

SOME RECENT BIRD RECORDS FROM NORTHERN THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

Observations on the status, distribution and biology of 41 scarce or little-known species of birds of northern Thailand, made during 1977-83, are summarised. This includes 13 species or subspecies as yet unrecorded for Thailand in standard reference works.

INTRODUCTION

The ornithology of northern Thailand, in particular Chiang Mai Province, has been more intensively studied than that of almost any other part of the country. Some important recent contributions have been those of DEIGNAN (1945), DICKINSON (1964, 1966), DICKINSON & CHAIYAPHUN (1967, 1973a, 1973b), KING (1966) and ROUND (1982b). Owing to its geographical position and undulating topography, the region supports a rich avifauna of both resident and migrant Oriental species and migrant visitors from the Palearctic.

Since the cessation of the Migratory Animal Pathological Survey (MAPS) work in 1974, a relatively high level of coverage has been sustained through the steadily increasing input of amateur birdwatchers, both Thai and foreign, and through the activities of biologists from the Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research (TISTR) and from the Association for the Conservation of Wildlife. This paper summarises some of the more significant bird records amassed during the period 1977-1983.

AREAS VISITED

The following localities are mentioned in the text and are situated in Chiang Mai Province except where stated (Figure 1).

(1) Thathon (20° 03' N; 99° 20' E). An area of lowland rice paddy and degraded marshland, ca. 480 m elevation.

(2) Fang (19° 55' N; 99° 14' E). An area of lowland rice paddy, ca. 480 m elevation, close to the outskirts of the town.

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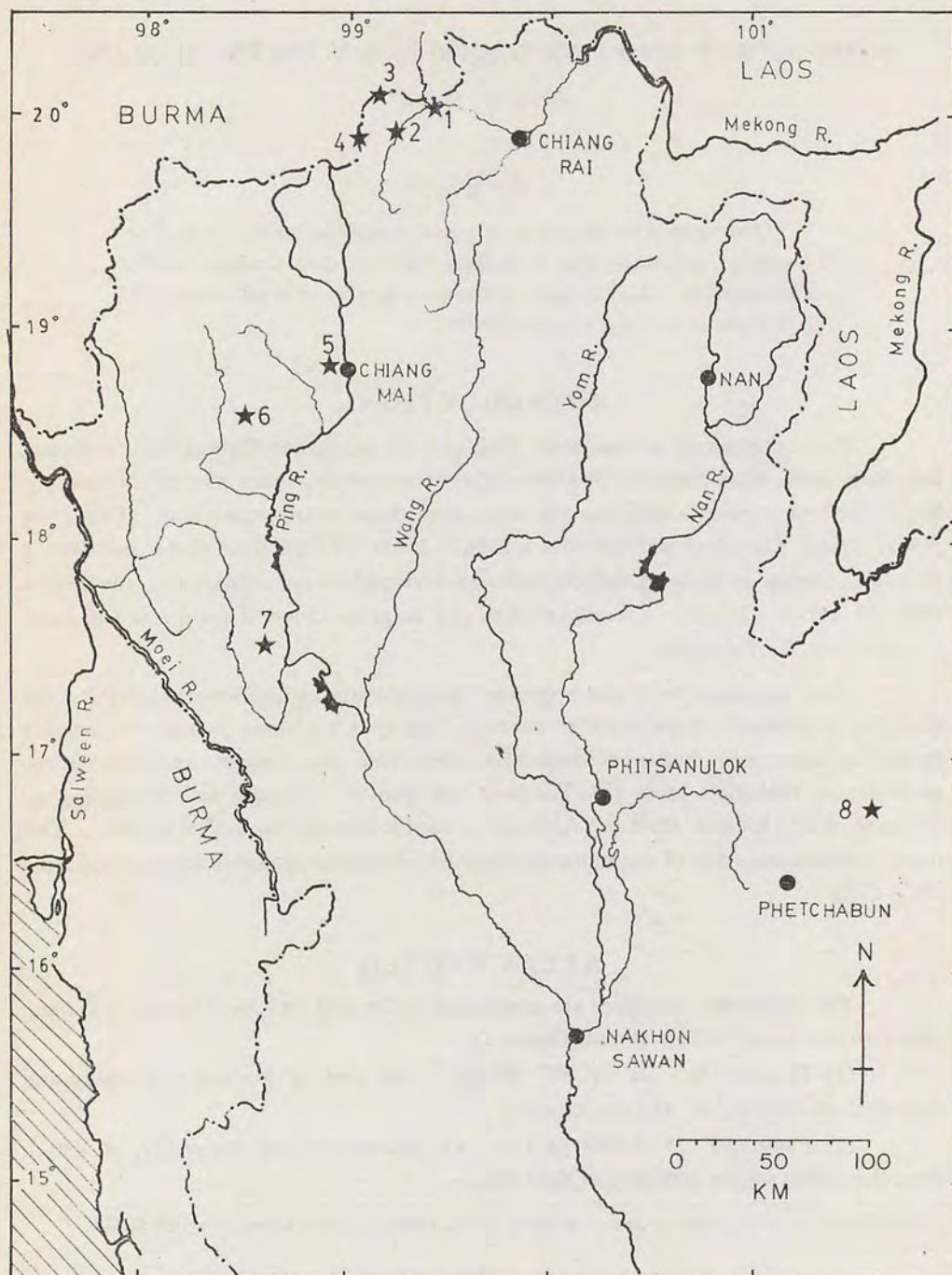


