

## NOTES ON THAI BIRDS 1.

### On a small collection of birds from in or near Nakhorn Ratchasima province, Eastern Thailand

by

E.C. DICKINSON and SOMTOB CHAIYAPHUN<sup>1</sup>

#### SUMMARY

The collection comprises 95 specimens of 45 forms of which 5 have not previously been recorded from the Eastern plateau. A bulbul, *Criniger pallidus khmerensis* is a new subspecies to the Thai list.

**Introduction :** This paper reports on specimens collected by the Royal Thai Forest Department in conjunction with their sampling of the bird fauna of the National Parks of Thailand and areas adjacent to them. It covers the period up to 31 December 1967, and deals only with Khao Yai National Park and neighbourhood.

#### Collecting localities :

1. *Khao Yai (National Park) :* This term has been applied to birds collected on the main plateau of the Park, reached by Thanarat Road and at an elevation of 650-1400 metres, although much of this area lies within Nakhon Nayok province it is convenient to treat it herein. The terrain has been described by CUMBERLEGE and CUMBERLEGE (1963) and by REEVES (1966). The bird fauna, so far as it has been known from observations, has been recorded by DICKINSON (1963), DICKINSON and TUBB (1964) and DICKINSON (1967).
2. *Pak Chong :* This railway town, also on the Friendship, or Mitraphab Highway, is at the northern foot of the San Kamphaeng range collecting was undertaken near the road a few kilometres east.

---

1. Head, Ornithological Research Unit, Silviculture Division, Royal Thai Forest Department.

3. *Pak Thong Chai* : This term has been used to describe birds taken along the road through the village of this name running south from Nakorn Ratchasima over the San Kamphaeng Range to Kabin Buri. The collecting was mainly done on the northern slope of the range.

**Systematic List :**

*Pernis ptilorhynchus gurneyi* Stresemann

1♂ Pak Chong. 24 April 1966

*Treron pompadora phayrei* (Blyth)

1♂ Pak Thong Chai. 25 January 1967

*Chalcophaps indica indica* (Linnaeus)

1♀ Khao Yai. 20 October 1965

1♀ Khao Yai. 25 October 1965

*Phaenicophaeus tristis longicaudatus* Blyth

1♂ Pak Thong Chai. 28 January 1967

*Eurostopodus macrotis cerviniceps* (Gould)

1♂ Pak Chong. 26 April 1966

*Harpactes oreskios stellae* Deignan

1♂ Pak Thong Chai. 30 August 1966

1♂ Pak Thong Chai. 31 August 1966

*Merops leschenaulti leschenaulti* Vieillot

1♂ Pak Chong. 25 April 1966

*Megalaima zeylanica hodgsoni* Bonaparte

1♂ 1♀ Pak Chong. 25 April 1966

*Megalaima faiostricta faiostricta* (Temminck)

1♂ 1♀ Pak Thong Chai. 27 August 1966

*Megalaima incognita elbeli* Deignan

1♂ 1♀ Khao Yai. 26 October 1966

This pair, together with a ♂ from Thung Salaeng Luang National Park, Phitsanulok, was taken to the U.S. National Museum, Washington by the senior author and compared with topotypical material of *elbeli* and with *M.i. euroa*. The Khao Yai birds seem to be not separable from birds from Loei and from the Thung Salaeng Luang male.



*Picus vittatus eurous* Deignan

1 ♀ Pak Chong. 27 April 1966

*Picus flavinucha pierreii* Oustalet

1 ♂ Pak Chong. 25 April 1966

*Hemicircus canente* (Lesson)

1 ♂ Pak Thong Chai. 29 August 1966

*Chrysocolaptes lucidus guttacristatus* (Tickell)

1 ♀ Pak Chong. 26 April 1966

1 ♀ Khao Yai. 27 January 1967

*Serilophus lunatus aphobus* Deignan

1 ♀ Pak Thong Chai. — August 1966

*Pitta moluccensis moluccensis* (Statius Müller)

1 ♀ Pak Chong. 26 April 1966

*Pitta cyanea aurantiaca* Delacour & Jabouille

1 ♂ Khao Yai. 10 December 1966

1 ♀ Pak Thong Chai. 27 January 1967

This species has not previously been recorded from eastern Thailand and if these birds are proved to be resident in the San Kamphaeng Range this will represent a substantial extension of range. The race *aurantiaca* may be safely distinguished from *P.c. cyanea* by the colour of the nape which is yellowish rather than red.

*Pericrocotus flammeus semiruber* Whistler & Kinnear

1 ♂ Pak Thong Chai. 26 August 1966

*Criniger pallidus khmerensis* Deignan

1 ♀ Pak Chong. 27 April 1966

3 ♂♂ 2 ♀♀ Khao Yai. October 1966

2 ♂♂ 2 ♀♀ Khao Yai. July 1967.

