

FIRST RECORD OF RUFIOUS-FACED WARBLER (*Abroscopus albogularis*) FOR MONGOLIA

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хураангуй. Бид Өмнөговь аймгийн Ханбогд сумын дэргэдэх Их Булгийн аманд 2009 оны 4 сарын 12-нд Rufous-faced Warbler *Abroscopus albogularis* хэмээх Монгол орны шувууны зүйлийн бүрдэлд өмнө бүртгэгдээгүй байсан шинэ зүйл шувууг олж зургийг нь аван баталгаажууллаа. Тархац нутгийн хувьд ерөнхийдөө зүүнөмнөд Азид суурин байх энэ шувуу нь манай оронд тохиолдлын байдлаар орж ирсэн байна. Бид үүнийг Монголоор улбархацарт мото гэж нэрлэхийг санал болгож байна.

Keywords: Rufous-faced Warbler, *Abroscopus albogularis*, Khanbogd, South Gobi

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After arriving in Khanbogd sum (a village at 43°11'N, 107°11'E) in Omnogovi aimag (South Gobi Province), about 215 km southeast of the province capital Dalanzadgad in southern Mongolia, we made a short exploratory walk to Ikh Bulag Am, a dry narrow rocky valley immediately to the south of the village. The valley is characterized by willow *Salix* sp bushes and Siberian Elm *Ulmus pumila* growing among boulders on sandy ground. Small stretches of open water near springs are present.

In an elm tree Nyambayar discovered a small warbler with bright green upperparts, whitish underparts, a mainly rufous face, black lateral crown stripes, a blackish throat and a thin pale yellow breast band. The bird was watched for about 15 minutes and several digital photographs were taken with a Panasocic Lumix FZ28 (18x zoom). The bird remained unidentified until Axel Bräunlich arrived a few days later and identified it as Rufous-faced Warbler *Abroscopus albogularis* (Moore, 1854), the identification confirmed using Brazil (2009).

Rufous-faced Warbler is a tiny bird of 8 cm length, weighting c. 4 g (Madge 2006), being even smaller than a Pallas's Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* (9–10 cm; 4.5–7.5 g). It is a scarce to locally common resident of South-East Asia, occurring from Nepal east through north-eastern India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, southeast China, western and northern Burma, north-east Thailand, northern Laos, northern Vietnam and Taiwan



Rufous-faced Warbler, South Gobi, 12 April 2009.
Photo B. Nyambayar.

(Baker 1997). It is polytypic, with three subspecies recognized. The subspecies occurring in China *A. a. fulvifacies* (Swinhoe, 1870) is found in central and southern provinces, north to Gansu (Cheng 1987). Although mainly a resident species it has been recorded at least twice in winter in Hong Kong (Carey *et al.* 2001), and it has been claimed (unpublished) from Beidaihe at the Yellow Sea Coast (<http://www.wildwings.co.uk/beidaihe.html>).

This observation constitutes the first record of a Rufous-faced Warbler for Mongolia. The record and photos were first published online on Birding Mongolia www.birdsmongolia.blogspot.com on 13 May 2009.

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