

NOTES ON THAI BIRDS 4
Birds Collected in Phu Kradueng National Park,
Loei Province

by

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SUMMARY

In a first avifaunal survey of the Park 62 species of birds were collected. Ten of these are new to the eastern plateau of Thailand and three more new to Loei province, yet almost all have occurred in the eastern part of the northern plateau which borders Loei province.

INTRODUCTION

It is hoped that an article on the vegetation and topography of Phu Kradueng National Park will be published shortly. As such an article has not yet appeared in this Bulletin a number of photographs are included to illustrate the area. The principal features of the Park are its broad plateau and relatively sharp escarpment; the plateau, rising to about 1,300 metres, includes substantial stretches of open pine forest, some hill evergreen and scattered rhododendron thickets. In places sandstone cliffs are exposed. Around the foot of the escarpment, at about 500 metres, there is dry upper mixed deciduous forest. Amphur Phu Kradueng lies at approx. 17°00' N. 101°50' E.

COLLECTING DATES AND NUMBERS

The junior author visited the Park from February 27 to March 6 1967 and collected 69 skins (R.T.F.D. Collection Nos. 106-174). He made a second visit from January 13 to 24, 1968, this time bringing back 78 skins out of 83 collected : rats got the other five : (R.T.F.D. Collection Nos. 857-891, 891.1, 892-938 : the missing five being 864, 870, 892, 894 and 917). These 147 specimens are representative of 61 species; one other species was collected but both specimens were amongst those lost to rats. The full 62 species found are listed in Appendix 1.

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NOTES ON SELECTED FORMS

Otus spilocephalus latouchi (Rickett)

1 ♀, 21.1.68 RTFD 912.

This specimen has been reported (in a footnote on p. 517) in our earlier paper (DICKINSON & CHAIYAPHUN 1970). It appears to be the first record of the species from Loei province.

Napothera brevicaudata brevicaudata (Blyth)

1 ♂, 2.3.67 RTFD 139; 1 ♂, 24.1.68 RTFD 938; 1 ♀, 5.3.67 RTFD 165.

DEIGNAN (1963) records the typical race from the northern plateau—but only Chiang Mai, Lamphun, Lampang and Nan provinces—the race *griseigularis* from Chanthaburi and Trat provinces and *N.b. leucosticta* from peninsular Thailand. *N.b. proxima* occurs in N. Laos. As might be expected these birds are nominate *brevicaudata*, though they extend slightly its known range and are the first specimens of the species from the eastern plateau.

Wing measurements : ♂♂ : -, 65; ♀ : 64 mm.

Stachyris chrysaea aurata Meyer de Schauensee

1 ♂, 14.1.68 RTFD 871; 1 ♂, 16.1.68 RTFD 882

These birds, the first specimens from the eastern plateau, have been compared with two from Phu Kha, Nan province and one from Khun Tan, Lampang province in the collection of Dr. Boonsong Lekakul and they are very much brighter below. We assume that this difference is due to the fading of the older skins—the Nan birds were collected in 1959 and the Khun Tan bird in 1956.

DE SCHAUENSEE (1938) mentions that the black streaks on the pileum are poorly defined in *aurata* and this seems true of our birds; he gives a wing measurement of 51 mm. and our two are 51.5 and 52 mm. respectively.

Stachyris nigriceps yunnanensis La Touche

2 ♂♂, 2.3.67 RTFD 137 and 141; 1 ♂, 20.1.68 RTFD 902 (1225 m.); 1 ♂, 21.1.68 RTFD 914 (1200 m.); 1 ♀, 2.3.67 RTFD 138; 1 ♂, 15.1.68 RTFD 872 (900 m.).

There are no previous records from Loei province or the eastern plateau, but this race was listed by DEIGNAN (1963) for Nan and Uttaradit provinces. Both these birds and those from Thung Salaeng Luang National Park (cf. DICKINSON & CHAIYAPHUN 1970) are paler than *spadix*—of north-western Thailand—specimens of which, from Chiang Mai, are in the collection of Dr. Boonsong Lekagul. The latter collection unfortunately contains no specimens of *yunnanensis*. We have been unable to trace a direct comparison between *spadix* and *yunnanensis* in the literature, but our specimens from Phu Kradueng agree well with descriptions of the latter, except perhaps for the colour of the ear coverts. Although the birds of Phu Kradueng and of Thung Salaeng Luang seem distinct from each other we feel it is best to assign both to *yunnanensis* for the moment.

Minla cyanouroptera wingatei (Ogilvie-Grant)

1 ♀, 5.3.67. RTFD 168.

Several retrices are missing on this specimen but it seems to be closest to this race. This appears to be the first record for the eastern plateau; the nearest previous record being from Nan province.

Tarsiger cyanurus subsp.

1 ♂ (prob. juv.), 1.3.67 RTFD 127; 1 ♀, 5.3.67 RTFD 164.

The male shows what appear to be traces of the spotted juvenile plumage on the sides of the throat but otherwise resembles a female of the race *rufilatus*. The female is clearly of the race *ussuriensis*. Neither race has been formally recorded from the eastern plateau before.

