

Almost ten years have now elapsed since the first edition of this field guide was published. During this time there has been a constant stream of new information on the birds of the region, particularly with regard to taxonomy and distribution. Some corrections and updates to the text and plates have already been published in *A Field Guide to the Birds of Thailand* (Robson 2002) and *New Holland Field Guide to the Birds of South-East Asia* (Robson 2005). However, both of these books had reduced, concise text, so the current work represents the first complete revision.

The past ten years have also seen an amazing change in our understanding of avian taxonomy, with a proliferation of papers on the subject, largely based on the study of DNA. In fact, so many papers are now being produced that the situation is being updated almost monthly. Combine this with an upsurge in home-grown birders and some very active locally based organisations in the region, and it is easy to see how information soon becomes out of date. More than 100 new references have been included.

This new edition covers 1,327 species, 76 more than the first edition. It includes at least 172 new

illustrations, and more than 170 existing figures have been improved. There are now 120 plates, instead of the original 104. I have implemented widespread changes to the taxonomy and species order (see Taxonomy and nomenclature), and there are also many changes to the common and scientific names in general. Since the deadline for text completion, there has been news of a further new species for South-East Asia, Slaty-backed Gull *Larus schistisagus*. There have now been at least two records of first-winter birds from the coast of Central Thailand that have been photographed and reliably identified, in November 2002 and December 2007-January 2008.

Unfortunately, deadlines and time restraints are placed on authors when producing such a book and although much time has been spent trawling literature and corresponding with visitors to the region, some readers might find occasional errors and omissions. The author (c/o the publishers) would be pleased to receive any information which updates or corrects that presented herein, in the hope that a further updated edition may appear in the future.

Norwich,
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