

January 1984; two on Band Kushdil Khan lake, Baluchistan on 20 January 1984; one on Kund lake, Hab Chowki, Lasbela in March 1986; and two on Khabbaki lake, Salt Range in January 1987 (Roberts 1991).

#### REFERENCE

Roberts, T. J. (1991) *The birds of Pakistan*, 1. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

## Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*: a new species for Sri Lanka

OLE F. JAKOBSEN

On 5 February 1994 I observed an Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* when visiting Victoria Park in Nuwara Eliya Town (6°58'N 80°55'E), Sri Lanka. The observation was made from 17h00 to 17h30 on the east side of the Park near Park Road at 1900 m. The thrush, observed at a distance of 6-7 m, was first moving around on the ground (10 minutes), and thereafter perching on a branch (5 minutes). The weather was overcast with a soft drizzle of rain. I used Bushnell 9x36 binoculars. Notes were taken and the bird described as follows: size like that of Pied Thrush *Zoothera wardii* (seen 15 minutes earlier in the Park); upperparts uniform pale brown; supercilium, which extended from bill to side of nape, white and very prominent; lores dark with a short white line underneath; malar stripe grey with a white line above; side of head uniform pale grey; chin white and throat uniform pale grey like side of head; upper breast, sides of breast and flanks uniform pale reddish brown; belly white; tarsus yellowish; bill yellowish and iris dark.

I had no doubt that it was a thrush and was right from the beginning aware of the significance of the observation. I am familiar with Eyebrowed Thrush from several observations in Malaysia and the Philippines. However, to rule out any possible confusion with other thrushes, Ali and Ripley (1983) was consulted on the spot and the other references below after having returned home. From the literature it was obvious that no other thrush has the combination of uniform pale grey throat and uniform reddish brown breast together with a prominent white supercilium.

This is the first record of Eyebrowed Thrush for Sri Lanka. The species is a common winter visitor from the breeding-grounds in Siberia (Yenisey east to Sea of Okhotsk, south to Lake Baikal) to southern Japan, southern China, north-east India, the Philippines, South-East Asia and the Greater Sundas. Eyebrowed Thrush has also straggled to Europe, Arabia, Alaska

(Cramp 1988), north-east Sulawesi and Flores (White and Bruce 1986), and elsewhere in the Indian subcontinent: South Andaman Island and north Karnataka (Ali and Ripley 1973), Nepal (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991), Madras, Tamil Nadu (Santharam 1985) and the Maldives (Ash, this issue).

The species was feeding on open ground free of herbs, but with some leaf litter, in the same area as an Indian Pitta *Pitta brachyura* and a Spot-winged Thrush *Zoothera spiloptera* (though not seen together). This habitat was shaded by dense trees and bushes and some parts of it were used as a dump for garden compost. The thrush was turning over dead leaves, probably in search for invertebrates.

The bird was seen later by other observers and remained until at least 28 February (T. Loseby).

I thank S. W. Kotagama and B. O. Poulsen for their comments on the manuscript.

#### REFERENCES

- Ali, S. and Ripley, S. D. (1973) *Handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan*, 9. Bombay: Oxford University Press.
- Ali, S. and Ripley, S. D. (1983) *A Pictorial Guide to the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent*. Bombay: Oxford University Press.
- Ash, J. S. (1994) Birds of the Maldives Islands, Indian Ocean. *Forktail* 10.
- Cramp, S., ed. (1988) *The birds of the Western Palearctic*, 5. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Dement'ev, G.P. and Gladkov, N. A. (1968) *Birds of the Soviet Union*, 6. Jerusalem: Israel Program for Scientific Translations Ltd.
- King, B. F., Dickinson, E. C. and Woodcock, M. W. (1975) *A field guide to the birds of South-East Asia*. London: Collins.
- Meyer de Schauensee, R. (1984) *The birds of China*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Santharam, V. (1985) New records - Ashy Minivet and Eyebrowed Thrush in Madras. *Newsletter for Birdwatchers* 25(5 & 6): 9-11.
- White, C. M. N. and Bruce, M. D. (1986) *The birds of Wallacea*. London: British Ornithologists' Union.
- Wild Bird Society of Japan (1982) *A field guide to the birds of Japan*. Tokyo: Wild Bird Society of Japan.

Ole F. Jakobsen, Blågårdsgade 19, 2. tv., DK-2200 Copenhagen N., Denmark

## Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda*: a new species for Thailand

OLE F. JAKOBSEN

On 3 August 1990 I was going by motorboat from Laem Phra Nang 8°00'N 98°51'E to Krabi Town, Krabi Province, Thailand, when I observed a Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda*.