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SOME FURTHER NEW RECORDS OF SHOREBIRDS FROM LOMBOK

by
Louis Boon

(First draft received 22 May 1995)

Gili Trawangan and Gili Meno are two small islands off the west coast of Lombok that are well known to tourists. On 30 August to 4 September 1994 the extensive coral and rock flats on the north coast of Trawangan and a small lake on Meno, used by the local population for salt production, proved productive for waders, including species only recently recorded for the first time from Lombok, such as Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Common Redshank *Tringa totana*, Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*, and Grey-tailed Tattler *Heterosceliis brevipes* (cf. White & Bruce 1986, Burton 1989, Johnstone *et al.* 1993). Also recorded were the following species, none of which have been previously reported from Lombok.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*. At least one bird present on the lake on Meno; the yellow eyering was seen clearly. It was feeding about 20-30 feet from the waterside in dry salt pans. Close by were a few Greater Sand-plovers *C. leschenaultii*, but this bird kept more or less to its own and walked away from the larger birds.

Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*. A single bird was present on the drier part of the shore of the lake on Meno. The small plover was foraging on its own all the time it was observed. It had a white forehead, clear rufous crown and nape, white breast and underparts, and grey (rather dark) legs. There was no trace of a white collar. The bird was not shy, permitting an approach to within ten metres, when it would walk away. When further pressed, it flew a short distance, revealing a white wingstripe. I spent some half-hour with the bird in this fashion.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*. Two were present on the north side of Trawangan at low tide, frequenting rock pools. There were also Whimbrels *N. phaeopus* present, and it was the difference in size that first attracted attention. Good comparisons with the whimbrels were available, the curlews showing no eyestripe, and a larger, longer and more decurved bill. The white rump and rather light underside of the wings ruled out Far Eastern Curlew *N. madagascariensis*. Two days later, I observed two birds in similar terrain on Meno, possibly the same individuals.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*. One bird was foraging with others on the shore of the lake on Meno. Although acquiring winter plumage, some of the summer colours were still present,

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*. Two birds were foraging close to other species on the shore of the lake on Meno. The roundish birds had quite long legs for their size, and conspicuously decurved black bills. Greyish winter plumage was well developed although some

of the rufous summer plumage remained. The white rump was conspicuous in flight. They were foraging along with other birds, most of them grey plovers, close to the water edge.

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SIGHTING OF A COMMON CUCKOO ON GUNUNG GEDE JAVA

by

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(first draft received 3 August 1995)

From 28 March to 2 April 1995 we visited the Gunung Gede National Park in West Java. Relevant for the present record of a Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* is the trail from the entrance to the Cibereum waterfalls. This trail is lined with 27 markstones, 100 m apart. At about marker 15 there is a small lake. From marker 20 to 22 there is a swampy, grassy area. From the lake towards the swampy area the forest becomes progressively more open. The trail here is not very steep; it rises slowly to the swampy area which is more or less level. The altitude of this stretch of the trail would be between 1500 and 1600 m. This means that this part of the trail is on or just above the line separating the sub-montane and montane forest.

On 31 March we were walking down the Cibereum trail, coming back from a morning of birdwatching. We had just passed the grassy marsh area around marker 21. It was about 10.30 AM. At that time the first clouds were starting to form, announcing the clouding up that heralded the afternoon showers we had been witnessing since we arrived.

After the grassy area the trail enters the forest again. Low trees and bushes are on each side of the path interspersed with larger trees and with openings. On this stretch between markers 20 and 16 on the right side of the path landed a large grey bird. Our distance to the bird was about 20-25 m. It sat with its back to us on an almost horizontal branch, about 2 m above the forest floor. The path at this point was going down gently so the bird was almost level with our eyes. We both had the bird immediately in our binoculars. The back was grey, the tail long and dark. It could not be mistaken for anything but a cuckoo. After a few seconds the bird turned around, but stayed in the same spot. We had closed in a further few meters by that time. We both identified it as a male cuckoo: grey