

back to the strangler-fig as it had done previously. This time, however, it perched on a horizontal piece of the central trunk system where it was joined by the juvenile. The adult looked in the torchlight resembled a small, slim Barn Owl *T. alba*, with the most obvious difference being the small facial disk in relation to its body size, giving a tapering appearance to the head and neck in a side view.

Both birds remained sitting quietly until the first light of dawn, when the adult, followed shortly by the juvenile, climbed down into a hole behind their perch and disappeared from view.

REFERENCE

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Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*; a new species for the Philippines

BRIAN GEE

On 21 February 1997, at approximately 840 m at Hamut Camp near the base of Los Dos Cuemos (17°33'N 121°59'E, see Jacobsen *et al.* 1996) in the Sierra Madre range in Isabella Province, northern Luzon I observed a Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*. It was close to a trail passing through an area of lush forest understorey where I had previously seen a Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope*, and knew to be within the territory of a Whiskered Pitta *Pitta kochi*. I was therefore moving very slowly and my attention was drawn by a soft *tshhk.....tshhk* call, which was repeated regularly from the track side. By imitating the call I persuaded the bird to creep out of cover, where it gave good views for some minutes before working its way back into the vegetation and disappearing.

It was a classic individual, appearing stocky with noticeably pale, thick legs and pale stubby bill, a well-marked head with a long upwardly-kinked supercilium. Its slightly raised tail showed the rear flanks and undertail coverts to be buffy in tone, contrasting with paler underparts.

I was convinced with the identification as Radde's Warbler and didn't think much more about it until I returned to civilisation and, whilst getting my notes up to date, was surprised to find that Radde's Warbler did not appear on any of the Philippine checklists I was using. I subsequently found that neither duPont (1971) nor Dickinson *et al.* (1991) list it as having occurred in the Philippines.

The only potential confusion species: Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*, which could easily be ruled out on the combination of features noted, is also a rare bird in the Philippines with only one record cited by Dickinson *et al.* (1991): c. 15 km from San Jose, Mindoro on 15 April 1971. There are no Philippine records of Yellow-streaked Warbler *Phylloscopus armandii*, although this species could also be ruled out on call and structure.

The occurrence of Radde's Warbler in the Philippines is not particularly surprising. Eastern Siberian populations migrate across Manchuria and Korea, passing through north-east and east China to winter in south China, Myanmar, Indochina and Thailand. It has been recorded annually in Hong Kong in recent years (Hong Kong Bird Reports 1990-1995), a locality only about 960 km from northern Luzon.

REFERENCES

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