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(Received 30 December 1994)

Summary

Additions to the avifauna of Alor are presented. The most notable of these are Red-legged Crake *Rallina fasciata*. Tree Martin *Cecropis nigricans* and a presumed Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys*. Circumstantial evidence is provided that the Tree Martin is breeding on Alor.

Introduction

During a brief duty visit to the island of Alor, East Nusatenggara, on 9-12 December 1994, the following species were recorded apparently for the first time from the island (*cf.* White & Bruce 1986, Bruce 1987). Birds were observed only incidentally and it was not possible to devote time to the more interesting species encountered along the road. Most of the species listed below have no particular significance and are to be expected; they serve to "fill the gap in the ornithological record". More details are provided for the more significant records. Places visited were Kalabahi (the capital, at 8°13'S, 124°30'E), Tulta (8°10'S, 124°28'E), the sand spit beyond the airport at Mali (8° 07'S, 124°36'E), Leiahomi (8°10'S, 124°42'E) and Mainang at *ca.* 700 m (8°16'S, 124°37'E).

New species list

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*. One, Mali, 11 Dec.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*. One, Mali, 11 Dec.

Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*. Five, white phase, Mali, 11 Dec.

Red-legged Crake *Rallina fasciata*. One at Kalabahi, 9 Dec., killed by a boy's catapult. The bird appeared to be in fresh plumage. The species has been reported previously from Nusatenggara only from Lombok, Flores and Kisar islands, with breeding reported on Flores (Schmutz 1977, 1978).

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*. *ca.* 30, Mali, 11 Dec.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*. *ca.* 30, Mali, 11 Dec.

Malaysian Plover *Charadrius peronii*. One pair on a sand beach, Mali, 11 Dec. The nearest islands having this species listed in White & Bruce (1986) are Timor and Sumbawa, but it has recently been recorded also from Flores (Verhoye *m prep.*, Butchart *et al.* in prep).

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*. One, Mali, 11 Dec.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*. Three, Mali, 11 Dec.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*. Few, Mali, 11 Dec.

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes*. At least three, Mali, 11 Dec.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*. *ca.* 15, Mali, 11 Dec.

- Rusty-breasted Cuckoo** *Cacomantis sepulchralis*. Voice record only. The prolonged cadence call of repeated 'heet' notes was heard very clearly from two separate birds, Mainang, 10 Dec
- Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*. A few with the next species, Kalabahi, 9 Dec. Previously reported on 17 Oct 1990 by Mason (1991).
- Pacific Swallow** *Hirundo tahitica*. Very common in Kalabahi, 9 Dec. Previously reported on 17 Oct 1990 by Mason (1991).
- Tree Martin** *Cecropis nigricans*. ca. 20-30 birds present at one location at ca. 1000 m on the road that climbs out from Mainang in the direction of Apui, 10 Dec. The site was located near the crest of a very steep rise before the road emerged on to a rolling to hilly plateau region. Vegetation at this altitude consisted predominantly of *Melaleuca cf. leucadendron* trees. The birds gave every indication of being a residential colony, and they were not encountered elsewhere. On several occasions birds were seen to swoop into two or more holes in these trees, of the type described in. Pizzey (1980) as 'small hollow spouts'. My previous experience of this species is of single birds in Flores in September 1993 (twice), and large numbers on the coast near Kupang, Timor in July 1993, birds clearly in winter quarters with quite different behaviour. White & Bruce (1986) describe *timoriensis* as believed to be resident on Timor but state that 'confirmation that a breeding population exists in Timor is desirable'. The above record would appear to provide such confirmation, but from the adjacent island of Alor from whence the species has not previously been reported.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*. One in the river at Mainang, 10 Dec.

[Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys*. The unmistakable song of two or more Lesser Shortwings was heard from lightly wooded gulleys on the rolling to hilly plateau at ca. 1000 m on the Mainang to Apui road, 10 Dec, but circumstances permitted no opportunity to search for them. The song, which is familiar to me from Java and Thailand, was much closer to this species than that of the White-browed Shortwing *B. montanus*. The former species is known in Nusatenggara from Lombok, Sumbawa and Timor, and the latter species from Flores only (White & Bruce 1986). Although Alor lies in the Flores chain (the inner island arc), it actually lies much closer to Timor than Flores. However, I would be hesitant to accept a voice-only record of this species, and a confirmatory sighting is now required.].

Black-faced Munia *Lonchura molucca*. Party of three below Mainang, 10 Dec.

Additional observations

A pair of **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* was encountered on a wooded hill overlooking the north coast at Tulta on 11 Dec. This species was not reported from Alor in White & Bruce (1986), but was mentioned in a later addendum (Bruce 1987). My last observation of this species was from very similar topographic situation, a wooded hill overlooking the south coast of Sikka, Pulau Flores, in September 1993, also some two kilometres from the sea.

A second record of interest is of three separate **Koels** *Eudynamys* sp. calling near and above Leiahomi on 12 Dec. The taxonomy of the genus is confused in White & Bruce (1986), with the implication being that the Asian Koel *E. scolopacea* is resident in Nusatenggara while the Australian Koel *E. cyanocephala* is predominantly an austral winter visitor. Only the latter taxon is previously reported from Alor, as well as from Sumba. I prefer to consider that birds vocalizing in mid-December, on both islands (this species was very vocal near Lewa on Sumba in December 1991) are likely to be resident *scolopacea*.

References:

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SIGHTING OF STORM'S STORK AT DANAU SENTARUM, WEST KALIMANTAN.

by

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The Danau Sentarum Wildlife Reserve (DSWR) in West Kalimantan is an ecologically unique area consisting of seasonal lakes, freshwater swamp forest, peat swamp forest and hill forest. Located in the western region of the upper Kapuas River basin, it is the largest remaining relatively undisturbed area of this ecotype in Kalimantan. In addition to a rich flora, the region contains a diverse fauna, including the rare fish Asian Arowana *Scleropages formosus*. False Gavia *Tomistoma schlegeli* and many bird species (Giesen 1987).

The Storm's Stork *Ciconia stormi* was observed whilst the author was engaged on surveys for the Asian Wetland Bureau, which is carrying out a project to promote sustainable management of DSWR (UK-Indonesian Tropical Forest Management Project, Sub-project Forestry