

Recent Taxonomic Changes of Birds in Malaysia (Part II: Passerines)

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Introduction

As Part I focused on the taxonomical changes for non-passerines, this article will now focus on the taxonomical changes for passerines that happened after the publication of the official checklist for birds of Malaysia (MNS Bird Conservation Council, 2021). The discussion is mainly focusing on the taxonomical placement of recent updates on Clements Checklists of the Birds of the World (Clements *et al.*, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023).

Western Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida*

The Hooded Pitta *P. sordida* was split into five different species in the latest 2023 Clements update, following the treatment of Birdlife/HBW. The Malaysian species is the most widespread of the five. The other four species are endemic to their respective regions, otherwise they are difficult to be distinguished visually.

White-browed Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius aeralatus*

Blyth's Shrike-Babbler *P. aeralatus* was reunited back with Himalayan Shrike-Babbler *P. ripleyi* and Dalat Shrike-Babbler *P. annamensis* as White-browed Shrike-Babbler in the 2022 Clements update, as the previous split was based mainly on vocal differences which was proven to be not as consistently different.

Dark-throated Oriole *Oriolus xanthonotus* and Ventriloquial Oriole *O. consobrinus*

The Ventriloquial Oriole from northeast Borneo was recently split from the Dark-throated Oriole in the 2023 Clements update. The Ventriloquial Oriole has a different call, larger, generally greener and has a larger spot in the tail in the males. The females have a stronger contrast between the dark grey-green crown and bright olive back.

Black-and-crimson Oriole *O. consanguineus*

The scientific name of the Black-and-crimson Oriole was revised in the 2023 Clements update to *O. consanguineus* when the Javan Oriole *O. cruentus* was split off from it.

Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Helopsaltes certhiola* and Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler *H. ochotensis*

It was found that some previous members of genus *Locustella* belongs to a diverged group and therefore these members were reassigned to new genus *Helopsaltes* in the 2021 Clements update.

Grey-cheeked Bulbul *Alophoixus tephrogenys*

The Grey-cheeked Bulbul *A. bres* is split into two in the 2021 Clements update, in which our species kept the English name but received a new scientific name.

Ochraceous Bulbul *A. ochraceus* and Penan Bulbul *A. ruficrissus*

The Ochraceous Bulbul is split into two, where the Bornean population is now considered as a distinct species, the Penan Bulbul, since the 2021 Clements update. Besides the separated distribution range, the Penan Bulbul has a little more reddish tinged with a deep rufous vent.

Finsch's Bulbul *Iole finschii*

Following IOC's earlier treatment, Clements finally moved the species from genus *Alophoixus* to *Iole* in the 2023 update.

Puff-backed Bulbul *Microtarsus eutilotus* and Black-and-white Bulbul *M. melanoleucos*

Reassigned from *Brachypodius* in 2023

Black-headed Bulbul *Microtarsus melanocephalos*

The specific name is updated from *Brachypodius atriceps* in the 2021 update. Moved to *Microtarsus* in the 2023 update.

Pale-faced Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucops*

This Bornean endemic is finally accepted as a split from Flavescent Bulbul *P. flavesceus* in the 2023 update.

Aberrant Bush Warbler *Horornis flavolivaceus*

The Sunda Bush Warbler *H. f. vulcanius* was long considered as a distinct species. However, recent studies suggested that it probably wasn't that distinctive and is now lumped into Aberrant Bush Warbler in the Clements 2022 update.

Chestnut-crested Yuhina *Staphida everetti*

The genus *Yuhina* is not monophyletic and therefore split into three genera, with our only member being assigned to genus *Staphida* in the 2021 update.

Pygmy White-eye *Heleia squamifrons*

This species was found to be part of genus *Heleia* instead of its own monotypic genus *Ochulocincta* and was moved to *Heleia* in the 2021 Clements update.

Mountain Black-eye *Zosterops emiliae*

Genetic evidence showed that the Mountain Black-eye is part of genus *Zosterops* instead of a genus of its own, *Chlorocharis*. In the 2021 Clements update, it was merged into genus *Zosterops*.

