rather parallel-sided, and the tail was fairly long. The plumage was, however, distinct and somewhat recalled Egyptian Vulture Neophron percnopterus. The entire underparts and underwing-coverts were pale whitish (lacking heavy markings), contrasting with the flight-feathers. The latter were mostly dark, but several inner primaries presented a very striking pale wedge, which in the harsh light appeared almost white. The underside of the tail also appeared pale.

A pale-phase Booted Eagle is distinctive among the numerous raptors known or likely to occur in Laos. Rufous-bellied Eagle Hieraaetus pennatus is a congeners of similar size, shape and flight actions. However, it shows much more extensive pale, of a different pattern, on the primaries and the rest of the flight-feathers never appear blackish (Clark and Schmitt 1993). The bold underside pattern in flight is sufficient to eliminate all other species; White-bellied Fish-Eagle Haliaeetus leucogaster is the only species at all similar.

Booted Eagle is a long-distance migrant with a wide breeding range from Spain to China and wintering chiefly in Africa and India (Cramp and Simmons 1980). In South-East Asia it is known from Peninsular Malaysia and Myanmar (King et al. 1977) and there are several recent passage or wintering records from Thailand (Lekagul and Round 1991). Wintering birds are typically known from a handful of records from each country across their range (Cramp and Simmons 1980). Thus, it was to be expected in Indochina.

Bouaphanh Phantavong, Veneongphet, Klaus Beckmuller and others at the Protected Areas and Wildlife Division of the National Office for Nature Conservation and Waterbird Management in Vientiane gave valuable advice and practical assistance. The survey was financed by numerous sources as listed in the errata (in press), primarily B.P. (UK) Ltd (through the International Council for Bird Preservation and the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society), the Panon Trust, Mr and Mrs J. Evans and the People’s Trust for Endangered Species.

REFERENCES


J. W. Duckworth, East Redham Farm, Pinning, Brantford, BS18 3EJ, U.K.

Russet Bush-Warbler Bradypterus seebohmi; a new species for Bhutan and the Indian subcontinent

CRAIG ROBSON

Whilst listening to some tape-recordings of birds made by Scott Connop in Bhutan I heard, in the background of one of the recordings, a Russet Bush-Warbler Bradypterus seebohmi singing. The song was familiar to me and I have tape-recorded the species in China, Thailand and Vietnam. The recording was made at Damji (2200 m elevation) in Jigme Dorji National Park, southwest Gasa on 23 May 1994.

The song of this species consists of a repetitive series of buzzing primula-like 'zree-ar' or 'zee-ar' notes. Each sequence may contain up to 20 individual notes, each of about 300-320 msec duration, and usually given at a rate of one note per 0.5-0.9 sec (Round 1992).

This record appears to be the first for Bhutan and the Indian subcontinent. However, Dumeccolus mandillus, described by Brooks (1875) from Sikkim, and subsequently synonymized with Tribula (= Bradypterus) luteovenatus by Baker (1930), seems more likely to refer to B. seebohmi. It was described as having an ash-grey breast, often marked with a few distinct spots, and with a larger bill than in luteovenatus, the lower mandible dusky not yellow. Unfortunately, the type specimen cannot now be traced.

It should be noted that the song of Russet Bush-Warbler was mistakenly attributed to Brown Bush-Warbler B. luteovenatus by King et al. (1975), causing some confusion in the subsequent literature. The song of Brown Bush-Warbler, in south-west China at least, is a long, continuous, reeling 'tic-tic-tic-tic-tic-tic' etc.

REFERENCES


Craig Robson, 63 Stafford Street, Norwich NR3 3BD, U.K.