

NOTES

I. COMMON BITTERN AND BLACK-WINGED STILT RECORDS FROM VIET NAM

In 1967 and 1968 while serving as a provincial public health officer in Quang Tin Province, South Viet Nam, I conducted an ecologic study of a marsh on the United States Military base at Chu Lai (15° 26' N, 108° 40' E), about 100 km. southeast of Da Nang. During this time I lived in the city of Tam Ky (15° 34' N, 108° 30' E), about 70 km. south-east of Da Nang. Both Chu Lai and Tam Ky are on the flat, sandy coastal plain.

I kept detailed records of resident and migrant birds, and two of these records are of interest because the species are not included by WILDASH (1968) in his recent book on South Vietnamese birds. On 8 July 1967 I observed a Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) along Muong Kinh Creek in the marsh at Chu Lai, about 2 km. inland from the South China Sea. On 23 October, 1 January 1968, and 11 February 1968, I flushed single Bitterns, perhaps the same individual, in the same part of the marsh. On 6 March 1968, while making a more complete survey of the marsh, I saw at least two and probably three Bitterns. This species was not observed during May and June 1967 nor on less complete surveys in mid-April 1968, but it is possible that the species was overlooked at those times.

DELACOUR & JABOUILLE (1931, 1940) did not mention this species, and the first Indo-Chinese specimen was taken in Laos in February, 1940 (DAVID-BEAULIEU 1944). In 1951 DELACOUR (1951) mentioned one record of this Bittern from northern Viet Nam. No other report of this species in Viet Nam or Indo-China has come to my attention.

While studying migrant birds at Tam Ky on 8 October 1967, I observed a single Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*). This observation was made at night during unusual atmospheric conditions, when nocturnal migrants that had been forced earthward by an extremely low cloud ceiling became confused by the glare of floodlights of the compound. The details of this migration phenomenon will be reported separately.

At 01:15 hours on 8 October I heard a sharp, shrill yipping note which I recognized as that of a Stilt. I observed a large, long-legged shorebird fly over the compound at a height of about 30 feet. The Stilt was well-illuminated by the glow of lights and I studied it through binoculars as it circled twice more over the compound and then disap-

peared, still calling loudly. TIRANT* ("TIRAUT" 1879) obtained a specimen of *Himantopus* in southern Viet Nam, and DELACOUR & JABOUILLE (1931) reported two more specimens from Central Annam and indicated that the Stilt was a rare visitor. DAVID-BEAULIEU (1939) reported seeing a pair of Stilts near Pleiku in the central highlands of South Viet Nam on 24 September 1935, and he also found the bird inland in hill country in Laos (DAVID-BEAULIEU 1944). My observation was made as a major storm front passed over Tam Ky, and it is possible that the Stilt was a vagrant carried off course. However, other species of migrants that are common in Viet Nam were observed the same night, and it may be that the bird will be found to occur more regularly in small numbers, if conditions allow more regular ornithological observations.

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Citations

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Michael Gochfeld, M.D.

Department of Ornithology
American Museum of Natural History
79th Street & Central Park West
New York, New York 10024
U.S.A.

* The 1879 publication by *Tirant* bears the author's name spelled incorrectly as "Tiraute"