

XXIX.—*Remarks on some lately-described Pittæ, with a Synopsis of the Family as now known.* By D. G. ELLIOT, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

(Plates XII., XIII.)

SINCE my monograph of the *Pittidæ* was brought to a conclusion, now over seven years ago, several members of the family have been described as new; and it has occurred to me that a critical review of these, as regards their specific value, together with a comparison between them and those species long known to us, to which many of them bear a very close resemblance, might not be unacceptable to ornithologists.

I am much indebted to Mr. Gould, Mr. Swinhoe, and Dr. Schlegel, who have allowed me the use of the types of their species for description in this paper, without which I should not have been able to make the examinations necessary, and arrive at satisfactory conclusions.

The species described as new may be enumerated as follows:—*Pitta oreas*, Swinhoe; *P. megarhyncha*, *P. bankana*, and *P. sanghirana*, Schleg.; *P. simillima*, *P. strenua*, Gould; *P. krefti* and *P. bertæ*, Salvadori; and *P. digglesii*, Kreft. These I shall examine in detail. And, in accordance with the arrangement given in my work on this family, Mr. Swinhoe's species first claims our attention.

*PITTA OREAS*, Swinhoe, Ibis, 1864, p. 428.

This bird, which, I believe, represents a distinct species, was procured by Mr. Swinhoe from the Formosan mountains in May 1864. It belongs to that group which is distinguished from the other divisions of the family by having the under parts buff. It is most nearly allied to *Brachyurus coronatus* (P. L. S. Müll.), but can readily be distinguished by the crown being of a dull reddish-brown, and by having the underwing-coverts jet-black, without any trace of the white feathers which form so conspicuous a mark in its ally. In size it does not differ materially, the measurements, according to Mr. Swinhoe, being:—total length 8 inches; wing 5; tail 1·8; bill along culmen 1, to gape 1·2, depth at base ·35; tarsus 1·6. The accompanying figure (Pl. XIII. fig. 1) gives a very faithful representation of this bird.



PITTA BERTÆ, Salvadori, Atti Accad. Sc. Torin. 1868, pp. 527, 528.

A specimen of *Brachyurus moluccensis* (P. L. S. Müll.) from Borneo, differing, according to Dr. Salvadori, in its "smaller size, light blue of the rump, rose-colour of the abdomen, and white spot on the first remiges only," has been separated by that author. In the colour of the rump and abdomen it agrees with many specimens of the well-known species; and the other characteristics do not seem sufficient to establish it as distinct. I should state, however, that my opinion is formed from description only, as I have never seen the specimen.

PITTA MEGARHYNCHA, Schleg. Vog. Nederl. Ind. pl. 4. fig. 2.

This bird bears a close resemblance to *P. cyanoptera*, auctt., but possesses a bill very different, both in shape and colour, the latter being black. It also differs in having the reddish-brown of the head extending to the nape, without being broken by a black bar; the lower part of the neck behind bordered with black. The accompanying plate (Pl. XII.) readily shows the differences between this bird and its ally.

PITTA SIMILLIMA, Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1868, p. 76. *P. krefti*, Salvad. Atti Soc. Ital. Sc. Nat. xii. p. 551.

I have the type specimen before me, kindly lent to me by Mr. Gould, with the locality, Cape York, marked upon the label. In every respect, as to colour and general marking of plumage, it precisely resembles *P. strepitans*, auctt., differing from it only in size. Mr. Ramsay, in a communication to 'The Ibis' (1867, p. 416), mentions the difference in the size of the *Pitta* from northern and southern portions of that continent, and also notices a further variation in the extent of the *white patch on the primaries*, which, as he says, extends over two of them in the smaller bird, but on the fourth, fifth, and sixth of the larger form. In the type specimen of *P. simillima* it is confined to a small round spot on the outer web of the fourth primary, but is not wanting, as stated by Mr. Ramsay, and is very conspicuous on the fifth and sixth, as in the large race. The two forms appear to mingle together about Moreton Bay. In their mode



of nidification, the colour of their eggs, and their call-note there is no difference whatever between them, as stated by Mr. Ramsay, on the authority of Mr. Macgillivray, who observed them in their native haunts. Taking all these things into consideration, it does not seem that we are at all justified in elevating the small *P. strepitans* into a distinct species, but that it can only be regarded as a race of the well-known bird. It is by no means unusual to meet with diminutive races of species with which ornithologists were already well acquainted, differing in no way except in size, as is the case in the present instance; and it does not appear wise to separate them specifically; for they have undoubtedly all had the same origin, the variation in size having probably been produced in the course of time through the various influences of food and climate, or other physical causes. I should therefore regard the two forms as one species, and Mr. Gould's name as a synonym of the older appellation.