This series of bulbuls was taken to Washington by the senior author. Through the kindness of Dr. J.T. MARSHALL Jr. and Dr. Boonsong LEKAGUL a number of other skins were taken from other Thai localities. The late H.G. DEIGNAN had already pointed out (in litt.) that these birds would be worth special attention; he drew attention to the specimen from Khao Laem (within Khao Yai National

Park) collected by Dr. H.M. SMITH and reported by RILEY (1938) as *C. tephrogenys annamensis*, saying that it might be *C.p. khmerensis* or an undescribed form, and saying that he preferred to omit it from his Checklist (1963).

At the U.S. National Museum this series was compared with the extensive material of *C.p. isani* and *C.p. henrici* from Thailand and of *C.p. khmerensis* from Cambodia and South Vietnam. The birds from Khao Yai are closest to *khmerensis* though showing rather less golden-olive on the mantle. It does not seem warranted to give this subspecific status but the race *khmerensis* is thus recorded from Thailand for the first time.

SMITH'S bird from Khao Laem, No. 330446 in the U.S. National Museum collection, is not a typical example of the population from Khao Yai but is certainly closer to this series than others, and it matches very closely one individual from Khao Yai.

*Hypsipetes propinquus simulator* (Deignan)

1 ♀ Pak Chong. 28 April 1966

*Hypsipetes flava bourdellei* (Delacour)

1 ♂ 1 ♀ Khao Yai. — December 1966

*Dicrurus leucophaeus bondi* (Meyer de Schauensee)

1 ♀ Khao Yai. 18 October 1966

*Dicrurus aeneus aeneus* Vieillot

1 ♂ Pak Thong Chai. 25 August 1966

*Dicrurus paradiseus malabaricus* (Latham)

1 ♂ Pak Thong Chai. 25 August 1966

1 ♂ 1 ♀ Khao Yai. October 1966

*Irena puella puella* (Latham)

2 ♀ ♀ Pak Chong. April 1966

*Melanochlora sultanea flavocristata* (Lafresnaye)

2 ♂ ♂ 1 ♀ 1 sex? Pak Thong Chai. August 1966

*Trichastoma abbotti williamsoni* (Deignan)

4 ♂ ♂ 4 ♀ ♀ 1 sex? Khao Yai. October, December 1966

1 ♂ 1 ♀ Khao Yai. 19 July 1967



*Pomatorhinus hypoleucos tickelli* (Hume)

1♂ Pak Chong. 21 October 1966

*Macronous gularis saraburiensis* Deignan

1♂ Khao Yai. 18 October 1966

*Garrulax leucolophus diardi* (Lesson)

1♂ 1 sex? Khao Yai. October, December 1966

*Pteruthius flaviscapis* subsp.

1 ♀ Khao Khieo, Khao Yai. 26 October 1966.

This represents a substantial extension of known range. The specimen was taken to the U.S. National Museum, Washington and compared with *P.f. ricketti* with the single ♀ (from Szechuan) of which it does not accord as *ricketti* has a grey throat. It was also compared with 3 ♀ ♀ collected by B.F. KING on Khao Sai Dao in S.E. Thailand. These birds await critical examination. With 2 of the 3 the bird from Khao Yai matches well; the third, perhaps an immature, has the greyish of the crown overlaid with the greenish of the mantle.

