

**Observation of a Major "Fall" of Migrant Hooded Pittas  
(*Pitta sordida*) at Kaeng Krachan National Park, Phetchaburi  
Province**

During the week of 13–20 April 1992, I visited Kaeng Krachan National Park in order to watch birds. On 13 April, I was taken into the forest along the road leading to the mountain of Khao Phaen Thung, by a park vehicle. At km 17, near where the road crosses a stream before beginning its steep ascent, we stopped to examine a dead bird on the track. It was a Hooded Pitta (*Pitta sordida*) and had probably been killed by another vehicle a few minutes ahead of us. The bird was freshly dead and still warm, and appeared very thin. When I checked the roadsides nearby, I found four other dead Hooded Pittas which had apparently died within the past few days, perhaps also having been struck by passing cars.

I revisited the same spot on the following day and was very surprised to find a high concentration of Hooded Pittas there. I counted at least 25–30 individuals along 1.5–2 km of forest road, hopping around on the track in full view. When I looked closer, I realised that most of the birds seemed exhausted: some I could easily approach to within 5–6 m. The birds hopped, rather than flew, away when I came too close. That same day, I also found three more dead Hooded Pittas, victims of the (very few) cars passing along the track. Although I examined other parts of the park, nowhere else did I witness any such concentration of pittas.

The Hooded Pitta is a wet season breeding visitor and passage migrant in most of Thailand (LEKAGUL & ROUND, 1991) and I undoubtedly witnessed a major "fall" or influx of northbound migrant pittas at Kaeng Krachan. The birds were presumably exhausted or emaciated after their flight and either incapable of continuing further, or had stopped to "refuel" before resuming migration.

REFERENCES

LEKAGUL, B. AND P.D. ROUND. 1991 *A Guide to the Birds of Thailand*. Saha Karn Bhaet, Bangkok.

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