The *P. krefti* of Dr. Salvadori has been admitted by him (*suprà*, p. 296) to be identical with Mr. Gould's *P. simillima*.

#### PITTA STRENUA, Gould, M.S.

Through Mr. Gould's kindness I have had before me a specimen which he considers to be the type of a new species as yet undescribed. In the divisions which I made of the family in my 'Monograph,' this bird would be included in the fourth group, subgenerically distinguished as *Erythropitta*. It very closely resembles *P. mackloti*, and may be regarded as the New-Guinea representative of that species. The only differences perceptible are the stouter bill and especially lower mandible of Mr. Gould's specimen, and but a faint trace of blue on the crown of the head. The extent of white on the primaries varies considerably in these birds, as they nearly all possess it in a greater or less degree; and I am inclined to believe that it should not be considered in any way an indication of specific value. Bills of birds constantly vary; and it is very unsafe to establish a species when the size of that feature is its chief support, irrespective of any peculiarity of form. Deprived of this, *P. strenua* can in no way be distinguished from *P. mackloti*; and as we are not aware if all the Pittas from the same



locality possess equally strong bills, it hardly seems sufficient to justify the elevation of the present specimen to specific rank. Its habitat is supposed to be New Guinea, it having been received with some other birds said to come from that country. I give figures of the heads of *P. mackloti* (fig. 1) and *P. strenua* (fig. 2), so that the variation in the bills can be seen at once without difficulty.

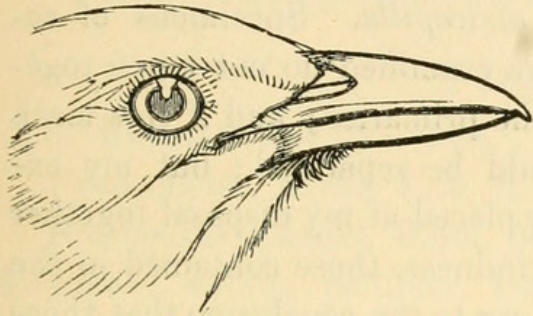


Fig. 1.

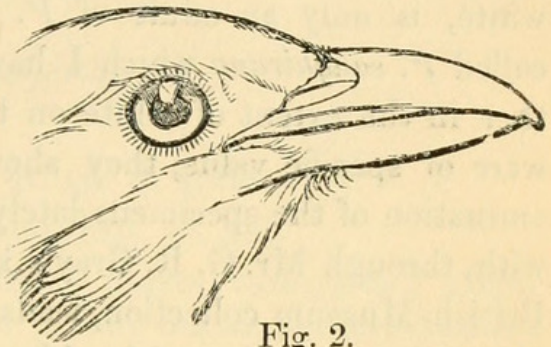


Fig. 2.

*PITTA DIGGLESII*, Kreft, Ibis, 1869, p. 349.

This bird was named by Mr. Gerard Kreft, as above cited; and the specimen was said to come from Cape York. Since that communication was published, many examples have been received from the same locality, and the bird has been figured by Mr. Gould in the 'Supplement' to his 'Birds of Australia.' It is in no way different from *P. mackloti* (*vide supra*, p. 119).

*PITTA BANKANA*, Schlegel, Vog. Nederl. Ind. pl. 2. fig. 5.

This bird, from the island of Banka, as remarked by its describer, is almost identical with *P. sordida* (P. L. S. Müll.); but it is not quite so deep in colour, and the feathers of the forehead and top of the head are tipped with a dark chestnut, which I have never seen in any examples of *P. atricapilla*, auctt., *P. cucullata* being the only one of the black-headed Pittas which has a brown crown. This species belongs to the sixth group of my work, with the subgeneric title of *Melanopitta*, and is represented in the accompanying plate (Pl. XIII., fig. 2).

*PITTA SANGHIRANA*, Schlegel, Ned. Tijd. Dierk. 1866, p. 190.

