

THE BROWN FLYCATCHER (*MUSCICAPA
LATIROSTRIS*, RAFFLES) IN KENT.

A NEW BRITISH BIRD.

BY

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At the meeting of the British Ornithologists' Club held on May 26th, 1909, I exhibited an adult male of the Brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa latirostris*, Raffles) which had been shot near Lydd, close to the borders of Kent and Sussex on May 21st, 1909. It was examined in the flesh by Mr. J. L. Bonhote and Dr. N. F. Ticehurst.



Brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa latirostris*), shot near
Lydd, Kent, on May 21st, 1909.

In appearance this bird somewhat resembles an immature Pied Flycatcher, but lacks the white on the wings and tail. The bill, moreover, is slightly wider at the gape than that of *M. atricapilla*.

Not only is this Flycatcher new to the British list, but this is the first occurrence of the bird in Europe, and it has never before been recorded as occurring west of Chamba, Kashmir. It is unlikely, for many reasons, that this example escaped from confinement, and an "assisted" passage—an easy way out of a difficulty—is not to be thought of in this instance.

The summer range of the Brown Flycatcher, as given by Dr. E. Hartert (*Vög. pal. Fauna*, IV., p. 477), is East Siberia to the Baikal Sea, Korea and North China, the Himalayas westwards to Chamba.* Its winter range, however, extending to India, Ceylon, Malacca, Andamans, Hainan, South China, etc., gives us a clue, I think, to its appearance on our shores. The bird would meet during the winter such species as *Phylloscopus superciliosus*, and it seems quite possible that the example under discussion came westwards in company with some such species as the Yellow-browed Warbler, which, although of rare occurrence in Western Europe in *spring*, has been recorded at that season from Heligoland, and once just lately from Scotland.

* Japan must, however, be added to the breeding range of this species (*cf.* Seebohm, *Birds Jap. Emp.*, p. 62; C. Ingram, *Ibis*, 1908, p. 140). Apparently it also nests in India (*cf.* Stuart-Baker, *Ibis*, 1906, p. 277).—F.C.R.J.