

A New Bird Record in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China: White-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus affinis*

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Abstract: A specimen of White-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus affinis* was collected in Diding Nature Reserve in Jingxi County, Southwest Guangxi province in December 2006. It is a new record of bird species in Guangxi. During our field investigation in Diding Nature Reserve from January 2005 to May 2007, *Seicercus affinis* were observed frequently in the underbrush of the evergreen broad-leaved forest and the shrub around agricultural land at an altitude of 500-700m. There are two subspecies of *Seicercus affinis* recorded in the world, but only one in China. Through a careful examination, this specimen was identified as *Seicercus affinis intermedius*. The distribution of *Seicercus affinis* in China will be discussed in this paper. The specimen was kept at the College of Animal Sciences and Technology, Guangxi University.

Key words: *Seicercus affinis*; Birds; New record

广西鸟类一新纪录——白眶鹪莺

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摘要: 2006年12月,在广西西南部靖西县底定自然保护区考察时,采到一号雀形目鸟类标本,经鉴定为白眶鹪莺(*Seicercus affinis*),是广西鸟类新纪录。从2005年1月—2007年5月,在多次鸟类考察过程中都观察到野外活动的白眶鹪莺。在底定,白眶鹪莺通常多在常绿阔叶林的林下灌丛和山间农耕地周边的灌丛中活动,其栖息地海拔高度大致在500—700m。全世界记录有2亚种,我国现已知仅有白眶鹪莺的一个亚种分布。该标本经鉴定为*Seicercus affinis intermedius*。文中还就白眶鹪莺在中国的分布情况作了讨论。标本现保存于广西大学动物科学技术学院动物标本室。

关键词: 白眶鹪莺; 鸟类; 新纪录

中图分类号: Q959.7 文献标识码: 文章编号: 0254-5853(2008)03-0331-03

From January 2005 to May 2007, we conducted several avian surveys in the Diding Nature Reserve in Jingxi County, southwest Guangxi province, and set up a long-term locational research station in the reserve. White-spectacled Warblers were observed frequently in the field during our investigations. A specimen of a warbler was collected on 13th December 2006. This specimen was identified as a White-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus affinis*. It is a new record of bird species in Guangxi. The specimen was kept at the College of

Animal Sciences and Technology, Guangxi University.

White-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus affinis*, 1♂ (No. 200600236), Body Length: 103 mm, Culmen: 10 mm, Wing Length: 49 mm, Tail Length: 40 mm, Tarso-metatarsus Length: 19mm.

The lore, forehead, crown, nape and hind neck of this specimen are blue-grey. Eye rings are white. From the auriculars to the sides of the neck, the colour is also blue-grey, as are the cheeks. There are rictal bristles on the top of the rictus and chin bristles. The back, scapular

Received date: 2008-03-13; Accepted date: 2008-05-13

Foundation item: National Natural Science Funds(30360012)

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收稿日期: 2008-03-13; 接受日期: 2008-05-13

基金项目: 国家自然科学基金资助项目(30360012)

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region and rump are bright olivaceous. The chin is slightly white. The colour of the throat, breast, abdomen and upper and under tail coverts are bright yellow. The outer edges of the remiges of the two wings are yellow-green, while the inner edges are white. The tips of the greater coverts are yellow and form an obvious speculum. The under wing coverts are bright yellow. The outer web of the lateral rectrices is dark brown and the inner web is white, while the central rectrices are dark brown overall.

Iris—brown, Upper mandible—dark brown, Lower mandible—yellowish, Tarso-metatarsus—fulvous.

Seicercus intermedius were listed as Short-billed Warblers and *Seicercus cognitus* were listed as Green-crowned Warblers by Cheng (1976). Afterwards Cheng et al (1987) and Mayr & Cottrell (1986) considered that *S. cognitus* was actually a synonym of *S. intermedius*, and classified them together as White-spectacled Warbler *S. affinis*.

There are two subspecies of White-spectacled Warbler *S. affinis* recorded in the world (Mayr & Cottrell, 1986), but just only one, namely *S. affinis intermedius*, in China (Cheng et al, 1987; Cheng, 1994). The main difference between these two subspecies is that the tips of the greater coverts of *S. a. intermedius* are yellow and form an obvious speculum, but it is unobvious to nominate subspecies (MacKinnon et al, 2000). Through a careful examination, the specimen collected in Diding was identified as *S. affinis intermedius*. As *S. affinis* were observed frequently in December, January, May and July, it was concluded that they are resident birds in Jingxi County.

According to existing references (Zheng, 2002), the distribution area of *S. affinis* is broadly divided into two separate regions, including southeast coastal areas and Southwest China. The population, in southeast coastal areas, breeds in northwest Fujian Province, but in winter, in central Fujian and Guangdong Province (Cheng, 1976; MacKinnon et al, 2000). This population was also

observed to be breeding in Babao Mountain, north Guangdong (MacKinnon et al, 2000). Records about another population in Southwest China are limited so this population were found in Pingbian county, southeast Yunnan where they are summer migrants, and only one specimen was kept there (Cheng, 1976; Yang & Yang, 2004). As *S. affinis* in Guangxi are residents, and, Jingxi county is next to Funing county, the population in Jingxi county should be part of the population in southeast Yunnan.

The White-spectacled Warblers breeding in southeast Yunnan were regarded as the nominate subspecies *S. a. affinis* by MacKinnon et al (2000). However, Yang & Yang (2004) identified the specimen in Yunnan as subspecies *S.a. intermedius* afterwards. The fact that subspecies *S. a. intermedius* was collected in Jingxi county which is next to southeast Yunnan, further confirms the views of Yang & Yang (2004).

White-spectacled Warblers *S. affinis* are distributed in Nepal, northeast India, Myanmar, Indochina and Southeast Thailand (Grimmett et al, 1999; MacKinnon et al, 2000; Zheng, 2002; Yang & Yang, 2004; Robson, 2005). MacKinnon et al (2000) have mentioned that this species had also been found in southeast Tibet, which is possible based on the distribution of *S. affinis* nearby. In addition, *S. affinis* might also be distributed in southwest Yunnan. Further research will confirm these distribution patterns.

In Yunnan, *S. affinis* live in the underbrush of south subtropical moist evergreen broad-leaved forests and bamboo groves at an altitude of 1300m, and feed on insects (Yang & Yang, 2004). In Jingxi, the habitat of *S. affinis* is at an altitude of 500—700m, which is much lower than that in Yunnan. They were observed frequently in the underbrush of the evergreen broad-leaved forests and the shrub around agricultural land. *S. affinis* usually gather in small groups in winter, and sometimes forage by joining mixed birds flocking.

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