

SUTHORA MUNIPURENSIS, *G.-Austen & Walden.*

Munipur Suthora.

Suthora munipurensis, Godwin-Austen & Walden, Ibis, 1875, p. 250.

——— *daflaensis*, Godwin-Austen, Ann. Nat. Hist. 4th series, xvii. p. 32.

THE species of the genus *Suthora* divide themselves naturally into two groups—those whose plumage is parti-coloured, and those whose plumage is more or less uniform. To the latter belong several species, such as *Suthora brunnea*, *S. webbiana*, and others already figured by me in the present work; while to the parti-coloured group, which, moreover, invariably have a black throat, belong the present bird and its allies. The *Suthora munipurensis* is very closely allied to *S. nipalensis*, but is distinguished by the ear-coverts being grey instead of tawny-coloured, by the white eyebrow and narrow line of black along the sides of the crown. The typical specimen was obtained by Mr. William Robert near Karakhul, Manipur hills.

Major Godwin-Austen is generally so correct in his discrimination of species that I regret to have to differ from him in any way; but I cannot allow that his recently described *Suthora daflaensis* from the Dafla hills is really specifically distinct from *S. munipurensis*. He writes:—"The difference between them is most marked on the undersides, the chin being grey in the Dafla bird, paling on the upper breast and belly to dull yellowish white, while in the Manipur and Nágá species the chin and throat are deep black, fading to grey on the breast, into the white of the lower tail-coverts. There is also a marked difference in size, this new form being the smallest of the genus now known. It was met with in the bamboo underwood of the forests at 5000 to 7000 feet, Dafla hills, and first obtained on the slopes of Torúpútú Peak in January." As Major Godwin-Austen was so kind as to submit his typical specimen of *S. daflaensis* to me, I can only say that I regard the slight differences above noted as due to age or seasonal plumage.

The following is the original description of the species, published (*l. c.*) by the authors quoted:—"Crown of head cinnamon-brown, becoming more olivaceous or fulvous green on back; shoulder of wing greenish umber; primaries black, the first four edged white, the rest crossed with a bright fulvous bar on the outer webs; the secondaries edged broadly with fulvous, and a few of the last tipped white on inner web; tail ruddy fulvous at base, paling towards the end, which is dusky and indistinctly barred; a broad supercilium black; lores and a narrow circle round the eye pure white; ear-coverts and side of neck grey; chin and throat black, merging into pearly grey and white on the breast; under tail-coverts pure white. Length 4.5 inches, wing 1.8, tail 2.4, tarsus .77, bill at front .28.

On the eve of going to press, and before his starting for India, I received Major Godwin-Austen's sanction to place his *S. daflaensis* as a synonym to the prior-named species *S. munipurensis*, which I have accordingly done.

The birds in the Plate are drawn from Major Godwin-Austen's typical specimens, and of the natural size, for the loan of which I am much indebted.