

**A FURTHER CONTRIBUTION ON THE BIRDS
OF KHAO YAI NATIONAL PARK**

by

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SUMMARY

This paper is in three parts. Part 1 contains details of birds added to the Park list. Part 2 includes corrections to previous notes. Part 3 summarizes in a table our present knowledge of the seasonal distribution of all the species now known from the Park.

Species newly recorded from Khao Yai National Park:

Almost three years have gone by since the last publication of new birds for the Park. During those three years visits by the writer have been fewer but other ornithologists have visited the Park from time to time: Messrs. BEN F. KING, R. NELSON and SOMTOB CHAI-YAPHUN have put their data at my disposal. In December 1965 there was an excursion to the Park by many of those attending the I.U.C.N. Conference in Bangkok. This produced some interesting records. Also during the same three years a little ringing has been done within the Park; this has been done either by, or with the permission of, the appropriate authorities. Not surprisingly it has brought to light several species with skulking habits, including some interesting migrants. It is to be hoped that more ringing will be done in the area for yet more species certainly will be caught.

The following species have been found:

Crested Goshawk

Accipiter trivirgatus

One seen 5.12.65 by the author and several other people.

Grey-headed Fishing Eagle

Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus

One seen flying north-westwards high overhead on 27.12.64. (E.C.D., J.A.T., P.F.C. et al). This appears to also be the first record for the eastern plateau of Thailand.

Wedge-tailed Pigeon

Treron sphenura

One seen by BEN F. KING in July 1966.

Drongo Cuckoo

Surniculus lugubris

A single bird was discovered high up under the crown of a tree on 1.5.66 (E.C.D., M.W.W.).

Mountain Scops Owl

Otus spilocephalus

Calls thought to be this species were often heard from the bungalows but the species has been thought rare and the records were left in abeyance. In August 1966 however one individual was netted by Dr. R. NELSON and after ringing was released.

Collared Owlet

Glaucidium brodiei

The unmistakable call of this owl was first heard in the Park, as far as I know, on 1.5.66 when it was calling regularly. The call was heard again but much less often on 25.2.67.

Spotted Owlet

Athene brama

This species has been recorded in the Park by Dr. R. NELSON but no exact date is available.

Orange-breasted Trogon

Harpactes oreskios

One female was seen close to Pha Gluay Mai Waterfall on 5.12.65 (E.C.D. et al).

Deep Blue Kingfisher

Alcedo meninting

A pair was seen at Wang Champi on 1.5.66 (E.C.D., M.W.W.). In June 1967 a bird was caught and ringed by Nai SOMTOB CHAIYAPHUN.

Blue Pitta

Pitta cyanea

One was netted at Khao Yai on 10.12.66 by Nai SOMTOB, another was taken the following month.

House Martin

Delichon sp.

One was present over the lake on 25th and 26th December 1964, in company with substantial numbers of Red-rumped Swallows (*Hirundo daurica*) (E.C.D., J.A.T.). Of the two species that occur in Thailand the commoner is the Japanese House Martin, *Delichon dasypus*, is the more likely; the two are exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to separate in the field.

Large Wood Shrike

Tephrodornis virgatus

This species is probably present in small numbers throughout the year though it has only been found in five months. It was omitted from previous lists largely because the author was not then sure whether it was indeed this species or the similar Common Wood Shrike which is substantially smaller.

Rosy Minivet

Pericrocotus roseus

Only one record from Khao Yai. A single bird on 5th December 1965 (E.C.D.).

Sultan Tit

Melanochlora sultanea

One seen on 27th June 1965 (E.C.D.). Also reportedly seen by some of the IUCN visitors to Khao Yai at the beginning of December 1965.

Red-winged Shrike-Babbler

Pteruthius flaviscapis

A female was collected in the Park by Nai SOMTOB CHAIYA-PHUN on 26.10.66. There is no other record and the species is perhaps only a winter visitor, though it may be resident on the top of such a hill as Khao Khieow, which is still inadequately known.

Chestnut-fronted Shrike-Babbler

Pteruthius aenobarbus

A male was seen by the author on the upper slopes of Khao Khieow on 11.6.66. It was in a mixed species flock, the main constituents of which were bulbuls (*Pycnonotus melanicterus* and *Hypsipetes flavala*).

Siberian Blue Robin

Erithacus cyane

This is another species found through mist-netting. With the exception of February it has been found from October through March (R.N., S.C.).

White-crowned Forktail

Enicurus leschenaulti

First noted at Khao Yai on May 1st, 1966 (E.C.D., M.W.W.). It has been collected since by Nai SOMTOB in December 1966, and seen in June 1967. It was first seen up a small side stream, not far above the site of a previous nest of the Slaty-backed Forktail (*Enicurus schistaceus*). It is surmised that this species has previously been overlooked, and that this bird was at the lower limit of its range. This is based on the assumption that, as in Northern Thailand, it lives upstream of *Enicurus schistaceus* and hence its main range would, at Khao Yai, be the small streams running down the slopes of hills like Khao Khieow, Khao Laem etc. To underline that this is an assumption it is worth mentioning that in Malaya *Enicurus leschenaulti* occurs downstream of *Enicurus rufficapillus* which in turn occurs downstream of *Enicurus schistaceus*!