This bird is *P. atricapilla*, auctt., from Sanghir. Dr. Schlegel distinguishes it only by the green being darker and less bright, and the shoulders and rump being of a darker blue and less



silvery. These differences, which do not appear to be constant, but vary in all the birds of this section according to age, are not sufficient to establish a species. Nor do I think that the extent of white on the primaries is of specific value, as I find that specimens from the same islands vary in this mark very considerably; and I am inclined to believe that the one separated as *P. muelleri* on account of the primaries being all white, is only an adult of *P. atricapilla*. Specimens of so-called *P. sanghirana* which I have examined do not agree together in the extent of white on the primaries; and if this mark were of specific value, they should be separated; but my examination of the specimens lately placed at my disposal together with, through Mr. G. R. Gray's kindness, those contained in the British-Museum collection, leads me to the conclusion that those birds of this section with white on their primaries have but a comparatively small extent of it when young, and that it increases in successive moults as the bird grows older, until it occupies almost the whole feather, the end only being tipped with black, as we see in so-called *P. muelleri*, which, according to my view, is only the adult form of *P. atricapilla*.

Having now examined all the species, good and bad, which have been described since my work was completed, I proceed to give a synoptical list of the entire family, with some remarks upon certain of its members, whose names I had placed among the synonyms of other well-established species, but which are still considered, by some authors, to be entitled to specific rank.

### Family PITTIDÆ.

#### Subfamily Pittinæ.

#### Genus BRACHYURUS, Thunberg.

#### § *Gigantipitta*.

##### 1. BRACHYURUS CÆRULEUS.

*Myiothera cærulea*, Raffles, Trans. Linn. Soc. vol. xiii. p. 301.

*Brachyurus cæruleus*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. i.

Cæruleus; genis corporeque subtus fulvescentibus; occipite subcristato; pilis, vitta postoculari collarique interrupto nigris; rostro nigro; pedibus fuscis.

*Hab.* Sumatra.



§ *Hydrornis*.

## 2. BRACHYURUS NEPALENSIS.

*Pitta nepalensis*, Hodgs. J. A. S. B. vi. p. 103.

*Brachyurus nipalensis*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. iii.

Cæruleo-virens; sincipite, genis et corpore subtus fulvis; gula crissoque albis; occipite et nucha viridi-cyaneis; alis caudaque brunneis; rostro brunneo, basi fusco.

*Hab.* Nepaul, Sikhim, Bhotan (*Hodgs.*).

§ *Leucopitta*.

## 3. BRACHYURUS CYANEUS.

*Pitta cyanea*, Blyth, J. A. S. B. xii. p. 1008.

*Brachyurus cyaneus*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. xiii.

Cyaneus; subtus pallidior, maculis nigris variegatus; abdomine et crisso albis, capite griseo, nucha rubro-aurantia; striga oculari nigro maculata; gutture flavo; primariis nigris.

*Hab.* Aracan (*Blyth*).

## + 4. BRACHYURUS MAXIMUS.

*Pitta maxima*, Forst. Bijd. Dierk. 1854, pl. i.

*Brachyurus maximus*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. xii.

Niger; pectore lateribusque albis; tectricibus alarum cæruleis; abdomine crissoque rubris; rostro nigro; pedibus pallentibus.

*Hab.* Gilolo.

§ *Cervinipitta*.

## + 5. BRACHYURUS MOLUCCENSIS.

*Corvus brachyurus*, Linn. Syst. Nat. i. p. 158 (1766)? *no*

*Turdus moluccensis*, P. L. S. Müller, Natursyst. Anhang, p. 144 (1776).

*Corvus brachyurus*, var. *δ. madagascariensis*, Gmel. Syst. Nat. i. p. 376 (1788) *partim*.

*Pitta cyanoptera*, Temm. Pl. Col. no. 218.

*Brachyurus cyanopterus*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. iv.

Viridis: capite nigro, vitta fulvo-brunnea; tectricibus alarum uropygioque azureis; gula alba; subtus ochraceus; abdomine et crisso pulchre rubris; remigibus nigris albo-fasciatis; rectricibus nigris, apice cæruleis; rostro brunneo.

*Hab.* Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Malacca, Amoy, Siam.



