First record of the Blue-and-white Flycatcher

*Cyanoptila cyanomelana* (Temminck, 1829)
(Aves: Passeriformes: Muscicapidae) from Bhutan

Kado Rinchen, Kinley Kinley, Chhimi Dorji & Dorji Wangmo

26 July 2019 | Vol. 11 | No. 9 | Pages: 14232–14234
DOI: 10.11609/jott.4608.11.9.14232-14234
The Blue-and-white Flycatcher *Cyanoptila cyanomelana* is known to be a summer visitor to northeastern Asia, moving towards the south during winter to Taiwan, southeastern China, and southeastern Asia, through the Greater Sunda Islands to the Philippines (Clement & Taylor 2006). It is a recent addition to the South Asian avifaunal database. It is not listed in Ali & Ripley (1987), Rasmussen & Anderton (2005), or Grimmett et al. (2001).

According to Choudhury (2006) the bird has been observed on rare occasions in northeast India and was sighted once 16 years ago on 24 November 2002 in Upper Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh in India. In the past, this species has been reported from several isolated localities in the Indian subcontinent; nine locations in India as reported by Choudhury (2006), Kawale (2013), Rajeshkumar et al. (2014), Barve & Kamath (2016), Bhooopathy & Indrajith (2016), Praveen et al. (2016), and one record in Sri Lanka (Vidanapathirana et al. 2014).

During patrolling duty in Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park on 14 April 2018, a male Blue-and-white Flycatcher was observed and photographed at an elevation of 1,610 m on abandoned land at Dimba Village (27.419°N & 90.469°E) under Tangsibji Block in Trongsa District. It was observed perching on a tree in a broadleaved forest with vegetation dominated by *Quercus griffithii*, along with other broadleaved species like *Lyonia spp.*, *Rhus spp.*, Dog wood, *Babinoa spp.*, *Erythina spp.*, and *Alnus spp.* Several small clumps of bamboo were also observed in and around the bird observation area.

After referring to several online websites such as Birdlife International, ebird and circulation of the photographs amongst many birdwatchers through the social media facebook forum Birds of Bhutan, the bird was initially identified as a male Blue-and-white Flycatcher by Tim Inskipp and was later confirmed by Dr. Sherub, ornithologist at Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Educational Research Institute in Bhutan. It is the first record for the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan. The new record adds the 729th bird species for Bhutan (Dr. Sherub pers. comm. April 2018). With this observation, the Blue-and-White Flycatcher is known to occur in three countries of the Indian subcontinent. Clement & Taylor (2006) described the Blue-and-White...
Figure 1. Observation point of the Blue-and-white Flycatcher in Bhutan.

Figure 2. Male Blue-and-white Flycatcher perched on a tree observed in Bhutan.
Black-and-white Flycatcher as a passage migrant through southern and southeastern China between early or mid-December to mid-February and returning to its breeding sites through Guangdong from mid to late March. This Bhutan record proves that the Blue-and-white Flycatcher can migrate as late as mid-April. Possibly, while on their return migration, a few birds might sojourn in various places in Bhutan or elsewhere in the subcontinent’s mainland before reaching their breeding grounds. There could be other undetected incidences of migrant species’ occurrence in the country and it would be useful if more observations were carried out during bird migration seasons to discover such instances. The development of a long-term bird monitoring protocol for Bhutan to ensure the survival of all residents and migratory birds is recommended.

References


Species richness and abundance of monogonont rotifers in relation to environmental factors in the UNESCO Sakaerat Biosphere Reserve, Thailand

— Nattaporn Plangklang, Chaichot Boonyanisuth & Sujeephon Athibai, Pp. 14087–14100

Communications

Distribution and habitats of Paphiopeudem Pfizer (Orchidaceae) known to occur in Bhutan


Diurnal Serianthes nelsonii Merr. leaflet paraheliotropism reduces leaflet temperature, relieves photooinhibition, and alters nystcinastic behavior

— Thomas Edward Marner, Pp. 14112–14118

Pollination ecology of Brownlowia tersa (Malvaceae), a Near Threatened non-viviparous true mangrove shrub

— Aluri Jacob Solomon Raju, Pp. 14119–14127

A note on the taxonomy and natural history of the Summer Clicker Lahugada dohertyi (Distant, 1891) (Insecta: Hemiptera: Cicadidae) along with its distribution in northern West Bengal, India

— Vivek Sarkar, Pp. 14128–14136

Observations on nesting activity, life cycle, and brood ball morphometry of the Bordered Dung Beetle Oniticellus cinctus (Fabricius, 1775) (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) under laboratory conditions


Spiders of Odisha: a preliminary checklist

— Sudhir Ranjan Choudhury, Manju Siliwal & Sanjay Keshari Das, Pp. 14144–14157

Status of water birds in Haripura-Baur Reserve, western Terai-Arc landscape, Uttarakhand, India


Bird diversity in the coastal talukas of Sindhudurg District, Maharashtra, India


Extended distribution record of two bellflower species of Corallodiscus (Campanulaceae) from the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh

— Khiildenafil Singh Kanwal, Umeskumar Lalchand Tiwari, Lod Yama & Mahendra Singh Lodh, Pp. 14128–14231

First record of the Blue-and-white Flycatcher Cyanoptila cyanomelana (Temminck, 1829) (Aves: Passeriformes: Muscicapidae) from Bhutan

— Kado Rinchen, Kinley Kinley, Chhimi Dorji & Dorji Wangmo, Pp. 14203–14207

Extended distribution record of two bellflower species of Codonopsis (Campanulaceae) from the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh

— Khiildenafil Singh Kanwal, Umeskumar Lalchand Tiwari, Lod Yama & Mahendra Singh Lodh, Pp. 14128–14231

First record of the Blue-and-white Flycatcher Cyanoptila cyanomelana (Temminck, 1829) (Aves: Passeriformes: Muscicapidae) from Bhutan

— Kado Rinchen, Kinley Kinley, Chhimi Dorji & Dorji Wangmo, Pp. 14203–14207

Butterflies collected using malaise traps as useful bycatches for ecology and conservation


Notes on the hairstreak butterflies Eupsa Moore, 1884 (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) with new distribution records to the Indian eastern Himalaya


Notes on the hairstreak butterflies Eupsa Moore, 1884 (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) with new distribution records to the Indian eastern Himalaya


First record of the Australian gall midge Actilasius tumidifolium Gagné, 1999 (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae) from Andaman Islands, India

— Duraiyanku Vasanthakumar & Radheshym Muridhar Sharma, Pp. 14242–14243

New record of Blanford’s Fox Vulpes cana (Mammalia: Carnivora: Canidae) in central Oman: a connection between the northern and southern populations

— Taimur Alsaid, Abdulrahman Aluwaisi, Sultan Albalushi, Zahran Alabdulsalam, Said Alharsusi & Steven Ross, Pp. 14244–14246