

NOTE ON THE LARGE HAWK-CUCKOO*Cuculus sparverioides***IN BALI**

By

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From about 15.30 to 17.30 on 28 January 1990, I had the good fortune to observe a Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Cuculus sparverioides* which flew into my line of vision as I was seated at my desk, overlooking the Oos river gorge, just south of the road-bridge at Tjampuhan, Ubud. The opposing slope is lightly wooded with *Albizia*, bamboo and palm, with open patches of coarse grass. Here the bird remained, alternatively perched and in foraging flight, affording excellent views, before, flying off in a south-easterly direction towards Ubud whence it came. I never saw it again.

At first I thought it was a Besra *Accipiter virgatus* because on arrival the bird perched facing me, about 30 m away, with what appeared to be a broad dark streak on its fluffy white throat. By bill shape and jizz I quickly realised this was a *Cuculus* and not an *Accipiter*. Further, I noted that the bird was large (very much larger than the Spotted Doves *Streptopelia chinensis* nearby); all the breast was streaked and rest of underparts barred; head gray and upperparts brown, appearing faintly barred; tail prominently banded, visible both above and below, whitish-tipped and with broader sub-terminal band; eye-ring yellow and feet bright chrome.

Cuculus vagans and *C. fugax* might also occur on Bali; I judged this bird to be *C. sparverioides* principally on account of its great size, lack of pale cheeks and moustache, brown upperparts, well-marked underparts, and whitish-tipped tail.

Not unexpectedly, the bird never uttered a sound.

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(Ed. *C.s. bockii* is resident in Sumatra and northern Borneo, while nominate *sparverioides* is known only as a rare winter visitor to Sumatra and Borneo, and as a vagrant to West Java and North Sulawesi. This record of an immature bird, presumably *sparverioides*, extends the known wintering range).