This species, which has generally been known by Temminck's name of *P. cyanoptera*, is undoubtedly the one called *moluccensis* by Müller in 1776; and as his specific name antedates those of all other authors, except that of Linnæus, which is raised to generic rank, it must stand, and *cyanoptera* with the rest become synonyms. Mr. Swinhoe (P. Z. S. 1861, p. 412) has referred a *Pitta*, which he received in Amoy, to *P. nympha*, Schlegel, knowing (like all other ornithologists) that species only from the plate in the 'Fauna Japonica.' He has lately placed this specimen in my hands for examination; and I find that it is only the present species with the black of the crown not quite so strongly defined. The differences exhibited in the specimen are hardly sufficient to consider it even a Chinese race of *P. moluccensis*.

6. BRACHYURUS MEGARHYNCHUS. (Plate XII.)

*Pitta megarhyncha*, Schleg. Vog. Ned. Ind. pl. 4. fig. 2.

Capite toto ochraceo; torque nuchali nigro angustiore; gutture toto albo; rostro crassissimo, nigro.

*Hab.* Banka.

7. BRACHYURUS ANGOLENSIS.

*Pitta angolensis*, Hartl. Orn. Westafr. p. 74. no. 223 (1857).

*Brachyurus angolensis*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. v.

Viridis: capite nigro, vitta superciliari rufo-brunnea; gula roseo-tincta; tectricibus alarum minoribus uropygioque cyaneis; primariis nigris albo-punctatis; pectore ochraceo-fulvo; abdomine crissoque latissime coccineis; cauda nigra apice cærulescente; rostro nigro.

*Hab.* Sierra Leone.

+ 8. BRACHYURUS CORONATUS. *brachyurus*

*Turdus coronatus*, P. L. S. Müller, Natursyst. Anhang, p. 144 (1776).

*Corvus brachyurus*, var.  $\gamma$ . *bengalensis*, Gmel. Syst. Nat. i. p. 376 (1778).

*Brachyurus bengalensis*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. vi.

Obscure viridis: genis nigris, gula alba; pectore abdomineque ex brunneo flavis; uropygio, tectricibus alarum minoribus, caudæque apice, cyaneis; speculo alari albo; abdomine crissoque rubris.

*Hab.* Himalayas to Ceylon.



The name *bengalensis*, by which this species has been so long known, must become a synonym of Müller's appellation of *coronatus* applied two years previously.

#### 9. BRACHYURUS OREAS.

*Pitta oreas*, Swinhoe, Ibis, 1864, p. 428.

Viridis: pileo sordide rufo-brunneo, supercilio ochrascente; striga verticali et altera, a rostro per regionem paroticam usque ad nucham eunte, nigris; subtus pallide ochracea; hypochondriis viridi-lavatis; abdomine coccineo; rostro nigro.

*Hab.* Formosa.

#### 10. BRACHYURUS VIGORSI.

*Pitta brachyura*, Vig. & Horsf. Trans. Linn. Soc. xv. p. 218.

*Brachyurus vigorsi*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. vii.

Viridis: subtus ochraceus; capite nigro; vitta superciliari alba, postice pallide viridi; gula alba; abdomine crissoque coccineis; tectricibus alarum, uropygioque cæruleis; cauda nigra, apice viridi.

*Hab.* Banda Islands (*Wallace*); Australia (*Vigors*).

#### 11. BRACHYURUS NYMPHA.

*Pitta nympha*, Temm. & Schleg. Faun. Jap. Aves, Suppl. tab. A.

*Brachyurus nympha*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. viii.

Dilute viridis: capite nigro; vitta superciliari albo-rufescente; gula pectoreque albo-cinerascentibus; cauda nigra, apice viridi; rostro nigro.

*Hab.* Japan?

No specimen of this bird has ever been seen by any naturalist; and it is only known by the plate in the 'Fauna Japonica,' from which my drawing was made. It presents some differences from any other known species; and until we can get a specimen, it will be best to allow it to remain as distinct.

#### 12. BRACHYURUS STREPITANS.

*Pitta strepitans*, Temm. Pl. Col. no. 333.

*Pitta simillima*, Gould, P. Z. S. 1868, p. 76.

*Pitta krefti*, Salvad. Atti Soc. Ital. S. N. xii. p. 551.

*Brachyurus strepitans*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. ix.

Viridis: subtus ochraceus; pileo castaneo, linea occipitali, fascia



nuchæ, gula, abdomineque medio nigris; crisso coccineo; rectricibus nigris, apice viridi-fuscis; rostro nigro.

*Hab.* Australia.

13. BRACHYURUS CONCINNUS.

*Pitta concinna*, Gould, P. Z. S. 1857, p. 65.

