

New distributional records of Philippine birds from Bohol, Mactan, Olango, Busuanga and Luzon islands

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New distributional records of birds are important in areas such as the Philippines, where not all islands have been fully surveyed and habitat alteration and forest loss are ongoing. These records from fieldwork on avian communities and diseases conducted in 2001, 2003, 2009 and 2010 are based almost entirely on specimens archived at the University of Alaska Museum (UAM) or the National Museum of the Philippines (NMP), a number of which are proving useful in taxonomic reassessments of species limits (e.g. Lohman *et al.* 2010). Island records were deemed new when not appearing in the synopses of Dickinson *et al.* (1991) or Kennedy *et al.* (2000). Nomenclature follows Dickinson (2003). This work was conducted with all required permits.

ARDEIDAE

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*: Busuanga Island, Bintuan: 18 April & 1 May 2008 (UAM 25232 & 25233).

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*: Busuanga Island, Bintuan: 28 April 2008 (UAM 27084).

ACCIPITRIDAE

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus palawanus*: Busuanga Island, Bintuan: 9 & 28 April 2008 (UAM 24764 & 24765).

SCOLOPACIDAE

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*: Olango Island, Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary: 27 & 28 October 2001 (NMP 19880, UAM 14416). Considered a vagrant or rare migrant (Dickinson *et al.* 1991, Kennedy *et al.* 2000), this species is likely to have a regular wintering population in the Philippines which is overlooked due to the difficulty of field identification.

CUCULIDAE

Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus*: Busuanga Island, Bintuan: 29 & 30 March 2008 (UAM 27086, 25592 & 25993); 1, 8, 18, 27 & 29 April 2008 (UAM 25590, 25594, 27087, 25591 & 27088).

ALCEDINIDAE

Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda lineae*: Busuanga Island, Bintuan: 2, 15, 16, 18, 21, 27–30 April (UAM 27076, 27077, 24940, 27078, 25465, 27079, 25091 & 27081); 1 May 2008 (UAM 27082).

Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx erithacus rufidorsa*: Busuanga Island, Bintuan: 15–18 March 2008 (UAM 25451, 25453, 25450 & 24908); 1 April 2008 (UAM 24906). Here we have chosen continued use of the subspecific name *rufidorsa* pending a thorough review of the proper subspecific name for the brown-backed forms of this region. Dickinson (2003) considered *rufidorsa* to likely be based on an intergrade and chose instead to use *motleyi*; it is not clear, however, that the latter name is the appropriate one.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*: Mactan Island, Cordova: 23 November 2001 (NMP 19760).

ACANTHIZIDAE

Golden-bellied Gerygone *Gerygone sulphurea*: Olango Island, Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary: 15 October 2003 (UAM 21479 & 21480); 18 October 2003 (NMP 19859).

CAMPEPHAGIDAE

Pied Triller *Lalage nigra nigra*: Mactan Island, Cordova: 2 December 2003 (UAM 21369). Olango Island, Olango Island Wildlife

Sanctuary: 17 & 18 October 2003 (NMP 19881 & 19782; UAM 21766); 6 November 2003 (UAM 21763 & 21764).

LANIIDAE

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*: Mactan Island, Cordova: 2 December 2001 (NMP 19742). Olango Island, Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary; 5 October 2003 (NMP 19803); 14, 15 & 26 October 2003 (UAM 20995 & 20988; NMP 19844, 19868, 19806).

ORIOOLIDAE

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis chinensis*: Olango Island, Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary: 16 October 2003 (UAM 21323).

DICRURIDAE

Japanese Paradise-flycatcher *Terpsiphone atrocaudata periophthalmica*: Luzon Island, Mountain Province, Mt. Kalawitan, Apa; 16 February 2010 (UAM 24085). No previous specimens of this species have been confirmed from Luzon (Dickinson *et al.* 1991). This subspecies, which breeds on remote Lanyu and Batan islands, had been treated as a certain migrant on Luzon; this specimen and a recent sight record (Nuytemans 1998) confirm that.

RHIPIDURIDAE

Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica nigritorquis*: Olango Island, Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary: 14–17 October 2003 (UAM 21761, 21752, 21753, 21755, 21758 & 21759; NMP 19741, 19792, 19848 & 19793).

HIRUNDINIDAE

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*: Mactan Island, Cordova: 28 November 2001 (NMP 19851); 3 December 2001 (UAM 14359).

CISTICOLIDAE

White-eared Tailorbird *Orthotomus cinereiceps*: Bohol Island, Rajah Sikatuna National Park: 19–20 November 2003. [Unconfirmed; sight record – K. Winker].

PYCNONOTIDAE

Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier samarensis*: Olango Island, Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary: 15–17 October 2003 (UAM 21321 & 21315; NMP 19774 & 19845); 5–8 November 2003 (UAM 21314, 21316 & 21313; NMP 19758, 19761 & 19846).

