

## Abstract

Wetland ecosystems maintain and support vital ecological functions, as well as provide valuable products and services for human activities. Despite their importance, many wetlands, including the Mekong River Basin, have suffered from widespread destruction and degradation. Conserving wetland ecosystems and their resources through a better understanding of wetland ecology and the application of ecologically-sound management is urgently needed.

The Mekong Basin is a major corridor of bird migration but little is known about the passage and wintering habits of many smaller migrants. Due to their habits and cryptic plumage many are difficult to identify and therefore quantifying their numbers and distributions are problematic. We undertook a project at Nam Kham Nature Reserve, situated on a tributary of the River Mekong, to study the migration of birds' through this area. As part of the project we were able to train and demonstrate ringing and associated activities to a wide range of local and international students, ornithologists and government officials.

We caught, ringed, measured and released 1,239 birds of 79 species during our study. Many birds were also retrapped on subsequent visits having either wintered further south or after returning from their breeding grounds. Many interesting species were caught including the first ever record for Thailand of Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus colybita tristris*, the second Thai records of Large-billed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orinus* and Blyth's Reed Warbler *A. dumotorium* and the second-sixth records of Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler *Cettia major*.

Keywords: *Acrocephalus*, Chiang Saen, migration, scarce migrant, winter visitor