

## A Record of the N nominate Race of Narcissus Flycatcher, *Ficedula n. narcissina*, for Thailand

On 17 April 1995, a male Narcissus Flycatcher, *Ficedula narcissina narcissina*, was netted and ringed at the Ban Sam Roi Yot Substation of Khao Sam Roi Yot National Park, Prachuap Khiri Khan Province (12° 13'N; 99° 55'E). This is the first record of the nominate race of Narcissus Flycatcher for Thailand.

The bird was caught in deciduous woodland along the foot of steep limestone mountains at approximately 0730 hrs. It was immediately recognisable as a Narcissus Flycatcher of the nominate race by its combination of blackish upperparts, yellow supercilium and orange-yellow underparts. The bird was examined and ringed, photographed and released within 30 minutes of capture. Its description is presented below.

**Description:** A small flycatcher with black forecrown and mid-crown; dull olive brown hindcrown and black mantle, lores and ear coverts. A broad, yellow supercilium, broadest behind the eye, extending from above the lores to a point roughly halfway between the hind margin of the eye and the nape. Throat, breast and belly, lower back and rump yellow with a strong peachy-orange flush. Under tail coverts white. A solid, roundish white patch in the wing formed by the mainly white inner greater coverts and some inner median coverts. Tail entirely dark, with blackish upper tail coverts. Tertiaries all dark, the two innermost black; outermost tertial unmoulted and brown on both wings, with a narrow whitish-brown fringe to the outer edge. The alula, primaries, secondaries, three left-hand innermost and two right-hand innermost tail feathers, and two outermost greater coverts were also old, unmoulted feathers. The combination of old, brown, apparently juvenile body, covert, tertial and tail feathers, and black adult feathers indicated that it was not adult, and was probably a first-year bird. The legs and bill were blackish. Biometrics: wing length (maximum chord) 77 mm; tail 47 mm; tarsus 17.9 mm; weight 9.4 g. The bird was very thin, with concave pectoral muscles (score 2) and a zero fat score (muscle and fat scoring methodology following BAIRLEIN, 1995).

Other observers who saw the bird were D. Kelly, A. Martin, T. Squire, Siriporn Thongaree and J. Willsher.

The bird was still present in the area later the same day, perched in the woodland understorey, frequently dropping to the ground to feed. It was not seen on the following day. Small numbers of both Mugimaki Flycatcher *F. mugimaki* and Yellow rumped Flycatcher *F. zanthopygia* were seen daily during this period, indicating a pronounced, ongoing, spring passage migration.

The green-backed race of Narcissus Flycatcher, *F. n. elisae*, which breeds in northern China, and is an annual, but rare, winter visitor to lowland forests and mangroves of peninsular Thailand and Malaysia (LEKAGUL & ROUND, 1991; MEDWAY & WELLS, 1976), is the only form of Narcissus Flycatcher previously recorded along this flyway. The nominate race has a more easterly distribution, breeding mainly in Sakhalin and Japan, and migrating to winter in the Philippines and Borneo. It has been recorded on passage in Korea, Taiwan, SE China, including Hainan, and Annam (VAURIE, 1959). A third race,

*F. n. owstoni*, which has a dark olive-green back, breeds in Ryukyu Islands (VAURIE, *op. cit.*).

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