

First record of Fairy Pitta *Pitta nympha* for Lao PDR

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Here we report the first record of the Vulnerable Fairy Pitta *Pitta nympha* from the Lao PDR. At about midday on 23 April 2015, during a short wildlife survey focused on primates in Hin Namno National Protected Area, Khammouane province (Figure 1), a Fairy Pitta was found at 350 m in an evergreen forest patch (17.425°N 105.897°E) in the limestone karst habitat characteristic of the area. Images were obtained by CN (Plate 1).

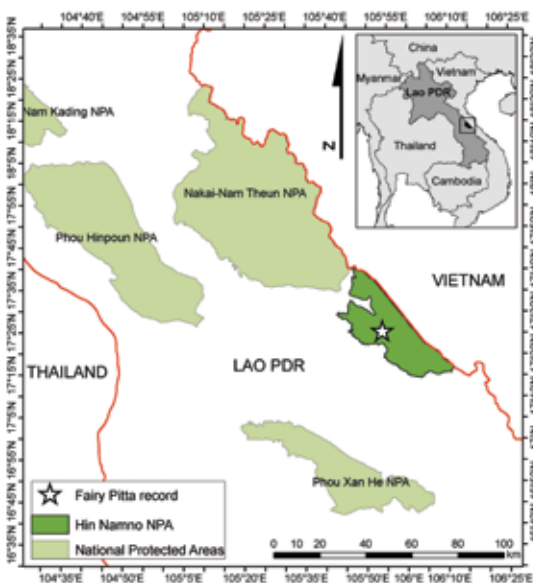
The species breeds in Japan, Korea, south and south-east China and Taiwan, and winters in the north of Borneo (Erritzøe 2016). There is also now a record from 2013 for the Philippines (Jensen *et al.* 2015) and it has also been recorded in Hong Kong, Vietnam and Thailand (BirdLife International 2016), thus it is not unexpected that it has also been found in Lao PDR.

The global population of Fairy Pitta is believed to lie between 1,500–7,000 mature individuals (BirdLife International 2016). It is classified as Vulnerable on the grounds of widespread habitat loss within its breeding range and extensive trapping, mainly in China (Liang *et al.* 2013, BirdLife International 2016).

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Figure 1. Location of Hin Namno National Protected Area in Lao PDR (inset) and the location of the sighting of Fairy Pitta in Hin Namno NPA.



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Plate 1. Fairy Pitta *Pitta nympha*, Hin Namno National Protected Area, Khammouane province, Lao PDR, 23 April 2015.

German government and implemented by GIZ and IP Consult. Permission to make the survey was granted by Sisomphone Soutichak, the division head of the Forest Management Section of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Khammouane province.

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