

## **Mangrove Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis rufigastra*, a New Resident Bird Record for Thailand**

During the spring and summer of 1987, I made several trips to the remaining mature mangrove forest close to the town of Krabi, Krabi Province, peninsular Thailand in order to compile a preliminary bird list for the area.

During one of these visits, on 25 August, I located a singing female Mangrove Blue Flycatcher, obtained good views at close range, and made a tape-recording. Previously, on 23 July, I had heard the same song from up to three different individuals, but had been unable to see any of them.

**Description:** Size, shape and proportions typical for the genus *Cyornis*, but differed in showing a prominent whitish area on the face. This consisted of a large spot at the side of the crown in front of the eye, and a small patch at the base of the bill, below the dark lore stripe in front of the eye. Upperparts matt, almost slaty, dark blue, clearly duller and darker than other *Cyornis*. Throat and breast light orange-rufous, merging to light buffy white on the belly.

The Mangrove Blue Flycatcher is known from both coasts of peninsular Malaysia, south and east to the Greater Sundas, Sulawesi and the Philippines (MEDWAY & WELLS 1976). On the Malaysian west coast, it is known as far north as southern Kedah, where R. Gregory-Smith has found it common at Kuala Merbok. On the east coast, it extends at least to northern Terengganu, close to the Kelantan border (D.R. WELLS, *in litt.*).

This was the first record of Mangrove Blue Flycatcher for Thailand, although D. Holmes also recorded a few *Cyornis* flycatchers at the edge of mangroves at Satun in the early 1970s, but identification was never confirmed (D.R. WELLS, *in litt.*). Up to 2-3 pairs have been regularly seen at Krabi since, by other observers, and the species is undoubtedly resident at the site. It should be sought elsewhere in mangrove areas in southern Thailand.

### REFERENCES

- MEDWAY, LORD AND D.R. WELLS, 1976. *The Birds of the Malay Peninsula*, Vol. 5. Witherby and Penerbit Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. xxxi + 448 pp.

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