Figure 1. Map of Northern Thailand showing study areas (stars) referred to in the text.

(3) Doi Pha Hom Pok (20° 05' N; 99° 10' E). The second highest mountain in Thailand, 2296 m elevation.

(4) Doi Ang Khang (19° 52' N; 99° 03' E). A largely deforested mountain, 1810 m elevation.

(5) Doi Suthep-Pui National Park (18° 50' N; 98° 53' E). Elevation 1685 m.

(6) Doi Inthanon National Park (18° 35' N; 98° 29' E). Thailand's highest mountain, 2590 m.

(7) Doi Mon Chong, 1196 m (17° 31' N; 98° 36' E). Situated in the Om Koi Wildlife Sanctuary, extreme northern Tak Province.

(8) Nam Nao National Park, Phetchabun Province (16° 45' N; 101° 35' E), Maximum elevation 1271 m.

OBSERVATIONS

Observations on the status, distribution and biology of 41 species follow. This includes 13 species or subspecies as yet not listed for Thailand in any standard references, a further 4 species new to Chiang Mai Province and the first breeding or probable breeding in Thailand of 4 species previously thought to occur only as winter visitors. Except where otherwise credited, the observations are those of the author. Species order and common names follow KING *et al.* (1975).

White Spoonbill, *Platalea leucorodia*

The bill and leg bones of a bird which had been shot by a farmer in a rice field, Lampang Province, were sent to Dr. Boonsong Lekagul. This constitutes the first record for Thailand and as it has never been published other than in LEKAGUL (1977), it is worth mentioning here. The exact date of occurrence was not recorded, but it was almost certainly during the winter months. The species breeds in scattered colonies throughout temperate and subtropical Eurasia and is partly migratory. The remains were deposited in the National Reference Collection.

Jerdon's Baza, *Aviceda jerdoni*

Two birds seen on Doi Pui, 1400 m, on 28 November 1981 constitute the first record of the species for NW Thailand. This species is easily identified when perched by its erect, white-tipped black crest, long wings which extend 2/3 of the way down the tail and by its small size relative to Mountain Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis*, which also possesses a long crest.

Northern Harrier, *Circus cyaneus*

This species is listed as a winter visitor to NE Thailand by KING *et al.* (1975) although full details have never been published. There have been three further sightings of male birds on Doi Ang Khang: on 18–19 January 1981, 24 January 1983 (G.H.) and on 25 November 1982 (A.B., P.J.).

Northern Goshawk, *Accipiter gentilis*

Listed by DEIGNAN (1945, 1963) as a rare winter visitor to NW Thailand, this species may be uncommon but regular in occurrence. Recent sightings have been reported from Doi Pui (December 1980 or January 1981; R.J.F. *et al.*); Doi Ang Khang on 27 December 1981 (C.S.B. *et al.*) and from Doi Inthanon on 7 February 1982 (author). While the smaller *Accipiter* hawks may be notoriously difficult to identify, its large size, long-winged and 'hooded' appearance render the Northern Goshawk distinctive. In addition, the observers concerned are all familiar with the species from NW Europe.

Bonelli's Eagle, *Hieraaetus fasciatus*

This species is listed as resident in NW Thailand by KING *et al.* (1975). Two recent sightings of adult birds have been reported: on Doi Ang Khang on about 25 November 1982 (A.B., P.J.) and from Doi Inthanon on 14 February 1983 (J.S.). On present evidence, the species' status in Thailand must be regarded as uncertain. While it is true that the Bonelli's Eagle appears to be resident throughout its large world range, there is nevertheless a possibility that Thai birds have been stragglers from further north.