Swinhoe's White-eye *Z. simplex*

The white-eyes are a huge group of very similar looking birds that was found to have a rather erroneous placement for a very long time. Although the major revision and update occurred in the 2019 Clements update and therefore is the taxonomical placement used in the 2020 Malaysian checklist, a good number of birdwatchers are still confused with this confusing update, that wasn't a straightforward split or merge case, and is therefore included here as a special inclusion. The commonest white-eye in coastal areas and some lowland areas in

Malaysia was previously considered to be the Oriental White-eye *Z. palpebrosus*, subspecies *auriventer*. Genetic studies revealed that many of the placement of subspecies in the Asian white-eyes were wrong. The nominated group of Oriental White-eye is then split off as the Indian White-eye *Z. palpebrosus*. The remaining subspecies was not split as a species of its own, in fact, it was found to be associated with the Asian mainland population of the then Japanese White-eye *Z. japonicus*. These Asian mainland subspecies that were taken off the original Oriental and Japanese White-eyes now form their own species, the Swinhoe's White-eye. The local subspecies is also updated to *erwini* when the southern Myanmar population of *auriventer* was not only distinct from the rest of the population that were originally assigned to *auriventer* which distributes along coastal areas of the Malay Peninsula, Natuna and Bangka islands as well as western Borneo, but was also not even the same species, and should belong with the next species, the Hume's White-eye. The subspecies *simplex* is a common cagebird that is also traded in Malaysia and is sometimes released into the wild as an escapee although no populations were known to have established itself; these were previously known as Japanese White-eye *Z. j. simplex* and should be treated as merely a foreign subspecies of the Swinhoe's White-eye today.

Hume's White-eye *Z. auriventer*

The lowland and highland forest species of white-eye in Peninsular Malaysia, the only other white-eye species besides Swinhoe's White-eye (originally Oriental White-eye) was previously assigned under Everett's White-eye *Z. everetti*. The southern Philippine subspecies of the Everett's White-eye was found to be distinct from the Sunda subspecies and therefore the species is split into two, with the Philippine form keeping the English and scientific name. The Sunda population, that is now named as Hume's White-eye should therefore pick the oldest subspecies name *tahanensis* as the new specific name. However, it was found that the original population of subspecies *auriventer* that was originally assigned to Oriental White-eye which includes the current subspecies *erwini* of the new Swinhoe's White-eye actually belonged here instead and the subspecies name was older than *tahanensis*. Therefore, the new species name is *Z. auriventer* and care should be taken not to confuse it with the use of *Z. palpebrosus auriventer* that is equivalent to *Z. simplex erwini* today in the broader sense.

Chestnut-winged Babbler *Cyanoderma erythropterum* and Gray-hooded Babbler *C. bicolor*

The Chestnut-winged Babbler that was accepted earlier by Birdlife/HBW in the 2022 Clements update as the subspecies *bicolor* and *rufum* from Borneo was split off as the Gray-hooded Babbler. The Gray-hooded Babbler is endemic to Borneo and has a fully dark grey head to the breast, that forms like a hood, compared to the Chestnut-winged Babbler in the peninsular that has a brown cap and pale grey on the face and less extensive into the breast.

Black Laughingthrush *Melanocichla lugubris* and Bare-headed Laughingthrush *M. calva*

Laughingthrushes were collected under genus *Garrulax* in the past. While most local laughingthrushes were split into different genera over the years, this pair was kept in the original *Garrulax* until 2021. The 2021 Clements update moved the species pair to genus *Melanocichla* when it was found that this pair of laughingthrushes were not even members of

Leiothrichidae, where other laughingthrushes were placed in. Therefore, the new genus name was given as the species pair was moved to Timaliidae.

Sunda Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus bornensis*

The Chestnut-backed Scimitar-Babbler *P. montanus* was split into two in the 2022 Clements update. The original nominated group was now the Javan Scimitar-Babbler which only occurs on Java and Bali.

Large Scimitar-Babbler *Erythrogenys hypoleucos*

The genus name was changed from *Megapomatorhinus* to *Erythrogenys* in the 2021 Clements update for being found to be a junior synonym.

Malayan Black-capped Babbler *Pellorneum nigrocapitatum* and Bornean Black-capped Babbler *P. capistratoides*

The Black-capped Babbler *P. capistratum* was split into three species in the 2023 Clements update where the Javan Black-capped Babbler retained the original scientific name. In Malaysia, the Malayan Black-capped Babbler occurs in the peninsular where it has a greyish face, whereas the Bornean Black-capped Babbler is endemic to Borneo has a blackish face so the white supercilium stands out.

