

### Diurnal Observations of Bird Migration in Central and Western Thailand

Observations in Peninsular Malaysia have revealed regular large-scale passages of diurnal migrants, especially raptors, swifts and bee-eaters, along fairly well defined routes (MEDWAY & WELLS, 1976) but similar records have been lacking from Thailand. The following casual observations at two locations in Thailand in October, 1980, indicate that such movements do occur:

Bangpoo, Changwat Samut Prakan, Central Thailand (observer D.S.M.)

Three species were observed moving westwards along the coast at Bangpoo: Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*, Blue-throated Bee-eater *M. viridus*, and Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*. All three species are "resident" in Thailand (LEKAGUL & CRONIN, 1974) and thus it was not always clear whether individuals were migrants or local birds, especially since some groups of migrants stopped temporarily to feed on grasshoppers (Orthoptera) and dragonflies (Odonata) which were abundant in the area at the time of observation. Only birds regarded as moving purposefully are noted below.

#### 4 October

Between 1030 h and 1245 h, 24 Blue-tailed Bee-eaters, 69 Blue-throated Bee-eaters, 59 unidentified bee-eaters and 66 Black Drongos moved west. A flock of 37 Blue-tailed Bee-eaters seen at 1730 h included at least one bird which was moulting the middle/outer primaries.

#### 5 October

Between 0630 h and 0838 h, 8 Blue-tailed Bee-eaters and 7 unidentified bee-eaters moved west.

#### 14 October

8 bee-eaters moved west at 0830 h.

In the evening there was a heavy movement of Black Drongos. Between 1645 h and 1730 h a total of 1444 moved west in an almost continuous stream, which was still continuing when observations ended.

Prachuap Khiri Khan, West Thailand (observer W.E.F.)

Observations were made on a small hill just inland from the coast on 24 October. The following species were recorded moving south: sparrowhawk *Accipiter sp.* c100, Grey-faced Buzzard Eagle *Butastur indicus* c300, Black Baza *Aviceda jerdoni* c50, Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* 1, Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* c150, Blue-tailed Bee-eater c600, swiftlet *Collocalia sp.* c200, White-rumped Swift *Apus pacificus* 10, House Swift *A. affinis* c100, Palm Swift *Cypsiurus batasiensis* c50, Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* c1500, Red-rumped Swallow *H. daurica* c30, Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* 10, and Black Drongo c50.

We are sure that observations at suitable locations elsewhere in Thailand will reveal that such movements are not unusual, and hope that this note will stimulate further work.

## REFERENCES

LEKAGUL, B. and E.W. CRONIN. 1974. *Bird guide of Thailand*. Association for the Conservation of Wildlife, Bangkok.

MEDWAY, LORD and D.R. WELLS. 1976. *Birds of the Malay Peninsula*, Vol. V. Witherby, London.

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