Speckled Wood-Pigeon, *Columba hodgsonii*

This species was first recorded for Thailand when a flock of about 80 birds was seen in forest on Doi Inthanon, ca. 2200 m on 16 December 1980 (ROUND, 1982a). Further records from Doi Inthanon were 75 on 20 February 1982 (R.J.F.) and up to 5 on 26–27 April 1982 (P.A.C.). The species has also been recorded from Doi Ang Khang with 2 on 27 December 1981 (C.S.B. *et al.*), 110 on 24 February 1982 (R.J.F.) and 1 on 8 April 1983 (author and J.W. Wall). The species may be identified by its dark, maroon-chocolate upperparts, profuse white speckling on the wing coverts, all dark tail and pale greyish head and breast. It ranges from the Western Himalayas through to Burma and western China and although mainly resident, may make seasonal nomadic movements depending on food supply (ALI, 1977; ALI & RIPLEY Vol. 3, 1969; CHENG, 1976).

Common Cuckoo, *Cuculus canorus*

One was seen on Doi Inthanon, 1700 m, on 27 April 1982 (P.A.C.) when the distinctive 'cuck-koo' call was heard, enabling separation from the Oriental Cuckoo, *C. saturatus*, which appears identical in the field. This is only the third confirmed record of this migrant visitor to NW Thailand, the others being detailed in DEIGNAN (1945) and in KING (1966).

Rusty-naped Pitta, *Pitta oatesi*

This highly secretive species is listed for the provinces of Chiang Mai, Lamphun, Lamphang and Loei by DEIGNAN (1945) and has since also been recorded from Nam Nao National Park, Phetchabun Province (S.A., R.J.F., C.K. *et al.*).

The call of this species was first described with precision by KING (1978) following his discovery of a new race, *P. oatesi deborah*, in the mountains of peninsular Malaysia. The same (or very similar) call was subsequently recognised from Doi Inthanon by D.R.W. in May 1981 and has since been heard by the author both there and on Doi Suthep-Pui, and taped. It is best described as a fluty 'chow-whit', similar to the call of the Blue Pitta, *P. cyanea*, but-with a much more truncated first syllable. DEIGNAN's (1945) attribution of "a melodious 'bong bong'" call to the Rusty-naped Pitta is therefore probably erroneous, as pointed out by D.R. WELLS (in litt.) and Ben King (KING, 1978).

In addition, while a male bird seen by the author and R.E. on Doi Suthep, 14 March 1982, gave the 'chow-whit' call, another individual (probably a female) which remained unseen gave an explosive, liquid, falling-tone 'pouuw' which has so far not been taped. The intensity of the response given by both birds when confronted with 'pishing' noises and with whistled imitations of the typical call suggested that they may have been a pair on breeding territory. No nests of the Rusty-naped Pitta have yet been found in NW Thailand, although DEIGNAN (1945) collected specimens with enlarged gonads both in April and September and also lists a very young juvenile taken in September suggesting that, like some other pittas in Thailand (ROUND & TREESUCON, 1983), it may be primarily a wet season breeder.

Singing Bushlark, *Mirafra javanica*

Two were seen in an area of dry rice stubble, near Thathon on 29 December 1981. This resident species has previously been recorded only from NE Thailand (Nakhon Ratchasima Province) and from the Central Plains around Bangkok (DEIGNAN, 1963) but has almost certainly been widely overlooked. It is secretive and difficult to flush when on the ground, and song-flights high in the air.

Giant Nuthatch, *Sitta magna*

There have been a number of recent (1982-83) sightings of this scarce resident species from Doi Pha Hom Pok (G.W.), and Doi Ang Khang (A.B., P.J. *et al.*) at elevations of 1300-1500 m in the more open hill evergreen woodlands,

A relict stand of woodland on Doi Ang Khang, in which pines (*Pinus khessa*) and oaks (*Quercus spp.*) predominated, probably held at least 3 territories on 8 April 1983, and a nest containing 3 young was found (author, J.W.W.). It was situated in a hollow oak about 8 m tall, with the nest entrance about 3 m off the ground, where the trunk diameter was about 25 cm. Both in April and in July, when the site was revisited, the nuthatches appeared to forage mainly in pines. They gave a distinctive harsh, chattering call, a little reminiscent of the voice of the European Magpie, *Pica pica*.

