

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 *H. kienerii* is a congener 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.* 1975) 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.

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

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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 (2,200 m elevation) in Jigme Dorji National Park, south-west Gasa on 23 May 1994.

The song of this species consists of a repetitive series of buzzing prinia-like 'zreee-ut' or 'zree-ut' 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, *Dumeticola mandelli*, described by Brooks (1875) from Sikkim, and subsequently synonymized with *Tribura* (= *Bradypterus*) *l. luteoventris* 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 *luteoventris*, 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. luteoventris* 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.

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