

Falcated Teal *Anas falcata*, a New Bird for Thailand

On 3 February 1987 I visited Ban Lung Tua, Bang Rakham District, (ca. 16° 45'N; 100° 07'E) in Phitsanulok Province, Central Thailand. Two shallow ponds near the Yom River contained several thousand ducks, mostly Lesser Whistling-Ducks *Dendrocygna javanica* and Garganey *A. querquedula*, together with a few hundred Northern Pintail *A. acuta* and ca. 10 Eurasian Wigeon *A. penelope*. While scanning through the ducks using a 25x mounted telescope I found a male Falcated Teal *A. falcata*. I quickly drew the attention of other members of the party to the bird and the identification was agreed by A. Dampney, J.L. McKean and K.S. Shurcliff. A few moments later I located a second individual on the same pond.

Field description: Similar to Eurasian Wigeon in size. Head and mane glossy bronze-green with a purple sheen on the loreal area and tip of mane. A small white spot present on the forehead; throat white. Breast was heavily barred black on grey, the belly and flanks gray. Under tail coverts black, bordered on sides by two creamy-yellow patches, similar to those on Common Teal *Anas crecca*, and separated from the flanks by a narrow black band and a broader white band. Upperparts grey; wings dark with a dull greenish speculum bordered by a white bar at base. The long, drooping, curved secondaries were black with white edges. Bill dark grey.

During the period of observation the birds remained swimming or resting on the bank of the pool. They were not seen to fly. I revisited Ban Lung Tua on 6 February 1987 and found that both birds were still present. This would appear to be the first record for Thailand.

The species breeds in eastern Siberia, north-east Mongolia, central Manchuria, Amurland, Ussuriland, Sakhalin, Kuriles and Hokkaido. The wintering range includes Japan, Korea, east and south China (MADGE & BURN, 1988). It also winters in Nepal and northern India with up to 80 at Kosi Barrage, Nepal in recent winters (INSKIPP & INSKIPP, 1985). The species has been recorded as a vagrant in Pakistan, Iraq, Jordan and Turkey but records of vagrants in Europe have been treated as escapes from captivity (MADGE & BURN, 1988).

Since this sighting, the species has been reported from several other localities in Thailand:

Chiang Rai Province, Chiang Saen District. Seven males and 63 female or immature birds were reported from Chiang Saen Lake on 12 February 1987 by P. Undeland. *Mae Chan District:* at least four males were seen at Tha Khao Preuk, (ca. 20° 15'N; 99° 57'E) on 24 January 1989 by Kamchai Piyaman.

Nakhon Sawan Province, Bung Boraphet. Three female or immature birds were seen on 20 January 1988 by P.D. Round and Bubphar Amget. A pair was seen at the same site on 11 February 1988 by D. Ogle.

Nong Khai Province, Bung Kan District. Three males and 20 female or immature birds were seen at Kuting (18° 17'N; 103° 44'E), on 9 February 1989 by J.A. Wolstencroft and M.P. Goodey.

Udonthani Province, Kumphawapi District. One male and two female or immatures were seen at Nong Han Kumphawapi (17° 10'N; 103° 02'E) on 2 February 1989 by J.A. Wolstencroft and M.P. Goodey.

These records suggest that the species is in fact a regular winter visitor in small numbers to Thailand.

I am grateful to Philip Round for supplying details of other records of Falcated Ducks in Thailand and for reading through an earlier draft of this paper.

R E F E R E N C E S

- CRAMP, S., ed. 1977. *The Birds of the Western Palearctic*. Vol. I. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
INSKIPP, C. and T. INSKIPP. 1985. *A Guide to the Birds of Nepal*. Croom Helm, London.
KING, B. and E.C. DICKINSON. 1975. *A Field Guide to the Birds of South-East Asia*. Collins, London.

Iain Robertson
1 Central Avenue
Clitheroe
Lancashire, England