

'Zoogeographically belonging to New Guinea but within the administrative province of Maluku

FIRST RECORD OF GREY-STREAKED FLYCATCHER FOR KALIMANTAN

by

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On 15 February 1992, while surveying the bird fauna of the Kayan Mentarang proposed national park in East Kalimantan, BvB observed two single, small flycatchers in the primary forest on a ridge above the Anye' Bung rivulet, north of the Lurah river, which is a branch of the Bahau river (at 2°42' N, 115°46' E) north of Peliran. The first bird was observed at 1050m a.s.l. at 10.03 hrs, the second at 12.12 hrs at 1200m in a forest gap on the same ridge.

Description

Upperparts of both birds were uniform greyish brown; belly, breast and most of the throat were white, boldly marked with dark streaks on the upper breast and sides of the throat; a white spot behind the eyes suggested an incomplete eyering (see Fig. 1).

Only the second bird was calling, while sallying repeatedly from a leafless branch. The metallic, high-pitched, rattling "tzit-tzit" was recorded on tape by a Marantz CP 430 cassettedeck and Audiotechnic directional microphone and a copy of the tape (No. 47806) has been deposited with the British Library of Wildlife Sounds in London.

Discussion

Four (greyish) brown flycatchers with white, more or less marked underparts occur or are likely to occur on the island of Borneo. A description of the markings on the underparts and the vocalization of each is given below.

1. Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica*. the bold streaking of the observed birds immediately excludes this species, which has only a pale brown wash across the breast and flanks (Bradshaw *et al.* 1991). The voice is a soft vibrant "churr" (Smythies 1981); call a loud "seeet-seet" (Flint *et al.* 1984); sharp, rattling dry "tit-tit-tit-it" call (Lekagul & Round 1991); short, faint, thin "tzi" and a rather fine, rattling "tse-te-te-te-te" are sometimes heard, the latter probably an alarm call (Lewington *et al.* 1991).
2. Brown-streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa williamsoni* has brown Upperparts, buffy eyering, and broad brown streaks (indistinct in field) on the buffy to brownish-buffy-breast and flanks also with brownish streaks (King *et al.* 1975). Song and calls as Asian Brown (Lekagul & Round 1991)
3. Siberian Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica* is streaked against a brown background, as opposed to a white background in Grey-streaked (Bradshaw *et al.* 1991); sides of throat, breast and belly broadly and indistinctly streaked with brownish grey (King *et al.* 1975).

Call a soft chirring (Flint *et al.* 1984); distinctive, short metallic tinkle, not as harsh and dry as the Asian brown (Lekagul & Round 1991).

4. Grey-streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa griseisticta* has dark and broad streaking on breast and flanks, well defined demarcation between white throat and the start of the streaks; ground colour white with greyish wash on flanks (Bradshaw *et al.* 1991). Call a fairly loud "speet-teet-teet" (Flint *et al.* 1984).
5. Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*. Most closely resembling the Grey-streaked, but this species barely enters the oriental region and is extremely unlikely to occur in Kalimantan. It has fine, brown streaking on the throat and a different wing-to-tail ratio (not measured in the present birds); lighter streaking on the pale buff-washed breast; ill-defined, greyish buff eye-ring (Bradshaw *et al.* 1991). Call notes are a sharp "pst", thin "tsiih", rapid "tsi-tak-tak" (transcribed from German; Peterson *et al.* 1963).

The greyish brown Upperparts, dark bold streaking on white over the entire upper breast, well marked white throat fringed with dark streaks and trace of a white eye-ring are diagnostic of Grey-streaked Flycatchers. The tape-recording has not yet been identified, although on comparison with the above descriptions, the vocalisations again indicate Grey-streaked, but would not exclude Brown Flycatcher.

On 23 September 1992 a further single Grey-streaked Flycatcher was seen by SA at 100-200m a.s.l, perched on a bare snag in a relatively clear area on the edge of peat swamp forest of Mandor Nature Reserve near Pontianak, West Kalimantan.

The Grey-streaked Flycatcher is a winter migrant from the NE Palearctic to the Philippines, northern New Guinea and northern Wallacea where it is fairly common (White & Bruce 1986). It is a rare visitor to Borneo, hitherto only recorded for Sabah (Smythies 1981, although one of these records is not confirmed - D, Wells, pers.comm.) The three observations described above are the first for the Indonesian part of the island. The species has already been entered on the Kalimantan list (Andrew 1993).

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