

NEW BIRD DISTRIBUTION DATA FOR BURMA

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ABSTRACT

Visits were made to Burma in 1973, 1979 and 1982 to Rangoon, central Burma (Mandalay and Maymyo), and the Southern Shan States (Heho, Inle Lake and Taunggyi Crag). *Larus ridibundus* and *Larus (argentatus) fuscus* (?) were recorded for the first time in Burma and *Pericrocotus divaricatus* for the second time. Eleven species new for the Southern Shan States (SMYTHIES, 1953) and 21 species new for central Burma were observed.

During three bird-watching tours to Burma in 1973, 1979 and 1982, a number of birds were seen in areas from which they were apparently not known previously. Further, some supplemental records of species observed in 1972 (KING, *et al.*, 1973) were obtained. Several observations from the 1972 tour, inadvertently deleted from that paper, are here reported.

Localities were as follows. 1973 tour : Maymyo, central Burma, 5-7 Feb.; Mandalay, central Burma, 7 and 8 Feb.; Inle Lake area, Southern Shan States, 8 and 10 Feb.; Taunggyi, Southern Shan States, 9 and 10 Feb. 1979 tour : Inle Lake, 29 Jan.; Taunggyi, 30 and 31 Jan.; Maymyo, 31 Jan.-2 Feb.; Mandalay, 2 and 3 Feb.; Rangoon, 4 Feb. 1982 tour : Heho to Taunggyi, 23 Jan.; Taunggyi Crag, 24 Jan.; Inle Lake area, 25 Jan.; Maymyo, 26-27 Jan.; Mandalay, 28 Jan.

Most species in 1973 were also seen by Judson Carrott and G. Stuart Keith. Most species in 1979 were also seen by Norman Chesterfield, Eva Fagrell, Harvey Gilston, Eugene and Joan Kenega and Count Roland de La Moussaye. In 1982, most species were also seen by Mrs. Mildred C. Comar, Frederick and Naomi Loetscher, Dr. Robert W. Schick, Miss Helen F. Rice, and Mrs. Margaret L. Shepherd. SMYTHIES (1953) was utilized as the source for bird distribution in Burma. Scientific and vernacular names and order of species follow KING & DICKINSON (1975).

Egretta intermedia, Plumed Egret. One bird was found near Inle Lake on 29 Jan. 1979. This is apparently the first record for the Shan States, although it has been recorded from adjacent central and south Burma and NW Thailand.

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Anas falcata, Falcated Teal. Five males and one female were seen well on the northern part of Inle Lake on 29 Jan. 1979 and two males on 25 Jan. 1982. These are apparently the first records for the Shan States. It has been recorded from north and central Burma.

Anastomus oscitans, Asian Openbill. Six or seven birds were again observed near the north end of Inle Lake on 8 Feb. 1973.

Aythya nyroca, Ferruginous Pochard. Several flocks totalling about 100 birds were observed on Inle Lake on 8 Feb. 1973; about 20 birds in two flocks on 29 Jan. 1979; and about 30 birds in two flocks on 25 Jan. 1982. I use the name Ferruginous Pochard (rather than White-eyed Pochard) to conform to European usage (Ferruginous Duck) and eliminate confusion with one of the names for the Australian *Aythya australis* (White-eyed Duck).

Aythya baeri, Baer's Pochard. Four birds were seen with Ferruginous Pochards on 29 Jan. 1979 and five on 25 Jan. 1982. In the field, the Baer's Pochard is larger (than Ferruginous) in size, has a larger head with a longer, more gradually sloped forehead and larger bill.

Pernis ptilorhynchus, Crested Honey-Buzzard. One observed near Maymyo on 5 and 7 Feb. 1973, five over the Botanical Gardens at Maymyo on 27 Jan. 1982, two at the Irrigation Headworks near Mandalay on 8 Feb. 1973, one about 40 km north of Mandalay on 3 Feb. 1979, and three in the same area on 28 Jan. 1982. These appear to be the first records for central Burma, the previous Burma records being from west, north and southern Burma and Tenasserim.