White-browed Laughingthrush, *Garrulax sannio*

This species is known in Thailand only from Doi Ang Khang, where it was discovered in February 1977 by staff from the Ecological Research Division, TISTR. Several specimens were taken and deposited in the National Reference Collection, but no details have been published in English, other than the brief mention made by LEKAGUL (1977).

The White-browed Laughingthrush is an extremely abundant resident in scrub and grassland at 1200–1300 m, usually found in noisy flocks. It is reported to attack some crops. Surprisingly, it has not been recorded from the nearby mountain, Doi Pha Hom Pok, and may be absent from there.

Black-eared Shrike-Babbler, *Pteruthius melanotis*

This species is listed only for Nan Province by DEIGNAN (1963) and is otherwise known only from one collected specimen and one bird ringed on Doi Pha Hom Pok at 2074 m (KING, 1966; McCLURE & LEELAVIT, 1972). However, during December 1980 to May 1981, it was found to be an uncommon to fairly common bird of evergreen forest above 1600 m on both Doi Inthanon and Doi Pha Hom Pok. The presence of a full grown juvenile on Doi Inthanon confirmed breeding there (ROUND, 1982b). Like the closely similar Chestnut-fronted Shrike-Babbler, *Pteruthius aenobarbus*, one or two birds were often found associating with other babblers and warblers in 'bird-waves' and the Black-eared Shrike-Babbler appears to replace this species at the higher elevations. *P. aenobarbus* is usually found at elevations of 900 to 1600 m.

Whiskered Yuhina, *Yuhina flavicollis*

This species is listed only from Nan Province by DEIGNAN (1963) but was collected on Doi Pha Hom Pok by KING (1966) where it appears to be common above 1600 m. It has also been recorded from Doi Ang Khang (C.R. *et al.*).

Burmese Yuhina, *Yuhina humilis*

The first record for Thailand is of a single individual seen near the summit of Doi Mon Chong, ca. 1100 m, extreme northern Tak Province (erroneously reported as Chiang Mai Province in ROUND, 1983). The Burmese Yuhina is almost identical to the Whiskered Yuhina (with which it is sometimes considered conspecific) but differs in having an ashy-grey instead of ferruginous neck collar; white, not fulvous-brown, under tail coverts and grey instead of brownish streaks on the flanks.

This species has a very small world range and is known elsewhere only from the Southern Shan States and northern Tenasserim in Burma (SMYTHIES, 1953). It is perhaps most likely to be resident on Doi Mon Chong.

Golden Bush-Robin, *Tarsiger chrysaeus*

A female was seen on the summit of Doi Inthanon, 2590 m, on 5 April 1983 in dense undergrowth at the forest edge (author, J.W.W.). This is only the fourth record of this winter visitor to Thailand, the other three being collected on Doi Pha Hom Pok around 1900–2300 m (KING, 1966).

Purple Cochoa, *Cochoa purpurea*

Recent sightings of the Purple Cochoa, considered by DEIGNAN (1945) to have been one of the rarest birds in Thailand, have been made on Doi Suthep at 1400 m on 17 March 1979 (C.M., N.J.R.) and at 1100 m on 5 September 1981; at Doi Mon Chong, Tak Province, 1100 m on 10 March 1982. All 3 individuals appeared to be females. Both those seen by the author were found in areas of forest where there was an abundance of trees bearing small fruits, and appeared to be associated with many other partly frugivorous birds (bulbuls at the former locality and thrushes at the latter).

Stonechat, *Saxicola torquata*

This species, previously known only as a winter visitor in Thailand, has recently been found breeding on Doi Ang Khang. A number of individuals were recorded song-fighting in open scrub and grassland at 1200–1300 m on 8 April 1983, while an adult male and 2 full-grown, speckled juveniles were seen on 19 July. The birds are presumably of the race *S.t. przewalskii*, which breeds as close as Yunnan and probably also in NE Burma and N Laos (VAURIE, 1959.). It may well be a recent colonist, which has spread southwards with increased deforestation.

Jerdon's Bushchat, *Saxicola jerdoni*

This is a surprisingly little-known bird which frequents the tall grass of floodplains. Recent records are from Mae Taeng (1 male on 18 October 1981) and

Thathon (2 males on 26 February, 1982). A further sighting of a male along the Mae Nam Kok, between Thathon and Chiang Rai on 27 May 1982 (P.A.C.), is the firmest indication yet that the species is probably resident in NW Thailand.

