

passing through the area. However, the likelihood that a small breeding population exists should not be entirely dismissed. The recent discovery of a prospecting Swinhoe's Storm Petrel *Oceanodroma monorhis* on the same island (James & Robertson, in press) demonstrates how easily these species are overlooked.

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Notes on Philippine Birds, 6. The status of *Cuculus canorus* in the Philippines

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According to duPont (1971) *Cuculus canorus* "winters in the Philippines from northeast Asia", following Delacour & Mayr (1946). However, Mees (1979) considered that "with a single exception, all records from south and east of the main islands of Japan, continental China and Thailand are erroneous, due to confusion with *C. saturatus horsfieldi*". His one exception was from Hoorn, an islet off West Java.

Mees went on to examine the Philippine records from Basilan, Batan, Calayan, Leyte, Luzon (in part), Negros, Palawan and Siquijor. However he omitted 2 records in the literature, one from Luzon by Zimmer (1918) and one from Samar by Potter (1953). It has now been possible to locate the skins of both these as well as to investigate the status of the Palawan record.

It now therefore seems desirable to review by islands the status of all Philippine records of *Cuculus canorus*.

BASILAN. McGregor (1907a) reported a male taken on 27 Dec 1906 by collectors from the Bureau of Science. This collection, holding most of the skins taken by McGregor and by its collectors, was destroyed during the Second World War. It has been remarked by Rand & Rabor (1960), based on the identity of an extant Calayan specimen (see below), that "McGregor did not properly distinguish

between *canorus* and *saturatus*". Whilst this observation is correct it deserves some explanation. McGregor (1909) recorded *C. saturatus* from the Philippines but he had not seen the specimens himself; he listed it for Mindanao based on Blasius (1890) and for Palawan based on Blasius (1888). He also, erroneously, listed Platen—the collector whose specimens formed the basis for the papers by Blasius—as a collector of *C. canorus* in Palawan. This supposition that both taxa had been collected in Palawan by Platen seems to have led McGregor away from any suspicion that his own '*canorus*' might be the *saturatus* of others, and it appears probable that McGregor indeed had only *saturatus* and not a composite series. If this is so then on the evidence of the surviving Calayan specimen it may be presumed that the Basilan skin was also *saturatus*.

BATAN. A female was taken on 2 June 1907 according to McGregor (1907b) : this may similarly be assumed to have been *saturatus*.

CALAYAN. McGregor (1904) reported collecting 5, including a half grown female on 4 Oct, during the 4 months that he spent there from September 1903 to early January 1904. One of these 5 skins, that of a bird taken 15 Sept 1903 is still extant (Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago—19975) and is *saturatus* as reported by Rand & Rabor (1960).

LEYTE. Rabor (1938) recorded a female with a wing length of 207 mm., collected in May 1937. Parkes (1973) reviewed and rejected this record.

LUZON. Mees (1979) reported mention by Hartlaub & Finsch (1872) of a skin from Luzon in Rijksmuseum Nat. Hist., Leiden, but went on to say that this could not be traced. Zimmer (1918) reported collecting a male on Mt. Mariveles, Bataan on 3 Apr. 1915. This skin is in the American Museum of Natural History and has kindly been examined for me by K. C. Parkes: it proves to be *C. saturatus horsfieldi*. Ringing records from the Dalton Pass given by McClure & Leelavit (1972) almost certainly also relate to *saturatus*.

NEGROS. Rabor (1952) reported collecting—and placing in the collection of Silliman University—a female on 12 Apr. 1950 at Pola, Tanjay. Mees (1979) discussed this and the skin is apparently lost.

PALAWAN. Palawan was listed by McGregor (1909), who gave Platen as the collector. This, as mentioned above, is an error. Blasius (1888), who reported on the Platen collection from Palawan, listed *canoroides* (= *saturatus*) not *canorus*. The specimen in question is still extant in Braunschweig—original no. 14178, collected 8 Oct 1887—and is *saturatus* with a wing length of 202 mm.

SAMAR. Potter (1953) reported taking *C. canorus* on 19 Oct 1945 and *C. saturatus* on 22 Oct 1945. Both were females and taken on Calicoan islet just off southern Samar. The skins are in the University of Michigan, Museum of Zoology (UMMZ) and have been re-examined by Dr. R. B. Payne who writes : "The bird in question is UMMZ 114142 (N. S. Potter no. 106), taken 19 October 1945 on Calicoan, P.I. The wing is 198 (flattened), tail 167. The bird is in juvenile plumage, blackish on the crown with the feathers with a fine whitish edge (1 mm wide), the back is slatey gray with buff bars and whitish edges, the throat is irregularly barred slate and white. The ovary was sketched on the label and is small. It is overall a very dark bird and I don't know why Potter called it "*telephonus*" except that he thought it was *C. canorus* and came from eastern Asia. The edge and undermarginals of the wing are all white, so the bird is *C. saturatus*, by size *C. s. horsfieldi*."

The other specimen mentioned by Potter also is *C. saturatus*, as stated in the *Wilson Bull.* article. Some juvenile plumage is apparent, the bird is browner than 114142 (it is 114143, Potter no. 107), the throat is pale gray, the upper breast dark brown and buff bars, the lower breast and belly barred as in 114142, the bend and under wing marginals are white, the wing (flat) is 184, and the tail is 157."

SIQUIJOR. Listed by McGregor (1909) based on a bird taken in February 1891 by Bourns & Worcester, whose notes are quoted by McGregor: the bird was a male with a wing length of 201 mm. This appears to be too small for eastern populations of *C. canorus* and entirely appropriate for *C. s. horsfieldi*. The skin may turn up in the U.S. National Museum, Washington or the Bishop Museum, Honolulu (or even further afield as this collection has been scattered widely).

In summary, there is no good evidence to support any Philippine record of *Cuculus canorus* and, in accordance with the views of Mees (1979), the species should be removed from the Philippine list until there is evidence for its retention or reinstatement.

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