Circus macrourus, Pallid Harrier. An adult male was observed about 20 km north of Mandalay on 3 Feb. 1979. This is apparently the second record for central Burma; the first is mentioned in KING *et al.* (1973).

Accipiter virgatus, Besra. One adult male close overhead along the road in the dry deciduous woods north of Heho on 23 Jan. 1982. While this species has been recorded in the Kengtung area, central Burma, and adjacent NW Thailand, this is apparently the first record for this part of the Southern Shan States.

Buteo buteo, Common Buzzard. Several were seen in the Inle Lake area on 8 and 10 Feb. 1973, and 29 Jan. 1979; several above Taunggyi Crag on 9 Feb. 1973 and 30 Jan. 1979; one north of Heho on 23 Jan. 1982, and two above Taunggyi Crag on 24 Jan. 1982.

Aquila clanga, Greater Spotted Eagle. Several were seen in the Inle Lake area on 8 and 10 Feb. 1973.

Aquila nipalensis, Steppe Eagle. Three were observed about 35 km north of Mandalay on 28 Jan. 1982. All were in the distinctive first-through-fourth year plumages, showing the diagnostic broad, diagonal buffy band on the underwing, formed

by the pale tips of the underwing coverts. This is apparently the first record for central Burma, the other Burmese records being from southern Burma, the Southern Shan States, and Tenasserim. I have treated *A. nipalensis* as a species separate from *A. rapax*, following BROOKE *et al.* (1972).

Tringa erythropus, Spotted Redshank. A single bird was seen near Inle Lake on 10 Feb. 1973, apparently the first record for the Southern Shan States. It has been previously recorded in west, central and south Burma, Tenasserim and adjacent NW Thailand and is likely to be a regular migrant and winter visitor in the Southern Shan States.

Larus ridibundus, Common Black-headed Gull. Three were observed on 12 March 1972, two on 8 Feb. 1973, five on 29 Jan. 1979 and three on 25 Jan. 1982 on Inle Lake; and one was seen on the Irrawaddy River near Mandalay on 2 Feb. 1979. On each sighting of *L. ridibundus*, the larger Brown-headed Gull, *L. brunnicephalus*, was present for easy comparison. These are apparently the first records for this species in Burma. It has been recorded from adjacent India, China, Thailand and Malaya. It is probably a regular migrant and winter visitor.

Larus (argentatus) fuscus (?) Herring/Lesser Black-backed Gull. Birds in first winter plumage of one of these two species were seen on Inle Lake on 8 Feb. 1973 and on 29 Jan. 1979. Their specific identity could not be ascertained. Neither species has been previously recorded from Burma, but both are found regularly on the western shores of the Bay of Bengal in India. However, *L. fuscus* in India (i.e. *heuglini*) tends to stay in coastal areas, whereas only *L. argentatus* normally winters on inland bodies of water. Thus, the Inle Lake birds were likely to have been *L. argentatus*.

Macropygia unchall, Barred Cuckoo-Dove. One was seen at a distance of 15 m with a 25× telescope at Thit Ta Bin Reservoir near Maymyo on 26 Jan. 1982. This is apparently the first record for central Burma, although it has been recorded from the adjacent Southern Shan States.

Serilophus lunatus, Silver-breasted Broadbill. A flock of five was observed about 1 km south of the Maymyo Reservoir on 6 Feb. 1973. While recorded from the adjacent Southern Shan States and the Mogok Hills of central Burma, this is apparently the first record of this species from Maymyo.

Riparia riparia, Sand Martin. One was observed near Inle Lake on 29 Jan. 1979 and another north of Inle Lake on 23 Jan. 1982. These are apparently the first records for the Shan States, the species having been previously recorded in Arakan, central Burma, the plains of south Burma, Tenasserim, and adjacent NW Thailand.

Coracina melaschista, Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike. Several birds were observed near Maymyo on 6 and 7 Feb. 1973, and two on 1 Feb. 1979.

Pericrocotus divaricatus, Ashy Minivet. A small flock was observed at Maymyo on 8 March 1972. This is apparently only the second record for Burma, the only other record being from the plains of southern Burma at Pegu (although PETER's "Check-list of Birds of the World," Vol. IX states that it occurs in southern Tenasserim as well). The Ashy Minivet is a fairly common winter visitor in Thailand.

