

REVIEWS

The editorial staff of the Bulletin are currently formulating plans to deal with the needs of readers who require documentation on natural history subjects to be covered more fully than hitherto. It is envisaged however that certain limitations will have to be accepted though these will depend upon the amount of volunteer help received by the Editors. Anyone who is interested in helping should contact Mr. Edward C. Dickinson, Pronesiam Inc., 229/1 Sathorn Road South, Bangkok, Tel. 32924-5 for details of the plans.

RECENT LITERATURE : ORNITHOLOGY :

Abdulali, Humayun 1968

- A catalogue of the birds in the Collection of the Bombay Natural History Society. 1.

Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc., Vol. 65 No. 1 pp. 182-199.

The first part of what promises to be a valuable paper. There is a useful cross reference to Ripley's Synopsis and to Stuart Baker's Fauna of British India : Birds.

This part deals with the first 74 forms in the Synopsis together with extralimital material of these and allied forms.

- Sap sucking by Indian woodpeckers.

Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. Vol. 65 No. 1 pp. 219-221.

This is particularly interesting to those who are investigating the habits of *Dendrocopos* (or *Hypopicus*) *hyperythrus* in Thailand.

- A catalogue of the birds in the Collection of the Bombay Natural History Soc. 2.

Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. Vol. 65 No. 2 pp. 418-430.

Deals with forms 75-123 in the Synopsis together with some extralimital allied forms.

Alcasid, G.L. and Gonzales, P. 1968

- A new race of the Naked-faced Spiderhunter (*Arachnothera clarae*) from Luzon.

Bull. B.O.C. Vol. 88 No. 7 pp. 129-130.

The species was previously known from Mindanao, Samar and 'probably Leyte'.

The Luzon bird is named *A.c. luzonensis*. The type is in the Philippine National Museum.

Biswas, Biswamoy 1968.

— The female of Molesworth's Tragopan, *Tragopan blythi molesworthi* Baker.

Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. Vol. 65 No. 1 pp. 216-217. 1 col. pl.
The first description of a female of this race: taken in Bhutan.

Buckley, Francine G. 1968

— Behaviour of the Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot *Loriculus galgulus* with comparative notes on the Vernal Hanging Parrot *L. vernalis*.
IBIS, Vol. 110 No. 2 pp. 145-164.

Studies of aviary kept birds caught in the wild, in the case of *L. galgulus* near Kuala Lumpur, in the case of *L. vernalis* in Bengal. The two species occur in Thailand but appear to be geographically isolated. Proximity to *Agapornis*, an African genus, is discussed.

Cairns, J. 1968

— The Serpent Eagles *Spilornis cheela* of Penang Island, Malaya.

IBIS, Vol. 110, No. 4 pp. 569-571, 1 pl.

An account of breeding habits. Mentions an association with *Parus major* but unfortunately does not select the photo he mentions for publication with this article.

Dement'ev, G.P., Gladkov, N.A., et al. 1968

— Birds of the Soviet Union. Vol. VI. (English translation by the Israel Program for Scientific Translations).

This volume contains the Shrikes, Bulbuls, Flycatchers, Kinglets, Warblers, Thrushes, Accentors, Swallows etc. About 50 of the species covered are on the Thai list.

Fleming, R.L. 1968

— Nepal Birds: Supplement to Biswas' List.

Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. Vol. 65 No. 2 pp. 326-334.

Biswas (1960-63) recorded 772 species and subspecies of birds found in Nepal up to 1959. Fleming herein mentions 56 species and subspecies found since then.

Fleming, R.L. Jr. 1968

- The Waxwing, *Bombycilla garrulus* (Linnaeus) in Nepal.
Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. Vol. 65 No. 2 pp. 488-9.
The first record for Nepal.

Friedmann, Herbert 1968

- The Evolutionary History of the Avian Genus *Chrysococcyx*.
Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus. No. 265, Smithsonian Inst., Washington pp. i-viii, 1-137., 2 col. pls., 3 maps.
The paper contains cogent reasons for treating *Misocalius*, *Chrysococcyx* and *Chalcites* as congeneric, and treats their phylogenetic relationships and various aspects of their behaviour. Two new terms are proposed to facilitate thinking and discussion of brood parasitism :

Alloxenia : implies that different species of parasites use different hosts.

Homoxenia : implies that two or more species of parasite share the same host species.

This group of Cuckoos, usually rather hard to find in the field, has three representatives in Thailand. Each of these is pictured.

Gore, M.E.J. 1968

- A check-list of the birds of Sabah, Borneo.
IBIS, Vol. 110 No. 2 pp. 165-196, 1 map.
Lists 504 species; does not go to subspecies level. Nomenclature, both Latin and English sensibly follows Smythies in Birds of Borneo (1960). A very useful summary of our knowledge.

Greenwood, J.D.D. 1968

- Bluethroat nesting in Scotland.
British Birds. Vol. 61 No. 11 pp. 524-525.

The first British breeding record: the eggs were apparently eaten by predators. *Erithacus svecicus* is a regular but rather scarce and local winter visitor to Thailand.

Hale, R.E. (Editor). 1968

— The Hong Kong Bird Report 1967. (Records compiled by M.A. Webster).

Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hongkong. pp. 1-72. 4 pls. 1 map.

Two species are added to the Colony List: the Asiatic Dowitcher, *Limnodromus semipalmatus* and the Emerald Dove, *Chalcophaps indica*.

Harrison, C.J.O. 1968

— The nest and eggs of *Arachnothera chrysogenys*
Bull. B.O.C. Vol. 88 No. 8 pp. 138-139.

The first description of these for this species. Material described is from Sarawak and is now in the British Museum.

