

NOTES ON THAI BIRDS 2.

A First Contribution to Our Knowledge on the Birds of Thung Salaeng Luang National Park, Phitsanulok Province.

by

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SUMMARY

Comments on 24 selected species, most dealing with improvements in our knowledge of the range of the species. A new subspecies is proposed of the Spotted Babbler, *Pellorneum ruficeps*. Appended is a binomial list of the species so far recorded from this National Park.

Introduction :

Thung Salaeng Luang National Park straddles the border between Phitsanulok and Petchabun provinces in the Dong Phraya Fai range. The broad, new Phitsanulok-Lomsak highway bisects it.

The Park has been visited by Seidenfaden (1964) on the Fourth Thai-Danish Botanical Expedition and between 19th and 26th July 1966 by Larsen and Warncke (1967) who give a substantial account of the area.

Evergreen forest, much of it disturbed and perhaps second-growth, dominates the area between 700 and 1100 metres. Below 700 metres lies deciduous dipterocarp forest, mainly on red laterite. The only significant peak in the vicinity is Phu Mieng which lies just outside the Park to the north east; the existing maps suggest a height of 2100 metres which Larsen & Warncke thought exaggerated.

Ornithological History :

The area is located at an interesting point. Deignan (1963) lists Petchabun and Loei provinces as the north-western part of the eastern plateau, but the faunal affinities are with the northern plateau, or at least the eastern part thereof. The part of Phitsanulok province that adjoins Petchabun is similar and not typical of the central plains.

The area has been very little collected and collections from localities within the present boundaries of the Park do not seem to exist at all. This paper reports on birds collected under the direction of the junior author as part of a survey of the birds of the National Park during three visits:

Dates :	Specimen Nos.
– 11th-28th January 1966	326 – 527
– 21st-24th March 1967	175 – 186
– 20th-27th November 1968	1129 – 1163

The selected species commented on below include one rare specimen collected by Nai Bhoonsakdi Chamroonratana, Chief Ranger of Thung Salaeng Luang N.P.

Following the comments on selected species is a preliminary list of the birds of the Park. Except for the few species marked with an asterisk specimens have been collected and such skins have been examined by the senior author. The sight records for the species marked with an asterisk were made by the senior author during a brief visit on February 23rd 1967.

Comments on Selected Species :

Lophura diardi (Bonaparte)

1 male, March 21, 1967. R.T.F.D. 175

1 female, March 24, 1967. R.T.F.D. 183

Has been recorded from Nan and Phrae as well as the eastern plateau. Occurrence here not unexpected.

Macropygia unchall tusalia (Blyth)

1 male, January 18, 1966. R.T.F.D. 511

Not previously recorded from the eastern side of the northern plateau.

Deignan (1963) listed the distribution of *tusalia* as "... north western provinces south to Tak and the northwestern portion of the eastern plateau (Loei)"; he followed Hartert in not believing *M.u. minor* separable from *M.u. tusalia* (see Peters's Checklist of Birds of the World, Volume 3., 1937, footnote to p. 76). Peters (tom. cit) gives *minor* as the race for Thailand.

This specimen agrees well with birds under that name in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.). The material examined did not allow a review of the validity of *minor* and hence Deignan is followed.

Carpococcyx renauldi Oustalet

1 adult, sex?, January 1967.

A specimen collected within Thung Salaeng Luang National Park by the Chief Ranger, Nai Bhoonsakdi, in January 1967 represents a notable extension of the known range of this rare ground cuckoo. The specimen, which has been mounted, does not form a part of the collection of the Royal Thai Forest Department but it has been examined by both the authors and by Dr. Boonsong Lekagul. It is to be hoped that the specimen will be retained in some accessible collection.

Otus spilocephalus latouchi (Rickett)

1 male, 24 November 1968. R.T.F.D. 1147. 1.¹ Wing 139. 5.

We sought the advice of Dr. Joe T. Marshall on the identification of the three skins collected—at various localities².— by the Royal Thai Forest Department, and happily Dr. Marshall was able to compare (not all at the same time and place—so the results are tentative) 12 birds from Northern Thailand south to Khao Yai and the type of *latouchi* from Fukien with 7 birds from Khao Sai Dao, Chantaburi province, southeast Thailand and the type and paratype (National Museum, Singapore) of *siamensis* from peninsular Thailand.

