

- Khan, M. M. H. (2008) *Protected areas of Bangladesh—a guide to wildlife*. Dhaka: Nishorgo Support Program, Bangladesh Forest Department.
- Khan, R. (2010) *Wildlife of Bangladesh—a checklist (from amphibia to mammalia with Bengali names)*. Dhaka: Shahitya Prakash.
- Rahman, M. K. & Husain, K. Z. (1988) Notes on the breeding record of the common myna, *Acridotheres tristis tristis* Linnaeus. *Bangladesh J. Zool.* 16: 155–157.
- Rashid, H. (1967) *Systematic list of the birds of east Pakistan*. Dacca: Asiatic Society of Pakistan.
- Rashid, A. (1971) The breeding biology of the jungle myna, *Acridotheres fuscus*. Unpublished M.Sc. thesis, University of Dhaka.
- Ray, P. C. (1992) Breeding birds of Ramna Park and Suhrawardy Uddyan. Unpublished M.Sc. thesis, University of Dhaka.
- Ripley, S. D. (1982) *A synopsis of the birds of India and Pakistan together with those of Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka*. Bombay: Bombay Natural History Society.
- Roberts, T. J. (1992) *The birds of Pakistan*, 2. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Sarker, S. U. (1987) Breeding records of some birds of Bangladesh. *Tigerpaper* 14: 12–17.
- Sarker, S. U. & Sarker, N. J. (1988) *Wildlife of Bangladesh (a systematic list with status, distribution and habitat)*. Dhaka: The Rico Printers.
- Schönwetter, M. (1983) *Handbuch der oologie*. Berlin: Akademie-Verlag.
- Md. Rezaul KARIM & Md. Farid AHSAN**, Department of Zoology, University of Chittagong, Chittagong-4331, Bangladesh
Email: helal03cu@gmail.com (corresponding author), faridahsan55@yahoo.com

Status of the White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* in the Philippines including two new subspecies for the country

M. S. TAÑEDO & R. O. HUTCHINSON

Introduction

The White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* is widely distributed from south-east Greenland across much of northern Eurasia, to westernmost Alaska (Alström & Mild 2003). The species is polytypic with the number of subspecies recognised varying from nine (Alström & Mild 2003, Gill & Donsker 2016) to 11 (Tyler 2016), most of which are readily distinguishable from one another, leading Sangster *et al.* (1999) to suggest that they might actually be nine phylogenetic species, an approach not supported by recent molecular data (Pavlova *et al.* 2005).

The White Wagtail has long been considered a rare winter visitor to the Philippines with a total of eight records (all subspecies *ocularis*) recognised by Dickinson *et al.* (1991), with Kennedy *et al.* (2000) including a further record assigned to the subspecies *lugens* (Nuytemans 1998). All the above records were seen between 10 October and 20 March (Kennedy *et al.* 2000). Here we present new data on the occurrence of White Wagtail in the Philippines including confirmation of two additional subspecies, *leucopsis* and *baicalensis*.

Records for the Philippines classified in terms of subspecies

Records up to 31 December 2015 were trawled from a variety of sources including the database of the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines (WBCP), eBird, and online wildlife photography forums and communities. Only records with an exact date, location, and an accurate count of birds are included in the analyses.

A total of 259 individuals have been documented (Table 1), of which the following 204 were identified to subspecies level.

Motacilla alba ocularis

The eight records involving nine individuals recognised by Dickinson *et al.* (1991) and subsequently by Kennedy *et al.* (2000) were widespread, with records from Balabac, Batan, Calayan, Lubang, Luzon, Negros, Palawan and Sanga Sanga. Since the publication of Kennedy *et al.* (2000) there have been a further 30 records involving 117 individuals (Table 1).

Motacilla alba lugens

Kennedy *et al.* (2000) included a single record of this subspecies at Pasaleng Bay, Ilocos Norte province, Luzon, on 28 February 1996 (Nuytemans 1998), but this is now supplanted as the first Philippine record by an individual seen at the Santa Fe River, Nueva Vizcaya province, Luzon, on 14 March 1990. There have now been 24 records of this subspecies involving 25 individuals (Table 1).

