
A RECORD OF YELLOW-RUMPED FLYCATCHER FROM KALIMANTAN

by
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(received 15 November 1995).

A female Yellow-rumped Flycatcher *Ficedula zanthopygia* was-observed on 22 September 1993 at Tanjung Puting National Park, Kalimantan, at 112°E, 3°S. This appears to be the first record of the species for mainland Kalimantan (Smythies 1981), although it is included on the Kalimantan list (Andrew 1992) on the basis of its presence on Anambas island (Chasen 1935), a small island lying between Borneo and Singapore. It is the second record for mainland Borneo, one being reported from Brunei Darussalam on 26 Jan 1984 (Bennett *et al.* 1987, Mann 1987).

The bird was observed low in the shady scrub understorey of tall freshwater swamp forest about 5 km south of the research station at Natai Lengkuas. Good views were obtained down to 4 m, although the overall light conditions were poor. The bird perched on low branches (up to 1 m above the ground) for several minutes at a time, and was watched for five minutes before it flew off back into the undergrowth. Although not particularly active, it frequently flicked up its tail perpendicular to its body. It did not call. The following field description was taken:

Structure: small but not particularly slight, initially reminiscent of a Robin *Erithacus rubecula* rather than a flycatcher; fairly large-headed, short-tailed, and quite short-winged with the primaries extending just beyond the undertail coverts. Bare parts: eye dark; bill black and fairly strong, legs appeared fairly pale.

Upperparts: rump bright orangey-yellow, strongly contrasting with rest of upperparts and the undertail, which were a uniform brown-grey; no wing bars were noted.

Underparts: chin to upper breast dull grey-buff; rest of underparts yellowish, with the undertail coverts and vent (shown when the bird cocked its tail) appearing almost as bright a colour as the rump; undertail dark.

Head: concolorous with upperparts apart from a slightly buffy eyering. While there are several discrepancies between the field description taken and the descriptions given in King *et al.* (1975), MacKinnon & Phillipps (1993) and Harrap & Byers (1993), notably the leg colour, the lack of wing bars and the relative brightness of the rump and undertail coverts, these are presumably explicable by the poor light levels in which the bird was viewed. Although *F. zanthopygia* has dullest wing bars in first-winter female plumage (Harrap & Byers *op oil.*), the brightness of this bird's rump indicates that it was actually an adult female. Adults "are presumed to moult on the wintering grounds" (Harrap & Byers *op oil.*), so considering the date of this record, rather early in the season, it is not surprising that the bird had not yet moulted its worn greater coverts and

terials.

The similar Narcissus Flycatcher *F. narcissina* is a very uncommon winter visitor to Borneo (MacKinnon & Phillipps *op oil.*) but female *narcissina* of all races have warm rufous uppertails, and rumps almost concolorous with their upperparts. None of the other potential confusion species of South-east Asian *Ficedula* have contrasting rumps. Female Pygmy Blue Flycatchers *Muscicapella hodgsoni* do show a rufous rump which contrasts with the rest of the upperparts, but the species is tiny, very short-tailed, and strictly montane. The only *Ficedula* previously known from Tanjung Puting is the distinctive Rufous-chested Flycatcher *F. Dumetoria* (Nash & Nash 1988).

F. zanthopygia breeds in North-east Asia and migrates south to as far as Peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra and Java (King *et al. op cil.*), and two males were recently recorded on Bali (Balen & Noske 1991), which appears to be the present limit of its known range.

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