

(*P. r. fokiensis* and *P. d. ogilviegranti*) and in South Annam, Viet Nam (*P. r. ticehursti* and *P. d. klossi*) (Watson *et al.* 1986).

The Blyth's Leaf-Warblers were distinguished from White-tailed Leaf-Warbler (of subspecies *davisoni*, breeding on Doi Inthanon) primarily by (1) song and calls (also begging calls of juveniles) which were subtly although consistently different (one species did not respond to play-back of the other species' song), (2) tail pattern (Blyth's showed a narrow white border to the tip and edge of the inner web of the outermost rectrix, frequently also whitish mottling centrally on the same feather, although not almost completely white inner web as in White-tailed; the tail pattern is often extremely difficult to judge in the field) and (3) antagonistic behaviour (when agitated, Blyth's has a distinctive habit of lifting one wing at a time; White-tailed flicks both wings simultaneously and with a much quicker action than Blyth's). Also, the feeding behaviour usually differs significantly between the two species. Unlike White-tailed, Blyth's has the characteristic of looking on the undersides of branches, frequently hanging head-down almost vertically.

It may seem surprising that Blyth's Leaf-Warbler has been overlooked as a breeding bird on Doi Inthanon. However, many Blyth's Leaf-Warblers have probably routinely been identified as White-tailed Leaf-Warbler, which is known to breed commonly on Doi Inthanon. Moreover, those visiting birdwatchers who correctly identified Blyth's Leaf-Warblers probably did not bother too much about whether or not they were breeding.

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Per Alström, Kungsgatan 3, 462 33 Vänersborg, Sweden.

Urban Olsson, University of Göteborg, Dept. of Zoology, Section of Morphology and Systematics, Box 25059, 400 31 Göteborg, Sweden.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*: a new species for Sri Lanka

REX I. DE SILVA, ENOKA PERERA, LESTER PERERA and
KANISHKA SAMARASINGHE

On 1 November 1992, at approximately 10h20, we were on the tidal mudflats in the northern part of Negombo Lagoon (79°50'E 7°11'N). A flock of about 60 Whiskered Terns *Chlidonias hybridus* were perched on a brush-pile fish-trap about 80 m from us. An unidentified tern was also perched on the trap in the midst of the Whiskered Terns and was observed through a 20x80 telescope for more than 30 minutes.

The bird was slightly smaller than a Whiskered Tern. Its mantle was brown and grey, the wings were brownish-grey with darker primaries and a prominent dark carpal bar. The underparts were white, and the bill, irides and legs were black. The rump and slightly forked tail were light grey - the rectrix tips being somewhat darker. Its forehead, chin and neck were white and a cap, which extended downwards behind the eyes, was present. The cap was dark grey in front, and sooty-black at the rear, changing to brownish at the edges. A small diffuse greyish patch was present on each side of the breast below the closed forewing. The bird preened continuously whilst under observation.

The bird was superficially similar to a juvenile White-winged Tern *C. leucopterus*, but the following features served to distinguish it. The grey rump (*contra* white); lack of a prominent saddle effect on the mantle; longer bill; different cap/head pattern; and the grey patches at the sides of the breast (always lacking in White-winged Tern).

On reference to Harrison (1985) it was clear that the bird was a juvenile Black Tern *C. niger*. This is the first record of the species from Sri Lanka. Six individuals have been recorded from India, including four at Point Calimere, Tamil Nadu (Alexander 1950, Abdulali and Ambedkar 1983, Natarajan and Balasubramian 1991, Menon 1992).

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Rex I. De Silva, Hepporawatte, Dampe, Madapatha, Piliyandala, Sri Lanka
 Enoka Perera, 69/3, Green Path, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka
 Lester Perera, 34/2, S de S. Jayasinghe, Mawatha, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka
 Kanishka Samarasinghe, 25/1, Minuwangoda Road, Negombo, Sri Lanka.

Long-billed Plover *Charadrius placidus*: a new species for Sri Lanka

REX I. DE SILVA and LESTER PERERA

At about 13h00 on 10 January 1993 we were observing birds on the sandspit at the mouth of the Chilaw Lagoon (79°47'E 7°36'N) in north-west Sri Lanka. Several species of terns, two Sooty Gulls *Larus hemprichi* and some shorebirds were visible. A wader which neither of us could identify, flew along the shoreline and settled down on the sandspit about 25 m from us.

The bird appeared intermediate in size between a Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* and a Greater Sand-Plover *C. leschenaultii*. The upperparts were brown and the underparts were white. A greyish-brown breast-band was present. The crown and lores were the same colour as the upperparts and there was a light brown supercilium. The forehead was off-white, the chin and neck were white and there was a white collar. The bill was blackish, the legs were yellowish-grey, the irides were dark brown and there was a thin, but prominent, white wing-bar. The bird bore a superficial resemblance to a Common Ringed Plover in winter plumage, but the noticeably longer legs, bill and tail served to distinguish it from that species.

The bird was observed for approximately 10 minutes with 8x40 and 8x30 binoculars. On subsequently referring to Hayman *et al.* (1986) it was apparent that the bird was a Long-billed Plover *C. placidus*. This is the first record of the species for Sri Lanka.

The Long-billed Plover breeds in north-east Asia, and most migrate south or south-west after breeding, although small resident populations occur in southern Japan and parts of southern China. It winters from Nepal east to eastern China and in South Korea and has wandered to Peninsular Malaysia, Brunei and Bali. However, it has not been recorded previously from south of 22°S in the Indian subcontinent (Thompson *et al.*, this issue).

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Rex I. De Silva, Hepporawatte, Dampe, Madapatha, Piliyandala, Sri Lanka
 Lester Perera, 34/2, S. de S. Jayasinghe Mawatha, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka.

Asian Stubtail *Urosphena squameiceps*: a new species for Nepal and the Indian subcontinent

ALAN LEWIS

On 21 January 1993 I visited the Dharan forest which lies just north of Itahari in eastern Nepal. In general the forest was disappointingly quiet but, upon investigating a slight rustle on the forest floor, I was pleased to find an Asian Stubtail (Stub-tailed Bush-Warbler) *Urosphena squameiceps*. It was hopping jerkily on long, flexed legs in a fashion typical of the genus, and close views were obtained for about 30 seconds before it disappeared.

The main features noted were the dark brown upperparts, whitish underparts, very long buffish-white supercilium and a tailless appearance. The legs and large feet were very pale pink. The views were not sufficient to see the indistinct scaling on the forehead which is characteristic of the species, and it was not heard to call.

I am very familiar with *Urosphena squameiceps* in its wintering areas in Thailand, and had seen several at Khao Yai National Park less than three weeks previously.

It was a surprise to discover that this is apparently the first record for Nepal and the Indian subcontinent. King *et al.* (1975) give the wintering range in South-East Asia as 'Burma (except NE); NW, NE, SE and peninsular Thailand; NW Tonkin; Laos; Hong Kong.' It is perhaps to be expected that a long distance migrant such as the Asian Stubtail, which breeds in north-east Asia and regularly winters as far west as Myanmar (Burma), should occasionally stray further west.

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Alan Lewis, 4 Troutbeck Avenue, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 4JA, U.K.