
Although considered resident within its' known range its' occurrence on Bali is not unexpected. Indeed Mackinnon and Phillips (1993) state that it could occur.

Acknowledgements:

Many thanks to Victor Mason for his support in the publication of this record, and for bringing the *Kukila* reference to my attention. Thanks also to the British Museum of Natural History, Tring, for access to specimens.

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BAILLON'S CRAKE, A NEW SPECIES FOR BALI

by
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(Draft received 17 April 1995)

On 31 March 1995, while on a Bali Bird Walk in an area of ricefields between Ubud and Sayan, 08°31'S, 115°16'E, excellent views were obtained of a Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*, which stood for 20 seconds motionless on an intervening grassy bund before slipping into the contiguous green growth, some 30 cm in height. Conspicuous were the small size, grey breast, white streaking on the mantle, and white barring on the underparts, and the lack of a supercilium (*cf* White-browed Crake *P. cinerea*).

Baillon's Crake is stated by MacKinnon & Phillips (1993) to be 'mostly a scarce winter visitor in lowlands and hills, rare south to Java, and not recorded in Bali', while White & Bruce (1986) mentions records in Wallacea from Flores and Seram. Its occurrence in Bali was to be expected.

This observation was shared with Maria & Hans Soderstrom, Philippe Deymes, Steve Last and Brian Greeves.

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FIRST RECORD OF CINNAMON BITTERN FOR TIMOR

by

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(Received 14 February 1996)

The Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* is widespread through eastern Asia from India and China south to Indonesia, but is not known from Australia or New Guinea. It is a common resident of freshwater swamps and rice paddies throughout the Greater Sundas, including Bali (Holmes & Nash 1989; Mason & Jarvis 1989; MacKinnon & Phillipps 1993). In Wallacea, it is common in Sulawesi (Watling 1983; Baltzer 1990), and there are four records from Flores (Verhoeve & Holmes, in prep.) and two from Sumba (Bishop 1992, M. Linsley *in litt.* To D. Holmes). White & Bruce (1986) suggest that Sulawesi and Lombok appear to mark the SE limit of range, and that some records for Wallacea may refer to winter visitors from the north (presumably China), although Verheijen (1964) tentatively recorded breeding on Flores in April.

On 9 December 1995, while birdwatching in rice paddies 16 km east of Kupang, West Timor, we saw a small bittern fly towards and past us, circle and fly past again. During this period we had excellent views of this bird, which had uniform bright cinnamon-chestnut upperparts, including wing-quills, and paler underparts with a noticeable black stripe or stripes on the foreneck. Both of us have had previous experience of this species, RJM in Malaysia and KU in southern Japan. Neither of us were in any doubt as to the identity of the bird as a male Cinnamon Bittern.

This record constitutes the first documented record of the species for Timor, extending the known range eastwards slightly from Flores and Sumba. The only other small bittern known from the island is the Yellow Bittern *I. sinensis* (White & Bruce 1986). As our bird was present during the northern winter, it is likely that it was a vagrant beyond its normal wintering range. However, we recommend observers visiting the island to pay more attention to birds of the wetlands, in order to confirm the status of this and other heron species.