Hemmingsen, Axel, M. and Guidal, J.A. 1968

— Observations on Birds in North Eastern China especially the migration at Pei-tai-Ho beach. II. Special Part.

Spolia zool. Mus. haun. Vol. 28. Copenhagen, pp. 1-326, 1 map, 31 figs, many tables.

The summary on p. 314 draws attention to the points of major interest but the work is one of very few detailed works published on migration at a fixed point outside Europe and North America. A most important paper to students of migration in the Far East as a whole.

Kitti Thonglongya 1968

— A new martin of the genus *Pseudochelidon* from Thailand.
Thai National Scientific Papers, Fauna Series No. 1.

A new species of an aberrant river martin is described. The only other member of this genus is found along the rivers of western Central Africa.

Madge, S.G. 1968

— Nesting of the Rufous-backed Shrike *Lanius schach* at Ampang, Selangor.

Malayan Nature Journal. Vol. 22 No. 1 pp. 41-42.

Observations made in the last few days before fledging. The record is apparently the first for Selangor.

McClure, H.E. 1968

– Migratory Animal Pathological Survey, Annual Progress Report 1967.

Mimeo. by U.S. Army Research and Development Group, Far East., San Francisco. pp. i-viii. 1-205.

Deals with bird banding activities and with parasites found on birds caught in Asia.

McClure, H.E. and Husain bin Haji Osman 1968

– Nesting of birds in a coconut-mangrove habitat in Selangor.

Malayan Nature Journal Vol. 22 No. 1 pp. 18-25.

Breeding success of 35% in 545 nests found in 2 years. 28 species involved. Main season January through June.

Medway 1969

– Studies on the biology of the edible-nest swiftlets of South-east Asia.

Malayan Nature Journal Vol. 22 No. 2 pp. 57-63. 4 pls.

Deals principally with their nesting habits and powers of orientation in darkness by echolocation.

Medway and Nisbet I.C.T. 1968

– Bird Report : 1966.

Malayan Nature Journal Vol. 21 No. 1 pp. 34-50.

No species added to the Malayan list on the basis of 1966 records but a specimen of the Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga* from Singapore is mentioned. Although recorded by Chasen in 1939 it seems that Gibson-Hill overlooked it in compiling his 1949 Checklist.

Medway, Nisbet, I.C.T. and Wells D.R. 1968

– Bird Report : 1967.

Malayan Nature Journal. Vol. 21 No. 4 pp. 185-200.

Two ducks and a flycatcher are added to the Malayan list: Pintail, *Anas acuta*, Gadwall, *Anas strepera*¹ and Narcissus Flycatcher, *Muscicapa narcissina*. The report takes the opportunity to up-date local taxonomic practice on the species pairs: *Chaetura cochinchinensis* and *Ch. caudacuta* and *Muscicapa zanthopygia* and *M. narcissina*. It should be noted that there are no confirmed Malayan records for *Ch. caudacuta* as yet.

Nisbet, I.C.T. 1968

— The utilization of mangroves by Malayan birds.

IBIS, Vol. 110 No. 3 pp. 348-352.

The author lists the species found in mangrove in groups according to the degree and nature of their use of mangrove. Mangroves are generally neglected by ornithologists as they are often an unpleasant habitat to work in.

— Weights of birds caught at night at a Malayan radio tower.

IBIS, Vol. 110, No. 3 pp. 352-354.

Discusses migrants in October 1965 and 1966 when 190 birds of 35 species were handled. Weights are given for 13 species of Palaearctic migrant and these are compared where possible with birds wintering; in general migrants caught at the tower were lighter.

Parkes, K.C. 1968

— An undescribed subspecies of button-quail from the Philippines.

Bull. B.O.C. Vol. 88 No. 2 pp. 24-25.

Turnix ocellata benguetensis subsp. nov. is described from Mt. Data, Luzon.

The type is in the American Museum of Natural History, New York.

Parslow, J.L.F. 1968

— Eye-browed Thrushes in Northamptonshire, Hebrides and Scilly: a species new to Britain and Ireland.

British Birds. Vol. 61 No. 5 pp. 218-223.

The first records for the British Isles of *Turdus obscurus*—a relatively common migrant in S.E. Asia.

1) There is some reason to believe that the record of the Gadwall will be withdrawn. ED.

Phillips, Allan R. 1968

— *Cettia montana* versus *C. fortipes* (Aves: Sylviinae).

Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. Vol. 65 No. 1 pp. 223-4.

The author renders a service in explaining again the tangled usage of these two names for the same bird and in pointing out that *Cettia fortipes* should stand.

Serventy, D.L. 1968

— Wanderings of the Blue-winged Pitta to Australia.

Bull. B.O.C. Vol. 88 No. 9 pp. 160-162.

The author re-examines old Australian records for *Pitta moluccensis* in the light of the present knowledge of this species' migrations and concludes that the 1927 and 1930 records from northern Western Australia involved genuine vagrants. He therefore recommends its addition to the Australian list.

Ward, Peter 1968

— Origin of the Avifauna of urban and suburban Singapore.

IBIS, Vol. 110 No. 3 pp. 239-255., 2 maps, 3 photos.

The author lists the commoner birds of his area and their natural habitats, he suggests that vacant niches exist and that these seem likely to be filled by species expanding south along the deforested coastal corridors running south from Thailand.

Ward, Peter and Poh, G.E. 1968

— Seasonal breeding in an equatorial population of the Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*.

IBIS, Vol. 110, No. 3 pp. 359-363.

The main laying period is shown to be February to mid-May inclusive. A complete moult occurs between mid-May and late August. This contradicts previous suggestions that this sparrow had only a seasonal peak in breeding at this time though in fact breeding year round. Both reports relate to the Singapore population only.

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