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The ornithology of the Baudin expedition (1800-1804)

Jansen, J.J.F.J.

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Author: Jansen, Justin J.F.J.

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Chapter 3.6

The early Indian bird collectors: Jean Macé, collector during 1798–1803

Justin J. F. Jansen

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Corrections on the published version, table is made more complete (new registration numbers MNHN).

While researching the exploits from the Baudin expedition (1800-1804), captained by Nicolas Baudin, to Australia, Timor, Mauritius, Tenerife and South Africa, and the history of the Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, Paris, France (hereafter MNHN), I noticed the name Jean Macé (Jansen 2014c, 2015a), who donated a number of birds from 'Bengale' (= Bengal) to the expedition. He had earlier also donated another batch of specimens to the MNHN. I here present my notes on the specimens, and a literature research, on Macé, and his collections.

Macé was elected as a member of the Society of the Histoire Naturelle in Paris, in 1790, and was asked to collect specimens in the foreign countries, by its board. Educated as doctor, Dr Jean Macé MD departed from The Netherlands, on board a vessel to Cape Town (South Africa) in 1789, and remained there up to 1792 (Anon. 1848: 81–83). He visited inland locations, including the Hottentots, made notes, and collected items of natural history. He then proceeded to



Fig. 3-041 | PURPLE-RUMPED SUNBIRD *Leptocoma zeylonica*,
19 December 2016, MNHN-ZO-2012-649 (Justin JFJ Jansen / © MNHN).
Selected type specimen.



Fig. 3-042 | WHITE-THROATED FANTAIL *Rhipidura albicollis*, 19 December 2016, MNHN A.C. 9413a (Justin JFJ Jansen / © MNHN). Selected type specimen.



Fig. 3-043 | LARGE CUCKOO-SHRIKE *Coracina macei*, 19 December 2016, MNHN-ZO-2012-679 (Justin JFJ Jansen / © MNHN). Selected type specimen.



Fig. 3-044 | ROSY MINIVET *Pericrocotus roseus*,
19 December 2016, MNHN-ZO-2012-676
(Justin JFJ Jansen / © MNHN).



Fig. 3-045 | BLACK-CROWNED SPARROW-LARK *Eremopterix nigriceps*,
21 September 2016, MNHN-ZO-2012-722
(Justin JFJ Jansen / © MNHN). Selected type specimen.



Fig. 3-046 | ROSY MINIVET *Pericrocotus roseus*,
19 December 2016, MNHN-ZO-2012-684 (Justin JFJ Jansen / © MNHN).

Mauritius where he remained until 1798 (Millin *et al.* 1795). By 03 December 1793 he had accumulated a collection of 22 bird-species, including species of flamingo *Phoenicopterus*, tropicbird *Phaeton*, and others (MNHN, Bibliothèque centrale, letter 03 December 1793, dossier 52). His plans to visit Sri Lanka did not materialise, due to war, and it is unknown whether he visited Madagascar as initially planned (Millin *et al.* 1795). In 1798 he was at Tharangambadi (11.03°N, 79.85°E; Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu, India; erstwhile Tranquebar), Sreerampur (22.75°N, 88.34°E, Hooghly District, West Bengal, India; erstwhile Serampore) and Saharanpur (29.96°N 77.55°E, Saharanpur District, Uttar Pradesh, India) in January 1800 (Laissus 1981). He collected, or procured no less than 371 birds from around Danish-ruled Serampore (MNHN, Bibliothèque centrale, letter 03 December 1793, 07 January 1800, dossier 52). He tried to get back to France but the authorities did not let him. His collections, library, diaries, and notes on natural history that he had left at Mauritius, were seized, and confiscated by rioters. However, the Serampore bird collection he made in India in 1800 was sent, via Copenhagen, Denmark, through the Danish merchant Christian Wilhelm Duntzfeld, to France. His natural history collections, including birds, arrived in the MNHN in the second half of 1801. It contained 358 birds (Manuscript dated 23 September 1801, in the Archives du laboratoire de zoologie (Mammifères et Oiseaux) du MNHN). This collection also contained purchased items from Madagascar (Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire 1803; Hill 1980). 135 birds, collected by Macé in 'Bengale' [=Bengal], were shipped in January/February 1803, aboard *Le Naturaliste*, one of the ships that comprised the Baudin Expedition (1800–1804), led by Nicolas Baudin (Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire 1809; Jansen 2014c, 2015a).



Fig. 3-047 | YELLOW-FOOTED GREEN PIGEON *Treron phoenicoptera*,
19 December 2016, MNHN-ZO-MO-2002-140 (Justin JFJ Jansen / © MNHN).

BIRDS IN THE MNHN COLLECTIONS

In the five acquisition books, drafted roughly in 1856, 45 specimens were traced back then, however, only 21 specimens from 16 taxa remain today (contra Jansen 2015a). The data attached to the specimens, in Louis Dufresne's (the MNHN taxidermist) hand, are limited; his notes can be found under the pedestals of the mounted birds.