Motacilla alba leucopsis

The first record of *leucopsis* for the Philippines was on 30 March 2004 when an individual was observed by Jonathan Villasper and Mark Jason Villa at Barangay Tambo, Parañaque, Metro Manila, Luzon.

It was identified as *M. a. leucopsis* using the following field characters: black mantle continuing up the nape to crown; white face with no dark eye-stripe; white underparts with an isolated black breast shield which became mottled towards the throat. There have now been 35 records involving 51 individuals (Table 1).

Motacilla alba baicalensis

An adult, probably a male, was first seen on 21 March 2012 at Camiguin Norte, Babuyan Islands, Cagayan province. Images were obtained by the observers Paula Peralejo, Dada Macusi and Dexter Bongo.

It was identified as *baicalensis* using the following field characters: extensive breast shield extending downwards to lower breast and upwards around the bottom of the ear-coverts and onto the lower throat; white face and neck; black nape patch contrasting sharply with pure grey mantle and extending upwards to rear crown; bright white median and greater wing-coverts with just faint grey centres to a few of the feathers, forming a large and conspicuous white patch on the closed wing. There has been one subsequent record (Table 1).

Discussion

With only nine records involving 10 individuals in Kennedy *et al.* (2000), our summary (Table 1) shows that 259 individual White Wagtails have now been documented up to 31 December 2015; most of these records occurred between 2010 and 2015 and this reflects the increasing interest and rising skill of observers in the Philippines in the recent past. Today, it is clear that this species is better considered a scarce but regular passage migrant and non-breeding winter visitor. The relative occurrence of the four subspecies breaks down as follows: *ocularis* (62%), *lugens* (12%), *leucopsis* (25%) and *baicalensis* (1%).

Records now span the period 31 August to 14 April, an extension of 64 days over the period given by Kennedy *et al.* (2000), with a peak between October and December (Figure 1). Distribution of the records is perhaps biased towards areas with higher observer coverage such as Laoag, Ilocos Norte province, Luzon, and the Metro Manila area, Luzon; nevertheless the records are clearly concentrated in the north and north-west of the archipelago, a pattern that might be expected of a migrant arriving from north-east Asia and near the southern extent of its wintering range. Of the 259 individuals

Table 1. Summary of White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* records from the Philippines

Key: Il N = Ilocos Norte province, Luzon, I. = island, Is = islands, Bgy = Barangay, Occ. = Occidental, WBCP = Wild Bird Club of the Philippines, to trace these records, access the WBCP website <http://www.birdwatch.ph/html/record/record.html> and click on the relevant year.