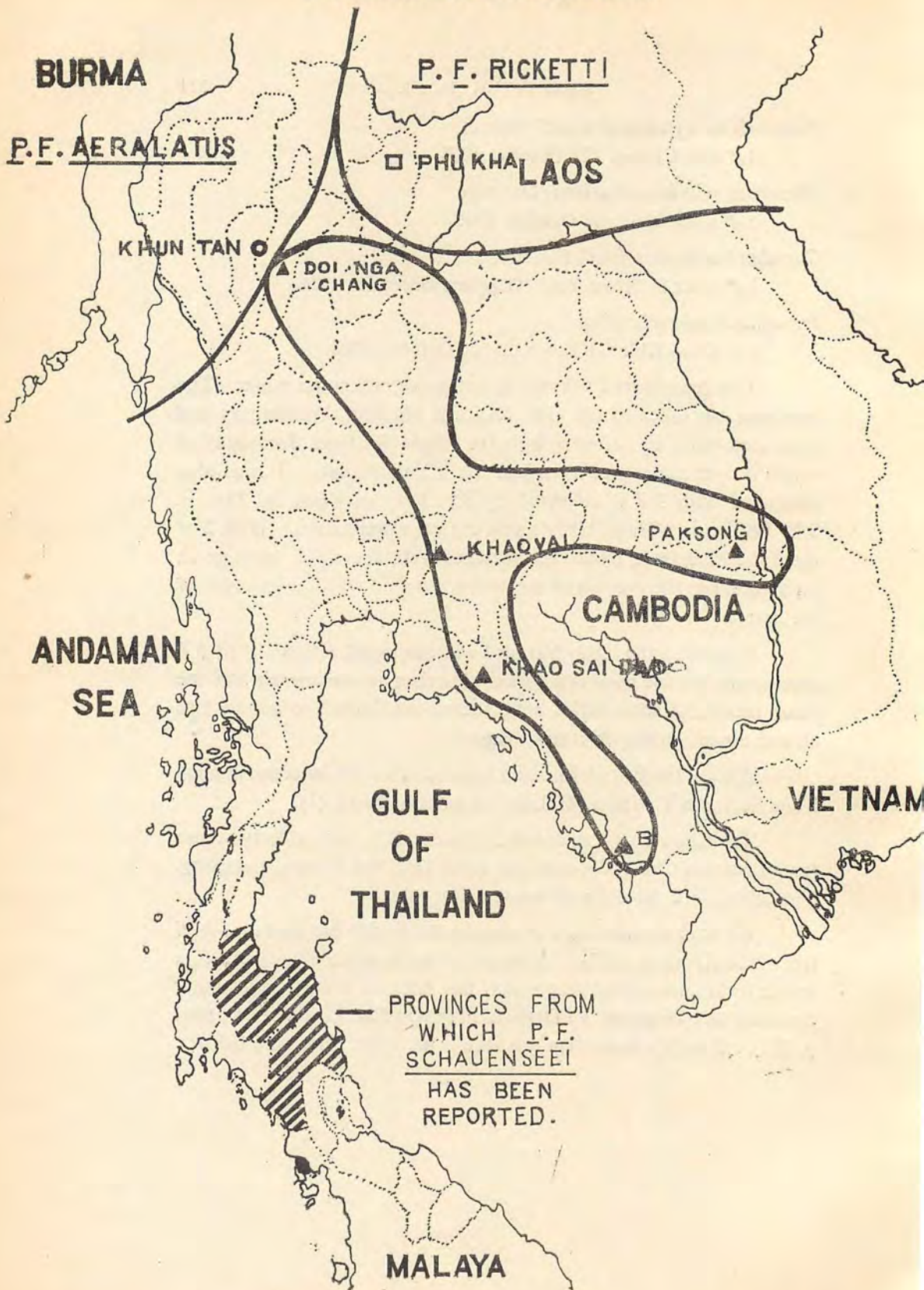
In London the Khao Yai bird was compared with 6 ♀ ♀ of *P.f. annamensis*, but the head is a darker grey than in *annamensis* and the three innermost secondaries have the rufous limited to minute tips almost absent on the innermost feather.

Also in the British Museum were 6 ♀ ♀ of *P.f. aeralatus* coming from Northern Thailand (4), Laos (1) and Cambodia (1).

The Khao Yai ♀ matched 3 of those ♀ ♀ very closely—those from Laos and Cambodia and one from Doi Nga Chang, Lampang. The other 3 ♀ ♀ have the crown sensibly paler.

We have not been able to examine the bird(s) ascribed to *ricketti* from Nan (DEIGNAN 1963). It seems to us however that there is a scarce local undescribed race which has hitherto been treated under *aeralatus* (see comment by DEIGNAN in PETERS Checklist Vol. X., 1964 p. 387). Possibly more than one race is involved. See map below.

**PTERUTHIUS FLAVISCAPIS**





Before this specimen is named it would seem necessary to gather more specimens both ♂♂ and ♀♀ from this area for a more detailed study.

*Yuhina zantholeuca canescens* (Delacour & Jabouille)

3♂♂ 1 sex? Khao Yai. October, December 1966

*Erithacus cyane cyane* (Pallas)

2♂♂ 1♀ Khao Yai, October 1966

1 sex? Khao Yai. December 1966

*Enicurus leschenaulti indicus* Hartert

1 sex? Khao Yai. December 1966

This is the first specimen from the area, but the species has been seen in the National Park (Dickinson 1967)

*Monticola solitarius affinis* (Blyth)

1♂ Khao Yai. 17 October 1966

*Seicercus burkii tephrocephalus* (Anderson)

1♀ Khao Yai. 21 October 1966

*Seicercus burkii distinctus* (La Touche)

1♂ Khao Yai. 27 October 1966

This species has not previously been collected from the southern part of the eastern plateau. These two races both occur in winter in other parts of Thailand and it is no surprise to find both here. *S.b. distinctus* has the coronal streaks very black and the underparts deeper yellow; the other characters given by DEIGNAN (1945) are less distinctive in these two birds.