1. There is a little confusion in the Register of Skins in the Collection of the Royal Thai Forest Department. The no. 1147 lists a Bay Owl, *Phodilus badius*; supposedly collected on November 23rd. 1968 and with the annotation 'mounted'; on the other hand this specimen carried a label with the original number 1147 and the number used above is an amended one. The mounted specimen of the Bay Owl would, if it can be traced, require mention in print as the first record of *Phodilus badius* from the eastern side of the northern plateau or the eastern edge of the central plains.
2. Apart from the Thung Salaeng Luang specimen listed above the specimens collected by the Royal Thai Forest Department are:

1 ♂, 27 November 1967. Khao Yai National Park, Nakorn Rajsima province. R.T.F.D. No. 823.

1 ♀, 21 January 1968. Phu Kradung National Park, Loei province. R.T.F.D. No. 912.

He regards all the northern birds except that from Khao Yai, but including the Loei and Phitsanulok specimens as *latouchi*, based on their large size, pale forehead, and coloration richer than *spilocephalus* but paler than *siamensis*. The Khao Yai bird because of its small size (wing 128 mm.) is regarded as an intergrade between *latouchi*, with which it agrees in colour, and *siamensis*, with which it agrees in size.

The Chantaburi series, collected by Ben King, is considered representative of *Otus spilocephalus siamensis*, distinguished by its obscure patterning from the boldly marked *vulpes* of Malaya, with its equally dark colours and small size.

Ptilolaemus tickelli austeni (Jerdon)

1 male, January 24, 1966 R.T.F.D. 520

1 sex? November 26, 1968 R.T.F.D. 1158.

Not previously recorded from either Phitsanulok or Petchabun provinces. The distribution given by Deignan (1963) suggests that this extension is not surprising.

Megalaima faiostricta praetermissa (Boden Kloss)

1 male, January 11, 1966 R.T.F.D. 488

1 sex?, January 21, 1966 R.T.F.D. 445

Again not previously recorded from either of the provinces into which the Park falls. As might have been expected these birds are somewhat intermediate between *praetermissa* and *faiostricta*. In the size of the scarlet patches on each side of the throat they fall short of *praetermissa* but on head colour they match.

Megalaima incognita elbeli Deignan

1 male, January 11, 1966 R.T.F.D. 444

This also fills an obvious gap in the known range of this form.

Picumnus innominatus malayorum Hartert

1 male, January 20, 1966 R.T.F.D. 412

Although this species has been recorded from Loei province and from the western part of the northern plateau it has not previously been found in the area in between. It can now be supposed that

eventually it will be found to be an uncommon resident in the eastern part of the northern plateau.

Gecinulus grantia viridis Blyth

1 male, January 11, 1966 R.T.F.D. 498

1 female, January 14, 1966 R.T.F.D. 499

This also extends the known range of the species.

Meiglyptes jugularis (Blyth)

1 male, January 23, 1966 R.T.F.D. 449

Reported already from Loei to the east and from Phrae and Nan to the north—a small extension of range.

Criniger pallidus henrici Oustalet

16 males, 9 females & 1 sex? taken between January 16–24, 1966. R.T.F.D. 450–475

2 males, 1 female, November 22, 1968. R.T.F.D. 1137; 1138 & 1141

The abundance of specimens suggests that the species is common at Thung Salaeng Luang. In view of the fact that the specimens looked rather different from *C.p. isani*, type locality Ban Muang Khai, Loei Province, it was felt important to recheck this due to the relatively small distance from the type locality and the rather marked affinities in general between the birds from Thung Salaeng Luang and Loei. The senior author therefore took 6 males and 6 females from Thung Salaeng Luang with him to the United States National Museum in Washington and compared them with extensive material of *C.p. henrici* and topotypical material of *C.p. isani*. In the colour of the mantle the Thung Salaeng Luang birds are indistinguishable from northern Thai *henrici*.

Pellorneum ruficeps dusiti subsp. nov.

TYPE: male, November 27, 1968, Thung Salaeng Luang National Park, Phitsanulok Province, Thailand (approx. lat. 16°45'N., 101°00'E), collected by Somtob Chaiyaphun; original No. 1163. Now deposited in the Smithsonian Institution, U.S. National Museum, Washington D.C.

DESCRIPTION: nearest to *P.r. elbeli* of Loei province but much whiter below with the breast streaks narrower and more contrasting as the ground colour of the breast is paler buff than in *elbeli*, and the streaks themselves are darker.

