

**BLUE ROCK-THRUSH AT MANOKWARI,
A NEW RECORD FOR IRIAN JAVA**

by

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(first draft received 25 September 1995)

A single Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* was observed on the airstrip at Manokwari on 11 Jan 1994. This appears to be the first record for Irian Jaya, and only the second for the island of New Guinea (Hicks and Finch 1987).

The bird was initially seen on the tarmac, and it then flew up to the terminal buildings, allowing close views. The field notes taken at the time were as follows:

A typical *Monticola*, perching in an upright fashion and rather short-tailed with the tail frequently flicked. Upperparts dark slaty grey, looking very dark in poor light. Scapulars and tertials dark olive grey-brown with pale edgings giving a scaled look, secondaries and primaries similar colour with pale edgings. Rump same colour as mantle, tail very dark brown with slaty tint running off rump. Underparts pale greyish with heavy brownish-grey scales on breast leading to fine close grey-brown barring on belly and flanks. No throat patch as such but paler to breast. An indistinct darker mark ran down from below the eye onto the neck. Legs dark greyish, eye and bill dark. The lack of a clear whitish throat would seem to eliminate the possibility of any other *Monticola* species being involved. The bird was very like individuals of this species seen in Europe, Africa and Asia.

References

- Andrew P. 1992. *The Birds of Indonesia-A checklist (Peter's sequence)*. Jakarta: Indonesian Ornithological Society.
- Hicks R. and B. W. Finch (1987). Blue Rock Thrush on Paga Hill, Port Moresby. First record for the Australian Region, east of the Moluccas. *Mniik*: 2(2): 66-67.