Orange-headed Thrush, *Zoothera citrina*

While the Orange-headed Thrush may occur throughout most of Thailand as a winter visitor, it has so far been proved to breed only in NW Thailand, where recently fledged juveniles have been seen on Doi Suthep, 1100–1400 m, in September 1981 and July 1983. Here, the species appears to be fairly common from at least late May onwards, but it may be absent from the NW during the winter months as there are no records from Chiang Mai Province between 18 November (author) and 31 March (DICKINSON & CHAIYAPHUN, 1973a).

Siberian Thrush, *Zoothera sibirica*

This species probably does not winter in NW Thailand, but occurs mostly as a spring migrant, when small numbers occur on northward passage with large flocks of Eye-browed Thrushes, *Turdus obscurus*. From 1 to 5 birds were recorded from Doi Pha Hom Pok (10–13 April, 1981), Doi Inthanon (18 April, 1981), Doi Pui (10 April 1983) and Doi Mon Chong (10 March 1982; 2 April 1983, TISTR).

Long-tailed Thrush, *Zoothera dixonii*

Single birds were seen on Doi Pui in February 1980 (C.R. *et al.*), 31 January 1983 (J.P., J.S. *et al.*); 1 or 2 on the summit of Doi Inthanon, 1 and 9 January 1982 (many observers) and 1 on Doi Mon Chong, 3 April 1983, when a specimen was collected (TISTR). The only previous records of this wintering thrush are of 6 birds collected and one bird ringed on Doi Pha Hom Pok (DEIGNAN, 1945; KING, 1966, DICKINSON & CHAIYAPHUN, 1973. McCLURE & LEELAVIT, 1972).

Dark-sided Thrush, *Zoothera marginata*

This secretive resident thrush is probably not uncommon in NW Thailand and there are a number of recent sightings from Doi Inthanon (1600 m to summit) and Doi Suthep (1100–1400 m) where the species frequents moist areas, streamsides etc. in dense evergreen forest. It does not appear to associate with feeding flocks of other thrushes. As already indicated by DEIGNAN (1945) it is most easily seen during the wet season, when it breeds and when there may be many fledged juveniles in evidence. A nest with 3 eggs was found on Doi Suthep on 24 July 1983. It was situated 4.5 m off the ground in the fork of a small understorey tree. The nest was a cup, constructed externally of green moss and lined with fine, branching rootlets. The eggs were off-white, profusely mottled brownish.

Thrushes, *Turdus* spp.

These species occur only as winter visitors to Thailand. Although the commonest species, the Eye-browed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*, is an annual visitor which occurs throughout the entire country, most species are scarce, appear to be irregular or irruptive in occurrence and have so far only been recorded from the northwest.

Black-breasted Thrush, *Turdus dissimilis*

Single birds were recorded on Doi Inthanon, 1600 m on 1 January 1979 (R.J.F., A.V.M.) and on Doi Pui, at about 1400 m on 2 February 1983 (J.S.). There appear to be only two previous records, both from Doi Pha Hom Pok (DEIGNAN, 1945).

Grey-winged Blackbird, *Turdus boulboul*

Recent sightings have been made on Doi Inthanon (1 on 30–31 December 1981; A.V.M., R.B.H. *et al.*), Doi Pui (2 males at 1400 m, 2 February 1982) and Doi Mon Chong (at least 2 males and 1 female, 9–10 March 1982). A record has also been received from Doi Ang Khang, February 1980 (C.R. *et al.*; no further details). There are only two previous records listed (DEIGNAN, 1945; KING, 1966).

Chestnut Thrush, *Turdus rubrocanus*

This species was first found in Thailand on the summit of Doi Inthanon in January 1980 (H.F., R. de la M.), where a maximum of 35 birds was noted in March (D.S.M.). This species has since been recorded in two out of three subsequent winters, with from 3–15 birds on Doi Inthanon from 31 December 1981 to 22 February 1982 (many observers); 3 on 26–27 December 1982 (J.B. *et al.*); 1 to 2 on Doi Pui on 14 January 1982 and 30 January 1983 (author; J.P., J.S.). The records for 1980 to January 1982 have been summarised in ROUND, 1983. All birds showed the dark grey head of the race *T.r. gouldii*, which breeds in the mountains of western China and which winters in SE Tibet and northern Burma (ALI & RIPLEY, Vol. 9, 1973; CHENG, 1976).

