

There is no previous record of this bird from Thailand. Gibson-Hill (Bull. Raffles Mus. 20 : 187 (1949)) comments on the Malayan distribution as follows :

“Resident.

This is a rare species, said to occur in lowland forest to an altitude of about 2,000 ft. (Delacour, 1947 : 226). Within our area it is known mostly from a few examples taken in southern Johore, formerly in the collection of the old Johore Museum, and now in the Raffles Museum collection. The latter also contains single specimens from Changkat Mentri (Boden Kloss) and Tanjong Malim (nat.coll.) in southern Perak, Cheras in Selangor (nat.coll.) and? Malacca (c.n.k.). Molesworth and Edgar (both *in litt*) give visual records for Ulu Klang and Ampang, Selangor.”

There appear to be few subsequent records. The Bird Reports contained in recent volumes of the Malayan Nature Journal contain three: Gunong Angsi Jelebu, Negri Sembilan (M.N.J. 19 : 191) and Ulu Gombak and Ampang Forest Reserve, both in Selangor (M.N.J. 20 : 74).

It appears that the present record extends the known range of this species from southern Perak for some way north.

The male is No. 1437 and the female No. 1433 in the collection of the Royal Forest Department.

I should like to thank Dr. H. Elliott McClure for examining the skins and confirming my identification, and Mr. E.C. Dickinson for corroborating this and helping with this note.

Somtob Chaiyaphun.

V. Bird Notes from Sukhotai – March-April 1970

During a soil survey of the alluvial plains of the Yom, mainly in Sukhotai Province, during March and April 1970, a record was kept by the author of each species of bird encountered. Although at this season the plains are very dry and barren, the paucity of the avifauna

in the district was nevertheless very disappointing, but the following species were considered worthy of reporting:—

Cinnamon-winged Buzzard Eagle (*Butastur liventer*)

Two were seen on March 24 about eight kilometres south-east of Sukhotai town, circling over dry and very open plains country. Their call first attracted attention and is not unlike the more familiar “pit-weer” of the Grey-faced Buzzard Eagle (*B. indicus*). Good views were then obtained of one of the birds for about five minutes, circling at moderate elevation with alternate flapping and soaring flight.

In shape, the wings appeared narrower and the tail longer than in buzzards of genus *Buteo*, with the head seeming large and rather pigeon-like in profile. The upper surface of the wings and tail were noticeably chestnut, paler on the shoulder, and the white thigh patches were seen distinctly. These features would seem to be useful identification characters. The under surface of the tail was unbarred, carrying only some fine transverse dark flecks. The under surface of the wings was seen only in silhouette but also appeared to be chestnut, and the head looked pale in the bright sun,

Probably another was seen on April 3 near Bang Rakam (near Pitsanuloke) but was circling too high for a confirmatory view to be obtained.

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)

One was seen on March 28 at a pool near Sukhotai, in company with Little Ringed Plovers (*Charadrius dubius*), Wood Sandpipers (*Tringa glareola*), Common Sandpipers (*Actitis hypoleucos*) and stints (*Calidris* sp.).

Good views were not obtained, but the author is familiar with the bird in Pakistan and Europe, and the sharp “che-wit” call was most distinctive and characteristic as the bird flew off. In flight, the overall pale plumage, lacking the dark wings of the Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) or the white wing bar of the Redshank (*Tringa totanus*), and the long-legged appearance were noted.

Yellow-eyed Babbler (*Chrysomma sinense*)

This species is not uncommon in scrub and grass thickets in the plains, but was not confirmed until April 2, near Bang Rakam, and on subsequent dates. It is a long tailed, neatly plumed babbler, uniformly warm brown above and off-white on the breast. The eye-lids are orange, not yellow, and stand out most conspicuously in the field. As in Pakistan, I considered the name to be rather confusing.

Bluethroat (*Erithacus svecicus*)

Several Bluethroats were seen between March 26 and April 6, near Sukhotai and Bang Rakam, totalling 5 or 6 birds. All were seen in scrubby depressional sites with grassy thickets that are seasonally flooded but were dry at the time. They were seen mostly on or very near the ground. The rufous base of the tail, which is frequently flicked or cocked up, is the most useful identification feature, since wintering birds rarely show the blue throat of the breeding plumage, although on Spring passage a few birds may show some blue. I thought I detected a little blue on one bird, but most had some dark blotches on the breast. Otherwise they were sandy brown above, creamy below, with a distinct whitish supercilium and pale moustachial streak.

D.A. Holmes

VI. Two Cases of Egg Deposition in the Snake *Oligodon quadrilineatus*

Documentation is scarce regarding reproduction in the eleven members of the genus *Oligodon* occurring in Thailand. According to M. Smith (Fauna British India: Serpentes, 1943, p. 197), "Not much has been written about the habits of the Oligodons. As far as is known all the species are oviparous, but I am not aware of any records of the deposition of eggs."