MEASUREMENTS OF TYPE: wing 67, tail 69.5, culmen (from base of skull) 18, tarsus 26 mm.

DISCUSSION: as shown by Deignan (1947) this species is highly plastic. This was confirmed by Delacour (1951). If the forms listed by Deignan (1963) are plotted on a map of Thailand there will emerge an area in the north of the central plains that is without a named population of this cosmopolitan species. It was with this in mind that these birds were carefully examined. Interestingly the gap is in all probability not filled by the race named here. Our material comprises 4 males from Thung Salaeng Luang, of which the type, taken in November is in fresh plumage and of which the other three, taken in January 1966, have the streaks on the breast of similar size and frequency but paler. Also included with these specimens are birds from Nan, and presumably intervening districts—at least those northwards along the Dong Phaya Fai range, of which three specimens have been examined. The suggestion is therefore that the race of the eastern part of the northern plateau does, *contra* Deignan (1947), differ from that of the western part as is the case with so many other species.

RANGE: known only from Nan province and Thung Salaeng Luang National Park, Phitsanulok/Petchabun provinces.

MATERIAL EXAMINED; *P.r. dusiti*: 4 males Thung Salaeng Luang N.P., 1 male Ban Leeh, Nan, 2 females Ban Pa Tong, Pua, Nan, *P.r. chthonium*: 2 males Pa Paa, Chiangmai. *P.r. elbeli*: 2 males, 2 females Chiang Khan, Loei. *P.r. subochraceum*: 1 male Mae Hongson. *P.r. euroum*: 1 male Pakjong, 1 ? Tub Kwang, Saraburi. *P.r. acrum*: many skins particularly from Bang Non, Ranong. *P.r. ubonense*, *P.r. indistinctum* and *P.r. smithi* were not examined.

Stachyris nigriceps yunnanensis La Touche

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 1 female, January 17, 1966 | R.T.F.D. 386 |
| 1 female, January 18, 1966 | R.T.F.D. 387 |
| 1 female, November 23, 1966 | R.T.F.D. 1143 |

These three birds have been compared with specimens of *spadix* from Doi Hua Mot and Pa Paa, Chiangmai province and they are very similar but somewhat paler. They have also been compared with a bird from Phu Kradung National Park, Loei province but they appear to have more evident pale shafts to the breast feathers. The assignment to *yunnanensis* is provisional.

Macronous gularis subsp.

- 2 males, 2 females and 2 sex ? collected January 14-22, 1966
R.T.F.D. 344-50
1 female, November 26, 1968 R.T.F.D. 1153
1 sex ? November 27, 1968 R.T.F.D. 1160

These birds have been compared with many museum specimens from northern Thailand and they seem to have the entire underparts much whiter and less sullied than *M.g. sulphureus* or *M.g. lutescens*. The degree of streaking on the throat is however comparable. The difference in colour of the underparts may be due to 'foxing' of the older museum skins and until further material is to hand it seems best to leave this material innominate.

Yuhina zantholeuca tyrranulus (Swinhoe)

- 1 male, January 28, 1966 R.T.F.D. 389 Wing 67.
1 female, March 23, 1967 R.T.F.D. 182 Wing 63.

This record seems to fill an obvious gap in the known range of this form in Thailand.

Alcippe rufogularis major (Stuart Baker).

- 1 female, November 24, 1968. R.T.F.D. 1146 Wing 58.

This record is in the same category as the preceding one except that the bird concerned is rather rarer and of much more limited distribution in Thailand. A second specimen taken at the same place and time is now in the Thai National Collection at the Centre for Thai National Reference Collections.

Alcippe poiocephala alearis (Bangs & Van Tyne)

- 1 female, January 24, 1966 R.T.F.D. 388

This record is of similar importance to that of *Yuhina zantholeuca*.

Paradoxornis davidianus thompsoni (Bingham)

1 sex ?, November 26, 1968. R.T.F.D. 1162 Wing 52.

This represents an interesting extension of range for this little known species, previously only recorded within Thailand from Loei province. The specimen is in moult and, in life, had a pink bill.

Myiomela leucura leucura (Hodgson)

1 female, November 22, 1968 R.T.F.D. 1139.

This represents an interesting extension of range to the south. The Royal Thai Forest Department have also collected this species at Phu Kradung National Park, Loei province—this will be fully reported in a later paper.

