

Rec. zool. Surv. India : 110(Part-3) : 119-121, 2010

Short Communication

OCCURRENCE OF HIMALAYAN RUBYTHROAT, *LUSCINIA PECTORALIS* *TSCHEBAIEWI* (PRZEVALSKI), PASSERIFORMES : TURDINAE IN CHHATTISGARH, INDIA

INTRODUCTION

During the avifaunal survey of Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh the present authors undertook a field trip to Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary during the last part of October, 2000. In the sanctuary three camps were put up—Achanakmar, Lamni and Surhi. On 16.10.2000 in the afternoon the survey team left Lamni for the last camp at Surhi. It was about ten kilometers from Achanakmar on the Bilaspur road when the survey team encountered a few tribal boys hunting birds and squirrels with gullel. Two birds and one five striped palm squirrel, *Funambulus pennanti* Wroughton were found in their kitty. After great persuasion the authors were successful in managing those two birds and proceeded to surhi. It was evening when the team reached the field camp. Of the two birds one was common of the area—the Eurasian Golden Oriole, *Oriolus oriolus* (Linnaeus). Problem started with the other small bird, though all the characters needed for identification were present and the bird was not heavily damaged either, the authors could not believe their eyes. The bird was identified in the field as the Himalayan Rubythroat, *Luscinia pectoralis tschebaiewi* (Przevalski), which was confirmed after reaching Zoological Survey of India Head Quarter in Kolkata. The most striking feature about the bird is that this was never been recorded in Chhattisgarh like here (D' Abreu 1931), Ali 1939 & 1940, Chandra & Singh 2004) and that too from such a lower elevation, as Himalayan Rubythroat is basically a bird of the high altitude areas (Ali & Ripley, 1987).

Field character : Forehead narrowly white, the narrow white supercilium extends to the back of the ear coverts, moustachial streak white, back olive brown,

wings brown, tail blackish brown with white base, outer retrices with white tips. Chin and throat scarlet, sides of throat and breast deep black, belly and undertail coverts whitish.

