

an unidentified sandplover *Charadrius mongolus/leschenaultii* (Mallalieu 1988). On the afternoon of 18 August, whilst looking for waders along the east side of the lake, I noticed an unusual species which, on closer examination, proved to be an adult Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicaria* moulting out of breeding plumage. The bird remained until 21 August and during this period I observed it on several occasions at ranges down to 15 m, using a 30 x 75 telescope and 8 x 30 binoculars.

The bird usually fed by picking items from the surface of the mud, but it was once seen swimming in a typical phalarope fashion. It was about the size of a Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* when directly compared, but it had a rather squat appearance due to its relatively short legs. It was identified as a Red Phalarope on the basis of both structural and plumage features, notably the red underparts. The following notes were taken at the time. The bill was black, thick and shortish (shorter, but just as stout as Common Sandpiper), and unlike the needle-like bill of Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*. The head was mainly white with a small blackish spot just behind the eye, with dark streaking from the centre of the crown to the nape, separated by a white collar from the mantle. The rest of the upperparts were very dark brown, streaked pale brown, but with two pure grey scapulars and a pure grey tertial on each wing. The wings extended just beyond the tail, and a broad white wing-bar was visible in flight. The underparts were dusty dull brick-red, mixed with white. The legs appeared black, but may have been obscured by mud. The call was a sharp 'wit', unlike the call of any of the other waders present. All these features support the identification as Red Phalarope and the underpart colour and bill structure rule out Red-necked Phalarope (Hayman *et al.* 1986).

The Red Phalarope breeds in the Arctic and winters mainly off the west coasts of Chile, western and southern Africa. It has also been argued that the species reaches the Arabian Sea irregularly or in very small numbers. On migration they normally follow sea routes but vagrants occasionally occur inland (Cramp 1983). This was the first record of Red Phalarope from Pakistan. Blyth found a specimen in a Calcutta market in India on 11 May 1846 (Ali and Ripley 1987). This was incorrectly reported in the first edition of Ali and Ripley's *Handbook* as being three birds, and this error was repeated in Cramp (1983). Later editions of the *Handbook*, and Ripley (1961), corrected the error.

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Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*: a new species for Thailand

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On 24th February 2002, whilst birding in northern Thailand, we stopped to scan some large flocks of ducks in a medium-sized bay on the northern side of Chiang Saen lake, in Nong Bong Khai non-hunting area, Chiang Saen district, Chiang Rai province (c.20°16'N 100°05'E). Towards the far side of the bay we noted two males and one female Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* associating with a male and female Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*, both species of which we are familiar with in the U.K. and the U.S.A. It was only after continuing to another site that we realized that Greater Scaup might be rare in Thailand. After consulting Robson (2000), we found that it was only listed for the South-East Asian region as a vagrant to north Myanmar and east Tonkin, and it had not been previously been recorded in Thailand. At about 10h00 on our return journey past the same bay

we relocated the birds in roughly the same spot and took more detailed notes. They were still associating with the three Tufted Duck and diving repeatedly. We observed the birds through a 20–60x spotting scope at a range of about 100 m for about 30 minutes in near-perfect light conditions with a flat calm on the lake. We were able to observe the birds continuously from the bankside. They did not fly at any time. Also present in the bay were Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*, Lesser Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna javanica* and Garganey *Anas querquedula*, but the group of *Aythya* ducks did not associate with them during our observations.

The following description was taken. Male: larger than Tufted Duck but, unlike that species, the grey on the flanks extended onto the mantle and back, where there were vermiculations. The rear flanks and tail were

black. The head had no crest (nor even the suggestion of one), being ball-shaped, with no peaking behind the yellow eye (if anything the highest point of the head was in front of the eye). The head, neck and breast were iridescent green, but occasionally appeared blue depending on the angle. The bill was grey and slipper-shaped, being deeper at its base and notably larger than Tufted Duck. The nail was not visible. Female: head shape and size similar to the male, with no suggestion of a crest. The head, neck and chest were unmarked brown except for a prominent white patch surrounding the bill. The back, flanks and mantle were slightly lighter brown.

