

### III ON THE PROPER NAME OF THE RED JUNGLE FOWL FROM PENIN- SULAR INDIA

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Examination of a large series of Red Jungle Fowl from East Java has raised an interesting point in connection with the proper names of the various races of Red Jungle Fowl which extend from Western India to Cochin-China, Hainan and the Philippines in the East and to Java in the South, reappearing in the higher islands of the Pacific, where possibly it owes its introduction to man.

For those who use the 12th edition of Linnaeus, the first name available is *Phasianus gallus* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat. 1, 1766, p. 270; after specifying several varieties ( $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ , etc.) Linnaeus proceeds to quote a locality as *Habitat* in India Orientale; Pouli candor, etc. We consider that this paragraph refers to the species as a whole and not to the variety *Gallus pusillus* which immediately precedes it. The type locality of *Gallus gallus* may therefore be taken as the island of Pulau Condor off the southernmost mouth of the Mekong, and Cochin-China birds may therefore be assumed to be typical. Linnaeus certainly had access to specimens from this island which were contained in the Mus. Carlsonianum at Gothenburg, as is evidenced by the description of *Larus polo-condor* by Sparrman hitherto known as *Sterna dougalli*. However, many people refuse to accept "gallus" as a specific name as it was applied to the domestic bird in the *Fauna Svecica*. The Pulau Condor bird was also probably a domestic fowl as we have recently received a collection from the island, which does not include it. Should this objection be upheld, the next binomial name is *Tetrao ferrugineus* Gmelin, Syst. Nat. 1, pt. 2, 1788, p. 761, *vide* Hartert (*Nov. Zool.* IX, 1902, p. 218).

This name is founded jointly on the "Grande Caille de la Chine", Sonnerat, Voy. Ind. Orient., ii, 1782, p. 171, and on Latham's "Hackled Partridge," Gen. Syn. Av., ii, 1783, p. 766, pl. 66, which latter gives an excellent figure of the female from a bird in the Leverian Museum, probably now in Vienna, said to come from the Cape of Good Hope. If Sonnerat's bird did not actually come from China it must have come from the Philippines or from some place east of the head of the Bay of Bengal. He visited no area in Peninsular India whence the Red Jungle Fowl is known to occur.

It is evident, therefore, that whether the specific names *gallus* or *ferrugineus* be used, they must both be applied to the Eastern and not to the Western race, if utilised for wild birds.

The next name applied is *Gallus bankiva*, Temm., *Pig. et Gall.*, ii, 1813, pl. 87; this is obviously founded on Javan birds; "bengkiwo" being the Javanese (East Java) name for the species, *vide* Horsf., *Trans. Linn. Soc.* XIII, 1821, p. 185.

So much for the synonymy.

We have examined a series of birds—indubitably wild—shot on the slopes of the Idjen Volcano, Banjoewangi, E. Java, at a height of 5,700 feet, at a distance of more than ten miles from any human habitation. Both the males and the females of this series are distinguishable at a glance from any continental birds we have examined by the dark colour of the neck hackles in the male and by their truncate terminations in both sexes. In the female also the black central areas of the neck hackles are much wider than in the continental birds and the lateral edgings much paler; the heads of the males are also much darker.

We have no hesitation in considering that these specimens are typical of *Gallus bankiva* and in restricting the subspecies to the island of Java. Young males and females, and males in eclipse plumage present exactly the same relative differences as the full-plumaged birds.

The birds inhabiting N. E. Sumatra, on the other hand, are quite indistinguishable from those from Annam, Cochin-China, E., S.W., S.E., and Peninsular Siam and the Malay Peninsula.

From the large number of specimens we have examined in the flesh we do not believe that there is any consistent character to be found in the colour of the lappets. Our large series from S.W. and Peninsular Siam, which we are certain are truly wild birds, has them mostly "red" or "pinkish red," while one is whitish pink and another white; the Annamese birds were bluish white, East Siam red and S.E. Siam pink or red, and birds from Koh Mesan, a little island off the coast of S.E. Siam, bluish white. Mr. Siemund, who has shot very large numbers in the neighbourhood of Kuala Lumpur and Taiping, states that the lappets are usually bluish white. The whole of our series have the posterior portion of the neck hackles rich straw yellow and strongly acuminate, showing no signs of the rounded feathers typical of the Javanese birds.

The races will therefore stand as:—

1. ***Gallus ferrugineus ferrugineus* (Gm.).**

*Gallus bankiva bankiva*, Stuart Baker (part.), *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc., Bombay*, XXV, 1917, p. 18 *et seq.*

Sumatra, Malay Peninsula to Hainan, Westward to Burma.

2. ***Gallus ferrugineus murghi*, subsp. nov., postea p. 15.**

*Gallus bankiva ferrugineus*, Stuart Baker, *op. cit.*, p. 3.

Peninsular India, North and East to Assam.

3. *Gallus ferrugineus bankiva* (Temm.).

*Gallus bankiva bankiva*, Stuart Baker (part.), *op. cit.*, p. 18.

Java, Lombok.

It is obviously impossible to accept Mr. Stuart Baker's nomenclature as he uses as a parent name one which is 25 years later in date than his later subspecies.

Accepting Mr. Baker's views on the distinctness of the Eastern and Western races in regard to the paler hackles possessed by the latter, and in view of the facts which we have here drawn attention to, we consider that the Western bird has no name.

We therefore name it *Gallus ferrugineus murghi*, subsp. nov.

*Type*: Adult male (Zool. Survey of India, No. 18921) from Chirala, Gya District, Bihar (Museum Collector).

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