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## Long-billed Plover *Charadrius placidus*: a new species for Sri Lanka

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At about 13h00 on 10 January 1993 we were observing birds on the sandspit at the mouth of the Chilaw Lagoon (79°47'E 7°36'N) in north-west Sri Lanka. Several species of terns, two Sooty Gulls *Larus hemprichi* and some shorebirds were visible. A wader which neither of us could identify, flew along the shoreline and settled down on the sandspit about 25 m from us.

The bird appeared intermediate in size between a Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* and a Greater Sand-Plover *C. leschenaultii*. The upperparts were brown and the underparts were white. A greyish-brown breast-band was present. The crown and lores were the same colour as the upperparts and there was a light brown supercilium. The forehead was off-white, the chin and neck were white and there was a white collar. The bill was blackish, the legs were yellowish-grey, the irides were dark brown and there was a thin, but prominent, white wing-bar. The bird bore a superficial resemblance to a Common Ringed Plover in winter plumage, but the noticeably longer legs, bill and tail served to distinguish it from that species.

The bird was observed for approximately 10 minutes with 8x40 and 8x30 binoculars. On subsequently referring to Hayman *et al.* (1986) it was apparent that the bird was a Long-billed Plover *C. placidus*. This is the first record of the species for Sri Lanka.

The Long-billed Plover breeds in north-east Asia, and most migrate south or south-west after breeding, although small resident populations occur in southern Japan and parts of southern China. It winters from Nepal east to eastern China and in South Korea and has wandered to Peninsular Malaysia, Brunei and Bali. However, it has not been recorded previously from south of 22°S in the Indian subcontinent (Thompson *et al.*, this issue).

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## Asian Stubtail *Urosphena squameiceps*: a new species for Nepal and the Indian subcontinent

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On 21 January 1993 I visited the Dharan forest which lies just north of Itahari in eastern Nepal. In general the forest was disappointingly quiet but, upon investigating a slight rustle on the forest floor, I was pleased to find an Asian Stubtail (Stub-tailed Bush-Warbler) *Urosphena squameiceps*. It was hopping jerkily on long, flexed legs in a fashion typical of the genus, and close views were obtained for about 30 seconds before it disappeared.

The main features noted were the dark brown upperparts, whitish underparts, very long buffish-white supercilium and a tailless appearance. The legs and large feet were very pale pink. The views were not sufficient to see the indistinct scaling on the forehead which is characteristic of the species, and it was not heard to call.

I am very familiar with *Urosphena squameiceps* in its wintering areas in Thailand, and had seen several at Khao Yai National Park less than three weeks previously.

It was a surprise to discover that this is apparently the first record for Nepal and the Indian subcontinent. King *et al.* (1975) give the wintering range in South-East Asia as 'Burma (except NE); NW, NE, SE and peninsular Thailand; NW Tonkin; Laos; Hong Kong.' It is perhaps to be expected that a long distance migrant such as the Asian Stubtail, which breeds in north-east Asia and regularly winters as far west as Myanmar (Burma), should occasionally stray further west.

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