

The Winter Quarters of *Chalcites malayanus minutillus* (Gould)

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It is usually assumed that this form stays in north-western Australia throughout the year. In the latest review of the genus (1925, *Novit. Zool.*, 32, p. 161) Hartert and Stresemann give as its range: Kimberley, Arnhem Land, Melville Island, and northern Queensland south of the Cape York Peninsula.

I was, therefore, rather surprised to find in the Rothschild Collection a number of unmistakable specimens of *minutillus* from the islands of the Banda Sea.

The following is the list of these specimens:

			Wing
Wetter Island ..	30 Sep., 1902	♂ ad.	97
do do. ..	18 Apl., 1901	♂ ad.	97
do do. ..	30 Sep., 1902	♂ ad.	99
Romah Island ..	5 Aug., 1902	♂ ad.	98
Letti Island ..	21 Dec., 1902	♂ ad.	97
do do. ..	12 Nov., 1902	♀ ad.	95
do do. ..	4 Nov., 1902	♀ ad.	97
Moa Island . . .	8 Dec., 1902	♂ ad.	98
N. of Great Key	1 Aug., 1900	♀ imm.	95
Seran Island ..	14 May, 1911	♀ sub-ad.	92

Dr. Junge sent me the following three specimens from the collection of the Leiden Museum, which also cannot be separated from *minutillus*:

			Wing
Goram Island ..	no date (v. Rosenberg leg.)	? ♂ ad.	97
Wetter Island ..	25 Feb., 1898	♂ imm.	99
Baru Island ..	3 Nov., 1864	♀ ad.	100

All these specimens agree perfectly with *minutillus*, and differ from *rufomerus*, the breeding form of the islands of Banda Sea, by the duller upper and under parts, by the absence of the white edgings to the upper wing-coverts, and by the different coloration of the tail-feathers, particularly the second and third outermost tail-feathers.

Hartert and Stresemann (*op. cit.*, p. 162) have already called attention to these specimens with a great deal of red in the tail, but considered them to be possibly immature birds. That is, however, quite unlikely, as a series of unbarred immature *rufomerus* from Dammer Island agrees in tail-coloration with adult birds.

It would seem logical to consider the specimens which agree in their characters with *minutillus* as winter visitors

of that form if it were not for the dates. Six of the thirteen above-listed specimens were collected during the Australian summer. Further field work, both in Australia and the islands of the Banda Sea, is needed to clear up the following questions:

- (1) Is there any evidence for migratory movements in *C. m. minutillus*?
- (2) What is the breeding season of this form?

The identification of these specimens as *minutillus* removes the doubt that Junge has recently expressed (*Zool. Med.*, xx (1938), p. 238) on the conspecificity of *crassirostris* and *rufomerus* with *malayanus*. I have been able to re-examine the specimens which he records, with reservation, under the name *malayanus* subsp. (*op. cit.*, p. 239). On the basis of our much better material, I come to the conclusion that two birds belong to *crassirostris* (Ternate, Goram), three are *minutillus* (see above), one is *rufomerus* (Wetter), and one remains doubtful (Amboina). *Chalcites crassirostris* is clearly a geographical representative of *malayanus* and can be considered as a subspecies of it.

Recent Records of the Western Whipbird

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About 1934 Mr. Edward Watts, of Gnowangerup, found a nest containing two black-spotted blue eggs which he thought were those of the Wedgebill, which bird, however, has not been recorded in Western Australia as far south as Gnowangerup. The eggs were seen by Mr. Roland Benn, who believed them to be of the "missing" Western Whipbird (*Psophodes nigrogularis*), and his opinion was concurred in by some ornithologists to whom they were sent for examination.

Several further nests, with eggs, were found by Mr. Watts in subsequent years, but, as the bird was not identified, the writer decided that the doubt would have to be cleared up, and he accordingly got into touch with Mr. Watts, who arranged to send him a telegram as soon as another nest with eggs was found. A telegram arrived on July 27, 1939, and the writer left the next day for Gnowangerup.

About 7 a.m. on July 30 Mr. Watts, his son Ted, and the writer left for the locality of the nest, after arranging that a specimen of the bird would be collected at the first opportunity offering. To Ted Watts was entrusted the