

The genus *Oreicola* of the Cat. Birds, vol. iv. p. 263, must be called *Rhodophila* Jerdon, Birds of India, vol. ii. pt. 1, p. 128, 1863. Type (by monotypy), *R. melanoleuca* Jerdon = *Oreicola jerdoni* Blyth, with the species

Rhodophila jerdoni (Blyth),
Rhodophila melanoleuca Vieillot, which equals
Rhodophila gutturalis Vieillot,
Rhodophila ferrea (Gray).

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NOTE ON *Phodilus* LESS.

The Malayan form of *Phodilus badius* (Horsf.), of which the typical locality is Java, has recently been described by Oberholser (Journ. Wash. Acad. Sci. xiv. 1824, p. 302) from a single unsexed specimen as *Phodilus badius abbotti*.

I have compared three birds from Java with a series from the Malay Peninsula, and, allowing for the greater age of the Java skins, can detect no difference in coloration.

Birds from Borneo (ten specimens examined) are perhaps rather paler with a tendency to greater spotting above.

There is no available material from Sumatra, but a single bird from Billiton (in partial moult, however) is very small.

When we come to Indian birds, currently called *P. b. nipalensis* (Gray, Hand-list, i. p. 53), we find that this name is not available, in that it is a *nomen nudum*, and is also, as pointed out by Sharpe, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. ii. 1875, p. 309, footnote, based on a specimen of *Otus spilocephalus* (Blyth).

Sikkim and Darjiling birds can, however, easily be separated from the Malayan birds, and may be recorded as

Phodilus badius saturatus, nom. nov.

Deeper and more richly coloured above than the typical form, especially on the head. Size decidedly larger. Wing of type 231 mm.

Type adult (probably female). Native Sikkim, Jan. 1874.
Mandelli. B.M. Reg. No. 1886. 2. 1. 1123.

The races therefore are :

1. *Phodilus badius badius* (Horsf.).

Java : Wing 186–196 mm. (3 spms.).

Borneo : Wing 181–191 mm. (10 spms.).

Malay Peninsula : Wing 191–202 mm. (9 spms.).

Billiton : Wing 171 mm. (1 spm.).

2. *Phodilus badius saturatus*, supra.

Native Sikkim and Darjiling : Wing 216–231 mm.
(7 spms.).

Buxa Duars : Wing 227 mm. (1 spm.).

Assam and Cachar : Wing 212–213 mm. (2 spms.).

Birds from Burma, as might be expected, are intermediate.

Karin Hills : Wing 194–204 mm. (2 spms.).

Tonghoo : Wing 213 mm. (1 spm.).

3. *Phodilus badius assimilis* Hume.

Darker, more chestnut-brown and less bay, patch on the
outer under wing-coverts, blackish brown not chest-
nut-bay.

Ceylon : Wing 197–204 mm. (4 spms.).
