

Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush *Garrulax rufogularis*: a new species for China

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On 11 March 1999 ND, PT, J. Hornskov and D. Johnson were birding in subtropical hill forest near Ruili, in extreme south-west Yunnan province, China. DJ was in the lower reaches of a ravine, while the other three of us were together near the head of the ravine around a large complex of mature bamboo and dense waist-high ground flora. Several Red-billed Scimitar Babblers *Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps*, at least two Red-faced Liocichlas *Liocichla phoenicea*, several Grey-throated Babblers *Stachyris nigriceps* and a White-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula monileger* had all been showing intermittently when a single laughingthrush-sized bird emerged from a low, thick tangle of bamboo and flew up to perch briefly on a side branch of a tree some 20 m up the slope from ND. After a short time, perhaps only 20 seconds or so, the bird dived leftwards across the slope and disappeared into dense cover; subsequent prolonged searching failed to relocate it. Both ND and PT, from different positions, had binocular views of the bird at rest: the back, wings and breast were obscured from ND, while the head and foreparts were obscured from PT. Unfortunately it was not initially in view to JH and he got only a naked-eyed glimpse when it flew off. The following is a composite description from the notes of ND and PT.

Head and neck appeared largely blackish, with prominent tawny-buff loreal patch curving upwards in front of eye; pale rufous chin and whitish throat. Typically strong laughingthrush bill appeared dark. Underside of longish graduated tail appeared very dark, but with rufous tips to feathers; undertail coverts and rear ventral area rich tawny-rufous. Wings and lower back plain mid-brown with pale edges to tips of flight feathers. Rear flanks pale buff with bold black crescentic bars.

Despite the brief views ND and PT had no hesitation in identifying the bird as a Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush *Garrulax rufogularis*, a species with which they both had previous experience, ND as recently as December 1998 at Cherrapunjee, Meghalaya, India. There are seven recognised races of *Garrulax rufogularis*, ranging from Pakistan and the western Himalayas to the hill states of north-east India and northern Myanmar, and north Vietnam, but our sighting is the first record for China. Western Yunnan is adjacent to Kachin state in northern Myanmar where *G. r. rufiberbis* has been recorded previously in Myitkyina district (as well as in Nagaland, India); the city of Myitkyina is about 150 km almost due north of Ruili.

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Streak-breasted Woodpecker *Picus viridanus* in Bangladesh: re-identification of the region's sole specimen recorded as Laced Woodpecker *P. vittatus*

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The Laced Woodpecker *Picus vittatus* and the Streak-breasted Woodpecker *Picus viridanus* are largely allopatric, but locally occur in the same area, where they occupy different habitats (Deignan 1955). Although Deignan considered them conspecific, arguing that habitat partitioning does not constitute true sympatry, most recent works accept them as separate species. Both taxa show considerable variation, leading to much confusion in the literature, and resulting in the erroneous assumption of widespread sympatry (Kloss 1926). A

third very similar species, the Streak-breasted Woodpecker *Picus xanthopygaeus*, occurs through much of the Indian subcontinent, and overlaps in range with the other two. Were it not for these zones of sympatry, these three species would surely be considered conspecific. Although the races in the area of sympatry (*P. v. viridanus* and *P. vittatus connectans*, *sensu* Deignan 1961) are not as distinct from one another as are some others, neither do they appear to intergrade, and in the southern Malay Peninsula (*P. viridanus weberi* and *P. v.*