Zoothera dauma dauma (Latham)

1 male, November 26, 1968 R.T.F.D. 1155 Wing 147

Typical measurements for *dauma* are given by Deignan (1945) as wing: 138-146. The record from Thung Salaeng Luang of this resident race is not surprising when the distribution given by Deignan (1963) is reviewed.

Hypogramma hypogrammicum lisettae (Delacour)

1 male, January 16, 1966 R.T.F.D. 406

1 female, January 17, 1966 R.T.F.D. 407

1 male, November 22, 1968 R.T.F.D. 1135.

The two races of this sunbird occurring in Thailand are separated by an enormous gap—previously thought to extend from Nan to the Isthmus of Kra. This record appreciably narrows the gap. It would be interesting to know whether an actual extension of range has taken place but the area has been so little collected previously that it is not possible to decide this point.

Arachnothera longirostra sordida La Touche

7 males, 2 females and 1 sex ? taken in January 1966.

R.T.F.D. 326 through 335.

1 male, March 23, 1967 R.T.F.D. 181

This is also an expected addition to the known avifauna of the area, occurring like so many other forms both in Loei and in the provinces to the north of the Park.

Dicaeum agile pallescens (Riley)

1 male, January 15, 1966 R.T.F.D. 419

1 male, January 19, 1966 R.T.F.D. 420

This adds one extra locality to the known range of this widespread but local form.

Erythrura prasina prasina (Sparrman)

1 female, January 14, 1966 R.T.F.D. 410

1 sex ? January 22, 1966 R.T.F.D. 411

This is another very local species but with the use of mist nets it is beginning to be found rather more widely. The species is already known from Loei so that its occurrence here is perhaps not so surprising.

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APPENDIX I

Species So Far Recorded by the Authors from Thung Salaeng Luang National Park

<i>Butorides striatus</i>	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>
<i>Goisakius melanolophus</i>	<i>Nyctyornis athertoni</i>
<i>Arborophila brunneopectus</i>	<i>Ptilolaemus tickelli</i>
<i>Arborophila charltonii</i>	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>
<i>Lophura nycthemera</i>	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>
<i>Lophura diardi</i>	<i>Megalaima faiostricta</i>
<i>Gallus gallus</i>	<i>Megalaima incognita</i>
<i>Polyplectron bicalcaratum</i>	<i>Megalaima australis</i>
<i>Treron curvirostra</i>	<i>Picumnus innominatus</i>
<i>Ducula badia</i>	<i>Micropternus brachyurus</i>
<i>Macropygia unchall</i>	<i>Picus vittatus</i>
<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	<i>Picus erythropygius*</i>
<i>Phaenicophaeus tristis</i>	<i>Gecinulus grantia</i>
<i>Carpococcyx renauldi</i>	<i>Meiglyptes jugularis</i>
<i>Otus spilocephalus</i>	<i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>
<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>	<i>Serilophus lunatus</i>
<i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>	<i>Psarisomus dalhousiae*</i>
<i>Eurostopodus macrotis</i>	<i>Pitta cyanea</i>
<i>Harpactes oreskios</i>	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>
<i>Harpactes erythrocephalus</i>	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>

* Sight records only

*Pycnonotus melanicterus**Pycnonotus finlaysoni**Criniger pallidus**Hypsipetes propinquus**Dicrurus remifer**Oriolus traillii**Irena puella**Sitta frontalis**Pellorneum ruficeps**Trichastoma tickelli**Pomatorhinus schisticeps**Pomatorhinus hypoleucos**Stachyris nigriceps**Macronous gularis**Garrulax leucolophus**Gampsorhynchus rufulus**Yuhina zantholeuca**Alcippe rufogularis**Alcippe poiocephala**Paradoxornis davidianus**Erithacus cyane**Copsychus malabaricus**Myiomela leucura**Enicurus leschenaulti**Zoothera dauma**Seicercus burkii**Phylloscopus fuscatus**Phylloscopus inornatus**Muscicapa thalassina**Muscicapa parva**Muscicapa hainana**Muscicapa banyumas**Culicicapa ceylonensis**Rhipidura albicollis**Hypothymis azurea**Terpsiphone paradisi**Anthus novae-seelandiae**Hypogramma hypogrammicum**Arachnothera longirostra**Arachnothera magna**Dicaeum agile**Dicaeum concolor**Dicaeum cruentatum**Erythrura prasina*