SYLVIIDAE

Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus harterti*: Olango Island, Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary: 15 October 2003 (UAM 21020); 18 October 2003 (UAM 21018, NMP 19763). Mactan Island, Cordova: 23 November 2001 (UAM 21364 [feather sample only; included here as unconfirmed]).

Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis*: Mactan Island, Cordova: 22 November 2001 (UAM 14363).

Lemon-throated Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus cebuensis cebuensis*: Olango Island, Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary: 17 October 2003 (UAM 21000); 8 November 2003 (NMP 19770).

MUSCICAPIDAE

Narcissus Flycatcher *Ficedula narcissina narcissina*: Bohol Island, Rajah Sikatuna National Park: 17 & 23 November 2003 (UAM 21723 & 21724).

Philippine Magpie Robin *Copsychus mindanensis*: Olango Island, Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary; 18, 27–28 October 2003 (UAM

21773 & 21769; NMP 19735); 5–8 November 2003 (NMP 19737, 19843 & 19783; UAM 21771 & 21775). This taxon, formerly regarded as a subspecies of *C. saularis*, is now recognised as an endemic species (Sheldon *et al.* 2009). Some of these specimens were used in that taxonomic reassessment.

NECTARINIIDAE

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis jugularis*: Olango Island, Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary: 15–18 October 2003 (NMP 19772, 19786, 19860 & 19748; UAM 21778, 21779, 21789, 21785, 21787 & 21790).

MOTACILLIDAE

Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi gustavi*: Mactan Island, Cordova: 27 November 2001 (UAM 14360). ***Anthus gustavi*:** Busuanga Island, Bintuan: 27 April 2008 (UAM 25225).

The specific localities of the sites above were: Bohol Island, Rajah Sikatuna National Park (9.700°N 124.117°E), Busuanga Island, Bintuan (12.032°N 120.122°E), Luzon Island, Mountain Province, Mt. Kalawitan, Apa (16.947°N 120.931°E), Mactan Island, Cordova (10.250°N 123.950°E) and Olango Island, Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary (10.264°N 124.049°E).

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Some interesting breeding records for Pong Dam Wildlife Sanctuary, Himachal Pradesh, India

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Introduction

Pong Dam Wildlife Sanctuary located in Himachal Pradesh, India, is an important staging site for migratory species, such as waterfowl and shorebirds (Pandey 1993, den Besten 2004). The area is situated on the border of two important biogeographic zones, namely the Western Himalaya, an endemic bird area (BirdLife International 2003), and the Indo-Gangetic Plain. The creation of the reservoir in 1975 caused marked changes in river flow and land use patterns, thereby dramatically altering the diversity of wintering birds (Whistler 1926, Pandey 1993). The resulting change is indicated by the 555 avian species recorded for the district (den Besten 2004) as compared to 395 species recorded in the early 1920s for the Punjab plains (Whistler 1926). The large congregations of wintering avifauna warranted the sanctuary to be recognised as a Ramsar site in 2002 (www.wetlandsofindia.org) and an Important Bird Area (Islam & Rahmani 2004). Apart from the large congregations of waterfowl, the area also has significant congregations of White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*, with over 160 individuals as late as 2003 (JWdB pers. obs.) and nests in the adjoining forest (Dhadwal 2010). Sightings of Sarus Crane *Grus antigone* along with juveniles (den Besten 2004) suggest possible breeding in the areas. Here we report waterbird species and emphasise the tern species that utilise the area as a breeding ground, thus enhancing the importance of the area.

Study area and methods

This wetland (32.004°N 76.039°E) lies at the base of the Dhauladhar range in the Shiwalik hills where these open up to form a wide valley. The reservoir was created in 1975 by impounding the River Beas for the generation of electricity and flood control of downstream areas in the Punjab. Several perennial and seasonal tributaries that drain from the Dhauladhar range such as the Dehar, Bhul, Gaj and Baner also feed the reservoir. When the reservoir is filled to maximum level (423.67 m) the water body covers an area of 225 km² and at its minimum level (385.57 m) the coverage is 125 km². This wetland has two parts: the main reservoir along with the islands of Ranseer and Karu, and the outflow area, Sansarpur terrace with the Sahnehar barrage at Sathana. The surrounding hills are covered in mixed deciduous forest with *Pinus roxburghii*, *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Terminalia* sp., *Acacia catechu*, *Mallotus philippensis*, etc., but the reservoir area is devoid of woody vegetation. Along the shores of the reservoir, vegetation is limited with few aquatic macrophytes except algae, because of marked seasonal changes in the water levels. As water recedes most of the exposed areas show the presence of grasses, such as *Cyanodon dactylon*, while local farmers cultivate wheat *Triticum* spp. The Sansarpur terrace area (approx 3 km²) has a shallow waterbody with an extensive swamp with reedbeds of *Typha* sp. and *Phragmites* sp. The fringe area has wooded vegetation comprising