Pericrocotus solaris, Grey-chinned Minivet. One female observed near Maymyo Botanical Gardens on 8 March 1972 and a pair on 7 Feb. 1973 appear to be the first records for central Burma. This species is resident in the adjacent Southern Shan States.

Pericrocotus brevirostris, Short-billed Minivet. Several were observed at the edge of Taunggyi on 30 Jan. 1979. While KING & DICKINSON (1975) state that the male is "probably indistinguishable in field from male Long-tailed", recent field experience has shown that the red border on the tertiaries of the Long-tailed is readily visible in the field under good conditions. Its absence on Short-billed is equally noticeable under good conditions. We observed several birds with a 25 \times telescope at about 50 m distance. This is apparently the first record of this species for the Shan States. It has been recorded in the Chin Hills, NE Burma, Tenasserim and NW Thailand.

Pericrocotus ethologus, Long-tailed Minivet. This species was seen commonly in flocks in the Maymyo area on 5 and 7 Feb. 1973, and on 27 Jan. 1982.

Pycnonotus cafer, Red-vented Bulbul. Inle Lake lies in a long north-south valley. In the hills (the road to Heho) to the west of the valley, we regularly saw this species on 10 March 1982, 8 Feb. 1973, 31 Jan. 1979, and 23 and 25 Jan. 1982. These are apparently the first records for the Southern Shan States although the species is common in central Burma and has been recorded in southern Burma and the Northern Shan States. This species has sometimes been regarded as conspecific with the Sooty-headed Bulbul, *P. aurigaster*, which occurs in the valley in which Inle Lake lies and in the hills (Taunggyi) to the east of the valley. This area could be an excellent place to study what happens where the two species meet.

Pycnonotus aurigaster, Sooty-headed Bulbul. On 8-10 Feb. 1973, 29-31 Jan. 1979, and 24 and 25 Jan. 1982, the species was found to be common in the Taunggyi/Inle Lake area.

Hypsipetes madagascariensis, Black Bulbul. Several of one of the white-headed races of the Black Bulbul were seen in the Maymyo Botanical Garden on 27 Jan. 1982. While both white-headed races (*H. m. leucothorax* and *H. m. stressemanni*) have occurred in the adjacent Southern Shan States, this appears to be the first record for central Burma.

Oriolus chinensis, Black-naped Oriole. A female was well observed on 9 Feb. 1973 about 15 km north of Inle Lake. The yellowish rump contrasting with the darker, more olive mantle was watched at length through a 30× spotting scope while the bird was perched. This is apparently the first record for the Southern Shan States, the previous records from Burma being in west and southern Burma, Mandalay and Tenasserim.

Pellorneum ruficeps, Puff-throated Babbler. Observed on Taunggyi Crag on 9 March 1972 and 11 February 1973. Our observations are apparently the first for the area west of the Salween River in the Southern Shan States (there are records east of the Salween). It has previously been recorded from central Burma and we noted it at Maymyo on 8 March 1972.

Napothera epilepidota, Eye-browed Wren-Babbler. One was observed at close range about 1 km south of the Maymyo Reservoir on 1 Feb. 1979. This is apparently the first record for central Burma, although it has been recorded from the adjacent Southern Shan States.

Pteruthius flaviscapis, White-browed Shrike-Babbler. A pair was observed about 1/2 km south of the Maymyo Reservoir on 6 Feb. 1973, several on 1 Feb. 1979, and two on 26 Jan. 1982. These are apparently the first records for central Burma, although the species has been recorded from the adjacent Southern Shan States (we noted it also on Taunggyi Crag on 11 Mar. 1972, 9 Feb. 1973, and 30 Jan. 1979).

Pteruthius aenobarbus, Chestnut-fronted Shrike-Babbler. A pair was seen on 1 Feb. 1979 about 1 km from Maymyo Reservoir. This appears to be only the second record for central Burma. The first was listed in KING *et al.* (1973).