Myiomela leucura leucura (Hodgson)

2 ♂♂, 2.3.67 RTFD 133 and 134; 2 ♂♂, 3.3.67 RTFD 154 and 155; 1 ♂, 21.1.68 RTFD 909 (1225 m); 1 ♂, 23.1.68 RTFD 924 (1225 m.); 1 ♀, 1.3.67 RTFD 120; 1 ♀, 20.1.68 RTFD 900 (1225 m.).

Previous nearest records of this species are from Nan (DEIGNAN 1963), and N. Laos (DAVID-BEAULIEU 1944). The only other race—*cambodianum*—lacks the shining blue on the sides and front of the crown of the male: it is still known from Cambodia by two specimens only, both males. Ben F. King has collected the species recently in the south-eastern provinces of Thailand (pers. comm.), where the race *cambodianum*

might be expected to occur : publication of his results, which may include the first description of the female of the latter race, is awaited with great interest.

Wing measurements : ♂♂ : 91, 91.5, 94, 94.5, 96, 96
♀♀ : 86, 89.

Cettia squameiceps (Swinhoe)

1 ♀, 6.3.67 RTFD 172.

Apparently the first record both for Loei and for the eastern plateau but was to be expected in winter.

Muscicapa mugimaki Temminck

1 "♂", 3.3.67 RTFD 149.

This is the first specimen from the eastern plateau. Although sexed as a male the plumage is that of a female : the specimen could thus be mis-sexed, a hen-feathered male or, just possibly, a first winter male for at this date one would expect some signs of adult plumage.

Muscicapa hypertythra hypertythra Blyth

1 ♂, 17.1.68 RTFD 891 (900 m.); 1 ♂, 24.1.68 RTFD 933 (1225 m.);
1 ♀, 19.1.68 RTFD 893 (900 m.); 1 ♀, 21.1.68 RTFD 913 (1200 m.);
2 other skins taken were eaten by rats.

A remarkable record of this beautiful little flycatcher : the nearest previous records coming from Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai in northern Thailand (DEIGNAN 1963) and from Tranninh, N. Laos (DAVID-BEAULIEU 1944). The altitudinal spread of these records suggests that the species was not uncommon in January 1968 and that its absence in March 1967 was real which might be explained by an early movement northwards.

Wing measurements : ♂♂ : 60, 61
♀♀ : 55, 58

Muscicapa hodgsonii (Verreaux)

1 ♀, 1.3.67 RTFD 117.

Records of this species are rare : this is apparently the first from this part of the eastern plateau.

Muscicapa sundara denotata (Bangs & Phillips)

1 ♂, 17.1.68 RTFD 890 (900 m.); 1 ♀, 1.3.67 RTFD 121; 1 ♀, 16.1.68 RTFD 898 (900 m.)

These are also the first specimens from the eastern plateau. A sight record of a female at Khao Yai National Park on 2.2.64 was erroneously listed as *Muscicapa vivida* (DICKINSON & TUBB 1964)—despite a clear view of the white gorget on the throat—but was corrected, following the examination of skins, in a later paper (DICKINSON 1967).

Wing measurements : ♂ : 85
♀ ♀ : 80, 83.

Muscicapa unicolor unicolor (Blyth)

1 ♂, 15.1.68 RTFD 879 (900 m.)

This also appears to be the first specimen taken on the eastern plateau (though there are sight records from Khao Yai National Park). The very similar *Muscicapa thalassina* was taken two days earlier at the same altitude. Wing measurement : 82.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We should particularly like to thank Dr. Boonsong Lekagul for allowing us to make comparisons with specimens in his collection, Dr. Tem Smitinand F.L.S. for providing a selection of photographs to choose from—all those accompanying this article are from this selection, and the staff of Phu Kradueng National Park for many kindnesses to the junior author and his team, each of whom rendered valuable service which is gratefully acknowledged here.