Greater Scaup is a summer visitor to sub-Arctic and Arctic regions of northern Europe, Asia and North America, wintering in temperate coastal waters of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of North America, and in

Europe, the Black Sea and Caspian Sea, and eastern Asia. It is abundant, with large numbers wintering in eastern Asia (Madge 1988).

The birds remained until at least 6 March 2002, and the record has been accepted by the Records Committee of Bird Conservation Society of Thailand (P. Round *in litt.* 2002).

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Vocalisations of Matinan Flycatcher *Cyornis sanfordi* in North Sulawesi, Indonesia

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The Matinan Flycatcher *Cyornis sanfordi* is a poorly known montane endemic found at 1,400–2,400 m on the northern (Minahasa) peninsula of Sulawesi; it is listed as Vulnerable by BirdLife International (2001). It was first described from a series of nine specimens amassed in a few days' collecting by Heinrich at Gunung Ile-Ile, Matinan, Gorontalo (Stresemann 1931, Stresemann and Heinrich 1939–1941). There have only been two published accounts following this. On 24 October 1981, a specimen was caught off the ridge of Gunung Kabila in the Dumoga watershed at c.1,400 m, and on 18 April 1985, the species was observed and tape-recorded at c.1,770 m at the summit of Gunung Muajat, in the Ambang range (Rozendaal and Dekker 1988). Riley and Mole (2001) reported observations and a nest site located in November 1999 at 1,450–1,500 m in Gunung Ambang nature reserve. These authors noted that the vocalisations of this species remain undescribed (although Rozendaal in Rozendaal and Dekker [1988] had planned to publish recordings). Here we describe the species's vocalisations for the first time.

We observed the species during 15–22 May 2002, at Singsingon on Gunung Ambang (0°45'N 124°25'E; coordinates from BirdLife International 2001), and on the eastern slope of Gunung Banga (0°44'N 124°26'E, 1–2 km south-east of Gunung Ambang), in broadleaved evergreen montane forest at 1,000–1,300 m (this altitudinal range encompasses records at both sites; the figures for each site separately are not available). The first site is moderately disturbed by selective logging, whereas the second is heavily deforested by a

combination of selective logging and slash-and-burn cultivation.

The birds were identified by their medium size, brown upperparts, slightly darker wings, buff-ochre vent, and pink-horn bill with a fine tip and very broad base surrounded by rictal bristles. In very good light, the birds showed a slightly contrasting grey head, brown mantle, and rufous-brown uppertail.

A total of 11 individuals were recorded: four at Singsingon, and seven at Gunung Banga. The latter site is a new locality for this species, where our observations suggested that the bird was moderately common. Of the total, five individuals were both seen and heard, five were heard but not seen, and one bird was seen only. Most birds were recorded singly, with three records of pairs. Five records were of birds associating with mixed-species flocks, typically including Rusty-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura teysmanni*, Citrine Canary Flycatcher *Culicicapa helianthea*, Sulphur-bellied Whistler *Pachycephala sulfuriventer*, Black-crowned White-eye *Zosterops atrifrons*, Streaky-headed White-eye *Lophozosterops squamiceps*, and occasionally Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis sepulcralis*, Sulawesi Cicadabird *Coracina morio*, Sulawesi Drongo *Dicrurus montanus*, and Mountain Tailorbird *Orthotomus cuculatus*.

The song (Fig. 1) comprised repeated phrases of notes that were rapid, rather thin, clear, and somewhat subdued (although sometimes loud). The pitch varied slightly between 2 kHz and 4 kHz. A series of 20–40 notes were delivered in a single phrase lasting 2–9 s, sounding like *tiitiitiitiitiitiiti*. On one occasion a second bird responded to the typical song by giving a similar



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