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NOTE

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

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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. (2011).

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), Bhoopathy & 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 1,610m 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, *Bahunia* spp., *Erythrina* spp., and *Alnus* spp.. Several small clumps

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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

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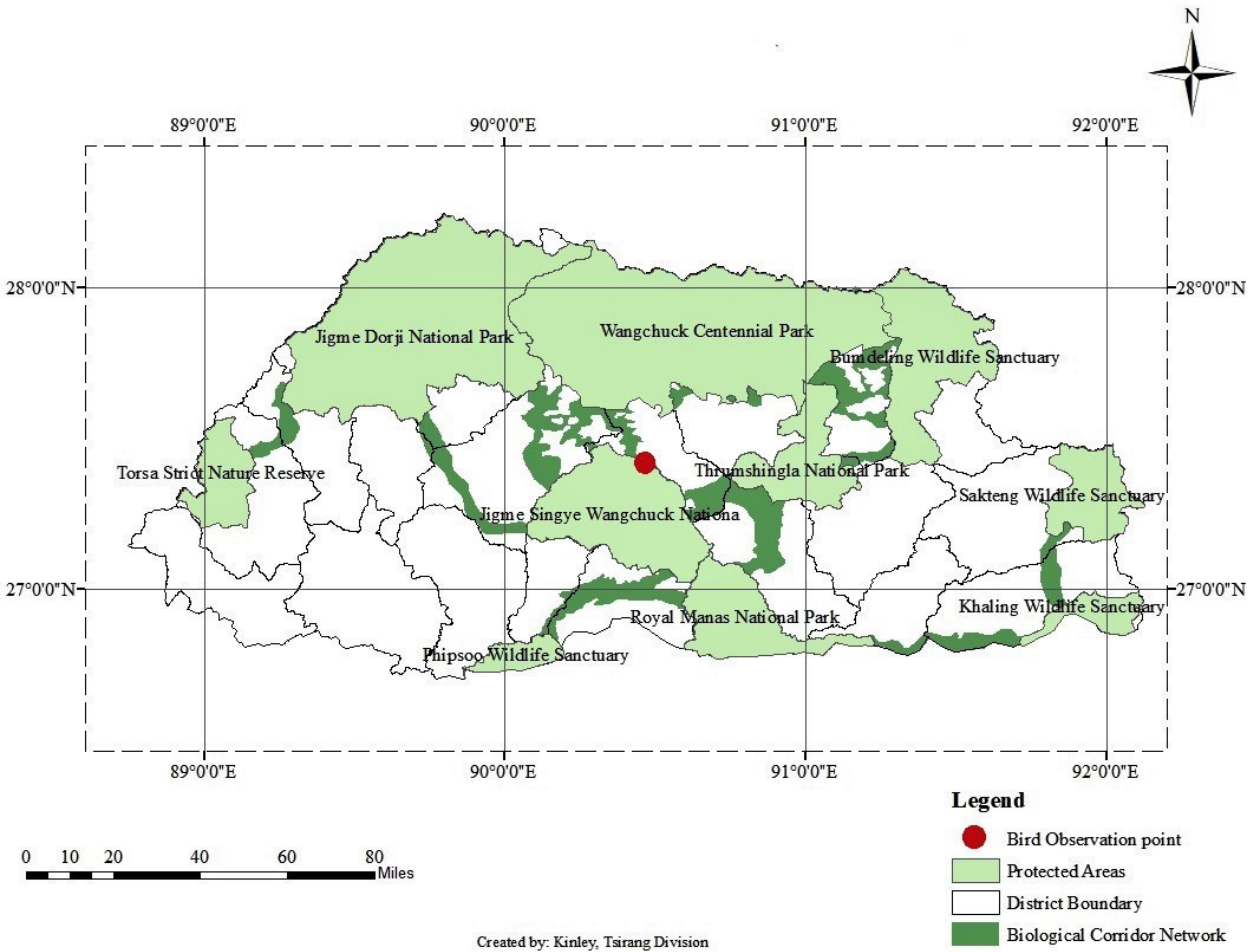


Figure 1. Observation point of the Blue-and-white Flycatcher in Bhutan.



Figure 2. Male Blue-and-white Flycatcher perched on a tree observed in Bhutan.

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.

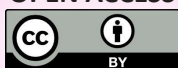
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