NEW AND INTERESTING RECORDS OF BIRDS IN WALLACEA

by

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Introduction

During ten years (1981-1990) of birdwatching throughout the islands of Wallacea, I have accumulated a number of records which supplement and compliment information presented in White & Bruce's (1986) annotated checklist of the birds of this region and in subsequent publications. With the impending publication of a handguide to the birds of the region (Bishop & Coates in prep), it was considered important to document these observations prior to their inclusion in such a publication.

Unless otherwise stated, all records under individual species accounts represent new island, archipelago and/or regional records. White & Bruce (1986) in some instances failed to define the location within a given island group where a species had been recorded. For example, Talaud is not an island but a group of three islands: Karakelong, Kabruang and Salelabu, in addition to a number of small islets. Similarly, the Banggai Islands are composed of Peleng, Banggai and Labobo islands in addition to small islets. Some records are therefore included here in order to define more exactly species’ distributions within such island groups. Other records extend the known dates of migrants in Wallacea, or present breeding records. Unless otherwise stated, all records are the author's. Additional records are cited by observer’s initials (see acknowledgements).

The paper is presented in three parts. Part I presents seabird records, other than those from Gunung Api; the breeding colony of this island has been described by de Korte (1984, 1991), and an update will appear in a later paper (Bishop, in prep.). Part II covers miscellaneous observations from the larger islands, while Part III provides preliminary lists of birds of small islands for which no ornithological data exist.

Figure 1 shows the main island groups of Wallacea; the co-ordinates will assist in the identification of localities that are too small to depict at small scale. Co-ordinates of named localities are derived from Anon (1982) or, failing that, by reference to the series ONC 1:1,000,000 topographic maps.

Nomenclature follows the KUKILA checklist. For the sake of brevity, the frequently cited White & Bruce (1986) is abbreviated to ‘W & B 1986’ in the species accounts. Dates of records are given either under the individual species accounts, or under the introduction to each island where the date of visit is recorded.

References


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Figure 1. Records of White-winged Wood Duck in the Sundanese region

Open squares indicate pre-1940 or undated records, open circles 1940-1980 records and solid circles post-1980 records. Records thought to be unreliable are excluded.