Species still present from the 1856 record, in MNHN, are given in Table 3-005. I searched twice for the remaining specimens (in April 2013, and February 2015), but could not locate them.

DISCUSSION

Macé was amongst the early collectors in India, and 21+ of the birds that he collected, still remain in good condition in MNHN. However, a vast number of his collected specimens ended up in other collections, like that of Louis Dufresne (Jansen 2014c). Two birds were also sent to Rouen in 1806, but these have not survived (Jansen 2015a).

A record also exists, of Reinier de Klerk Dibbetz (1764–1808) donating 27 birds from “Bengale”, when *Le Géographe* visited Cape Town between 03 and 24 January 1804 (Collection Lesueur, MHNH: 21001; Jansen 2014c), but whether these came from the Macé collection remains unknown, and it is also quite possible that Dufresne mislabelled some birds. It is evident that few details about Macé are known, and more research could reveal the whereabouts of more specimens, and more details about his life. I encourage researchers to find, and publish, additional information to this article.

Table 3-005 | List of species collected by Macé that are located by author in MNHN.

Species	Specimen record number	Notes
Ashy Woodswallow <i>Artamus fuscus</i>	MNHN-ZO-2014-515	
Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike <i>Coracina striata</i>	MNHN A.C. 9655	
Baya Weaver <i>Ploceus philippinus</i>	MNHN-ZO-2014-511 & MNHN-ZO-2014-512	
Black-naped Blue Monarch <i>Hypothymis azurea styani</i>	MNHN-ZO-2014-524	
Black-rumped Flameback <i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	MNHN-ZO-2009-911 & MNHN-ZO-2009-910	type (Voisin & Voisin 2010a: 13)
Blue-throated Barbet <i>Megalaima asiatica</i>	MNHN-ZO-2007-766	type (Voisin & Voisin 2009: 135)
Common Iora <i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	MNHN-ZO-2014-528	
Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos macei macei</i>	MNHN-ZO-2009-926 & MNHN-ZO-2009-927	type (Voisin & Voisin 2010a: 19-20)
Indian Black-headed Oriole <i>Oriolus melanocephalus</i>	MNHN-ZO-2014-516	
Indian Black-crowned Finch-Lark <i>Pyrrhuloxia frontalis</i>	MNHN A.C. 7364f	
Indian Black-crowned Finch-Lark <i>Pyrrhuloxia frontalis</i>	MNHN-ZO-2012-722	type
Large-billed Crow <i>Corvus macrorhynchos levaillantii</i>	MNHN-ZO-2011-576	type (Voisin & Voisin 2016: 57)
Large Cuckooshrike <i>Coracina macei</i>	MNHN-ZO-2012-679	type
Little Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	MNHN-ZO-MO-1991-154	type (Voisin 1992: 163)
Pied Myna <i>Sturnopastor contra</i>	MNHN-ZO-2014-480	type
Purple-rumped Sunbird <i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i>	MNHN-ZO-2012-649	type
Rosy Minivet <i>Pericrocotus roseus</i>	MNHN-ZO-2012-676 & MNHN-ZO-2012-684	
Rufous Treepie <i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	MNHN-ZO-2014-439 & MNHN-ZO-2014-440	
Verditer Flycatcher <i>Eumyias thalassinus</i>	MNHN-ZO-2014-490 & MNHN-ZO-2014-491	type (Voisin <i>et al.</i> 2004: 112)
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon <i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>	MNHN-ZO-MO-2002-140	type (Voisin <i>et al.</i> 2004: 112)
White-throated Fantail <i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>	MNHN A.C. 9413c	type

Table 3-006 | List of species collected by Macé, but not (yet) found by author.

Species	Specimen record number	Notes
Ashy Woodswallow <i>Artamus fuscus</i>	MNHN A.C. 9623	
<i>Acrocephalus ssp.</i>	MNHN A.C. 8703	
Black Drongo <i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	MNHN A.C. 9742	
Black-headed Ibis <i>Theristicus melanocephalus</i>	MNHN A.C. 14106	
Brahimy Kite <i>Haliastur indus girrenera</i>	MNHN A.C. 149	
Common Iora <i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	MNHN A.C. 10279	
Common Myna <i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	MNHN A.C. 5813	
Forest Wagtail <i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>	MNHN A.C. 8272	
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo <i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	MNHN A.C. 9734	
Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher <i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	MNHN A.C. 9475	
House Crow <i>Corvus splendens</i>	MNHN A.C. 5451	
Indian Roller <i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	MNHN A.C. 3270	
Little Green Bee-eater <i>Merops orientalis</i>	MNHN A.C. 3371	
Orange-headed Thrush <i>Geokichla citrina</i>	MNHN A.C. 8390	
Paddyfield Pipit <i>Anthus rufulus</i>	MNHN A.C. 8207	
Red-vented Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	MNHN A.C. 8362 & 8364	
White-throated Kingfisher <i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	MNHN A.C. 3453	



Fig. 3-048 | FULVOUS-BREASTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos macei*,
2 April 2013, MNHN-ZO-2009-926 (Justin JFJ Jansen / © MNHN).