

BAKER (1983) part

Raddes Warbler (*Phylloscopus schwarzi*)

Pokhara, (Hotel Garden, Phewa Tal), West Nepal.

4th and 5th March 1983.

The bird was first seen foraging amongst low (4' high) fruit bushes, normally on the ground amongst dry grass and bare ground. It was seen again on the 5th some 50 yards outside the garden in scrubby vegetation. The bird bore a close resemblance both in appearance and calls to those I had seen some three weeks previously in the Khao Yai National Park in Central Thailand. I was aware at the time of the species' rare status in Nepal and so made a conscious effort at the time to examine other possible identities for the species. Its characteristics did not suggest any of the Bush Warblers (*Cettia*) although the Field Guide (Fleming) is of little assistance. Dusky Warblers (*P. fuscatus*) were seen daily in the area at the time and had been commonly seen in Thailand. I was thus able to dismiss that species with confidence. The following description is compiled from notes made at the time.

Size typical of *Phylloscopus* but tail broad-tipped and slightly rounded. Head rather small and rounded. Tail and wings habitually flicked. Confiding. (The latter two features I found typical of Raddes' in Thailand.)

Upperparts cold grey-brown. Tail brownish. Fawn ear-coverts and moustachial, bordered darker. Dark malar mark. Supercilium quite long and prominent and buffy; narrow and bordered below by a black eyestripe and above by a dark line; curled up slightly at rear extremity. Throat whitish contrasting with ashy-grey flanks and breast. Undertail coverts, vent and sides to vent apricot-buff. Buffish flanks lightly streaked. Bill rather fine with yellowish base ("rather fine" here implies finer than Raddes' is supposed to be. However, I made the same comment about Raddes' in Thailand).

Call a harsh, quite rapid 'stuck', 'stuck' etc.

T.B. 10.2.84.