pomarinus has been photographed in the area during cetacean surveys (Siddiqui et al. 2008).

On 30 December the first Pomarine Skua were seen, and there were three sightings that day, with four birds seen together on one occasion. Unlike Pallas’s Gull the skuas did not come close to the boat, but fished mostly by flying and diving further away in the trawler’s wake. The trawler sailed further south and west on 31 December when the most southerly (20.833°N 091.000°E) and most westerly points (21.250°N 89.733°E) of the voyage were reached. Single Pomarine Skuas were sighted twice on that day.

On 1 January 2014 at 14h00 two Red-billed Tropicbird Phaethon aethereus were seen (21.300°N 89.890°E) and one was photographed. They flew over the trawler briefly and chased each other, flying out of sight. Both birds were clearly tropicbirds from their elongated tail-streamers, largely white plumage, shape and strong bill. They were identified as Red-billed based on the white tail-streamers (excluding juveniles), black outer primary coverts and primaries, light black barring on the inner wing-coverts and mantle (excluding adults of the other two species). The bill was strong and reddish-orange with a black cutting edge. No other birds were nearby for size comparison. Most of these features, and the black line extending from the eye around the nape, are visible in the photograph (Plate 1).

Red-billed Tropicbird has a wide distribution in tropical and subtropical waters of the Indian, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans (Orta 1992). The estimated population is 5,000–20,000 individuals and declining, but it is not considered globally threatened (BirdLife International 2014). This species has never been recorded in Bangladesh (Siddiqui et al. 2008)—the nearest previous records are from the west coast of India, although the other two tropicbird species have both been recorded from the southern Bay of Bengal (Grimmett et al. 2011).

References


First record of Pin-tailed Parrotfinch Erythrura prasina from China

RACHAKONDA SREEKAR, SALINDRA K. DAYANANDA, JIANG-BO ZHAO, BOJIAN GU, QIANG LI, XIMIN WANG & EBEN GOODALE

On 19 December 2013, a dead male Pin-tailed Parrotfinch Erythrura prasina was found on a balcony of a residential complex at Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG), Menglun, Xishuangbanna prefecture, Yunnan province, China (21.931°N 101.237°E). The bird, 13.7 cm in length (bill tip to tail tip) and weighing 12.5 g, had probably been killed by a collision with the window. This species is resident in Thailand, south Myanmar, Peninsular Malaysia, Cambodia, north & central Laos, Vietnam, Sumatra, Java, Borneo and the Philippines. It is a common cage-bird in China and we decided it was necessary to try to find evidence of the rest of a flock by thoroughly searching the XTBG environs, especially the bamboo habitats. On 4 January 2014 we found and photographed a male and a female (Plates 1 & 2) on the edge of secondary rainforest inside XTBG. The species is known to naturally occur in small flocks and hence our observations suggest that this was not an escaped cage-bird but rather that it is a new record for China.

Pin-tailed Parrotfinches are considered to be semi-nomadic and are known to wander over large areas and move seasonally following rice harvests and seeding bamboo (Payne 2010).
nomadic behaviour may have led the species to spread from Laos and move to Menglun, only about 50 km from the Laos border. The species has been recorded as far north as Bolikhamsy province in Laos, which is further north than it has been recorded in Vietnam or Cambodia (S. Mahood in litt. 2014). Pin-tailed Parrotfinches occur in bamboo, open forest and secondary forest edges up to 1,500 m, which is plentiful in Xishuangbanna due to high rates of forest fragmentation and degradation. They also tend to use agricultural habitats where they can become pests (Evans et al. 1992).

References


Rachakonda SREEKAR, Salindra K. DAYANANDA, Jiang-Bo ZHAO, Bojian GU, Ximin WANG & Eben GOODALE
Key Laboratory of Tropical Forest Ecology
Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden
Chinese Academy of Sciences, Menglun, Yunnan, China
Corresponding author: Salindra K. Dayananda
Email: kasunkent@gmail.com

Qiang LI
The Wild Bird Society of Friends of Nature, Beijing, China

Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes*, Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Calidris pygmaea* and Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis*: new for Cambodia

PAUL H. NIELSEN, PAUL EVERINGHAM, SENGLIM SUY & SIMON P. MAHOOD

**Introduction**

We report three new species for Cambodia, the Vulnerable Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes*, Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Calidris pygmaea* and Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis*. These species were recorded during a survey of Koh Kapik Ramsar Site between 24 January and 2 February 2014 and documented by photographs (Plates 1–4). The site is 18 km south of Koh Kong city, on the north-east coast of the Gulf of Thailand. The sightings were at a high-tide wader roost on the western shore of Koh Kapik island (11.328°N 102.988°E). On a falling tide, taking advantage of the expanding mudflats the birds spread out over about 6 km, but even at low tide most birds remained on the western shore. During the survey 21 species of waders were recorded including the Endangered Nordmann’s Greenshank Tringa guttifer—a daily maximum of 18, with a site-wide estimate of 30 individuals—and the Near Threatened Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus* and Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*.

**Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes***

A few unidentified egrets were seen daily but were wary when approached, and photographs were taken for later identification. We strongly suspected in the field that some were Chinese Egret and endeavoured to obtain photographs of all individuals. Examination of photographs, and consultation with Nial Moores and Colin Poole, led to the identification of at least three Chinese Egrets (Plate 1) based on overall structure, bill shape and pattern, lore colour and the presence of incipient nuchal plumes.