

(II)

OCCURRENCE OF THE WILLOW WARBLER *PHYLLOSCOPUS TROCHILUS* (LINNE) IN THEKKADY, KERALA, SOUTH INDIA

The Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* (Linne) is a Palaearctic species wintering in Eastern and Central Africa (Ripley, 1982). Jerdon (1840) has collected a single specimen from the Northern Range of South-Western Ghats along its range which he believed to be the Willow Warbler. This species is a vagrant or a rare passage migrant in India and recorded only from Gujarat (in March) and in Nagaland (in January) according to Ali and Ripley (1983).

On 2nd January, 1996 we heard a Willow Warbler singing near the forest check post at Thekkady, in a bush, on the forest edge. Since the habits and habitats of the bird in Europe and its wintering area in Africa (Kenya) are familiar to one of us (HO)

it attracted our attention. There was only one bird and it was heard again later. In Africa also this species occurs in similar habitats. This is the first record of this species from South India to the best of our knowledge.

The Willow Warbler is a common species in Germany at many places in bushes, younger pine plantations, willow thickets, in marshes and bogs. This Warbler is abundant in taiga of Siberia (Flint *et al.*, 1984). This species is likely to have been overlooked in many parts of India. As mentioned by Ali (1969) "several species of Leaf Warblers are likely to occur in Kerala". A close study with mistnetting may come across more species.

References

- Ali, S. (1969). *Birds of Kerala*, Oxford University Press, Madras.
 Ali, S., S.D. Ripley (1973). *Handbook of birds in India and Pakistan*, 10 Volume compact edn. Oxford University Press.
 Flint *et al.* (1984). *A field guide to birds of USSR*. Princeton University Press.
 Ripley, S.D. (1982). A synopsis of birds of India and Pakistan, *Bombay Nat. Hist. Society*.
 Jerdon, T.C. (1840). Catalogue of the Birds of the Peninsula of India arranged according to the modern system of classification with brief notes on their habitats and geographical distribution and description of new doubtful and imperfectly described species. *Madras. J. Lit. Soc.* **XI** (26) : 1-38.

- * Periyar Tiger Reserve, Thekkady, Kerala
 (Presently : Dept. of Zoology, St. Josephs College, Calicut)
 ** Department of Zoology,
 University Gottingen, Germany.
 *** Wildlife Institute of India, Dehra Dun (U.P.)

- V.J. Zacharias*
 Hans Oelke**
 A.K. Bhardwaj***