Abbott's Babbler *Malacocincla abbotti* and Horsfield's Babbler *M. sepiaria*

Genetic research showed that many members were wrongly placed in *Turdinus*, therefore these two species were moved back to an older treatment of genus *Malacocincla* in the 2021 Clements update.

Mountain Wren-Babbler *Gypsophila crassa* and Streaked Wren-Babbler *G. brevicaudata*

Genetic research showed that these two species were not supposed to be in *Turdinus* and thus moved to genus *Gypsophila* in the 2021 Clements update.

Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush *Pterorhinus mitratus* and Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrush *P. treacheri*

Genetic data suggested that genus *Ianthocincla* should represent two genera and both the Malaysian members were moved to the new genus, *Pterorhinus*, in the 2021 Clements update.

Siamese Pied Starling *Gracupica floweri*

The Asian Pied Starling *G. contra* was split into three species in the 2022 update. Siamese Pied Starling that occurs in Malaysia has a whitish forehead streaked blackish compared to the other two that has black foreheads. Both the naturally occurring and introduced birds in Malaysia were only known to be Siamese Pied Starlings.

Vinous-breasted Myna *Acridotheres leucocephalus*

The Vinous-breasted Myna *A. burmanicus* was split into two species in the 2022 Clements update where the original nominated form is now split as the Burmese Myna. Compared to the Burmese Myna, the Vinous-breasted Myna has a yellowish bill instead of a red one, a darker grey upperpart and paler underparts.

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus* and White-crowned Shama *C. stricklandii*

The White-crowned Shama in northeast Borneo has a distinctive white crown and was often considered a distinct species, but Clements remained to treat it as a subspecies of the White-rumped Shama until 2022 when the split is finally accepted.

White-tailed Flycatcher *Leucoptilon concretum*

This flycatcher was traditionally placed in genus *Cyornis* together with other mainly blue flycatchers, but this species was reassigned to monotypic genus *Leucoptilon* in the latest 2023 Clements update with the major revision on taxonomy and relationship between bluish flycatchers and their non-bluish relatives, as this species is not as related to the rest of the species in *Cyornis* (Garg *et al.*, 2024).

Hill Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis whitei* and Dayak Blue Flycatcher *C. montanus*

The Hill Blue Flycatcher *C. banyumas* was split into three in the 2021 Clements update with the original nominated form, now the Javan Blue Flycatcher. The other two occurs in Malaysia with the one in Peninsular Malaysia retaining the original English name and the one endemic to Borneo named as the Dayak Blue Flycatcher.

Bornean Shortwing *Brachypteryx erythrogyna*

The White-browed Shortwing *B. montana* was split into five different species in the 2022 Clements update, based on genetic data. The only form to occur in Malaysia is the Bornean Shortwing, which is endemic to Borneo.

White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaultia* and Bornean Forktail *E. borneensis*

The White-crowned Forktail was split into two species in the 2022 Clements update. The Bornean Forktail is an endemic species in the Bornean highlands and shows a smaller white patch on the forehead compared to the widespread White-crowned Forktail that is mainly found in lower elevations, especially in Borneo.

Amur Stonechat *Saxicola stejnegeri*

The Siberian Stonechat *S. maurus* was split into two with the eastern populations that migrate to Malaysia now being known as the Amur Stonechat in the 2021 Clements update. It is not easy to differentiate the two visually where their main differences were known to be the slightly broader bill and slightly less white on the rump in the Amur Stonechat. It is worth noting that the *przewalskii* subspecies of the Siberian Stonechat is a resident in parts of Indochina and might be the easier subspecies to tell apart if it strays into Malaysia, with its darker rufous chestnut on the underparts extending to the belly instead of just on the breast area for the breeding males.

Spectacled Flowerpecker *Dicaeum dayakorum*

Resident birds were relatively well studied in Malaysia, with barely any new discovery of any previously not described species in the region for decades. In 2009, sightings and photographs of a mysterious flowerpecker in Sabah sparked some interest that we might have found a new undescribed species. The species remained a speculation, as a specimen was not studied to confirm that it was indeed a species of its own, or that it wasn't an aberrant plumage of a

known species, and its taxonomical placement was not confirmed. The first specimen was only caught in 2019, 10 years after its first discovery which allowed it to be finally confirmed genetically as a new species in genus *Dicaeum* (Saucier *et al.*, 2019). Since Clements missed the 2020 update, the species was only added in the 2021 update, and therefore the species was not included in the national checklist published in 2020.

