

A NEW RACE OF HORSFIELD'S SCIMITAR-BABBLER.

BY

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In the Eastern Ghats Survey (*J.B.N.H.S.*, xxxv, 742) I discussed the difficulties inherent in a study of the races of Horsfield's Scimitar-Babbler (*Pomatorhinus horsfieldii*) and pointed out that birds obtained from the Lower Eastern Ghats (Kurumbapatti, Shevaroy Hills, Palkonda Hills, Nallamalais) differed from those of the rest of India in having short beaks (29-31.5 mm.) and in lacking the black edge to the white plastron. At the time however I was loath to add to the races of this species on the material before me. In the Hyderabad Survey (*J.B.N.H.S.*, xxxvi, 375) I returned to the subject, pointing out that the three specimens obtained by Mr. Salim Ali at Ferahabad 2,800 ft. on the Amrabad Plateau, which is physically little but a continuation of the Nallamalais, agree with the series from further south. I suggested then that this south-eastern race appeared worthy of a name as its characteristics though slight in character appeared to be correlated with a sharply defined distribution.

Since the above was written I have examined a fine series of Horsfield's Scimitar-Babbler collected by the interest of Mr. R. C. Morris in the Billigirirangan Hills. These birds are all long-billed (30-33 mm.) and have a marked black edge to the plastron and evidently belong to the typical race, being sharply defined from *P. h. travancoreensis* of the western coast and the birds under consideration from the Eastern Ghats. As this fact emphasises the definition of the characteristics and range of the Scimitar-Babbler of the South-Eastern Ghats, I now desire to give the latter a name and propose to call it

POMATORHINUS HORSFIELDII MADERASPATENSIS subsp. nov.

Type: Vernay Survey No. 122 ♂ 24 April 1929 Kurumbapatti, Salem District (now in the British Museum).



Whistler, Hugh. 1936. "A NEW RACE OF HORSFIELD'S SCIMITAR-BABBLER."
The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society 38, 699–699.

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