Date	No. seen	Location	Source	Date	No. seen	Location	Source
Subsp. <i>ocularis</i>							
Unknown	1	Balabac, Palawan	McGregor (1909–1910)	30 March 2004	1	Bgy Tambo, Parañaque, Metro Manila, Luzon	WBCP
Unknown	1	Unknown, Luzon	McGregor (1909–1910)	18 October 2004	1	Bancoran I., San Miguel Is, Palawan	WBCP
December 1891	2	Unknown, Palawan	Kennedy <i>et al.</i> (2000)	12–20 October 2005	1	Bgy Poblacion, Calayan I., Cagayan	eBird.org (Mark Villa)
Unknown	1	Unknown, Negros	Rabor <i>et al.</i> (1970)	1 January 2006	1	San Juan, Metro Manila, Luzon	WBCP
Unknown	1	Sanga Sanga, Tawi-Tawi	DuPont & Rabor (1973)	23 February 2010	1	Sabang, Palawan	WBCP
Unknown	1	Batan I., Batanes	Kennedy <i>et al.</i> (2000)	5 January 2011	1	Bgy San Francisco, San Nicolas, Il N, Luzon	WBCP
1 November 1902	1	Lubang I., Mindoro Occ.	McGregor 1909–1910	1 November 2011	1	Laoag River, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP
1 October 1903	1	Calayan I., Cagayan	McGregor 1909–1910	4 November 2011	3	Laoag River, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP
19 February 1990	1	Manila Bay, Luzon	eBird.org (Don Roberson)	24 October 2012	1	Bgy San Lorenzo, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP
14 March 2005	2	Bgy Poblacion, Calayan I., Cagayan	eBird.org (Mark Villa)	28 November–15 December 2011	4	La Mesa Ecopark, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Luzon	WBCP
9–10 January 2010	1	Siffu Bridge, Roxas, Isabela, Luzon	Desmond Allen pers. comm.	6 October 2012–23 February 2013	2	La Mesa Ecopark, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Luzon	WBCP
29 October–3 November 2011	3	Batan I., Batanes	WBCP	7 January 2013	1	Bgy San Lorenzo, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP
4 November 2011	4	Laoag River, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP	6 February 2013	2	Alabang, Metro Manila, Luzon	WBCP
24 November 2011	3	Laoag River, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP	8 March 2013	1	Bgy San Lorenzo, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP
23–24 October 2012	2	Bgy San Lorenzo, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP	19 March 2013	1	Vavayak, Batan I., Batanes	WBCP
7 January 2013	1	Bgy San Lorenzo, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP	11 September 2013	3	Bgy San Lorenzo, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP
30 January 2013	1	Bgy San Lorenzo, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP	15 October 2013	2	La Mesa Ecopark, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Luzon	WBCP
8 March 2013	2	Bgy San Lorenzo, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP	20 October 2013	2	Bgy San Lorenzo, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP
20 October 2013	2	Bgy San Lorenzo, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP	30 December 2013	3	Bgy San Lorenzo, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP
29 October 2013	2	Bgy San Lorenzo, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP	30 September 2014	1	Sabang, Palawan	WBCP
30 January 2014	1	Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP	2 October 2014	1	Semirara I., Antique, Panay	WBCP
14 October 2014	2	Bgy San Lorenzo, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP	14 October 2014	1	Bgy San Lorenzo, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP
16 October 2014	4	Bgy San Lorenzo, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP	17 October 2014	1	Ayala Alabang, Metro Manila, Luzon	WBCP
27 October 2014	4	Bgy San Lorenzo, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP	19 October 2014	2	Ayala Alabang, Metro Manila, Luzon	WBCP
1 November 2014	4	Bgy San Lorenzo, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP	27 October 2014	1	Bgy San Lorenzo, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP
7 November 2014	4	Bgy San Lorenzo, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP	7 November 2014	1	Bgy San Lorenzo, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP
18 December 2014	3	Bgy Lagui, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP	25 December 2014	2	San Nicolas, Il N, Luzon	WBCP
25 December 2014	15	San Nicolas, Il N, Luzon	WBCP	31 December 2014	2	San Nicolas, Il N, Luzon	WBCP
31 December 2014	9	San Nicolas, Il N, Luzon	WBCP	2 January 2015	1	Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP
31 January 2015	4	San Nicolas, Il N, Luzon	WBCP	4 March 2015	1	San Nicolas, Il N, Luzon	WBCP
4 February 2015	1	Apo I. Reef, Sablayan, Mindoro Occ.	WBCP	13 April 2015	1	San Nicolas, Il N, Luzon	WBCP
27 February 2015	21	San Nicolas, Il N, Luzon	WBCP	21 April 2015	1	San Nicolas, Il N, Luzon	WBCP
23 March 2015	1	San Nicolas, Il N, Luzon	WBCP	31 August 2015	1	Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP
26 March 2015	2	San Nicolas, Il N, Luzon	WBCP	23 September 2015	1	Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP
31 March 2015	2	San Nicolas, Il N, Luzon	WBCP	08 December 2015	1	San Nicolas, Il N, Luzon	WBCP
15 November 2015	5	San Nicolas, Il N, Luzon	WBCP				
22 November 2015	5	San Nicolas, Il N, Luzon	WBCP				
8 December 2015	6	San Nicolas, Il N, Luzon	WBCP				
Total	126			Total	51		
Subsp. <i>lugens</i>							
14 March 1990	1	Santa Fe River, Nueva Vizcaya, Luzon	eBird.org (Don Roberson)	Subsp. <i>baicalensis</i>			
28 February 1996	1	Pasaleng Bay, Il N, Luzon	Nuytemans (1998)	21 March 2012	1	Camiguin Norte, Babuyan Is., Cagayan	WBCP
11 March 2006	1	Pamoctan I., Babuyan Is., Cagayan	WBCP	20 March 2014	1	Mahatao, Batan I., Batanes	WBCP
29 October 2010	1	Basco, Batan I., Batanes	WBCP				
1 April 2013	1	Itbayat I., Batanes	WBCP				
20 March 2014	1	Ivana, Batan I., Batanes	WBCP				
22 March 2014	1	Bgy San Lorenzo, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP				
16 October 2014	1	Bgy San Lorenzo, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP				
27 October 2014	1	Bgy San Lorenzo, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP				
1 November 2014	1	Bgy San Lorenzo, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP				
1 November 2014	1	Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP				
7 November 2014	1	Bgy San Lorenzo, Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP				
23 December 2014	2	Basco, Batan I., Batanes	WBCP				
25 December 2014	1	San Nicolas, Il N, Luzon	WBCP				
31 December 2014	1	San Nicolas, Il N, Luzon	WBCP				
27 February 2015	1	San Nicolas, Il N, Luzon	WBCP				
04 March 2015	1	San Nicolas, Il N, Luzon	WBCP				
10 April 2015	1	Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP				
13 April 2015	1	San Nicolas, Il N, Luzon	WBCP				
14 April 2015	1	Laoag, Il N, Luzon	WBCP				
14 November 2015	1	LPPCHEA, Parañaque, Manila Bay, Luzon	eBird.org (Josiah David Quimpo)				
22 November 2015	1	Basco, Batan I., Batanes	WBCP				
22 November 2015	1	San Nicolas, Il N, Luzon	WBCP				
08 December 2015	1	San Nicolas, Il N	WBCP				
Total	25			Total	55		

