

In South-East Asia, the species has previously been recorded in northern, central and eastern Myanmar (King *et al.* 1975) and in Viet Nam (Vo Quy 197?). This appears to be the first record for Thailand, although Boonsong Lekagul and Round (1991) considered that the species was a likely future addition to the list of Thai birds.

The authors wish to thank P. D Round for his comments on the first draft of this note.

REFERENCES

Boonsong Lekagul and Round, P. D. (1991) *A guide to the birds of Thailand*. Bangkok: Saha Karn Bhaet.
King, B. F., Dickinson, E. C. and Woodcock, M. W. (1975) *A field Guide to the birds of South-East Asia*. London: Collins.

Peter Cuere!, 19 Chalky Copse, Hook, Basingstoke, Hants. RG27 9PX, U.K.
Somsri Thongsajja, 135/2 Mhu 5, Tambon Huarawo, Amphoe Muang, Phitsanuloke, 6500, Thailand.

Collared Grosbeak *Mycerobas affinis*: a new species for Thailand

JOHN T. KNOWLER

Soon after dawn on the mornings of 18 and 19 February 1986, at the edge of evergreen forest surrounding the small marsh on the summit of Doi Inthanon, Chiang Mai province, northern Thailand, David Clugston, John Mullins and I identified a Collared Grosbeak *Mycerobas affinis*. Although previously unrecorded in Thailand, it has transpired that we were neither the first, nor the last, observers, to see this individual. The bird was originally found by Brian Field and others who saw it at the same site, again just after dawn, on 2 January. It remained in the area until at least 22 March, when it was seen by Phil Round and Kamol Kamolphalin.

The following description is compiled from my own combined field notes taken on 18 and 19 February. In size and shape the bird was obviously a grosbeak *Mycerobas*, appearing substantially larger than a Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*, with a massive pale horn-colored bill. The head, wings and tail were wholly black except for yellow spots on the inner tertials. The breast, belly, under tail-coverts, rump, mantle and a broad collar around the lower neck were brilliant golden yellow, suffused orange on the collar. When the bird was perched, the collar was conspicuous and the yellow rump

was usually visible because the wings were held above it. The mantle was not normally visible on the perched bird, but became conspicuous in flight, as did the contrast between the mantle and the orange lower neck. We did not see that the thighs were yellow, which would conclusively rule out the Black-and-yellow Grosbeak *M. icteroides*, but this feature was noted by later observers and the orange on the collar is also a feature of *affinis* and not *icteroides*.

On both mornings the bird was first observed when it flew into the tops of the low trees on the edge of the marsh opposite the boardwalk. It then dropped into the bushes below the trees, where it was in the company of Common Rosefinches *Carpodacus erythrinus* and the occasional Dark-breasted Rosefinch *C. nipalensis*. On each occasion the bird was in view for approximately 30 minutes, but was not observed to feed or to drop to the ground. It did not call during our observations but B. Field (pers. comm.) stated that his attention was first attracted to it by its distinctive call.

I should like to thank Phil Round for his comments.

J. T. Knowler, Department of Biological Sciences, Glasgow Polytechnic, Cowcaddens Road, Glasgow G4 0BA, Scotland, U.K.

Northern Shrike *Lanius excubitor*, a species new to Borneo and South-East Asia

CLIVE F. MANN and DAVID A. DISKIN

At about 16h30 on 4 October 1990 C.F.M. saw a grey, black and white bird fly low across a muddy stretch of a paddyfield onto a low bush growing on a bund about 200 m distant. It was at first reminiscent of Pied Triller *Lalage nigra*, but habitat, behaviour and jizz were wrong for that species. When viewed through a telescope down to 30 m it became obvious that it was a grey shrike *Lanius*. The bird was seen in flight on two occasions. It was larger than, and had a longer tail and a heavier bill than that of a Brown Shrike *L. cristatus*. There was a broad, black stripe running back from the eye; the crown and mantle were pale grey and the rump was white. The wings were black with a large white area, and the tail was black with much white on the outer feathers. The underparts were white, with a faint pink tinge on the breast and

lacked darker vermiculations. A prominent white bar across the primaries was obvious in flight. Bill pale.