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APPENDIX 1

A List of the Species collected on Phu Kradueng

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Francolinus pintadeanus</i> | <i>Stachyris nigriceps</i> |
| <i>Ducula badia</i> | <i>Minla cyanouroptera</i> |
| <i>Cuculus sparverioides</i> | <i>Yuhina zantholeuca</i> |
| <i>Otus spilocephalus</i> | <i>Alcippe poioicephala</i> |
| <i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i> | <i>Erithacus cyane</i> |
| <i>Harpactes erythrocephalus</i> | <i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i> |
| <i>Ptilolaemus tickelli</i> | <i>Myiomela leucura</i> |
| <i>Megalaima asiatica</i> | <i>Enicurus schistaceus</i> |
| <i>Serilophus lunatus</i> | <i>Enicurus leschenaulti</i> |
| <i>Hemipus picatus</i> | <i>Saxicola torquata</i> |
| <i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i> | <i>Monticola solitarius</i> |
| <i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i> | <i>Myophonus caeruleus</i> |
| <i>Pycnonotus aurigaster</i> | <i>Turdus obscurus</i> |
| <i>Criniger pallidus</i> | <i>Seicercus burkii</i> |
| <i>Hypsipetes propinquus</i> | <i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i> |
| <i>Hypsipetes mccllellandii</i> | <i>Phylloscopus davisoni</i> |
| <i>Hypsipetes flava</i> | <i>Prinia polychroa</i> |
| <i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i> | <i>Cettia squameiceps</i> |
| <i>Dicrurus remifer</i> | <i>Muscicapa thalassina</i> |
| <i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i> | <i>Muscicapa mugimaki</i> |
| <i>Oriolus traillii</i> | <i>Muscicapa hyperythra</i> |
| <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> | <i>Muscicapa hodgsonii</i> |
| <i>Crypsirina occipitalis</i> | <i>Muscicapa sundara</i> |
| <i>Parus xanthogenys</i> | <i>Muscicapa unicolor</i> |
| <i>Melanochlora sultanea</i> * | <i>Muscicapa banyumas</i> |
| <i>Sitta frontalis</i> | <i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i> |
| <i>Trichastoma tickelli</i> | <i>Rhipidura albicollis</i> |
| <i>Pomatorhinus schisticeps</i> | <i>Motacilla caspica</i> |
| <i>Pomatorhinus hypoleucos</i> | <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i> |
| <i>Napothera brevicaudata</i> | <i>Lanius cristatus</i> |
| <i>Stachyris chrysaea</i> | <i>Aethopyga saturata</i> |

* The two skins collected of this species were both eaten by rats, and were not examined by the senior author.

CORRECTIONS

| | | | | |
|-------|-----|-------------|-------|------|
| Plate | I | should read | Plate | VII |
| | II | „ | | VIII |
| | III | „ | | IX |
| | IV | „ | | X |





Fig. 1. Open pine forest on the plateau at Phu Kra Dueng. c. 1300



Fig 2. The same, showing sandstone outcrops.

Photos : W.R. Scheible (per T. Smitinand)



Fig. 3. Hill evergreen forest also at 1,300 metres, Phu Kra Dueng.

Photo: W.R. Schéible (per T. Smitinand)



Fig. 4. A clearing in hill evergreen with a thicket of *Rhododendron* and *Lyonia foliosa*, again at about 1,300 metres.

Photo: T. Smitinand

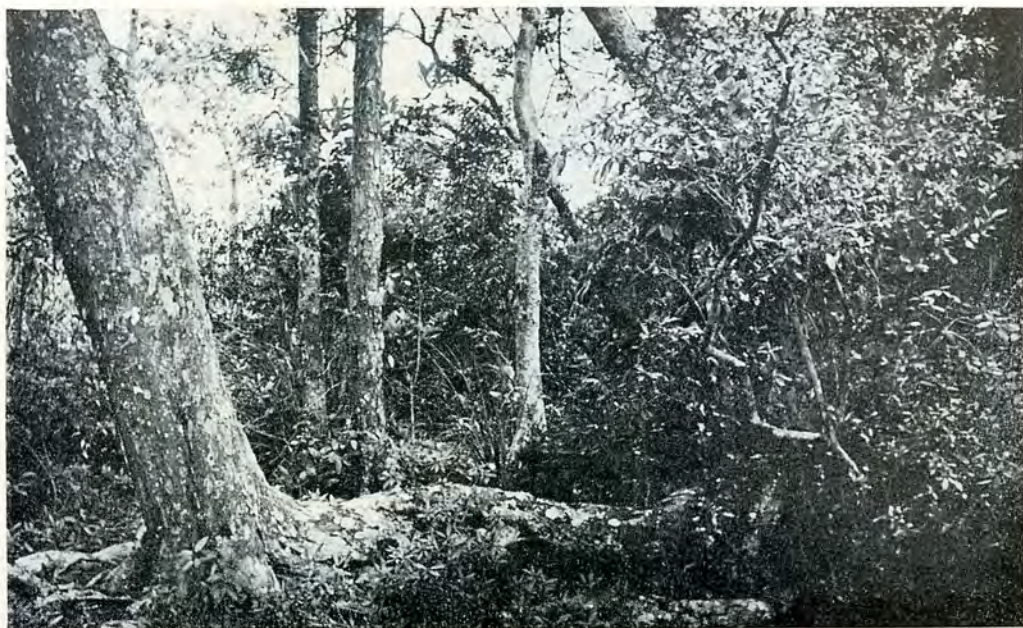


Fig. 5. Hill evergreen forest at Tham So, Phu Kra Dueng, c. 1,250 m.
with *Dacrydium elatum* predominant.



Fig. 6. A dry stream bed at Phu Kra Dueng covered with *Rhododendron simsii*.

Photos: T. Smitinand



Fig. 7. Hill evergreen forest along the sandstone clift at Pha Mak Duk, Phu Kra Dueng c. 1,250 m.



Fig. 8. *Quercus-Dacrydium* formation along a stream at c. 1,300 m. with *Azalea* in the lowest stratum.

Photos: T. Smitinand