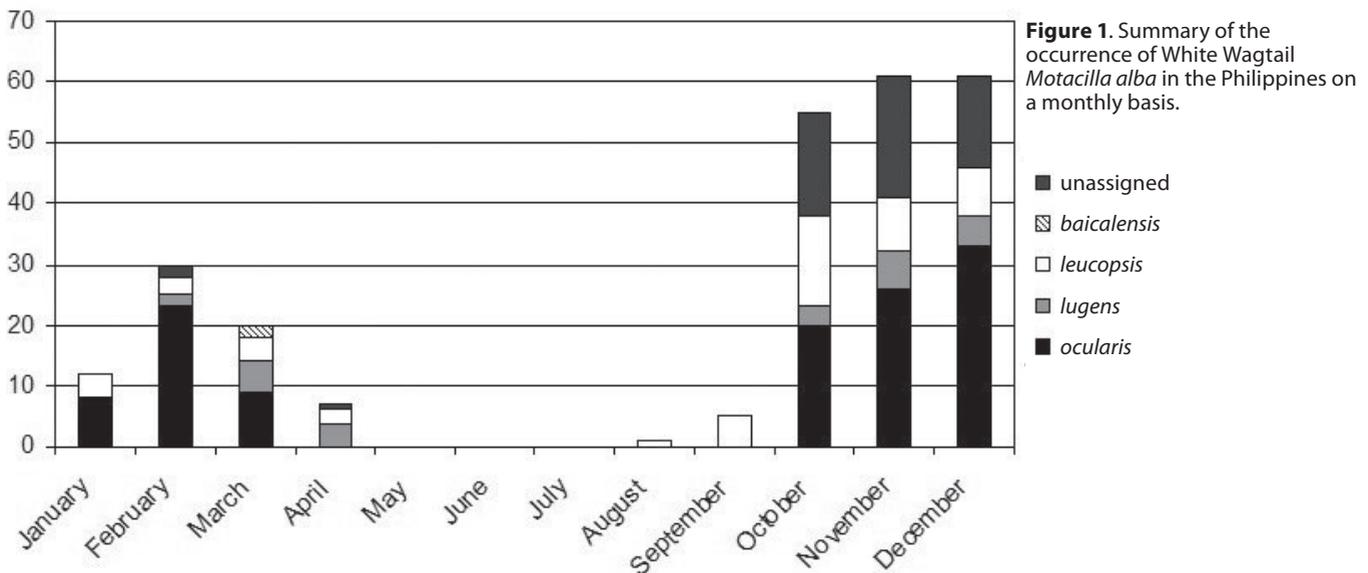


Figure 1. Summary of the occurrence of White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* in the Philippines on a monthly basis.