Tarsiger cyanurus, Orange-flanked Bush-Robin. One female-plumaged bird was seen about 1/2 km south of Maymyo Reservoir on 26 Jan. 1982. While this species has occurred in the adjacent Southern Shan States, this appears to be the first record for central Burma.

Rhyacornis fuliginosus, Plumbeous Redstart. A pair was observed on rocks in a stream near the Pwekauk Falls about 6 km NNE of Maymyo on 8 March 1972, 1 Feb. 1979 and 26 Jan. 1982. While recorded from the adjacent Southern Shan States, apparently these are the first records of the species for central Burma.

Enicurus schistaceus, Slaty-backed Forktail. Two were observed in the vicinity of Pwekauk Falls about 6 km NNE of Maymyo on 1 Feb. 1979 and 26 Jan. 1982.

Saxicola jerdoni, Jerdon's Bushchat. As recorded in KING *et al.* (1973), this species observed in the reeds at the north end of Inle Lake on 8 Feb. 1973 (4 males and 1 female), 29 Jan. 1979 (6 males and 3 females), 25 Jan. 1982 (3 males and 2 females).

Myophonus caeruleus Blue Whistling Thrush. One was observed about 1/2 km south of Maymyo Reservoir on 6 Feb. 1973, 1 Feb. 1979, and two on 26 Jan. 1982. While recorded from the adjacent Southern Shan States, apparently these are the first published records for central Burma. However, W. Graham METSON (personal communication) reported that he observed this species near Maymyo in the 1960s.

Seicercus burkii, Golden-spectacled Warbler. Observed a number of times on 8 Mar. 1972, 6 and 7 Feb. 1973, 2 Feb. 1979 and 27 Jan. 1982 in the Maymyo area. While recorded from the adjacent Southern Shan States, this is apparently the first record for central Burma. W. Graham METSON (personal communication) reported that he saw *Seicercus affinis* in the Maymyo area in the 1960s, but that species is much less likely and the present one fairly common—possibly his observation was of this species.

Phylloscopus schwarzi. Radde's Warbler. Observed in the shrubbery near the hotel at Taunggyi on 8 Feb. 1973. This is apparently the first record of this species in the Southern Shan States. It is previously recorded from Burma in the Chin Hills, plains of southern Burma, the Karen Hills and north Tenasserim. It is fairly common in winter in adjacent NW Thailand.

Phylloscopus magnirostris Large-billed Leaf-Warbler. A single bird was observed well near the Maymyo Botanical Gardens on 6 Feb. 1973. It was readily distinguished from the similar *Phylloscopus trochiloides* by its distinct call-note, the second syllable of which is strikingly higher than the first (unlike and note of *P. trochiloides*). Previously recorded as a resident in NE Burma and a migrant to the plains of southern Burma and the Karen Hills.

Phylloscopus reguloides, Blyth's Leaf-Warbler. Several individuals were observed in the Maymyo Botanical Gardens on 7 Feb. 1973, 2 Feb. 1979, and 27 Jan. 1982. They were differentiated from other *Phylloscopus* species by the broad white border on the inner web of the outer tail feathers, visible at close range on the folded tail from below. While recorded from the adjacent Southern Shan States, this is apparently the first record from central Burma.

Phylloscopus davisoni, White-tailed Leaf-Warbler. Fairly common along the road leading to the Maymyo Reservoir on 6 Feb. 1973 and 1 Feb. 1979. They are readily distinguished from the other *Phylloscopus* species by their entirely white inner webs of outer tail feathers and their sweet warbled song. Although the species has been recorded as a resident in the adjacent Southern Shan States, this is apparently the first record for central Burma.

Tesia (olivea/cyaniventer ?), Slaty-bellied or Grey-bellied Tesia. Several were heard and one was seen in thick undergrowth along a stream about 1 km south of

Maymyo Reservoir on 1 Feb. 1979. The one seen was not observed well enough to determine the species. Apparently neither species has been recorded from central Burma, although both are known from the adjacent Shan States.

Ficedula hodgsoni, Slaty-backed Flycatcher. A male was observed near the Maymyo Botanical Gardens on 7 Feb. 1973 and a female on 2 Feb. 1979. The species has been recorded as a resident in the adjacent Southern Shan States (we observed it commonly at Taunggyi Crag), but this is apparently the first record for central Burma.

