded from E. Himalayas to Malacca and Sumatra, has the throat yellowish-white like the under surface of the body, not ashy-grey. The same is said to be the case with *minullum* Swinhoe from Hainan, while *everetti* Tweeddale from the Philippine archipelago has the under tail-coverts of the same "pale olive-greenish" tint as the flanks, etc. The race on the Andaman Islands, *virescens* Hume, has "the abdomen, flanks and sides of body olive-yellow, under tail-coverts white."

The races *everetti*, *virescens*, *olivaceum*, and *subflavum* appear also to have a greater length of wing, while it seems to be smaller in *minullum*.

The race *D. m. uchidai* described by Kuroda from Formosa is unfortunately not known to me, but it appears improbable that it is identical with the bird from Borneo, and in such a case it is very likely, that the latter represents an endemic race, which may be named *Dicaeum minullum borneanum* to indicate its origin.

Dr. Mjöberg is thus to be congratulated on the discovery of this hitherto missing link in the chain of geographic races of the plain-coloured Flower-peckers, so widely distributed in the Oriental region.



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