*Phylloscopus inornatus inornatus* (Blyth)

1 sex? Khao Yai. December 1966.

*Phylloscopus reguloides claudiae* (La Touche)

1♂ Khao Yai. 25 October 1966

This is the first known record for eastern Thailand.

The coronal streak in this specimen is wholly clouded with grey. The 2nd primary falls between 7th and 8th.

*Muscicapa banyumas lekhakuni* Deignan

1♂ Khao Yai. 21 October 1966

1♀ Khao Yai. 26 October 1966

2 imm. ♂♂ Khao Yai. 19 July 1967.

The immature males are still in spotted plumage.

*Hypothymis azurea montana* Riley

1♂ 1♀ Pak Chong. 26 April 1966

The bird sexed as ♂ is in ♀ dress. The sexing is unfortunately not beyond suspicion.

*Terpsiphone paradisi indochinensis* (Salomonsen)

1♂ (brown phase) Khao Yai. December 1966.

*Ampeliceps coronatus* Blyth

2♂♂ 1♀ Pak Thong Chai. 25 January 1967.

*Gracula religiosa intermedia* Hay

1♂ Pak Chong. 25 April 1966

1♂ Pak Thong Chai. 25 January 1967.

*Arachnothera longirostra pallida* Delacour

4♂♂ 1♀ Khao Yai. 18-19 October 1966

These birds together with a specimen from Amphur Thap Kwang, Changwat Saraburi in the collection of Dr. Boonsong LEKAGUL were taken to Washington for subspecific identification since no birds had hitherto been collected in the southern portion of the eastern plateau of Thailand. They could not be separated from examples of *A.l. pallida* in the collection of the U.S. National Museum.

**Acknowledgements :**

The authors would like to thank Khun Dusit BHANIBHATANA, Director-General of the Royal Thai Forest Department for his encouragement; Khun Phairote SUWANAKORN for his assistance within Khao Yai National Park; and Dr. Boonsong LEKAGUL and the authorities of the U.S. National Museum, Washington D.C. and the British Museum (Natural History), London for permission to examine the specimens in their care.

The comparative studies abroad were partly made possible through grants from the Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. and the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund of the American Museum of Natural History, New York,



## REFERENCES

- CUMBERLEGE, P.F. and CUMBERLEGE, V.M.S. 1963 : A Preliminary List of the Orchids of Khao Yai National Park. *Nat. Hist. Bull. Siam Soc.* **20** : 155-181.
- DEIGNAN, H.G. 1945 : The Birds of Northern Thailand. U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. **186**. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
- DEIGNAN, H.G. 1956 : New Races of Birds from Laem Thong, the Golden Chersonese. *Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash.* **69** : 207-211.
- DEIGNAN, H.G. 1963 : Checklist of the Birds of Thailand. U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. No. **226**. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
- DEIGNAN, H.G. 1964 : In : Peters's Checklist of Birds of the World Vol. **10**. The subfamilies Orthonychinae, Timaliinae, Panurinae and Picathartinae : pp. 228-442.
- DICKINSON, E.C. 1963 : A Preliminary List of the Birds of Khao Yai National Park. *Nat. Hist. Bull. Siam Soc.* **20** : 183-204.
- DICKINSON, E.C. 1967 : A further contribution on the birds of Khao Yai National Park. *Nat. Hist. Bull. Siam Soc.* **22** : 173-184.
- DICKINSON, E.C. & TUBB, J.A. 1964 : Some additions and corrections to the Preliminary List of the Birds of Khao Yai National Park. *Nat. Hist. Bull. Siam Soc.* **20** : 269-277.
- MEYER DE SCHAUSENSEE, BARON RODOLPHE 1937 : On a new race of Drongo from Siam. *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sc. Phil.* **89** : 337-338.
- REEVES, P.A. 1966 : Notes on the Butterflies of Khao Yai National Park-Part 1. *Nat. Hist. Bull. Siam Soc.* Vol. **21** : 1-20.
- RILEY, J.H. 1938 : Birds from Siam and the Malay Peninsula in the United States National Museum collected by Drs. Hugh M. Smith and William L. Abbott. U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. **172**., Washington, D.C.
- TICEHURST, C.B. 1938 : A systematic review of the genus *Phylloscopus* (Willow-Warblers). British Museum, London.
- VAURIE, C. 1949 : A Revision of the Bird family Dicruridae. *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., N.Y.* **93** : 199-342.

