

antero-lateral laminar processes which are usually confined to the female.

On each side of the rostrum and attached to the hairs which adorn this portion of the cephalothorax there is a single branching piece of the Alga, *Galaxaura fragilis*, in a cluster of which this crab was taken.

XI.—On the Species *Rallus pusillus* of Pallas and its Allies. By W. R. OGILVIE GRANT.

WHILE recently engaged in arranging the Rails in the National Collection I was struck by the difference in appearance between the Pigmy Rails from the Indo-Chinese countries and those from Europe, Africa, and Madagascar, which have always been regarded as belonging to one species and known as *Porzana Bailloni*. A more careful examination of our large series at once convinced me that this is a mistake, and that the Indo-Chinese bird, of which Mr. Hume's collection contains a very fine series, is in reality very distinct from the true *P. Bailloni*, which is the Western form, both in plumage and geographical distribution. There can be no doubt whatever that the Eastern bird is the one described by Pallas in his 'Reise Russ. Reichs,' iii. Anhang, p. 700, under the name of *Rallus pusillus*, a name which was doubtfully referred by Mr. Dresser to the synonymy of *P. Bailloni* and added to the synonyms of that species by Mr. Seeböhm in his 'British Birds,' although he preferred to retain the name *Bailloni* used by the majority of authors. Pallas obtained his specimens in Dauria, and gives an excellent description, which I shall quote, as it clearly gives the characters which distinguish *pusillus* from *Bailloni*. The Eastern species must stand in future as :—

Porzana pusilla (Pall.).

"Colore et forma perquam similis *Rallo aquatico*; sed magnitudo *Alaudæ vulgaris*. Facies, collum subtus et pectus medium longitudinaliter cærulescenti-cana, media gula candicat. Litura per oculos longitudinalis obsolete ferruginea. Vertex, cervix, dorsum ferrugineo nigroque liturata; dorsum lineolis longitudinalibus vagis albis. Abdomen crissumque nigra, tæniolis albis transversis. Cauda inter alas compressa, arrigua. Pedes virescentes."

As compared with *Porzana Bailloni* it may be briefly cha-

racterized as very similar to the Western species both in size and general appearance, but differing in the following particulars:—

The adult male has a brown stripe of the same colour as the back, which traverses the slate-grey side of the face from the base of the upper mandible to the neck, passing through the eye and across the ear-coverts. (In *P. Bailloni* the side of the face is uniform dark slate.) The upper surface is lighter brown and not so heavily splashed with white, while the under surface is greyish white instead of dark slate-grey. It will be noted that Pallas particularly mentions the stripe on the side of the face passing through the eye, which is the most striking of the differences, which are in no way due to season.

The adult females of both the Eastern and the Western species resemble their adult males, but are not quite so richly coloured, and the breast is less pure and mixed with buff.

The young of both species are very similar, but the young of *P. Bailloni* appear to have the sides of the face nearly white. In *P. pusilla* they are brownish buff.

Mr. Seebohm, in his 'British Birds,' ii. p. 546, in describing *P. Bailloni*, has based his descriptions on both species, for the male only is true *P. Bailloni*, while the female belongs to *P. pusilla*. He has kindly allowed me to examine his collection of *Porzana*, and having also reexamined the material, is quite of the same opinion as myself. He mentions on p. 543 that "the geographical distribution of Baillon's Crake is either imperfectly known or is a very singular one;" but owing to his believing the sexes to be different, as already mentioned, and having only a few sexed specimens in his collection, he failed to recognize the distinctness of the Eastern and the Western forms.

Although the plate of Baillon's Crake given in Messrs. Hume and Marshall's 'Game Birds of India, Burmah, and Ceylon' is the identical one used in Dresser's 'Birds of Europe,' it is curious to observe that it has been altered in the former work, and the cheek-stripe already mentioned in my description of *P. pusilla* has been added, so that in that respect the Indian bird is fairly represented, though in many other points, as already observed by Mr. Hume, the plate is not satisfactory.

Both *P. Bailloni* and *P. pusilla* are easily distinguished from the Little Crake, *P. parva*, with which they have been and are so often confused, not only by their smaller size, but

by having the outside web of the first primary white instead of brown, and the sides and flanks barred with black and white, of which there is scarcely a trace in *P. parva*.

In attempting to point out the different ranges of these three species I shall only draw conclusions from the specimens I have seen, and such references as there can be little or no doubt about.

The range of *Porzana pusilla*, so far as I can ascertain from the specimens before me, is throughout the Indian peninsula (except Sindh, though Mr. Hume mentions that a specimen of *P. Bailloni* (*P. pusilla*, mihi) was shot by Mr. Blanford at Manchur Lake, in Sindh; but I have not seen it), extending south to Ceylon and the Andaman Islands. It occurs north of Tavoy, and extends through China to the Philippine Islands, and has been obtained at Bintulu, in N.W. Borneo. It occurs in Afghanistan, and is recorded from Beluchistan, Turkestan, Dauria, S.E. Siberia, and Japan; but it seems to me probable that the specimens from Beluchistan have been wrongly identified, and should be referred to *P. parva*. Mr. Scully says it is a summer visitor in small numbers to the main valleys round Gilgit.

With regard to *P. parva*, which he also obtained at Gilgit, Mr. Scully says, "This species appears merely to pass through the district in spring and autumn. It is found in Sindh in winter; and the birds that visit us probably breed further north." It is common in Sindh, and we have specimens from Beluchistan, Afghanistan, Turkey in Asia, South and Central Europe, and Britain, as well as one from Mtesa's Country, which lies just north of Lake Victoria Nyanza.

The true *Porzana Bailloni* is a straggler to Great Britain and ranges from South and Central Europe to the Cape Colony and Madagascar. A specimen was obtained by Mr. Cumming at Fao, at the head of the Persian Gulf.

So far as is known the ranges of *P. pusilla* and *P. Bailloni* are widely separated, and *P. parva* occupies the intermediate country as well as being found in part of the country occupied by each.



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