

First records of Narcissus Flycatcher (*Ficedula narcissina*) and Chestnut-winged Cuckoo (*Clamator coromandus*) for the Mariana Islands*

MARTIN KASTNER[†]

School of Global Environmental Sustainability, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523, USA

RICHARD C. LEE

Fort Collins Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey, Fort Collins, Colorado 80526, USA

JAMES W. STANFORD

Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Honolulu, Hawaii 96850, USA

Abstract— We recorded observations of a Narcissus Flycatcher (*Ficedula narcissina*) and a Chestnut-winged Cuckoo (*Clamator coromandus*) on Guam, the southernmost and largest of the Mariana Islands. The flycatcher was seen once, on 23 October 2017, while the cuckoo was observed on seven occasions from 5 to 28 December 2017. Both species were found at night, during Brown Treesnake (*Boiga irregularis*) searches in the northern part of the island. These are the first records of the species for Guam and the Mariana Islands.

Introduction

The Mariana Islands are located on the far eastern fringe of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway and receive a regular annual flow of Asian migratory birds, if sporadic in terms of species composition. The presence of researchers and birdwatchers on Guam has produced a disproportionately high number of well-documented sightings over the past several decades compared to other islands in the region (Wiles 2005). The following observations are unique contributions to Guam and the Mariana Islands' avian record made by biologists conducting Brown Treesnake (*Boiga irregularis*) surveys at night.

Observations

NARCISSUS FLYCATCHER

A Narcissus Flycatcher (*Ficedula narcissina*) was observed on the evening of 23 October 2017 in Dededo, Guam (Figure 1) during a Brown Treesnake (*Boiga irregularis*) search, as part of a U.S. Geological Survey Brown Treesnake Rapid Response Team training course. The bird was found perched in the canopy of a *Morinda citrifolia* tree in scrubby *Leucaena leucocephala*-dominated forest along the access road to Puntan Dos Amantes. On that date, Guam was under a tropical storm watch, as Tropical Depression 27W (later Tropical Storm Saola) was tracking north along the western coast of the island (U.S. National Weather Service). The observers, JWS and RCL, photographed the bird before it flushed. The bird was not seen again on subsequent visits to the area. Photographs taken of the bird (Figure 2a and b) show a broad yellow supercilium; rich yellow feathers on the lower back and rump; underparts grading from orange-yellow on the chin and throat to bright yellow on the abdomen and flanks; white feathers on the lower abdomen and vent; a black wing with a white

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[†] Corresponding author.

innerwing patch; and black tail feathers. The bill and tarsi appear slate-blue. These features are characteristic of an adult male of the species. The black crown, mask and mantle (Figure 2b), distinguish this bird from the otherwise similar Ryukyu Flycatcher (*Ficedula owstoni*), whose plumage on those parts is olive-green (Brazil 2009).

This range-restricted passerine breeds in far-eastern Siberia and Japan and winters in Borneo and the Philippines. It is a scarce migrant in Taiwan and South Korea (Brazil 2009, Dong et al. 2015). While the species has been listed as a migrant in Micronesia on the basis of two specimens collected at unknown locations and dates in Palau (Mayr 1945, Baker 1951), it is better considered as a vagrant due to the lack of sightings in the intervening years (Wiles 2005, Pratt and Etpison 2008). Our record of this species is the first for Guam and the Mariana Islands. It is also the first record in 70+ years for Micronesia and the third overall, assuming the two birds collected in Palau were taken on separate occasions.