Grey-sided Thrush, *Turdus feae*

In 1982, there were a few records of this rare and little-known species, when birds were seen among flocks of *T. obscurus*: on Doi Inthanon, one on 11 February (I.S.R.); 2 on 20 February (R.J.F.); on Doi Mon Chong, at least 3 on 10 March. This species has a facial pattern similar to that of *T. obscurus*, showing a white streak beneath the eye. It may be distinguished by having grey instead of orange-rufous underparts and in being a slightly brighter, more rufescent-olive on the upperparts. Great care should be exercised, however, as under dim light conditions the dull orange-rufous on the underparts of some *T. obscurus* can be difficult to discern, leading to confusion.

The only previous published record for Thailand is of a specimen collected on Doi Inthanon on 24 November 1964 (KING, 1966).

Red-throated Thrush, *Turdus ruficollis ruficollis* and Black-throated Thrush, *T. ruficollis atrogularis*

Four *T. r. ruficollis*, an adult male, adult female and 2 immatures were present on the summit of Doi Inthanon on 9 January 1982 and 3 immatures were seen there on 3 February (P.A.C., G.W., author). A further sighting of 6 birds was made on 20 February 1982 (R.J.F.).

Solitary male *T. r. atrogularis* were seen on Doi Pui at about 1500 m on 2 and 5 February 1982 (D.J., G.W.). These constitute the first records for Thailand (see also ROUND, 1983). The species breeds in northern Asia, the nominate race to the south and east of *T. r. atrogularis*, and winters from the Himalayas to western China (VAURIE, 1959). The field characters of both races are shown in SONOBE & ROBINSON (1982).

Dusky Thrush, *Turdus naumanni*

Three birds seen on Doi Inthanon, 18 February 1980 (C.B., M.C.), constitute the first record for Thailand. A massive influx occurred in January 1982, with at least 17 birds present on the summit of Doi Inthanon on 1 January (A.V.M., R.B.H., *et al.*) and over 100 from 9 January to at least 3 February (author, P.A.C., G.W.) Groups of 1–5 Dusky Thrushes were encountered lower down the mountain, at three other sites above 1000 m (Doi Pha Hom Pok; Doi Pui and Doi Mon Chong) during this period, and in the open plains at Thathon and near Chiang Mai, at about 300 m (ROUND, 1983). Further records which have not yet been published are one on Doi Pui, 11 January 1981 (N.G.), 50 on the summit of Doi Inthanon, 20 February 1982 (R.J.F.) and one in a lowland orchard at Fang on 7 February 1983 (J.S.). All birds seen were of the race *T. n. eunomus* which breeds in NE Asia and winters in N India, SW China and Burma (VAURIE, 1959). The species is depicted in SONOBE & ROBINSON (1982).

Lemon-rumped Leaf-Warbler, *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Listed as a rare visitor by LEKAGUL & CRONIN (1974), this species is commoner than has been previously thought, in evergreen woodlands above 1200 m. Only the race *P.p. chloronotus* is listed for Thailand by DEIGNAN (1963) but 2 specimens of *P.p. proregulus*, known in winter from S and SW China, N Indochina (VAURIE, 1959) have since been taken. These are: specimen no. 53–2823 in the National Reference Collection, collected from Doi Pui on 27 January 1969; specimen no. DSM326 from the collection of Dr. Boonsong Lekagul, taken on Doi Pha Hom Pok, 1700 m, 24 January

1981. Individuals of this race may be distinguished in the hand from the duller *P.p. chloronotus* by their brighter, golden-yellow eyebrow, yellower crown stripe and cleaner, silky-white underparts.

Lesser Whitethroat, *Sylvia curruca*

On Doi Inthanon 2 sightings of Lesser Whitethroat have been made in areas of scrub and secondary growth: 1 at 1300 m on 29 December 1980 (M.R., S.W. and author) and 1 at about 400 m on 4 March 1981 (W.E.F.). These appear to be the first records of the species for SE Asia. Although these birds were suggested to have probably been of the race *S.c. blythi* (which breeds in Central Siberia) in ROUND (1982a), KING has pointed out that *S.c. althaea* (which breeds in the western Himalayas, west to the Caspian and north to Turkestan) appears to be the most common wintering form in India. The race of birds which may winter in Thailand must be considered as indeterminate until they have been examined in the hand.

Paddyfield Warbler, *Acrocephalus agricola*

A specimen taken from a marshy lowland area at Thathon, 24 February 1982, and subsequently deposited in the collection of Dr. Boonsong Lekagul, showed the greyish colouration of the race *A.a. brevipennis* (VAURIE, 1959). However, as WILLIAMSON (1968) has pointed out, this "race" is probably synonymous with *A.a. agricola* which shows both a rufous-brown colour phase (in fresh plumage) and a greyer brown colouration (when worn).