recorded, 53 (20.4%) were from the two island groups, the Batanes and the Babuyans, lying north of Luzon in the Luzon Strait separating the Philippines from Taiwan, and 194 (75.0%) on north and north-west Luzon, as far south as Manila Bay, with only six (2.3%) from Palawan to the south-west, and the remaining six (2.3%) being widely scattered across the south of the country.

The addition of two new *Motacilla alba* subspecies—*leucopsis* and *baicalensis*—to the Philippine avifauna is significant given the confused taxonomy of the *M. alba* complex (see introduction). The possibility of two other currently recognised subspecies—*personata* and *alboides*—also reaching the Philippines as vagrants is high and continued scrutiny of all sightings down to subspecies level is recommended. Although Gill & Donsker (2016) and thus WBCP (2016) consider *M. alba* a single species with nine subspecies, Sangster *et al.* (1999) recognised the same nine taxa as full biological species. Careful documentation of all *M. alba* sightings to subspecies level will ensure that detailed records from the Philippines will be available for scrutiny when taxonomic changes are proposed in future.

References

- Alström, P. & Mild, K. (2003) *Pipits & wagtails*. London: Christopher Helm.
- Dickinson, E. C., Kennedy, R. S. & Parkes, K. C. (1991) *The birds of the Philippines: an annotated check-list*. Tring, UK: British Ornithologists' Union Check-list 12.
- DuPont, J. E. & Rabor, D. S. (1973) Additions and corrections to number 9. Nemoiria. eBird.org Access from <http://ebird.org/ebird/country/PH>
- Gill, F. & Donsker, D., eds. (2016) *IOC World Bird List* (version 6.1).
- Kennedy, R. S., Gonzales, P. C., Dickinson, E. C., Miranda, H. C. & Fisher, T. H. (2000) *A guide to the birds of the Philippines*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- McGregor, R. C. (1909–1910) *A manual of Philippine birds*. Manila: Bureau of Printing.
- Nuytemans, H. (1998) Notes on Philippine birds: interesting records from northern Luzon and Batan Island. *Forktail* 14: 39–42.
- Pavlova, A., Zink, R. M., Rohwer, S., Koblik, E. A., Red'kin, Y. A., Fadeev, I. V. & Nesterov, E. V. (2005) Mitochondrial DNA and plumage evolution in the white wagtail *Motacilla alba*. *J. Avian Biol.* 36: 322–336.
- Rabor, D. S., Alcala, A. C. & Gonzales, R. B. (1970) A list of the land vertebrates of Negros Island, Philippines. *Silliman J.* 17: 297–316
- Sangster, G., Hazevoet, C. J., Van den Berg, A. B., Roselaar, C. S. & Sluys, R. (1999) Dutch avifaunal list: species concepts, taxonomic instability, and taxonomic changes in 1977–1998. *Ardea* 87: 139–165.
- Tyler, S. (2016) White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*). In J del Hoyo, A. Elliott, J. Sargatal, D. A. Christie & E. de Juana, eds. *Handbook of the birds of the world alive*. Barcelona: Lynx Edicions. Accessed from <http://www.hbw.com/node/57821> on 10/02/2016.
- WBCP (2004–2015) *Wild bird records 2004–2015* accessed from <http://www.birdwatch.ph/html/record/record.html>.
- WBCP (2016) *Checklist of birds of the Philippines 2016*. Accessed from www.birdwatch.ph on 10/02/2016.

Maia S. TAÑEDO, Caras de Andalucia, Congressional Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines. Email: teachermaia@gmail.com

Robert O. HUTCHINSON, 26 Sutton Avenue, Chellaston, Derby DE73 6RJ, UK. Email: robhutchinson@birdtourasia.com