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


ACCIPITRIDAE

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 & 25593); 1, 8, 18, 27 & 29 April 2008 (UAM 25590, 25594, 27087, 25591 & 27088).

ALCEDINIDAE
Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda*: 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).

**Orinthorhynchus cinereiceps**
*O. c. cinereiceps*: 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.


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

CAMPEPHAGIDAE

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).

ORIOLIDAE

DICRURIDAE
Japanese Paradise-flycatcher *Terpsiphone atrocaudata perioptalmica*: 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, has been treated as a certain migrant on Luzon; this specimen and a recent sight record (Nuytemans 1998) confirm that.

RHIPIDURIDAE

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

CISTICOLIDAE

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 21321 & 21315; NMP 19774 & 19845); 5–8 November 2003 (UAM 21314, 21316 & 21313; NMP 19758, 19761 & 19846).

MUSCICAPIDAE

Philippine Magpie Robin *Copsychus mindanensis*: Olango Island, Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary: 17, 28–29 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**


The specific localities of the sites above were: Bohol Island, Rajah Bintuan: 27 April 2008 (UAM 25225).

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

**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.wetlandsindia.org) and an Important Bird Area (Island & 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 area. 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 the reservoir area also has significant congregations of White-rumped Vulture. 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.wetlandsindia.org) and an Important Bird Area (Island & 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 area. 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.

**References**


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