This is only the fourth record of *A. agricola* for Thailand.

Chestnut-headed Tesia, *Tesia castaneocoronata*

The only published records of this species in Thailand are from Doi Pha Hom Pok (KING, 1966) where subsequent visits have shown it to be at least as common as the Slaty-bellied Tesia, *T. olivacea*, from about 1600–2200 m. Like this species, it haunts dense undergrowth and herbage of the forest floor, but may have a tendency to frequent slightly drier areas. It tends to be even more secretive and skulking than *T. olivacea* and is usually detected first by its call note, a sharp, explosive 'whit'.

The species has also been recorded on Doi Inthanon from 1600–2500 m where, however, it appears to be much less common and numerous than *T. olivacea*. Two birds, apparently a pair, were also seen near the summit of Doi Pui on 19 March 1983 (C.M., N.J.R.).

Pale-footed Bush-Warbler, *Cettia pallidipes*

Previously listed as a rare visitor to NW Thailand (LEKAGUL & CRONIN, 1974), a singing bird seen well and taped on Doi Inthanon at 1300 m on 7 April 1983 (J.W.W., author) may indicate that this species is resident. The bird frequented an area of tall herbage on an open, dry hillside and was located by its explosive song. Although 'bush-warblers' are often regarded as being difficult to identify, *C. pallidipes* is readily distinguished from both the Strong-Footed Bush-Warbler, *C. fortipes*, and the Aberrant Bush Warbler, *C. flavolivacea*, by its shorter tail which appears broad and square-ended (with rounded corners), by its whiter underparts and more strongly-contrasted face pattern. From the Chestnut-crowned Bush-Warbler, *C. major*, and the Manchurian Bush-Warbler, *C. canturians*, it is distinguished by having the crown olive-brown, concolorous with the mantle. It appears very similar to Stub-tailed Bush-Warbler, *C. squameiceps*, in general appearance but is easily distinguished by its longer tail.

Strong-footed Bush-Warbler, *Cettia fortipes*

A specimen was collected from Doi Pha Hom Pok, 1700 m, on 12 April 1981 and deposited in the collection of Dr. Boonsong Lekagul. This appears to be the first record for Thailand and its identity was only resolved after comparison with a series of both *C. fortipes* and the very similar *C. flavolivacea* at the British Museum, Tring. The bird was netted in a small forest clearing, in a dense growth of *Eupatorium adenophorum*. Sight records, referable either to this species or to *C. flavolivacea*, were also made on Doi Pha Hom Pok at about 2000 m on 8 February 1981 and on Doi Inthanon, 2500 m, on 17 May 1981 in dense herbage at the forest edge (D.R.W., author). No birds were heard singing, but the late date from Doi Inthanon would suggest that at least one of these two species which breed from the Himalayas to S China (KING *et al.*, 1975), is resident in Thailand.

In general appearance, these two species may be inseparable in the field, unless the yellowish suffusion on the under parts of *C. flavolivacea* is discerned at very close range. Both species share a rather long tail, which is usually held slightly cocked and which appears distinctly notched at the tip.

Spotted Bush-Warbler, *Bradlypterus thoracicus*

This species, hitherto known in Thailand from only 5 collected specimens (DEIGNAN, 1945; KING, 1966) has since been found to be an extremely common winter visitor to NW Thailand, frequenting areas of grass and scrub, especially in moist areas, from the plains up to about 1400 m. The author has found it at a number of localities

in Chiang Mai Province, in Phayao Province, and has also recorded it from the Central Plains (Phitsanulok and Nakhon Sawan Provinces) and in SW Thailand (Uthai Thani Province). Identification has been confirmed by the collection of 3 specimens, deposited with Dr. Boonsong Lekagul, but the race of these specimens remains undetermined.

All the *Bradypterus* spp. in Thailand are very secretive and skulking, remaining inside dense cover and preferring to walk on or close to the ground rather than fly. However, after detecting them by their loud, harsh calls, by moving in close and peering through the foliage, the patient observer can often succeed in getting a very close view. The Spotted Bush-Warbler may be readily identified by its boldly scalloped under tail coverts which, in the field, appear mostly white with bold dark chevrons, formed by the brown basal portions and broad white tips to the feathers.

