

screws. After the clip had been screwed tightly to the tail, the screws were cut near the tightening nut and Superglue used to prevent the nut loosening. Superglue was also used to prevent the clip from slipping off the tail. Back mounts were composed of the transmitter with battery, attached to a small piece of cloth gauze. This package was glued to the bases of back-feathers. Superglue was utilised in both mounting techniques, whilst epoxy-resin (Rapid Araldite) was used to cover, and therefore waterproof, the whole tag.

Dusting by a Green Cochoa *Cochoa viridis*

JOSEP DEL HOYO and ENRIC CARRERA

At around 10h00 on 7 August 1986, about a kilometre beyond the checkpoint at km38 on the road to Mae Chaem in Doi Inthanon National Park, Thailand, we observed a male Green Cochoa *Cochoa viridis* dusting. It used a metre-wide strip of bare earth between the tarmac and the vegetation, at a point where montane forest practically abutted the road. During the two minutes or so that we had the bird in view, we were able to approach it to within 10m; its actions were similar to those of a sparrow *Passer* when dusting. When it finally flew up, it joined another Green Cochoa whose sex we could not determine, and together they moved fairly low through the trees near the road until lost to sight.

This took place on the third day of our visit to Doi Inthanon, throughout which it was consistently very cloudy with intermittent, usually very light rain. The dusting took place in a dry spell, but it started drizzling fifteen minutes later; indeed, only some 300m further along the road to Mae Chaem, we encountered very dense fog.

We can find no reference to dusting by this species, and P. D. Round, whom we told of our observation, knew of no similar record in Thailand, where probably the majority of sightings of Green Cochoa are currently made.

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A Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris* nest in Nepal

P. J. HEATH

On the morning of 27 April 1986, I briefly watched a pair of Short-billed Minivets *Pericrocotus brevirostris* building a nest in an area of forest just above Hanga Than (c. 27°05'N 87°54'E), at about 2,140m, in the upper Mai valley in eastern Nepal.

The nest structure was built on a flat fork, about half-way along a large moss- and lichen-covered branch at a height of about 10m in a large tree,

below canopy height. It seemed to consist of a rough platform with a cup of mosses and lichen being constructed on it. Both birds were observed adding small pieces of moss and lichen to the nest, although only one would leave the immediate area at any time to gather material from nearby trees, while its mate, usually the male, remained close to the nest.

The date, nest site, situation and construction all seem to be similar to nests described for other minivet species Campephagidae, which are placed high in a tree on a horizontal branch and have a woven cup lined with lichens as their basic structure (Ali and Ripley 1984).

This is the first nest of Short-billed Minivet recorded from Nepal (Inskipp and Inskipp 1985), and apparently for anywhere within its range (Ali and Ripley 1984).

I would like to thank Rodney Martins for comments on this note.

REFERENCES

- Ali, S. and Ripley, S. D. (1984) *Handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan*. Compact edition. Delhi: Oxford University Press.
 Inskipp, C. and Inskipp, T. (1985) *A guide to the birds of Nepal*. London: Croom Helm.
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Bristled Grass Warbler *Chaetornis striatus* new to and breeding in Nepal, and its separation from Large Grass Warbler *Graminicola bengalensis*

P. J. HEATH and D. M. THORNS

On 6 May 1986, while birdwatching near Meghauli, at the western end of Royal Chitwan National Park, Nepal, P.J.H. found what he believed to be a Bristled Grass Warbler *Chaetornis striatus* in the riverine grassland bordering the Rapti River, just inside the park. An extensive search of the area produced a minimum of five individuals. He was joined on 9 May 1986 by D.M.T. who was also able to observe these birds perching openly on the tops of grass stems, performing prolonged song flights and, on 13 May, nest building.

The presence of a species previously unrecorded from Nepal in such a well-watched area left us puzzled, especially since several birds were present, indicating an established colony. Identification appeared straightforward from the plates in Ali and Ripley (1983), but absolute certainty was confounded by the unavailability of further information about this species or Large Grass Warbler *Graminicola bengalensis*, a species regularly recorded at Chitwan but which we had not encountered at that time.

Subsequent examination of skins at the British Museum (Natural History), Tring, confirmed that differences between the two species are indeed as marked as depicted in Ali and Ripley (1983) and were in accordance with the plates and limited descriptions given in Ali and Ripley (1972). On the basis of the information below, future observers at Chitwan should have little difficulty in separating them, given adequate views.

DESCRIPTION

The fact that the birds were actively breeding made observations relatively easy and we were able to compile the following notes.

Generally a large buffy-fawn warbler with a distinctive song and bill shape. Size about that of Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*, though no direct comparison was made. When perched, appeared upright, flat-crowned and somewhat long-necked. Upperparts buffy-fawn, crown slightly richer brown indistinctly streaked darker. Mantle and scapulars heavily streaked blackish, recalling Striated Warbler *Megalurus palustris*. Tertiaries long, dark blackish brown, fringed pale buff and contrasting with uniformly paler greater coverts and remiges. Faint whitish orbital ring and thin off-white supercilium contrasting with plain brown cheeks and ear-coverts. Throat white. Rest of underparts washed with greyish-buff of variable strength, becoming white on the belly and vent. Tail long, graduated and broad. Upper surface of tail dull brown, with numerous fine dark bars. Feathers tipped buffy white on upperside and clean white on underside. Central tail feathers paler, creating a two-tone effect to the tail as a whole when fanned. Uppertail coverts and, more indistinctly, rump regularly streaked darker. The wings appeared rather short, especially during song flight.

The dark bill appeared distinctly short and thick creating the curious impression of a large warbler with a shrike-like bill. Legs were fleshy pink, eye dark.

The song, based on two somewhat sparrow-like notes arranged in pairs, was incessantly repeated in song flight: 'ji jee' (pitch rising) . . . 'jee ji' (pitch falling) etc., with a c.0.5s interval between each pair of notes. Calls noted were a strong, harsh 'cha' and a soft 'zip'.

The song flights were often of about a minute's duration. The birds would leave the top of a grass stem where they had been perching and cover a wide circle, about 3m above the tops of the grass, in a gently undulating flight in