*Brachyurus concinnus*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. x.

Viridis: capite juguloque nigris; vittis superciliaribus rufis; nucha albo-cærulescente; primariis, caudaque nigris; subtus ochraceus.

*Hab.* Lombock, Sumbawa, Flores.

14. BRACHYURUS IRENA. *Concinna*

*Pitta irena*, Temm. Pl. Col. no. 591.

*Brachyurus irena*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. xi.

*Pitta crassirostris*, Wallace, P. Z. S. 1862, p. 188.

*Brachyurus crassirostris*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt.

Viridis: capite nigro, superciliis flavescentibus; cauda nigra, apice viridi; subtus ochraceus; rostro nigro.

*Hab.* Timor, Ternate (*Schleg.*); Sulla Islands (*Wallace*).

In my 'Monograph' I included this bird with a query, as it seemed impossible to separate it from *B. irena*. I had not seen any specimen of the bird at the time; and my opinion was formed from Mr. Wallace's description, together with a water-colour drawing of the type sent to me by Mr. Selater. Mr. Gould has placed in my hands one of Mr. Wallace's specimens; and I do not think it presents any differences sufficient for me to alter my opinion, and separate it from *B. irena*, which it appears to be. It is not like *B. vigorsi* or *B. concinnus*, with which Mr. Wallace compares it, being much too large for either of those species; and from typical *B. irena* it varies in the black of the throat not extending quite so far on the breast. The bill is rather lighter, but does not differ perceptibly in size. I hardly think it can be separated from *B. irena*. Its habitat, as stated by Mr. Wallace, is the Sulla Islands.

§ *Purpureipitta*.

15. BRACHYURUS VENUSTUS.

*Pitta venusta*, Temm. Pl. Col. no. 500.

*Brachyurus venustus*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. xiv.

Purpureo-nigricans; stria postoculari utrinque protracta tectri-



cumque alarum marginibus cæruleis; abdomine et crisso rubris.

*Hab.* Sumatra.

§ *Phænicocichla*.

+ 16. BRACHYURUS GRANATINUS.

*Pitta granatina*, Temm. Pl. Col. no. 506.

*Brachyurus granatinus*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. xv.

Occipite, nucha, corporeque subtus coccineis: alis, dorso, cauda strigaeque utrinque nuchæ cyaneis: gula granatina; lateribus capitis, pedibus rostroque atris.

*Hab.* Malay Peninsula and Borneo.

In my former account of this species I included among its synonyms the *P. coccinea* of Eyton. There seems to be a slight difference between individuals from Malacca and Borneo. I have specimens before me from both localities. The Bornean bird has the black on the forehead of a greater width, and its colours are generally brighter, the blue stripe behind the eye being somewhat lighter. The general appearance of the bird, however, is the same, and I do not think they should be separated as distinct. There is no difference in size, and it requires a very nice discrimination to discover characters which would be sufficient to make two species of them. I therefore still retain *P. coccinea* (fig. 3) of Eyton as a synonym of *P. granatina* (fig. 4); the heads of both being represented below.

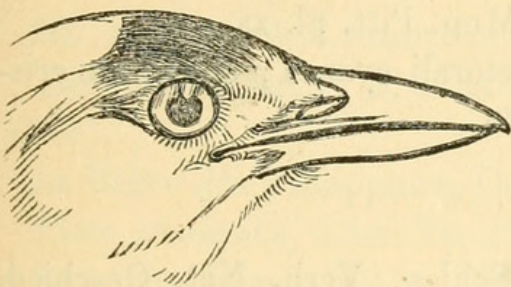


Fig. 3.

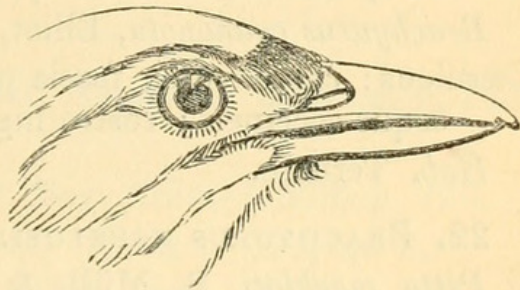


Fig. 4.

§ *Erythropitta*.

17. BRACHYURUS ERYTHROGASTER.

*Pitta erythrogastra*, Temm. Pl. Col. no. 212.

*Brachyurus erythrogastra*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. xvi.

