

NEW BIRD RECORDS FOR THE ISLAND OF LOMBOK

by

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Summary

Seventeen species are recorded for the first time from the island of Lombok. Nine of these are maritime birds on passage and four are widely occurring migrant shore and land birds. *Gallirallus striatus* may be a local migrant, *Chrysococcyx basalis* is a visitor from Australia, and *Anthreptes malaccensis* is presumed to be either a previously overlooked resident or a recent colonist. *Hemiprocne longipeimis*, previously unrecorded from the Lesser Sundas, appears to be a recent colonist.

Introduction

The island of Lombok, lying between Ball and Sumbawa, is the first major island east of Wallace's Line in the Lesser Sundas, and is of considerable biogeographic interest. However, it has no endemic bird species and consequently often receives rather cursory attention from ornithologists, especially in recent times. The following species which are new to the island (see White & Bruce 1986) were observed during visits made in May and October 1988 (R.E. Johnstone), 25-28 May 1990 (S. van Balen) and 7-23 October 1991 (R.W.R.J. Dekker). REJ made two short visits to Lombok, en route to and from Sumbawa, and made two crossings of the Lombok Strait (Bali to Lombok) and the Alas Strait (Lombok to Sumbawa). SvB accompanied D. Quammen to northern Lombok, and explored in particular the Gunung Rinjani foothills. RWRJD surveyed the avifauna while engaged on an expedition of the National Museum of Natural History - Leiden, to collect dung-beetles. Additional records are described from the late Tim Andrews (TA), who had kindly forwarded a draft manuscript to D.A. Holmes in August 1989.

Species List

Puffinus pacificus **Wedge-tailed Shearwater**

One in the Lombok Strait, 31 May 1988 (REJ). A dark phase bird had previously been reported by TA in the Lombok Strait near Lembar on 21 April 1988.

Oceanodroma matsudairae **Matsudaira's Storm-petrel**

One in the Lombok Strait, 31 May 1988 (REJ). It was identified from size (about that of *Pelagodroma marina*), the brownish shoulders, a whitish patch at the base of the outer primaries, and the forked tail. It is probably a regular visitor to the seas of Wallaces (K.D. Bishop, pers. comm.).

Fregata andrewsi **Christmast Frigatebird**

A single female with black chin and throat, white belly and white "armpits" was observed near Lembar Harbour, 31 May 1988 (REJ).

Fregata ariel **Lesser Frigatebird**

Nine birds at Ampenan beach. 9 October 1991 (RWRJD).

Gallirallus striatus **Slaty-breasted Rail**

One, Lembar Harbour, 11 October 1991 (RWRJD). It was observed from a distance of c. 15m for several minutes molesting a crab on a small mudflat scattered with mangroves bordering the harbour. About toe size of a Water Rail *Rallus aquanitus* bill relatively long; legs greyish. The combination of grey breast, rufous or chestnut crown and neck, and greyish-black upperparts barred white, was diagnostic.

Tringa totanus **Common Redshank**

Four. Lembar Harbour, 11 October 1991 (RWRJD).

Tringa nebularia **Common Greenshank**

Two, Lembar Harbour, 11 October 1991 (RWRJD).

Tringa glareola **Wood Sandpiper**

Eighty Ampenan, 9 October 1991 (RWRJD).

Gelochelidon nilotica **Gull-billed tern**

Two, Lembar Harbour, 11 October 1991 (RWRJD).

Sterna bergii **Great Crested Tern**

Two at Labuan Lombok, 7 May, one at Lembar, 31 May, and six in the Alas Strait near Labuan Lombok. 18 October 1988 (REJ).

Sterna bengalensis **Lesser Crested Tern**

One just off-shore at Labuan Lombok. 23 April 1988 (TA).

Sterna anaethetus **Bridled Tern**

Flocks of c. 100, 150 and 50. including many unmatues. were feeding and moving north through the Lombok Strait, 1 May 1988 (REJ). These are believed to be passage migrants from Australia (in Western Australia, the species is almost entirely a breeding visitor arriving in late September or October and leaving between late February and early May).

Sterna albifrons **Little Tern**

Flocks of c. 100, 50, 20, 10, 30 and 100 observed flying north low over the water in the Alas Strait, 18 October 1988 (REJ). They were identified by their small size, and greyish upperparts, with blackish cap and outer primaries (forming dark leading edges and tips to the wings). These birds were probably passage migrants from Australia, where *S. a. sinensis* is a non-breeding visitor to North-west Australia mostly from September to June. There is also the possibility that they were

S. 'albifrons' scamdersi which is a rare visitor to Australia and differs only in having black shafts to three or four outer primaries. The latter taxon is, however, not yet recorded from Wallacea.

Chrysococcyx basalis **Horsfield' Bronze Cuckoo**

Two small cuckoos alighted in a small tree in dry, open, hilly woodland at c. 400 m near Bayan, 26 May 1990 (SvB). Though only perching very briefly, the whitish eye-brow and barred flanks were sufficient to confirm the identification.

Hemiprocne longipennis **Grey-rumped Tree-swift**

Several large swifts were seen on the northern slopes of Guramg Rinjani, 26 and 27 May 1990 (SvB). They were identified as this species by the long, very deeply forked tail and whitish belly and rump. The species is resident on Bali and Sulawesi, but this is the first record for the Lesser Sundas (the record is already entered in the Checklist - see Andrew 1992). In 1991, they were observed commonly at Pusuk, 9 October, and at Senaru, 13 and 21 October (RWRJD).

Motacilla flava **Yellow Wagtail**

A flock of c.50 in recently harvested ricefields, Sekotong, 11 October 1991 (RWRJD).

Anthreptes malacensis **Brown-throated Sunbird**

Two observed in vine forest at Kuta, 5 May 1988 (REJ). Also observed by SvB in village coconut palms on the north-west coast, 28 May 1990. The presence of this sunbird on Lombok was to be expected, as it occurs on both Bali to the west and Sumba (White & Bruce 1986), Sumbawa (REJ. pers. obs.) and Komodo (Bishop 1992 :23) to the east.

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