

Status and Conservation of Gurney's Pitta in Myanmar

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Following a recent assessment of the distribution and habitat use of Gurney's Pitta in Myanmar, further extensive surveys were undertaken in 2010, 2011 and 2012. These have extended the species' known altitudinal limit to between 250 m and 300 m asl and its latitudinal limit to above 12.5°N, around 80 km north of the northernmost historical record. Birds were recorded from a range of forested habitats, from intact primary forest to secondary and bamboo forest, with no significant difference between major forest types in the likelihood of occurrence. Niche envelope modelling suggested a total range size in Myanmar of 3379 km², and did not identify any potentially suitable areas in adjacent parts of Thailand. The species' preference for warmer, wetter areas on flat ground, conditions ideal for growing oil palm and rubber, suggest that its distribution is likely to contract in the near future.