Cæruleus: capite rufo; gula nigra; dorso viridi; abdomine crissoque coccineis.

*Hab.* Philippine Islands.



## 18. BRACHYURUS CELEBENSIS.

*Pitta celebensis*, Forsten, Bijdr. Dierk. pl. 3.

*Brachyurus celebensis*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. xvii.

Viridis: capite rufo; vitta verticali cærulescente; alis caudaque cæruleis; fascia pectorali cyanea, gula rufa; rostro brunneo.

*Hab.* Celebes.

## 19. BRACHYURUS RUBRINUCHA.

*Pitta rubrinucha*, Wallace, P. Z. S. 1862, p. 187.

*Brachyurus rubrinucha*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. xviii.

Viridis: capite et gula rufis; nucha rubra; vittis genisque dilute cæruleis; fascia pectorali caudaque cyaneis; abdomine et crisso coccineis; primariis nigris albo-punctatis; rostro nigro.

*Hab.* Bouru.

## 20. BRACHYURUS RUFIVENTRIS.

*Coloburis rufiventris*, Cab. & Heine, J. f. O. 1859, p. 406.

*Brachyurus rufiventris*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. xix.

Supra obscure cærulescenti-viridis; pileo brunneo; cervice rufescente; rectricibus virescenti-cæruleis; abdomine et crisso rufis; fascia pectorali lata cærulescente; rostro brunneo.

*Hab.* Batchian, Gilolo.

## 21. BRACHYURUS CYANONOTUS.

*Pitta cyanonota*, G. R. Gray, P. Z. S. 1860, p. 351.

*Brachyurus cyanonota*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. xx.

Cæruleus: capite rufo; fascia pectorali cyanea; abdomine crissoque coccineis; rostro nigro.

*Hab.* Ternate.

## 22. BRACHYURUS MACKLOTI.

*Pitta mackloti*, S. Müll. & Schleg. Verh. Nat. Geschied. Nederl. Ind. p. 12.

*Pitta krefti*, Salvadori, Atti Soc. Ital. S. N. xii. p. 551.

*Pitta digglesii*, Kreft, Ibis, 1869, p. 350.

*Brachyurus mackloti*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. xxi.

Viridis: capite brunneo, facie fusco-violacea; gula nigra; alis caudaque cæruleis; fascia pectorali cærulea; abdomine crissoque coccineis.

*Hab.* New Guinea, Papuan Islands (*Wallace*), Australia.



§ *Iridipitta*.

## 23. BRACHYURUS BAUDI.

*Pitta baudi*, S. Müll. & Schleg. Verh. Nat. Geschied. Nederl. Ind. pl. 2.

*Brachyurus baudi*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. xxii.

Pileo cæruleo ; genis, pectore tectricibusque alarum nigris ; gula alba ; dorso rubro ; remigibus nigris ; abdomine atrocæruleo ; rostro nigro.

*Hab.* Borneo.

## 24. BRACHYURUS IRIS.

*Pitta iris*, Gould, P. Z. S. 1842, p. 17.

*Brachyurus iris*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. xxiii.

Niger : fascia superoculari ferruginea ; corpore supra alisque ex aureo viridibus ; cauda nigra, apice viridi ; crisso rubro ; rostro nigro.

*Hab.* Australia.

§ *Melanopitta*.

## 25. BRACHYURUS FORSTENI.

*Pitta melanocephala*, Forsten, Bijd. Dierk. pl. 2.

*Brachyurus forsteni*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. xxiv.

Viridis : capite colloque nigris ; remigibus ex toto nigris ; abdomine crissoque rubris ; rostro nigro.

*Hab.* Celebes.

## 26. BRACHYURUS SORDIDUS.

*Turdus sordidus*, P. L. S. Müller, Natursyst. Anhang, p. 143 (1776).

La Brève des Philippines, Cuv. Reg. Anim. (1829) p. 373.

*Pitta atricapilla*, Less. Tr. d'Orn. (1829) p. 394, sp. 7.

*Pitta sanghirana*, Schleg. Ned. Tijd. Dierk. 1866, p. 190.

*Pitta muelleri*, Bp. Consp. Av. i. p. 256.

*Brachyurus muelleri*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. xxvi.

*Brachyurus atricapillus*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. xxv.

Viridis : capite colloque nigris ; cauda nigra apice cærulescente ; remigibus fere ex toto candidis, apice nigris ; abdomine et rostro nigris.

