was abandoned but the nest was subsequently checked every 2-3 days. On 21 April a check revealed that the female was temporarily absent and the opportunity was taken to measure the eggs. One was 24x16 mm and the other was 22.5x15.5 mm. They were pale blue and with reddish-brown blotches concentrated towards the blunt end.

Two chicks were discovered in the nest on 2 May. The nest had been checked on 30 April with no sign of the eggs hatching, giving an incubation period of 15-16 days, assuming that the second egg was laid on 17 April and that incubation started then.

The hide was hastily repaired on 3 May and observations were resumed at 05h30 on 4 May. Both parents made frequent visits to the nest, but as they flew directly into the nest it was difficult to see what food they were carrying. Feeding took only 3-4 seconds each time and the adults collected most of the food close to the nest. The female spent several periods of about 30 mins in the nest, presumably brooding the young. Over the next four days the frequency of feeding increased but on the morning of 9 May both young had disappeared. Both adults were still in the area but there was no sign of any fledglings.

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Dennis G. Vrettos, Basil Corner, Lower Basildon, Berkshire, RG8 9NL, U.K.

Blyth's Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides* found breeding in Thailand

PER ALSTRÖM and URBAN OLSSON

This note describes the first confirmed breeding of Blyth's Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides* in Thailand, namely at Doi Inthanon in the north-west. It is suggested that Blyth's Leaf-Warbler is breeding rather commonly on Doi Inthanon, and that it has been overlooked before.

In early April 1991 P.A. observed several Blyth's Leaf-Warblers on the summit of Doi Inthanon, north-west Thailand (18°35'N 98°29.5'E). Some of the birds were singing, but it could not be established whether they were on migration or breeding (*Phylloscopus* warblers frequently sing during spring migration; pers. obs.). In the second week of March 1992 Blyth's Leaf-Warbler was found to be locally common on Doi Inthanon, and breeding was confirmed. This species has not previously been proved to breed in Thailand (Boonsong *et al.* 1991; Philip D. Round *in litt.*).

On 8 March 1992 a pair of Blyth's Leaf-Warblers were seen nest building, beside the trail at the summit bog on Doi Inthanon, at an altitude of *c.* 2,560 m. The following day the nest was abandoned, probably as a result of human disturbance. On 11 March possibly the same pair was seen building a nest some 30-40 m from the first nest site. On 9 March 1992 a nest of Blyth's Leaf-Warbler with nearly fully grown young was found at *c.* 1650 m ('km 37') on Doi Inthanon. Two days later the young fledged. On 8 April 1992 Johan Wallander and Eva Helgesson (pers. comm. 1992) saw a nest-building pair of Blyth's Leaf-Warbler near the summit bog on Doi Inthanon.

At the summit of Doi Inthanon, especially in the vicinity of the bog, Blyth's Leaf-Warbler was fairly common and outnumbered White-tailed Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus davisoni* by roughly 2:1 (based on a count of singing males). At *c.* 1,650 m ('km 37') Blyth's Leaf-Warbler seemed to be slightly less numerous than White-tailed Leaf-Warbler, and at *c.* 1,500 m ('km 34.5') White-tailed appeared to be more numerous than Blyth's (based on counts of singing males).

It is quite possible that some or even most of the Blyth's Leaf-Warblers that we observed were on migration. This may be supported by the fact that several singing males did not respond to play-back of their own song. However, there could be other explanations for that (cf. Alström and Olsson 1992). On the other hand, several males (other than those whose nests we found) were evidently territorial and responded vigorously to play-back, and at least one of these appeared to have a mate. Even if some of the Blyth's Leaf-Warblers that we observed were on migration, it would still appear that Blyth's Leaf-Warbler is a fairly common breeding bird on Doi Inthanon.

It may be of some interest to point out that we did not find any Blyth's Leaf-Warblers on Doi Suthep-Pui in early March 1992, only White-tailed Leaf-Warblers.

