

**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."

In 1965 I observed egg deposition in two captive females of *Oligodon quadrilineatus*. The first female deposited five eggs in the early morning of 28 January and the second female deposited two eggs in the evening of 4 April. In neither case could the extent of embryonic development prior to deposition be calculated; nor did exovation occur in either case.

The two specimens together with their eggs were donated to the Centre for Thai National Reference Collections (Applied Scientific Research Corporation of Thailand).

*Paul Soderberg*

## VII. The Genus *Nicolaia* in Thailand

The genus *Nicolaia* has not previously been reported from Thailand.

Through working up Kerr's collections of *Zingiberaceae* from Thailand, and from recent collections sent to me for determination, it has been found that this genus is not at all infrequent in southern Thailand, where it is represented by three species; a fourth may be expected to occur.

HOLTUM (1950), in his treatment of the *Zingiberaceae* from the Malay Peninsula, enumerates four species of *Nicolaia*, sub nomine *Phaeomeria*. BACKER & BAKHUIZEN VAN DEN BRINK (1986) point out that this generic name is invalid, and that the Horanean name *Nicolaia* is the correct one (HORANIUS, 1862). For this reason the following new combinations have to be made:

1. *Nicolaia fulgens* (Ridl.) K. Larsen comb. nov.—Basionym: *Hornstedtia fulgens* Ridl. in Journ. As. Soc. Straits 32: 149, 1891.
2. *Nicolaia maingayi* (Bak.) K. Larsen comb. nov.—Basionym: *Amonum maingayi* Bak. in Hook. fil. Fl. Brit. Ind. 6: 235, 1892.