Ornate Sunbird *Cinnyris ornatus*

Olive-backed Sunbird *C. jugularis* was split into eight different species in the 2023 Clements update. The species in the Asian mainland and the Sunda region including Malaysia is now renamed as the Ornate Sunbird.

Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis moluccensis*

The Blue-winged Leafbird *C. cochinchinensis* was split into two species in the 2023 Clements update where the original nominated form, the Javan Leafbird inherited the original scientific name.

Java Sparrow *Padda oryzivora*

Closely related to munias but appeared larger, they were moved to genus *Lonchura* and away from it by different authors in the recent years. The Clements 2021 updated resurrected genus *Padda* and moved it back there.

POTENTIAL FUTURE CHANGES

Just like Part 1, many taxonomic updates were also accepted or proposed for passerines. Eaton *et al.* (2021) included a good number of potential splits/merges proposals.

Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus harterti*

The Javan Broadbill *E. javanicus* was considered as a distinct species by Birdlife/HBW and therefore after the split, the widespread species will have an update in the scientific name. The Javan Broadbill has a yellow instead of blue iris and is endemic to Java.

Sunda Gerygone *Gerygone sulphurea*

The Golden-bellied Gerygone is sometimes proposed to be split into three species based on the differences of their vocalizations. The Malaysian form would be renamed as Sunda Gerygone after the split.

Roving Cuckooshrike *Coracina (striata) sumatrensis*

The Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike is sometimes proposed to be treated as multiple species, supported by morphological differences and some genetic data that supports the treatment.

Malayan Triller *Lalage (nigra) striga*

The genetic data shows a deep mtDNA divergence between subspecies *nigra* and *striga* of the Pied Triller, recommending that the Malayan Triller should be split from it. The Malayan Triller occurs in Peninsular Malaysia. After the split, the Pied Triller occurs in Borneo, separated by

range from the Malayan Triller, that is otherwise difficult to tell apart for the males. The females are greyer instead of brown in Pied Triller.

Sunda Golden Oriole *Oriolus (chinensis) maculatus*, Chinese Golden Oriole *O. (chinensis) diffusus* and Philippine Golden Oriole *O. chinensis*

The Black-naped Oriole is now a familiar bird in Peninsular Malaysia, but for many years, it was shown to include at least three different species, where the mainland subspecies *diffusus* was considered most distinct from the Sundaic and Philippine forms. The split wasn't accepted yet because the assignment of subspecies between the Sundaic and Philippine groups were not resolved. Instead of only 2 species in the South East Asian islands, it is now believed that there were probably up to seven species in these islands. If split, Malaysia would include three of them. The Sunda Golden Oriole is the common resident throughout Peninsular Malaysia. The Chinese Golden Oriole is a scarce to uncommon migrant in the peninsular, separated by largely yellowish tertials, and white breasts in the juveniles. The Philippine Golden Oriole was photographed in Sabah at least, as a vagrant, and shows a more solid and completely black wings, along with thicker black napes.

Malayan Black-and-crimson Oriole *O. (consanguineus) malayanus* and Whitehead's Oriole *O. (consanguineus) vulneratus*

The Black-and-crimson Oriole is sometimes proposed to be further split into three species, where two of them occurred in Malaysia, where the Malayan Black-and-crimson Oriole occurs in Peninsular Malaysia and the Whitehead's Oriole in Borneo. The Whitehead's Oriole showed a larger crimson patch on the wings.

Bornean Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus (hottentottus) borneensis*

The Hair-crested Drongo has a wide range, with a few subspecies mainly distributed on different islands, and is often proposed to be split into eight different species according to distribution. The Bornean endemic is proposed to be split as the Bornean Spangled Drongo. The mainland Asian population, remained to be known as Hair-crested Drongo *D. hottentottus* after the split, was recorded in Singapore once on 26 Nov 2019, thus showing possibility of this species to have migrated over Peninsular Malaysia at least once.

Bornean Black Magpie *Platysmurus (leucopterus) aterrimus*

The Black Magpie was accepted by IOC and HBW/Birdlife as two species but was surprisingly not accepted by Clements yet. The Bornean Black Magpie is endemic to Borneo, separated in distribution from the renamed Malayan Black Magpie *P. leucopterus* in Peninsular Malaysia, and it lacks the white wing band, appearing completely black.

Sunda Crow *Corvus enca*

The Slender-billed Crow is sometimes treated as the Sunda Crow, with the Sulawesi Crow *C. celebensis* being considered as a distinct species.

