

Type (in the Paris Museum).—Male, collected at Andoas, lower Pastaza, eastern Ecuador, on September 16, 1937.

Measurements of type.—Total length about 140 mm. (5.7 in.) ; wing 82 ; culmen 15 ; tarsus 23.

Remarks.—Generically this bird agrees entirely in structural and pigmentary character (plumage, legs, bill), as well as in pattern, with *Pithys albifrons*, a common bird of the Amazonian forest, known from Ecuador to Guiana. The two species are, however, quite different : *P. castanea* is obviously a larger bird than its ally, with uniform chestnut colour (without the grey back and wings of *P. albifrons*), a deep black cap, including the nasal feathers, and apparently (the specimen seems quite adult) nothing recalling the white elongated feathers characteristic of the other species.

The Marquess HACHISUKA sent the following description of a new Kaleege Pheasant :—

Gennæus moffitti, sp. nov.

Description.—Entire plumage black, occiput and crest with a greenish metallic sheen, neck to upper tail-coverts with a deep metallic blue sheen towards the end of each feather. The rump and the upper tail-coverts have a deeper sheen at the end of each feather, which forms a scale-like appearance. Throat black ; upper neck shines like the back ; breast, abdomen, under tail-coverts, and thighs black, like the throat, without metallic sheen. Long flank-feathers black, with blue sheen toward their tips. White shaft-markings are apparent on the underside, these are distinctly white on the breast and smoky white on the thighs and abdomen. Primaries and wing-coverts black, but the latter have a greenish metallic tinge, like the occiput. Tail-feathers fourteen in number, with a greenish tinge on their webs.

Soft parts.—Naked skin around the eyes red. Bill, legs, and spur bluish horny.

Type.—Male, bred at W. L. Smith's Game Farm, Fair Oaks, California, in 1935, where it died July 22, 1936 (parents of the type imported from Calcutta) : No. 42443 in the

ornithological collection of the California Academy of Science ; original number, 1924, J. Moffitt.

Measurements of type.—Wing 235 ; longest crest-feather 78 ; tail 275 ; culmen 26 ; middle toe with claw 60 ; tarsus 80 ; spur 14 mm.

Remarks.—Mr. Leland Smith, of Fair Oaks, some fifteen miles out of Sacramento, California, is a well-known game-bird breeder who, in 1934, received in San Francisco from Calcutta a pair of unidentified Kaleege Pheasant. The plumage of the male is black, with abundant steel-blue sheen on the dorsal part. The abdominal part of the body is not so glossy, and the breast-feathers have very faint shaft-markings of a paler shade—that is to say, the bird resembles *G. melanotus*, but has the underside black, or like *G. horsfieldi* without the white rump.

The female differs from *G. melanotus* in having a plain buff-coloured throat, the central pair of tail-feathers more like *G. horsfieldi*, plain hair-brown without any markings. The pair bred successfully during the following year, 1935. The twenty-seven eggs laid are much darker than the eggs of *G. leucomelanos*, having more pinkish-buff and pointed ends with abundant white “chippings,” as against the very pale buffish-tinted eggs, without the pinkish tinge, of the latter. Incubation period was twenty-three days, like that of all the other Himalayan Kaleeges. Two pairs of offspring reached maturity.

Both male and female offspring are, feather for feather, identical with their parents imported from India. The pair did not breed in 1936, but in 1937 Mr. Smith had been more successful. In May there were nine normally coloured chicks, and in October several young cocks assumed their adult plumage exactly the same as their male parent.

The colour of the chick is particularly important, because mutant chicks of both the golden and the common pheasants are chocolate-brown with yellow portions.

The breeding experiment of this Kaleege Pheasant not only proves that it breeds true to type, but that it is not a melanistic mutant, in spite of the cock's having a uniformly

dark plumage ; therefore I propose to name it in honour of Mr. James Moffitt, of the California Academy of Science.

In 1925 Dr. P. R. Lowe named a race of *Polyplectron bicalcaratum* after Mr. S. Baily. Three of these *P. b. bailyi* were brought over to England and bred in Mr. Baily's aviary. Dr. Lowe believes that it possibly inhabits northern Siam and was brought by boat down the river to Bangkok ; but this has not yet been confirmed, and the home of *P. b. bailyi* still remains to be discovered. A curious mistake occurred in Beebe's monograph in vol. iv. pl. lxxvii., where he depicts Baily's Peacock Pheasant and calls it *Polyplectron germaini*, a totally different species. The book was published several years previous to Lowe's discovery. So this new bird must have passed Beebe's hand, but escaped his critical eyes. Since the above article has been written in California I returned to Japan with a pair of 1937-born *G. moffitti* presented to me by Mr. L. Smith. It was much to my surprise to know that this new species is already well known to the Japanese ornithologists, that Prince Taka-Tsukasa, Messrs. Matsunaga, and Rihei Okada possessed and bred many of them within the last few years. I saw a pair at the Prince's aviary, and was told that since they first arrived at his aviary they had bred true to type for several generations.

As to the native habitat of this bird we know absolutely nothing other than that it was shipped from Calcutta. Judging from its plumage it should be found west of Burma, as it is far removed from *G. lineatus*, and somewhere close to eastern *G. leucomelanos* group in north-east of India and south of Tibet. This region is not a great distance from Calcutta, and if my surmise is correct I am astonished that many English sportsmen and naturalists have not reported this bird before. It is for this reason I describe *G. moffitti* as a full species until we know more about its native habitat.

We recall that *G. lineatus* was discovered by Latham in 1828 among aviary birds in India and its home was unknown. Nothing further was learned about it until 1831, when Vigors named it from a specimen sent from Malacca, but Malacca is some 500 miles south of the home of the Lineated Pheasant.



1938. "A. new Kaleege Pheasant." *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 58, 91–93.

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