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TWO NEW DRONGOS FROM THE PHILIPPINES

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During the course of a revision of the *Dicruridae*, in which large series were examined, two populations from the Philippines were encountered which differ from hitherto described forms. One is a race of *Dicrurus baliassius* and the other of *Dicrurus hottentottus*.

The latter, from Samar and Leyte in the southern half of the Eastern Province, I describe and name as:

Dicrurus hottentottus samarensis, new subspecies

TYPE: A.M.N.H. No. 672295; Rothschild Collection; adult male; Bonga, Samar, Philippines; June 7, 1896; Whitehead coll.

DIAGNOSIS: Similar to neighboring *striatus* from Mindanao and Basilan but with a shorter tail. The difference between the lengths of the central and outer tail feathers in *samarensis* is very slight or non-existent, so that the tail appears square, whereas in typical *striatus* there is always a shallow fork.

MEASUREMENTS OF THE TYPE: Wing, 131.0; central tail feather, 87.0; outer tail feather, 90.0; bill, 21.0.

RANGE: Samar, Leyte, and Panaon Islands, and, possibly, Bohol.

DISCUSSION: The material used for comparison consists of 59 specimens from Basilan, Mindanao, Samar, and Leyte.

There is no significant difference in the wing length between the various populations. (Only the measurements of fully adult specimens are given throughout this paper, the wing being pressed down flat and the bill being measured from the anterior border of the nostril.)

However, there is a well-marked difference in the length of the tail. The birds with the longest tail are those from Basilan, and the tail gets progressively

shorter from Basilan to western Mindanao and through eastern Mindanao, reaching a minimum in Samar and Leyte. There is a similar reduction in the differences in length between the central and outer tail feather. The birds from Basilan have a shallow fork which is completely lost in the birds from Samar and Leyte.

In the subsequent list of tail measurements the length of the central tail feather (C.T.F.) and of the outer tail feather (O.T.F.) are listed separately:

BASILAN

C.T.F. ♂: 97.0, 98.0, 100.0, 100.0, 100.0, 101.0, 104.0, 106.0 (100.75); C.T.F. ♀: 102.0, 103.0, 103.0, 103.0, 103.5 (102.90).

O.T.F. ♂: 104.0, 106.0, 107.0, 107.0, 109.0, 110.0, 112.0, 113.0 (108.50); O.T.F. ♀: 106.0, 108.0, 109.0, 111.5, 111.5 (109.20).

Difference between the C.T.F. and O.T.F. averages: ♂ 7.75, ♀ 6.30.

WESTERN MINDANAO

C.T.F. ♂: 94.0, 96.0, 98.5, 100.0, 105.0 (98.70); C.T.F. ♀: 96.5, 100.5, 102.0, 103.0 (100.50).

O.T.F. ♂: 101.0, 102.0, 102.0, 105.0, 108.0 (103.60); O.T.F. ♀: 103.0, 103.5, 105.0, 106.0, 106.5 (104.80).

Difference between the C.T.F. and O.T.F. averages: ♂ 4.90, ♀ 4.30.

EASTERN MINDANAO

C.T.F. ♂: 94.0, 95.0, 96.0, 97.0, 97.0, 98.0, 100.0, 100.0, 100.0 (97.45); C.T.F. ♀: 95.0, 97.0, 97.5, 100.0, 101.0, 102.0 (98.75).

O.T.F. ♂: 100.0, 100.0, 101.0, 101.0, 102.0, 103.0, 104.0 (101.57); O.T.F. ♀: 102.0, 103.0, 104.0, 104.0, 104.0, 105.0, 105.0, 110.0 (104.62).

Difference between the C.T.F. and O.T.F. averages: ♂ 4.12, ♀ 5.27.

SAMAR AND LEYTE

C.T.F. ♂: 87.0, 91.0, 93.0, 98.0 (92.25); C.T.F. ♀: 89.0, 89.0, 92.0, 92.0, 95.0, 97.0 (92.33).

O.T.F. ♂: 90.0, 92.0, 92.0, 99.0 (93.25); O.T.F. ♀: 93.0, 94.0, 94.0, 95.0, 95.0, 97.0 (94.67).

Difference between the C.T.F. and O.T.F. averages: ♂ 1.0, ♀ 1.29.

There is no overlap between the birds from Samar and Leyte on one hand and the populations from eastern and western Mindanao and Basilan on the other. Taking the female series which is more representative and considering the C.T.F. only, the measurements are: Basilan, 106.0–111.5 (109.20); western Mindanao, 103.0–106.5 (104.80); eastern Mindanao, 102.0–110.0 (104.62); Samar and Leyte, 93.0–97.0 (94.67). The difference between the means of the populations with the longest and shortest tail is about 15 mm., or 16 per cent.

This difference between the specimens is apparent even without taking measurements. In a series the short and perfectly square tails of the Samar birds stand out.

REMARKS ON THE DISTRIBUTION: I have been unable to locate Bonga where the type was collected. According to the "Pronouncing gazetteer and geographical dictionary of the Philippine Islands," 1902, there is a mountain of that name on the island, but I have been unable to find it. The "Gazetteer" also mentions that "Bonga" is the Spanish form of the native "Bunga" and that there are two settlements with the latter name on the northwestern coast of Samar. Neither of these appears on any map available to me, but one is said to be a "hamlet on the west coast of Samar, 4 miles southeast of Tarangnan" and the other a "town...in northeastern angle of bight, north of Mancaris Point, Canagualon Island lies off the town." As Whitehead is known to have sailed to Leyte from the northwestern coast of Samar, either one of these localities could be the type locality.