On plumage (mainly tail pattern) as well as on geographical grounds the Blyth's Leaf-Warblers on Doi Inthanon seem to match the subspecies *assamensis*. This extension of the known range of Blyth's Leaf-Warbler reveals that Blyth's and White-tailed Leaf-Warblers are sympatric in four disjunct areas: Doi Inthanon (*P. r. assamensis* and *P. d. davisoni*), Sichuan Province, China (*P. r. claudiae* and *P. d. disturbans*), Fujian Province, China

(P. r. fokiensis and *P. d. ogilviegranti)* and in South Annam, Viet Nam *(P. r. ticehursti* and *P. d. klossi*) (Watson *et al.* 1986).

The Blyth's Leaf-Warblers were distinguished from White-tailed Leaf-Warbler (of subspecies *davisoni*, breeding on Doi Inthanon) primarily by (1) song and calls (also begging calls of juveniles) which were subtly although consistently different (one species did not respond to play-back of the other species' song), (2) tail pattern (Blyth's showed a narrow white border to the tip and edge of the inner web of the outermost rectrix, frequently also whitish mottling centrally on the same feather, although not almost completely white inner web as in White-tailed; the tail pattern is often extremely difficult to judge in the field) and (3) antagonistic behaviour (when agitated, Blyth's has a distinctive habit of lifting one wing at a time; White-tailed flicks both wings simultaneously and with a much quicker action than Blyth's). Also, the feeding behaviour usually differs significantly between the two species. Unlike White-tailed, Blyth's has the characteristic of looking on the undersides of branches, frequently hanging head-down almost vertically.

It may seem surprising that Blyth's Leaf-Warbler has been overlooked as a breeding bird on Doi Inthanon. However, many Blyth's Leaf-Warblers have probably routinely been identified as White-tailed Leaf-Warbler, which is known to breed commonly on Doi Inthanon. Moreover, those visiting birdwatchers who correctly identified Blyth's Leaf-Warblers probably did not bother too much about whether or not they were breeding.

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Per Alström, Kungsgatan 3, 462 33 Vänersborg, Sweden.
Urban Olsson, University of Göteborg, Dept. of Zoology, Section of Morphology and Systematics, Box 25059, 400 31 Göteborg, Sweden.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*: a new species for Sri Lanka

REX I. DE SILVA, ENOKA PERERA, LESTER PERERA and KANISHKA SAMARASINGHE

On 1 November 1992, at approximately 10h20, we were on the tidal mudflats in the northern part of Negombo Lagoon (79°50'E 7°11'N). A flock of about 60 Whiskered Terns *Chlidonias hybridus* were perched on a brush-pile fish-trap about 80 m from us. An unidentified tern was also perched on the trap in the midst of the Whiskered Terns and was observed through a 20x80 telescope for more than 30 minutes.

The bird was slightly smaller than a Whiskered Tern. Its mantle was brown and grey, the wings were brownish-grey with darker primaries and a prominent dark carpal bar. The underparts were white, and the bill, irides and legs were black. The rump and slightly forked tail were light grey - the rectrix tips being somewhat darker. Its forehead, chin and neck were white and a cap, which extended downwards behind the eyes, was present. The cap was dark grey in front, and sooty-black at the rear, changing to brownish at the edges. A small diffuse greyish patch was present on each side of the breast below the closed forewing. The bird preened continuously whilst under observation.

The bird was superficially similar to a juvenile White-winged Tern *C. leucopterus*, but the following features served to distinguish it. The grey rump (*contra* white); lack of a prominent saddle effect on the mantle; longer bill; different cap/head pattern; and the grey patches at the sides of the breast (always lacking in White-winged Tern).

On reference to Harrison (1985) it was clear that the bird was a juvenile Black Tern *C. niger*. This is the first record of the species from Sri Lanka. Six individuals have been recorded from India, including four at Point Calimere, Tamil Nadu (Alexander 1950, Abdulali and Ambedkar 1983, Natarajan and Balasubramian 1991, Menon 1992).

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