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## A NOTE ON THE OCCURRENCE OF ZEBRA FINCH ON BALI

by

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At 14.30 on 22 December 1992, a pair of Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata* was observed at Suwung (8°42'S, 115°14'E). The site lies 50 m north of the small sea temple, Pura Segara Tapang, and 200 m east of the main Sanur by-pass road. Drawing attention by their soft, purring calls, the birds were seen to be feeding on the ground at the edge of a grass-clad bund dividing disused fish ponds.

Both birds were -distinctively marked with the diagnostic black and white tear stripes and barred tails, the male also being adorned with brilliant bay ear patches and white spotted, chestnut flanks. The male lacked the breast barring of Australian birds (Simpson & Day 1984), being clearly of the nominate Lesser Sunda race (White & Bruce 1986). The birds were watched at very close range for two minutes through 7 x 35 field glasses, before flying off to perch on a nearby fence, where they remained for several minutes before taking wing, in a westerly direction, to be lost from view.

Whether ferally established or present through spontaneous expansion of range may not be determined; the birds behaved in a wild manner. So far as is known, this is the first recorded appearance in Bali, or anywhere west of its known range in Lombok, through the Lesser Sundas, to Australia (Andrew 1992, White & Bruce 1986).

Future visitors to Bali will be interested to know that all the area of fish ponds, mudflats and mangrove bounding Suwung and Benoa Bay was declared a Forest Reserve (*Taman Hutan Raya*) in December 1992.

### References

- Andrew, P. 1992. *The birds of Indonesia: a checklist (Peters' sequence)*. Jakarta: Indonesian Ornithological Society.
- Simpson, K. & N. Day. 1984. *Field guide to the birds of Australia*. Viking O'Neil, Australia.
- White, CMN. & M.D. Bruce. 1986. *The birds of Wallacea (Sulawesi, the Moluccas and Lesser Sunda Islands, Indonesia): an annotated checklist*. London: Brit. Om. U. Checklist No. 7.

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