*Hab.* Philippine Islands, Sanghir, Borneo, Sumatra.

I describe what I consider to be the adult of this species,



with but the tips of the primaries black. In the majority of specimens more or less of these feathers is black, the extent of white varying greatly, so as to render it very difficult, if not totally impossible, to distinguish them satisfactorily as distinct species. It has generally been called *atricapilla* by naturalists; but that name has to give way to the *sordidus* of Müller, bestowed upon the bird in 1776 by him, and having precedence over all others.

27. BRACHYURUS NOVÆ-GUINÆÆ.

*Pitta novæ-guinææ*, Müll. & Schleg. Verh. Nat. Geschied. Nederl. Ind. no. 21.

*Brachyurus novæ-guinææ*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. xxvii.

Obscure viridis: capite colloque nigris; remigibus brunneis, quarto, quinto et sexto albo-signatis; pectore metallice virescente; cauda fusco-viridi.

*Hab.* New Guinea, Papuan Islands (*Wallace*).

us/ 28. BRACHYURUS BANKANÆ.

*Pitta bangkana*, Schleg. Vog. Nederl. Ind. pl. 2, fig. 8.

Viridis: pileo brunneo-tincto; collo gulaque nigris; cauda nigra, apice cærulescente; remigibus nigris, ex parte albis; rostro nigro.

*Hab.* Banka.

+ 29. BRACHYURUS CUCULLATUS. (*Harl*)

*Pitta malaccensis*, S. Müll. & Schleg. Verh. Nat. Geschied. Nederl. Ind. p. 13.

*Brachyurus cucullatus*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. xxviii.

Viridis: capitis lateribus, gula, superciliis angustis, colloque toto nitide nigris; pileo nuchaque castaneis; primariis nigris macula magna alba media notatis.

*Hab.* Malacca, Nepaul, Assam.

Genus PITTA, Vieillot.

30. PITTA GUAIANA.

*Turdus guaianus*, P. L. S. Müll. Natursyst. Anhang, p. 146 (1776).

*Turdus cyanurus*, Gmel. Syst. Nat. i. p. 828 (1788).

*Pitta cyanura*, Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. xxix.

Olivacea: capite nigro, vitta superciliari flava; gula alba; remi-



gibus nigris; cauda cyanea: subtus latissime ochracea ex toto fasciata; rostro nigro.

*Hab.* Java.

Müller described and named this species some years before Gmelin bestowed on it the appellation by which it has generally been known.

31. PITTA SCHWANERI.

*Pitta schwaneri*, Temm. Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. xxx.

Rufo-olivacea: capite nigro, vittis superciliaribus aureo-flavis; pectore lateribusque aureo-flavis, cæruleo-lineatis; cauda abdomineque azureis; rostro nigro.

*Hab.* Borneo.

+ 32. PITTA BOSCHI. *elegant*

*Pitta boschi*, S. Müll. & Schleg. Verh. Nat. Gesch. Nederl. Ind. pl. 5; Elliot, Mon. Pitt. pl. xxxi.

Rufo-olivacea: vittis superciliaribus pectoralibusque flavo-aurantiacis; collari lato nigro; gula alba; abdomine et cauda cyaneis; rostro nigro.

*Hab.* Sumatra, Malacca.

XXX. *Critical Remarks on Dr. von Heuglin's 'Ornithologie Nordost-Afrika's.'* By R. B. SHARPE, F.L.S., Libr. Z.S., &c.

THE work on the ornithology of North-Eastern Africa, of which Dr. von Heuglin's many papers in the 'Journal für Ornithologie,' have been the precursors, has at length appeared\*; and I take the present opportunity of offering to the readers of 'The Ibis' a few remarks on the thirteen *Lieferungen* now published, the last of which has only just reached this country. Many of the suggestions I shall have to make are due to Messrs. Gurney and Tristram, to whom I accordingly beg leave to tender my thanks. All ornithologists must gladly welcome Dr. von Heuglin's work as a very valuable addition to our knowledge of the avifauna of the Ethiopian region; and his long personal experience in North-Eastern Africa has given him the advantage

\* [ *Vide antea*, p. 127.—ED.]





Elliot, Daniel Giraud. 1870. "Remarks on some lately-described Pittae, with a synopsis of the Family as now known." *Ibis* 6, 408–421.

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