Ficedula westermanni, Little Pied Flycatcher. A pair was observed on 6 Feb. 1973 and 26 Jan. 1982 about 1/4 km south of the Maymyo Reservoir and another at the Botanical Gardens in Maymyo on 2 Feb. 1979. Although recorded from the adjacent Southern Shan States, these are apparently the first records for central Burma.

Niltava sundara, Rufous-bellied Niltava. A male was seen near Pwekauk Falls about 6 km NNE of Maymyo on 1 Feb. 1979 and on 27 Jan. 1982. These appear to be the second and third records for central Burma. The first was reported in KING *et al.* (1973).

Motacilla flava, Yellow Wagtail. Several were observed near Inle Lake on 10 Feb. 1973 and on 25 Jan. 1982. Although fairly common in adjacent central Burma and NW Thailand, these are apparently the first records of Yellow Wagtails for the Southern Shan States.

Anthus cervinus, Red-throated Pipit. Several individuals and a scattered flock (20+ birds) were seen along the road north of Inle Lake in fallow paddyland on 10 Feb. 1973. About 10 birds were seen on 25 Jan. 1982 in these same areas.

Lanius tigrinus. One observed on Taunggyi Crag on 24 Jan. 1982 appears to be the first record for the Southern Shan States, although it has been recorded from Tenasserim and adjacent NW Thailand.

Lanius tephronotus, Grey-backed Shrike. One was observed at Maymyo Reservoir and another about 1 km south of the reservoir on 6 Feb. 1973 and 26 Jan. 1982, in the same area as one observed in 1972. A single bird was seen in Maymyo on 31 Jan. 1979.

Saroglossa spiloptera, Spot-winged Starling. A flock of about 20 was observed about 40 km north of Mandalay on 28 Jan. 1981. Apparently this is the first record for central Burma, although the species has been recorded from the adjacent Southern Shan States and southern Burma.

Aethopyga gouldiae, Gould's Sunbird. One was observed near Maymyo Reservoir on 6 Feb. 1973. On 1 Feb. 1979, this species was common in the Maymyo Reservoir area, several dozen birds being observed, while on 26 Jan. 1982 several were seen.

Aethopyga saturata, Black-throated Sunbird. Two males observed about 1 km south of Maymyo Reservoir on 1 Feb. 1979 apparently comprise the second record for central Burma. The first record was reported in KING *et al.* (1973).

Aethopyga ignicauda, Fire-tailed Sunbird. One moulting male was observed with Gould's Sunbirds about 1 km south of Maymyo Reservoir on 1 Feb. 1979. This appears to be the first record for central Burma; the only other records for Burma are in the Chin Hills and in NE Burma. It has been recorded once in NW Thailand.

Dicaeum ignipectus, Buff-bellied Flowerpecker. A male was observed about 1/4 km south of Maymyo Reservoir on 6 Feb. 1973 and on 1 Feb. 1979. While recorded as a resident in the Southern Shan States (we found it common on the Taunggyi Crag), this is apparently the first record for central Burma.

Zosterops erythropleura, Chestnut-flanked White-eye. Several were observed on Taunggyi Crag and in Taunggyi on 9 and 10 Feb. 1973 and a flock of 15+ on 24 Jan. 1982. About 10 were seen in a flock of Japanese and Oriental White-eyes in the Maymyo Botanical Gardens on 2 Feb. 1979. This is apparently the first record for central Burma, but the species is probably a regular winter visitor and migrant in both the Southern Shan States and central Burma.

Zosterops japonica, Japanese White-eye. A small flock was observed at Maymyo on 5 Feb. 1973, several flocks on 2 Feb. 1979, and three flocks on 27 Jan. 1982. While recorded as a migrant in the adjacent Southern Shan States (we found it common on Taunggyi Crag and at Taunggyi), these are apparently the first records for central Burma.

Carpodacus erythrinus, Common Rosefinch. About 10 birds were observed at Maymyo on 5 Feb. 1973, several on 31 Jan. and 2 Feb. 1979, five on 26 Jan. and 10 on 27 Jan. 1982.

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