

was usually visible because the wings were held above it. The mantle was not normally visible on the perched bird, but became conspicuous in flight, as did the contrast between the mantle and the orange lower neck. We did not see that the thighs were yellow, which would conclusively rule out the Black-and-yellow Grosbeak *M. icterioides*, but this feature was noted by later observers and the orange on the collar is also a feature of *affinis* and not *icterioides*.

On both mornings the bird was first observed when it flew into the tops of the low trees on the edge of the marsh opposite the boardwalk. It then dropped into the bushes below the trees, where it was in the company of Common Rosefinches *Carpodacus erythrinus* and the occasional Dark-breasted Rosefinch *C. nipalensis*. On each occasion the bird was in view for approximately 30 minutes, but was not observed to feed or to drop to the ground. It did not call during our observations but B. Field (pers. comm.) stated that his attention was first attracted to it by its distinctive call.

I should like to thank Phil Round for his comments.

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Northern Shrike *Lanius excubitor*, a species new to Borneo and South-East Asia

CLIVE F. MANN and DAVID A. DISKIN

At about 16h30 on 4 October 1990 C.F.M. saw a grey, black and white bird fly low across a muddy stretch of a paddyfield onto a low bush growing on a bund about 200 m distant. It was at first reminiscent of Pied Triller *Lalage nigra*, but habitat, behaviour and jizz were wrong for that species. When viewed through a telescope down to 30 m it became obvious that it was a grey shrike *Lanius*. The bird was seen in flight on two occasions. It was larger than, and had a longer tail and a heavier bill than that of a Brown Shrike *L. cristatus*. There was a broad, black stripe running back from the eye; the crown and mantle were pale grey and the rump was white. The wings were black with a large white area, and the tail was black with much white on the outer feathers. The underparts were white, with a faint pink tinge on the breast and

lacked darker vermiculations. A prominent white bar across the primaries was obvious in flight. Bill pale.

It was identified as a Northern Shrike *L. excubitor* and the pale bill indicates that it was *L. e. pallidirostris* rather than *L. e. bianchii* or *L. e. mollis* which have been recorded in Japan. The similar Chinese Grey Shrike *L. sphenocercus* was eliminated because that species lacks the large white wing patch and has a grey rump.

D.A.D. saw the bird on the following day and concurred with the identification. However, it was not seen subsequently.

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Japanese Night-Heron *Gorsachius goisagi*, a species new to Borneo

JEN A. ELKIN

Mann (1988) reported a sighting of a Malayan Night-Heron *Gorsachius melanolophus*, feeding in daylight on swampy ground bordering a garden, at Panaga, Brunei on 28 October 1985. The bird had been identified by Clive F. Mann from photographs taken by the author. There was some doubt about the identification because the bird did not exactly fit descriptions of *melanolophus*, but it was assumed to be an undescribed plumage of that species. Other photographs of the bird, showing some features more clearly, were subsequently sent to Jeff Davies (Australia), P. D. Round (Thailand), D. S. Melville (Hong Kong) and D. R. Wells (Malaysia).

Davies (pers. comm.) concluded that the bird was a Japanese Night-Heron *G. goisagi*, based on the following characters: cap not black, unmarked; face, neck and wings dull brown richer rufous-brown in *melanolophus*; subtle pale centres to feathers on the sides of the neck (uniform in *melanolophus*); the feathers of the belly each with brown webs and a central white chevron emphasised by a blackish mark down each side (in *melanolophus* the belly feathers have a central black streak, a rufous outer web and, particularly on the central feathers, an entirely white inner web); lores yellowish (blue in *melanolophus*).

Round (pers. comm.) concurred with this diagnosis, stating that the 'plumage and bare parts quite wrong for *melanolophus*'.



Mann, C F and Diskin, D A. 1993. "Northern shrike *Lanius excubitor*, a species new to Borneo and south-east Asia." *Forktail* 8, 153–154.

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