

A RECORD OF BLAMHEADED GULL IN BALI

by

E.T. Myers

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A single Black headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* in winter plumage was observed on 17 August 1994 at Benoa port, Bali, together with roosting Crested Terns *Sterna bergii*. The bird was seen at a distance of 30-50 feet, and observed through 8x32 binoculars and 20x60 telescope. It was seen again at the same site on the following day.

Description: Bill bright red with sooty black tip (about a third of length of bill). Head white with blackish smudgy marks around eyes and on the ear coverts, giving a dirty appearance to the head; brownish white eye ring. Under parts white. Upper parts pale grey. Wing tips black, not showing white tips or spots. Legs: bright red, rather long, the bird standing head and shoulders above the roosting tern.

The observer has thirty years experience with this species, and is also familiar with Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* (ca. fifty occasions), Franklin's Gull *L. pipixcan* (twice), Bonaparte's Gull *L. philadelphia* (once), Little Gull *L. minutus* (many thousands) and, more importantly, Brown headed Gull *L. brunnicephalus* (over a thousand occasions~

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RECORD OF HARDHEAD (WHITE EYED DUCK) FROM LOMBOK

by

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On 23 December 1998, while relaxing on the beach at Gili Air, a small island off the northwest coast of Lombok, I noticed a group of four large ducks heading east at sea at a distance. These birds were in silhouette, but the flight was noted as somewhat direct with rapid, stiff wingbeats. Less than a minute later, these were followed by three more birds, again moving east.

Later that day, while walking round the east of the island, I came across a group of three ducks resting on the beach at 30m distance, which rapidly took flight. Though not carrying binoculars, the following features were still obvious: a very stocky, predominantly dark brown duck (almost black at a distance), though in flight showed a small amount of white on the upperwing and substantially more 'below', though the presence of a white belly was not noted as the birds were flying away from me. I immediately thought these to be Hardhead *Aythya australis*, a species I had seen in North west Australia in October 1998.

Though resting on land may be somewhat atypical behaviour in *Aythya*, all other features were consistent with this species. The obvious white on the upperwing serves to rule out Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa* and general structure size and dark appearance rules out Sunda Teal *A. gibberifrons*, with both of which I am familiar.