Grey Bush Chat

Saxicola ferrea

One record of a male seen near the Forestry Department Bungalow on 27th December 1964 (E.C.D., P.F.C.).

Black-browed Flycatcher-Warbler *Seicercus burkii*

The first records for Khao Yai were birds taken in mist nets by Nai SOMTOB in October 1966; other individuals were seen in the Park the following December. It is probably a regular winter visitor, though perhaps in small numbers.

Yellow-browed-Warbler

Phylloscopus inornatus

In previous publications the various Willow-or Leaf Warblers were treated as a group for they are very difficult to identify with certainty in the field. It was however thought likely that the bulk of the birds seen were of this species. One bird of this species was mist-netted by Nai SOMTOB early in December 1966.

Blyth's Leaf Warbler

Phylloscopus reguloides

One was taken at Khao Yai by Nai SOMTOB on 25.10.66. This appears to represent the first record for the species for eastern Thailand.

Yellow-breasted Leaf Warbler

Phylloscopus ricketti

Two records of single birds seen. One on 26.12.64, the second on 5.12.65. Both birds were well seen by the author.

Little Pied Flycatcher

Muscicapa westermanni

Reported by TUBB in December 1964, and again in May 1965. No further details available.

Pale-blue Flycatcher

Muscicapa unicolor

A male was seen on 5.12.65 by Colonel VINCENT and the author, and the species has also been reported by TUBB for December 1964.

Paradise Flycatcher

Terpsiphone paradisi

This species was netted by Dr. NELSON at Khao Yai in October 1966 and a male was collected by Nai SOMTOB in early December that year. There appear to be no other records.

Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus*

Seen by BRINDLEY and TUBB in December 1964. No other records.

Yellow-backed Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*

First recorded by Dr. NELSON who netted it in August 1966. Seen also by KING in July 1967.

Thick-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum agile*

Seen by KING in July 1967.

Yellow-vented Flowerpecker *Dicaeum chrysorrheum*

Reported by TUBB in December 1964, and again by KING in July 1967.

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus*

This species is probably present all the year round. It is hard to see, and, when found, hard to identify as there is almost no trace of a reddish spot on the breast. The male looks dark blue above and white below with a black streak of greater or lesser extent down the centre of the abdomen. I have no notes on female plumage nor do I recall having observed such a bird. Earlier records of unidentified birds which were certainly this have been mislaid so that the months for which it is listed in the table do not convey its regularity. It is the commonest flowerpecker on the Khao Yai plateau.

Corrections to the previous Park list :

White-vented Spinetail Swift *Chaetura cochinchinensis*

After examination of skins it has become evident that the birds seen by J.A. TUBB and myself and assigned to this species may have been *Chaetura caudacuta*, a rarer species that was at that time not recorded for Thailand. The distinctions between *C. caudacuta* and *C. cochinchinensis* are such that they would be fairly evident in the field and they would correspond with what we saw. Some literature treats these two as conspecific however and it may have been thus that we arrived at the wrong identification. In the circumstances it seems best to withdraw this record.

Blue-throated Barbet

Megalaima asiatica

A re-examination of the records shows that all records of Blue-throated Barbets from the Park, except some of the very earliest, relate to *Megalaima incognita* and since this became clear I have made a point of checking carefully each Barbet that I have seen well enough to identify—all have been *M. incognita*. It has been suggested that *M. asiatica* and *M. incognita* are mutually exclusive over most of their ranges. It now appears that Khao Yai is no exception, and that the earlier records of *M. asiatica* must have been erroneous.

Lesser Cuckoo-Shrike

Coracina fimbriata

All the Grey-birds or Cuckoo-Shrikes seen in the Park appear to have been *C. melaschista* and not *C. fimbriata* as previously suggested. Clarification of this is thanks to the paper by Captain J. DELACOUR.

Ochraceous Bulbul

Criniger ochraceus

The separation of *C. ochraceus* from *C. pallidus* is by no means easy. It is now however clear, thanks to specimens taken by Nai SOMTOB CHAIYAPHUN, that the birds listed as *Criniger ochraceus* (and in 1963 as *C. tephrogenys*) should be assigned to *C. pallidus*.

Seasonal Distribution of all species now known from Khao Yai National Park:

The following tables represent an up-to-date revision of the "Preliminary List of the Birds of Khao Yai National Park" (Dickinson 1963) with the addition of known data regarding months of occurrence. Birds taken by SMITH (see DICKINSON 1963 p. 204) are not included.

A number of doubtful records have been omitted, these either did not get into print in previous articles, were in brackets in previous papers, or have been withdrawn above or in previous notes: the following list includes one species *Lophura nycthemera* for which no month is listed. The original record though without date is accepted and is supported by such evidence as feathers that have been found more than once in the Park. It also lists the Hemipodes together, for though two species *T. tanki* and *T. suscitator* have been identified most records are not definable to species.

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