Double Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola (juncidis) tinnabulans*

The eastern subspecies of the Zitting Cisticola *C. juncidis* which includes *malaya* in Malaysia that gives a double zit call is sometimes considered as a possible split from other subspecies of this widespread species.

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo (tahitica) javanica*

Birdlife/HBW accepted the split of the Pacific Swallow from *H. tahitica* which the nominated form there was split as the Tahiti Swallow, primarily based on ecological and plumage differences.

Pink-billed Bulbul *Tricholestes (criniger) sp.*

The Sabah population of the Hairy-backed Bulbul was never described as a subspecies, but the genetic data indicate that it is probably rather distinctive and could potentially be an undescribed species by itself. It also shows a distinct pink bill compared to a dark horn-grey bill in the rest of the range of the Hairy-backed Bulbul.

Bornean Yellow-bellied Bulbul *Alophoixus (phaeocephalus) sulphuratus*

The Bornean subspecies is sometimes proposed to be split off from the Yellow-bellied Bulbul due to presence of genetic data that suggested separation of the nominated form and the subspecies in Borneo, separated by range from the Malayan Yellow-bellied Bulbul *A. phaeocephalus*.

Baker's Bulbul *Iole (viridescens) cinnamomeiventris*

Discovered in Perlis in recent years, this close relative of the Buff-vented Bulbul *I. crypta* has an extremely confusing taxonomic placement. Clements considered it to be a subspecies of the Olive Bulbul *I. viridescens* but Birdlife/HBW treated it as a subspecies of the Gray-eyed Bulbul *I. propinqua* instead. Furthermore, the subspecies has been proposed to be a monotypic species of its own, probably best method to resolve the current taxonomic confusion for it.

Green-winged Bulbul *Hemixos (cinereus) connectens*

The Bornean population of the Cinereous Bulbul was treated by Birdlife/HBW as a distinct species, besides the separated distribution range, it shows a distinctive bright olive green wings and tail compared to the Cinereous Bulbul in Peninsular Malaysia.

Sunda Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus (goiavier) analis*

The Philippine Yellow-vented Bulbul *P. goiavier* which is the current nominated group in Yellow-vented Bulbul is sometimes proposed to be treated as a distinct species from the Sunda Yellow-vented Bulbul based on genetic and vocalization differences.

Sunda Warbler *Phylloscopus grammiceps*

The Yellow-breasted Warbler *P. montis* shows nearly identical mtDNA and territorial song with the Sunda Warbler. Despite the different plumage due to the yellow underparts, it was believed to be not that genetically different from the Sunda Warblers with white underparts and therefore with more supporting genetic data, Yellow-breasted Warbler might be lumped into Sunda Warbler in the future.

Orchid White-eye *Zosterops (atricapilla) clarus*

Black-capped White-eye is distributed on Sumatra and Borneo, but preliminary genomic evidence showed that the Bornean population might not be as closely related with the Sumatran population, and they might not be each other's closely related species. The Bornean subspecies is proposed to be split as Orchid White-eye and shows pale grey iris.

Malayan Montane Babbler *Stachyris (poliocephala) larvata* and Bornean Montane Babbler *S. (poliocephala) borneensis*

Gray-throated Babbler shows four deep lineages in the genomic data which are likely different species. The Bornean Montane Babbler in Borneo lacks breast flecking and have a darker crown than Malayan Montane Babbler in Peninsular Malaysia.

Malayan Moustached Babbler *Malacopterin magnirostre* and Bornean Moustached Babbler *M. cinereocapilla*

Moustached Babbler shows considerable vocal and plumage differences between the two subspecies, showing possibility that it represents two different species. The Bornean Moustached Babbler in Borneo shows a dark crown and darker breast than the Malayan Moustached Babbler in Peninsular Malaysia.

Mourning Babbler *Pellorneum malaccense*, Glissando Babbler *P. (malaccense) saturatum* and Leaflietter Babbler *P. poliogene*

Short-tailed Babbler is proposed to be split into three species because all 3 subspecies were found to have a lack of gene flow between them even for those with range contact. The Mourning Babbler is found in Peninsular Malaysia, the Glissando Babbler in the western parts of Borneo is best differentiated with its long descending glissando of 20-30 rapid notes, and the Leaflietter Babbler in the eastern parts of Borneo shares a similar series of downslurred notes with the previous two but lacks a subsequent main song. Differentiation based on plumage is rather minimal and difficult to be used in the field.