Brown Bush-Warbler, *Bradypterus luteoventris*

Sight records of single birds on Doi Pui, 1400 m, on 11 December 1981 and at Nam Nao National Park, Phetchabun Province, 800 m, on 21 November 1982 can probably be assigned to this species. Both birds showed a deep brownish wash on sides of breast, flanks and under tail coverts, which lacked any whitish tips. There are only two previous records for Thailand (DEIGNAN, 1945; KING, 1966).

Russet Bush-Warbler, *Bradypterus seaboehmi*

A *Bradypterus* warbler seen and taped while singing on Doi Ang Khang on 9 April 1983 (J.W.W., author) was thought to be this species. The author returned to the mountain and found at least 20 individuals singing on open grassy hillsides at 1400-1500 m during 16-19 July 1983. Identification was confirmed by collecting a single specimen, subsequently deposited in the National Reference Collection. The upperparts were a warm rufescent olive-brown, the rufous tinge being most pronounced on the forecrown and wing coverts. The eyebrow was whitish, becoming rufescent-buff above and behind the eye. The sides of breast and flanks were washed with rufescent brown, while the under tail coverts were a slightly darker, duller brown with noticeable whitish tips. The throat, centre of breast and belly were whitish. Some individuals showed slight greyish spotting on the throat. The species may be easily distinguished from *B. thoracicus* by its longer, heavier tail, brighter rufous colouration and by its less obvious whitish tips to the under tail coverts. The song was a rasping, rhythmic '.... zreee-ut... zreee-ut... zreee-ut...', repeated at the rate of about 2 calls per second.

The only two previous specimens from Thailand, from Doi Inthanon and from Doi Phu Ka, Nan Province, have been assigned to the form *B. s. idoneus*, also known from S. Annam and Taiwan (DELACOUR, 1952).

Rosy Pipit, *Anthus roseatus*

This species is a recently discovered winter visitor to Thailand. Up to 5 individuals were present at Fang during 14 December 1981 to 2 January 1982 while at Thathon, 2 were seen on 29 December 1981 and up to 15 during 2–27 February 1982. The birds frequented the edges of open, muddy pools and fields of wet rice stubble (ROUND, 1983).

Further sightings at Thathon in winter 1982–83 (at least 12 on 29 December, J.B. *et al.*; 1 to 3 on 9 and 23 February, J.S. *et al.*) would suggest that the species is an annual winter visitor, which has been previously overlooked. In winter plumage, the Rosy Pipit is more coarsely streaked on both upperparts and underparts than the Red-throated Pipit but lacks the streaked rump of this species. It has a markedly greyish-olive cast to the upperparts, recalling the Olive-backed Pipit, *A. hodgsoni*. However, the Rosy Pipit may be distinguished readily from both of these common winter visitors by its flight call, which is a thin *tsip, tsip, tsip*, very similar to the call of the European Meadow Pipit, *A. pratensis*. In breeding dress, the species shows vinous-rosy, almost unstreaked underparts, recalling the Water Pipit, *A. spinoletta*. The Rosy Pipit breeds in the Himalayas and in the mountains of W China, wintering to the foothills, S China and the plains of Burma (ALI & RIPLEY Vol. 9, 1973; CHENG, 1976; SMYTHIES, 1953).

Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum melanoxanthum*

This large flowerpecker has so far been recorded only from the peaks of Doi Pha Hom Pok, Doi Chiang Dao and Doi Inthanon. While it has been seen as low as 1350 m (DEIGNAN, 1945), it is most often found only at the highest elevations, above 1800 m. Though listed by LEKAGUL & CRONIN (1974) as a rare migrant, there are strong indications that the species may be resident on the summit of Doi Inthanon where a pair were seen in close association, behaving with slight agitation towards the observer's presence, on 3 February 1982. A further bird, apparently a female, was also seen in the region of the summit on 27 April 1982 (P.A.C.). The species is known to breed in Eastern Burma (SMYTHIES, 1953).

Dark-breasted Rosefinch, *Carpodacus nipalensis*

Three males were seen on the summit of Doi Inthanon, 20 February 1982 (R.J.F.). There is only one previous published record for Thailand, a bird collected on Doi Pha Hom Pok (KING, 1966).

Tristram's Bunting, *Emberiza tristrami*

Two males were seen on Doi Pha Hom Pok, 1700 m, on 28 January 1982 (P.A.C., G.W.). There are only two previous records for Thailand, from Doi Pui, February 1965 (KING, 1966 and in litt.).

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