CHESTNUT-WINGED CUCKOO

A Chestnut-winged Cuckoo (*Clamator coromandus*) was observed on seven occasions in December 2017 within a 5-ha snake and ungulate exclosure on Andersen Air Force Base, northern Guam (Figure 1). All sightings were made by U.S. Geological Survey personnel during regular nocturnal Brown Treesnake surveys within the exclosure (A. Collins, pers. comm.), with the first sighting occurring on 5 December and the last on 28 December. The bird was also heard at the same site on one occasion during the day (V. Young, pers. comm.), although extensive daytime searches were not conducted. Fieldwork continued in the area after that date, with no additional sightings. The habitat within the exclosure is secondary forest dominated by *Leucaena leucocephala* and *Hibiscus tiliaceus* (Nafus et al. 2018), and all photographs of the cuckoo show it perched in the canopy of *Leucaena* trees. Photographs (Figure 2c) show a black head with a prominent erectile nuchal crest; a black, arched bill; reddish eyes; chestnut-brown scapulars and flight feathers; white breast; black vent and undertail coverts; and a long, tapered black tail. The chin has an orange-rufous tinge, indicating an adult of the species (Brazil 2009). Chestnut-winged Cuckoos are not sexually dimorphic.

This brood-parasite breeds across the Himalayas and into eastern China, and migrates into south India and southeast Asia, including the islands of Borneo and the Philippines. It is a scarce migrant to Taiwan, and is considered accidental in Korea and Japan (Brazil 2009, Payne 2018). It is listed as a vagrant in Micronesia (Wiles 2005). A specimen was collected in Koror, Palau in 1967 (Owen 1977) and an individual was captured in Kayangel, Palau in 2013 (Otobed et al., in press). Our record of this species is the first for Guam and the Mariana Islands. It is also the third overall record for Micronesia.

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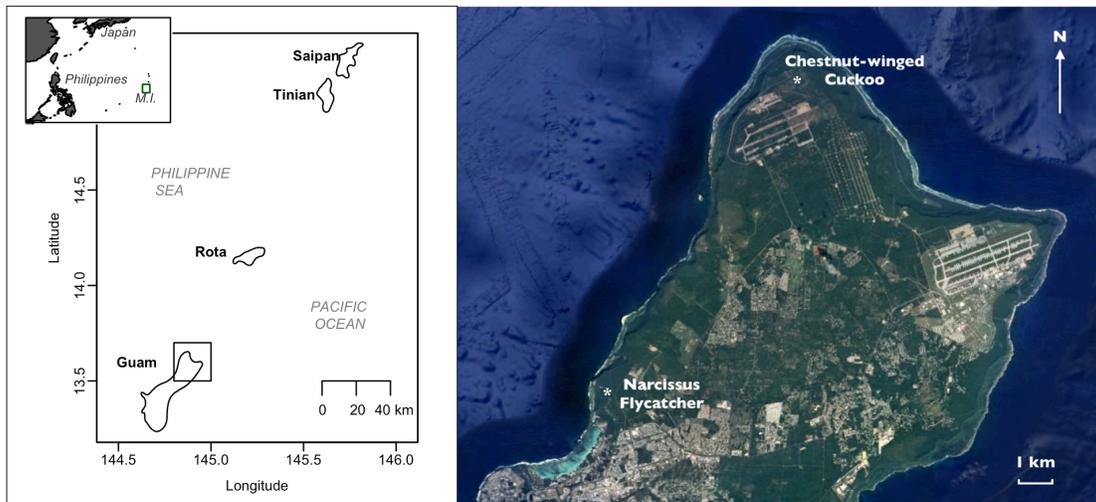


Figure 1. Map showing the locations of the new records of Narcissus Flycatcher and Chestnut-winged Cuckoo on Guam, Mariana Islands. Inset, top left: location of the Mariana Islands within the Western Pacific. Left: Location of Guam within the southern Mariana Islands and box showing the general location of the sightings. Right: Satellite image (2018) of northern Guam (Map data: Google, CNES/Airbus, NOAA) showing the specific locations of the sightings (marked by asterisks).



Figure 2. Photographs a) and b) of adult male Narcissus Flycatcher (*Ficedula narcissina*), c) adult Chestnut-winged Cuckoo (*Clamator coromandus*) on Guam, Mariana Islands. Photographs a) and c) by RCL, b) by JWS.