

A new Species and eight new Races from Peleng and Taliaboe.

Prof. OSCAR NEUMANN sent descriptions of one new species and eight new subspecies from Peleng (Peling) Island, east of Celebes, and Taliaboe, the most western and largest of the Sula Islands.

These birds were collected by Herr J. J. Menden on an expedition arranged—so far as birds are concerned—on behalf of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass., through Prof. Neumann's instructions with the much acknowledged help of the authorities of the Buitenzorg Museum, and was made from July to October 1938.

Only native collectors had once made a bird collection on Peleng for the Dresden Museum in 1895, while the ornithology of Taliaboe Island was hitherto perfectly unknown.

The types of the species and subspecies described will go to the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

Tyto nigrobrunnea, sp. nov.

Description.—Adult female head and whole upper side, wing-coverts, wings, and tail uniform brownish-black, with very small dirty-white spots on interscapulum, rump, and most of the wing-coverts. No indication of bars on primaries and tail. Some faint white vermiculation on the basal half of the inner webs of the primaries and secondaries, and an indication of yellowish vermiculation on the inner webs of the tail-feathers, almost disappearing on the outer webs and on the two middle tail-feathers. Facial disk pinkish-brown, but black around the eyes, facial frill brown, most feathers with black edges. Under-side a very fine golden brown, thinly vermiculated with black and covered all over with black spots, which are far larger than the white spots of the upper side. Under wing-coverts like the underside, under tail-coverts and thighs almost spotless. The white vermiculation is clearly visible on the underside of the wings.

A strong silky gloss on facial disk, a remarkable silky gloss on the whole underside, but faint on the upper side of the bird. Iris brown, bill greyish-black, according to label, but very

pale in the distal half in the dry skin, feet grey. Feet darker than in *T. rosenbergi*. Lower tarsus and toes practically bare.

Wing 283, tail 185 mm.

Distribution.—Taliaboe, perhaps all Sula Islands.

Type.—Female, Taliaboe, 20. x. 1938; J. J. Menden leg.

Remarks.—This very small *Tyto* is at once distinguished from all other species of the genus by its very dark coloration, almost without any white, except on the underside of the wings.

***Columba vitiensis mendeni*, subsp. nov.**

Description.—Male and female most similar to *Columba vitiensis halmaheira* Bonaparte (= *albigularis* auct. plur.), with which it has been hitherto united, but much smaller—wing, male 204–219, female 235 mm. (in two cases out of six 225 and 226 mm., female 208–223 mm.), as against male 237–242, female 235 mm., in typical *C. v. halmaheira*. There is far less metallic gloss on the underside, and this gloss is more red and less green. The under tail-coverts are pale grey. Iris yellow or golden-yellow, eyelid red, bill red (but in dry skins only the basal half is red, the distal half yellow, feet red or violet).

Distribution.—Sula Islands.

Type.—Male, Taliaboe Island, 14. x. 1938; J. J. Menden leg.

Remarks.—Six males and six females were compared by Stresemann with four specimens from Batjan, which may be regarded as typical *C. r. halmaheira*. As long ago as 1898 Hartert (Nov. Zool. v. p. 136) had drawn attention to the small size and other peculiarities of the only one female from Sula Besi, which he had at his disposal. It appears that a careful investigation of the other populations of *C. v. halmaheira* (small islands north of Celebes and different groups of the Papuan subregion) is badly wanted.

***Macropygia amboinensis sedecima*, subsp. nov.**

Description.—Male similar to *Macropygia amboinensis albicapilla* from Celebes and Teleng, with which it has been