It was identified as a Northern Shrike *L. excubitor* and the pale bill indicates that it was *L. e. pallidirostris* rather than *L. e. bianchii* or *L. e. mollis* which have been recorded in Japan. The similar Chinese Grey Shrike *L. sphenocercus* was eliminated because that species lacks the large white wing patch and has a grey rump.

D.A.D. saw the bird on the following day and concurred with the identification. However, it was not seen subsequently.

Clive F. Mann, 123 Hartwood Road, London W12 9NG, U.K.

David A. Diskin, Flat G, 15F, Block 2, Man Lai Court, Man Lai Road, Shatin, Hong Kong.

Japanese Night-Heron *Gorsachius goisagi*, a species new to Borneo

JEN A. ELKIN

Mann (1988) reported a sighting of a Malayan Night-Heron *Gorsachius melanolophus*, feeding in daylight on swampy ground bordering a garden, at Panaga, Brunei on 28 October 1985. The bird had been identified by Clive F. Mann from photographs taken by the author. There was some doubt about the identification because the bird did not exactly fit descriptions of *melanolophus*, but it was assumed to be an undescribed plumage of that species. Other photographs of the bird, showing some features more clearly, were subsequently sent to Jeff Davies (Australia), P. D. Round (Thailand), D. S. Melville (Hong Kong) and D. R. Wells (Malaysia).

Davies (pers. comm.) concluded that the bird was a Japanese Night-Heron *G. goisagi*, based on the following characters: cap not black, unmarked; face, neck and wings dull brown richer rufous-brown in *melanolophus*; subtle pale centres to feathers on the sides of the neck (uniform in *melanolophus*); the feathers of the belly each with brown webs and a central white chevron emphasised by a blackish mark down each side (in *melanolophus* the belly feathers have a central black streak, a rufous outer web and, particularly on the central feathers, an entirely white inner web); lores yellowish (blue in *melanolophus*).

Round (pers. comm.) concurred with this diagnosis, stating that the 'plumage and bare parts quite wrong for *melanolophus*'.

Melville (pers. comm.) also agreed, stating, however, that *goisagi* has blue facial skin when breeding (shown by one individual in Hong Kong), and greenish-yellow the rest of the year. He suggested that the pale spotting on the neck indicated that it was an immature *goisagi*.

Wells (pers. comm. to C. F. Mann and the author) thought that the pattern of the underparts could be matched by immature *melanolophus*, but the pale, indistinctly vermiculated upperparts were wrong for that species. He felt that the bare parts coloration was inconclusive but agreed that bird must have been *goisagi*.

The species breeds in southern Japan, migrating to eastern China, Taiwan, the Philippines and Sulawesi; vagrants have reached Sakhalin, Hokkaido and Korea.

I would like to thank C. F. Mann for help in preparing this note.

REFERENCE

Mann, C. F. (1988) Bird report for Brunei Darussalam 1986-88. *Brunei Mus. J.* 6(4): 88-111.

Black-collared Starling *Sturnus nigricollis*, a species new to Borneo and the Sundas

JEN A. ELKIN, CLIVE F. MANN and A. CONRAD OZOG

At about 08h00 on 4 October 1991 a large starling was seen flying about 10 m above a fallow paddyfield at Wasan Rice Scheme, Brunei. Its large size (almost that of a Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*) and pied appearance indicated that it was not one of the starling species regularly occurring in Borneo. It dropped on a path about 300 m away and was eventually relocated with flocks of egrets *Egretta* and *Bubulcus* and terns *Chlidonias* following a plough. It was observed at close quarters with both binoculars and a telescope and the following points were noted:

Size of Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*, or slightly larger. Bill and legs pale. Back, wings, mantle and tail blackish-brown or black; a white bar on primaries, particularly noticeable in flight; rump and tips of tail feathers white. Head, neck and chin to breast greyish-brown to buffish-brown, streaked whitish and palest on the throat.