Malayan Swamp Babbler *P. rostratum* and Bornean Swamp Babbler *P. (rostratum) macropterum*

White-chested Babbler is proposed to be split into two due to genomic data showing a lack of gene flow between the two even when the land was connected. The Bornean Swamp Babbler in Borneo shows more olive tinge on the mantle and rump compared to the Malayan Swamp Babbler in Peninsular Malaysia.

Hartert's Babbler *Malacocincla (sepiaria) tardinata* and Salvadori's Babbler *M. (sepiaria) rufiventris*

Horsfield's Babbler might potentially be split into two to three species due to differences in plumage and vocalization. The Bornean form, Salvadori's Babbler has more rufous on the underparts than the Peninsular Malaysian form, Hartert's Babbler.

Austen's Wren Babbler *Napothera (epilepidota) roberti* and Whitehead's Wren Babbler *N. (epilepidota) exsul*

Eye-browed Wren-Babbler has many subspecies and is suggested to be split into possibly as many as 6 species, but current proposal without more evidence more conservatively propose a three way split, with the Bornean birds split as Whitehead's Wren Babbler and the Peninsular Malaysian birds lumped with most subspecies as Austen's Wren Babbler temporarily until more evidence can be presented.

Sunda Fulvetta *Alcippa brunneicauda* and Bornean Fulvetta *A. (brunneicauda) eriphaea*

Brown Fulvetta Is proposed to be likely two different species due to the significant differences in vocalizations. Besides the separate range, where Sunda Fulvetta occurs in Peninsular Malaysia and Bornean Fulvetta in Borneo, they are probably difficult to be differentiated visually. The Bornean Fulvetta is described as providing a series of undulating notes compared to Sunda Fulvetta providing a series of descending notes.

Greater Sundaic Island Thrush *Turdus (poliocephalus) javanicus*

The Island Thrush has about 50 subspecies, with different appearance for almost all the subspecies, and has long been considered to likely represent several species. In Malaysia, it survives in montane areas in Sabah, which might be grouped up with other subspecies in the Sundaic region.

Umber Flycatcher *Muscicapa (williamsoni) umbrosa*

The poorly known resident race, *umbrosa*, of the Brown-streaked Flycatcher was recently discovered to also survive in Peninsular Malaysia and south Thailand instead of just Borneo. It is considerably different in plumage and shape, especially showing a rather longish tail, which makes it look different from the other *Muscicapa* species. It is believed to be likely a distinct species.

Rufous-vented Flycatcher *Eumyias (indigo) ruficrissa*

The Indigo Flycatcher was split into two based on plumage differences by Birdlife/IBW, but more evidence is required to support the split. The vent is deep rufous instead of white.

Yellow-vented Flowerpecker *Pachyglossa chrysorrhea*, and Brown-backed Flowerpecker *P. everetti*

The few members of *Dicaeum*, including the next, is sometimes considered to be split as a new genus of its own, *Pachyglossa*, as it was found to be more related to *Prionochilus* than *Dicaeum* (Saucier *et al.*, 2019).

Modest Flowerpecker *Pachyglossa (agilis) modesta*

The Thick-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum agile* is sometimes considered to be moved to genus *Pachyglossa*, as *P. agilis*. It is sometimes considered to be split into two, where the Southeast Asian subspecies were grouped as Modest Flowerpecker.

Lesser Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*

The Crimson Sunbird *A. siparaja* might be split into three species based on mtDNA divergence and plumage differences where the local nominated subspecies is raised as a distinct species, and has the dullest female.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

The Yellow Wagtail is popularly known to be split into two species, and often proposed to split into even more. However, the genome wide data suggested that the decision to split the species based on mtDNA data might not be correct, and there is potential to see the Eastern Yellow Wagtail *M. tschutschensis* being merged back with the Western Yellow Wagtail *M. flava* as a single species in the future.

Malay Bullfinch *Pyrrhula (nipalensis) waterstradti*

Birdlife/HBW considered the Brown Bullfinch that is endemic to Peninsular Malaysia to be a distinct species.

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Citation: Jing-Yi Tou. (2024). Recent Taxonomic Changes of Birds in Malaysia (Part II: Passerines). *Malaysian Bird Report*. Volume 1/2024, March 2024: pg. 91-101.