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**SIGHTING OF A COMMON STONE-CHAT ON NIAS ISLAND, SUMATRA**

by

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On 4 May 1990, the author observed a female Common Stone-chat *Saxicola torquata* at Lahewa, a small town at the western tip of the island of Nias, off north-west Sumatra. The bird was watched at close range for about fifteen minutes as it fed along the edge of an overgrown football pitch adjacent to agricultural plots. The crown, nape, mantle, scapular\* and wing-coverts were a uniform sandy-buff, with blackish-brown centres to all feathers producing fine streaks on the crown and particularly bold streaks on the mantle. There was an indistinct pale supercilium and the ear-coverts were mottled sandy-grey, darker towards the rear. The rump and upper tail-coverts were an unmarked sandy-white and the tail was entirely black except for a whitish fringe to the outer web of the outermost feathers; no white was seen at the base of the outer few pairs of feathers. The flight feathers were very dark brown with sandy-buff fringes to the secondaries and tertials. No white patch or lime was apparent on the inner wing. The under-parts were an unmarked sandy-buff, almost whitish on the throat. The whole plumage, which on this date would have been considerable worn, lacked any orange or rufous tone. The features of this individual preclude determination of race.

The only previous record of this species in Indonesia is from near Jambi town on mainland Sumatra on 26 January 1976 (Harvey & Holmes 1976). The late date of this recent sighting is remarkable, but a Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* was present nearby on the same day and an Oriental Reed-warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis* was seen at the same site on the following day,

## Reference

Harvey, W.G. & D.A. Holmes. 1976. Additions to the avifaunas of Sumatra and Kalimantan, Indonesia. *Bull. Brit. Orn. CL* 96: 90-92.

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