I have only two specimens from Leyte, one an immature, but the adult has the short tail, and as Worcester and Bourns (1898, "Contributions to Philippine ornithology. Part 2. Notes on the distribution of Philippine birds." Proc. U. S. Natl. Mus., vol. 20, p. 567) point out, "the islands of Samar and Leyte may be considered to form a continuous area, for the channel which separates them is very narrow and is dotted with numerous islets, so that it does not form an appreciable barrier." The "Gazetteer" (*loc. cit.*) states that the channel, "the Strait of San Juanico...has an

average width of 4320 feet but narrowing to 1500 feet. The soundings vary from 30 to 67 feet in the middle of the channel. Many little islands and shoals make this picturesque channel still narrower."

I have no specimens from Panaon, but the birds are probably the same as those of Leyte. Worcester and Bourns (*loc. cit.*) mention that other species collected there "point to a close relationship with Leyte, of which Panaon probably at one time formed a southern projection."

I have also no specimens from Bohol, and cannot be sure whether its birds will be found to be closer to *striatus* or *samarensis*. I believe they should be closer to the latter, as the channel which separates Bohol from Leyte is very shallow, according to Worcester and Bourns (*loc. cit.*), "the deepest sounding being but 22 fathoms," whereas great depths separate Bohol from Mindanao.

To summarize the distribution of *striatus* and *samarensis* as collected so far: to *striatus*, Basilan, Mindanao, Nipah; to *samarensis*, Samar, Leyte, Panaon, and probably Bohol.

The new race of *Dicrurus baliassius* is from the extreme northern provinces of Luzon and I name it:

***Dicrurus baliassius abraensis*, new subspecies**

TYPE: A.M.N.H. No. 672673; Rothschild Collection; adult male; Bucay, Abra Province, northern Luzon, Philippines; November 15, 1894; Whitehead coll.

DIAGNOSIS: Similar to neighboring *baliassius* from southern Luzon and Mindoro but with a longer bill and wing. In birds with fresh plumage, reflections of the metallic gloss purplish as compared with cool green in southern Luzon but equal in that respect to some specimens in Mindoro.

MEASUREMENTS OF THE TYPE: Wing, 151.5; bill, 25.5; central tail feather, 111.0; outer tail feather, 116.0.

RANGE: Known so far only from the northern provinces of Luzon: Cagayan, Ilocos Norte, and Abra. Intergrades with *baliassius* in central Luzon.

DISCUSSION: The material used for comparison consists of 58 specimens: one from Marinduque, 12 from Mindoro, including the type and paratypes of *D. b. mindorensis*, the remaining 45 being from Luzon.

The Marinduque specimen is in no way different from the birds of southern Luzon.

The Mindoro series measures: Wing: 6 males, 139.0–150.0 (143.66); 6 females, 138.0–147.5 (142.41). Bill: 5 males, 19.0–21.5 (20.56); 6 females, 19.3–22.5 (21.13). Outer tail feather: 5 males, 110.5–123.0 (116.40); 6 females, 114.0–120.5 (116.75).

The birds of Luzon from the southern end, up to and including Rizal Province, measure: Wing: 17 males, 133.0–146.0 (140.64); 10 females, 135.0–141.0 (138.75). Bill: 16 males, 19.0–22.0 (20.93); 11 females, 20.0–22.3 (21.41). Outer tail feather: 17 males, 109.5–122.0 (114.68); 10 females, 110.5–121.0 (114.75).

The specimens from northern Luzon (*abraensis*) consist of one female from Cape Engaño, another from Peñablanca, both in Cagayan Province, a male from Bangui in Ilocos Norte, and another from Bucay near Bangued in Abra Province. These specimens, all adults, measure as follows: Wing: male, 151.5, 156.5 (154.0); female, 148.0, 152.0 (150.0). Bill: male, 25.5, 26.5 (26.0); female, 25.5, 25.5. Outer tail feather: male 116.0, 122.0 (119.0); female, 113.0, 115.0 (114.0). The gloss also tends to the purple as in some Mindoro specimens, except that this tendency is more pronounced, the purplish reflections being quite strong in some specimens.

My series from northern Luzon is admittedly small, but the measurements are

consistent, and even without paying too much attention to the reflections of the gloss, the wing length is very definitely longer and that of the bill especially is not even closely approached by any Mindoro or southern Luzon specimens. These bill measurements are:

Mindoro (all specimens): 5 males, 19.0–21.5 (20.56); 6 females, 19.3–22.5 (21.13).

Southern Luzon: 16 males, 19.0–22.0 (20.93); 11 females, 20.0–22.3 (21.41).

Northern Luzon: 2 males, 25.5–26.5 (26.0); 2 females, 25.5, 25.5.

REMARKS ON THE DISTRIBUTION: This form probably ranges all through northern Luzon; from the Lingayen Gulf down, it probably intergrades with *balicassius*. Two specimens from Bayambang, a little south of the gulf in Pangasinan Province, have a bill that is intermediate between that of *balicassius* and *abraensis*.

The majority of the specimens examined are from the collection of the American Museum of Natural History; for the remainder I am indebted to the kindness of Dr. Herbert Friedmann of the United States National Museum who made available among other specimens the type and paratypes of *D. balicassius mindorensis*. To the authorities of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and the Chicago Natural History Museum I am also indebted for the loan of additional material, as well as to Mr. Dean Amadon for a freshly collected specimen.

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