

area on the central rectrices, more or less white edging to the upper wing coverts, and the colour pattern of the third rectrix from outside is the same in each race. In either of them, individual variation appears in the colour of the upper parts, but the bluer examples of *rufomerus* approximate the greener ones of *crassirostris*.

A form of *Chalcites malayanus* has been reported by numerous authors from the southern Philippines; it has been identified as *C. m. malayanus*, a race otherwise known only from Malaya and Sumatra. Since special subspecies appear in Java, Borneo and the Celebes, this identification of Mindanao birds has seemed to us improbable. We have so far seen no Philippines skin, but would suggest that such a specimen will prove to be either *minutillus* or an undescribed endemic race.

The senior author has before him nine adults of the genus *Chalcites* from north-eastern Borneo. Three females and three of the males belong to the form called *C. m. aheneus* Junge (1938, *Zool. Meded.*, 20, p. 238); three other males are of the type mentioned by Junge from Mount Kinabalu, which differed from his ten specimens of *aheneus* "in having the head much darker (bluish green) and the rest of the upper parts greener, though of a much darker colour than in Malayan specimens." These three might be considered mere colour variants of *aheneus*, if their bills were not distinctly smaller, less robust, and decidedly narrower when viewed from above. They cannot represent a race of the northern Bornean mountains, since an immature from Kinabalu agrees with *aheneus* in size and shape of bill, and one of the three was collected at Abai on 29 June, while *aheneus* was taken at Abai on 27, 29, and 30 June. It is possible that here again we are concerned with two very similar sympatric species.

For permission to use their material, our thanks are due to the authorities of the National Museum, Melbourne (and to museums in the other States which forwarded material to Melbourne); the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.; the American Museum of Natural History, New York; and the Smithsonian Institution, Washington.

Chestnut-breasted Finches around Melbourne.—On July 31, 1949, when in company with Messrs F. A. Watts and R. Ferguson, I observed one adult and six juvenile Chestnut-breasted Finches (*Donacola castaneothorax*) at a swamp at Bundoora (near Melbourne). Evidently some aviary escapees are commencing to breed there.—HAROLD E. TARR, Middle Park, Vic., 14/8/49.