

4. First Record of the Japanese Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter gularis*, on Phuket Island.

On 25 October 1977 a bird of the genus *Accipiter* flew into the window of a house on the outskirts of Phuket Town (7° 53' N, 98° 24' E), Phuket Province, western peninsular Thailand. It stunned itself, was picked up, and very kindly brought to us by Miss Tongbai Tinrach.

The bird was weighed at 13:00 hours on 25 October, and was 89.5 grammes. Its measurements were: wing 164 mm, tail 119.2 mm, tarsus 47.7 mm, mandible 10.7 mm, skull to bill tip 17.8 mm. The bird showed a hair-fine mesial stripe, as is illustrated in Plate IV. Primary 7 was the point of the wing; primary 8 was longer than primary 6, and 9 longer than 5 thereby confirming it as being *Accipiter gularis* and distinguishing it from its very close relative the Basa *Accipiter virgatus* (MEDWAY & WELLS, 1976: 401). Buff edgings to the lesser and greater wing coverts and secondaries indicate that the bird was a juvenile. When released the bird flew off competently.

This common visitor to Thailand (BOONSONG & CRONIN, 1974) is not unexpected on Phuket, but has not previously been recorded from, the province (HOLMES & WELLS, 1975; MEDWAY & WELLS, 1976: 106).

This species is said to be noisy but no good description of its voice is available (BROWN & AMADON, 1968). It is therefore worth trying to describe the vocalizations of our individual, even though it called only in the hand. Its alarm call, or "injury cry", is a high-pitched shriek of typical *Accipiter* quality, each call lasting less than a second. On a tape recording made of our bird it calls almost continuously for 60 seconds, uttering 48 cries during that time with only occasional very brief pauses.

REFERENCES

- BOONSONG, L., and CRONIN, E.W. 1974. *Bird guide of Thailand*. 2nd. (revised) Edition. Bangkok. Association for the Conservation of Wildlife.



A live Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* from Phuket Town, Phuket Island, western peninsular Thailand, 25 October 1977.

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