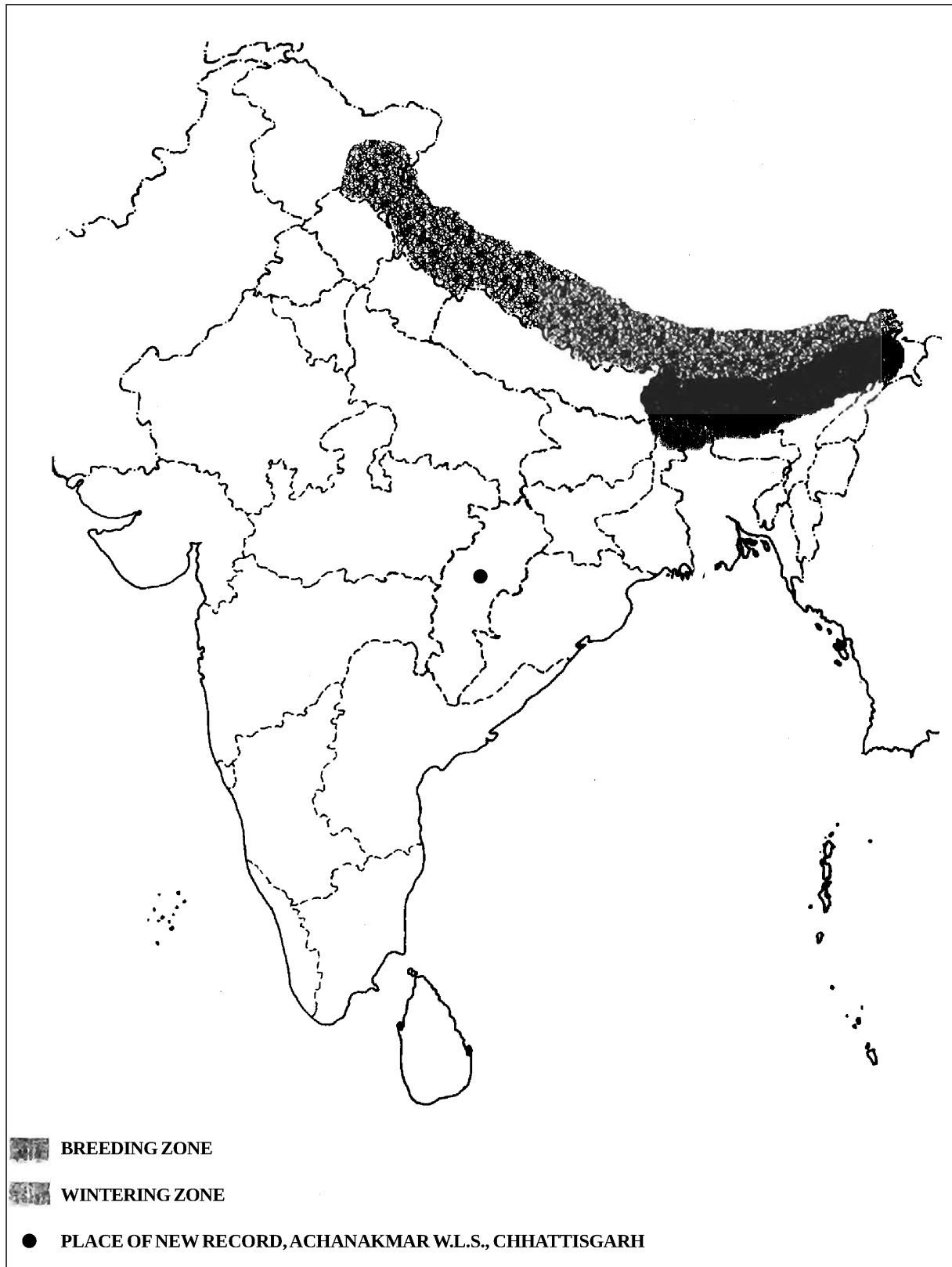


Material examined : Chhattisgarh : Bilaspur district : 1 male; Surhi, Coll. S. Ghosh, Dt. 16.10.2000, Registration No. 41291.

Measurements :

Collected specimen	Measurements given by Ali & Ripley (1987)
Wing – 74 mm	74 – 83 mm
Tail – 59 mm	58 – 66 mm
Bill from skull – 17 mm	15 – 17 mm
Total length – 14.5 cm	15 cm

Distribution : Breeds in Ladakh, Tibet, northern Bhutan, and northern Arunachal Pradesh between 3900 – 4500 m. Winters from the foothills of eastern Nepal,



Map

northern Bengal, Bhutan, Arunachal Pradesh to the Mishmi hills south through Assam and Bangladesh (Ali & Ripley, 1987). Hence the present specimen constitutes the first record of the sub species wintering to further south and west ward in Chhattisgarh.

However, there are two winter records of Himalayan Ruby throat *Luscinia pectoralis pectoralis* (Gould) from the Peninsula; Sultanpur, U.P. (Hume coll.) and Londa, Karnataka (Koelz, JBNHS 43 : 14) as mentioned by Ali & Ripley (1987).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are grateful to Dr. Ramakrishna, Director, Zoological Survey of India for providing facilities to carry out the work and also for guidance and

continuous encouragement. Shri S. S. Saha, Scientist' C and Shri J. M. Dasgupta, Sr. Zool. Asstt. (all ret'd.) provided tremendous support during field work. We thank Shri Balmohon Baraik of this department for his help during finalization of this paper.

Our sincere thanks are to the Forest Department, Govt. of Chhattisgarh, particularly to Shri Dharendra Sharma, PCCF(WL), Shri N. S. Dungiwal, ex. D. F. O., Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh. We also acknowledge the co-operation of Shri Sharod Verma, Member State Wildlife Board, Govt. of Chhattisgarh. The authors are deeply indebted to Shri Ratiram Verma, Publication Production Officer of this department for his constant encouragement and help during writing up of this paper.

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