

**FAUNISTIC NOTES FROM KAYAN MENTARANG  
WITH NEW RECORDS FOR KALIMANTAN**

by  
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In January February 1992, August September 1993 and March April 1996 the Kayan Mentarang proposed National Park (East Kalimantan) was visited by the author for bird inventories on request of the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) Indonesia Programme. Results of the first survey are given in van Balen (1992); a comprehensive checklist covering all three surveys is in preparation (van Balen in prep.). Tape recordings of a large number of birds have been deposited at the British Library of Wildlife Sounds (BLOWS) in London. This paper gives an account of notable observations made during the surveys. The most important locality faunistically was Mt Lunjut above Long Puak (2°32'N, 115°40'E), where observations were made between 1500 and 1900m a.s.l. Other localities mentioned in the text include the villages of Long Pujungan (2°35'N, 115°47'E) and Long Alango (2°54'N,

115°50'E).

**Species accounts:**

**Besra** *Accipiter virgatus*. On 30 March 1996, ca 07.25 hrs, a bird was heard (the characteristic call "kiiw kikikiki"), and a glimpse of its silhouette seen in the forest edge bordering fresh ladangs at Long Pujungan. On 4 April 1996, ca. 10.30 hrs, a single sparrowhawk flew over Mt Lunjut. The bird showed heavily barred wings, and a brick red breast, only faintly interspersed by whitish bars. The deep rufous breast and belly are typical of the North Bornean race *rufotibialis* (Smythies 1981) These observations comprise the first records for Kalimantan of this species, which has been recorded from Mt Kinabalu, and a number of other places in North Borneo, where it appears to be extremely rare (Smythies 1957).

**Large Hawk cuckoo** *Cuculus sparverioides*. This cuckoo was commonly heard, but never seen, during August 1993 and April 1996 at ca. 1700m on Mt Lunjut (Kayan Mentarang). Two call types were recorded (BLOWS Nos 47811, 47813) and later confirmed with tapes from birds in Malaysia (White 1984). The calls heard were transcribed as follows: a) a rising series of many "TEEtee"s, followed by several single "tee"s falling in pitch; b) an endlessly repeated "CHUPCHUPchee"

This species was not previously recorded for Kalimantan (Andrew 1992), though the resident race *bocki* is found at 1000 2000m on the North Bornean mountains, i.e. around the Kelabit highlands, on the Usun Apau Plateau and Mt Selidang and is found common at Mts Kinabalu and Murud (Smythies 1957).

**Mountain Scopsowl** *Otus spilocephalus*. Several were heard near our campsite at 1675m on Mt Lunjut in the mornings, evenings and moonlit nights of 26 28 August 1993. The two note "poo poo" was tape recorded and later confirmed by comparison with tapes by Marshall (1978) and White (1984) Copies of the tapes have been deposited with BLOWS (No. 47808). The owl was heard again during April 1996 on the same mountain.

Smythies (1957, 1981) reported this owl for montane forest from 1000m upwards ranging from Mt Kinabalu along the spinal range to Mt Mulu and Mt Dulit, but it had not been recorded for Kalimantan (Andrew 1992).

**Whitehead's Trogon** *Harpactes whiteheadi*. On the morning of 5 April 1996 vocalizations were heard consisting of soft, rolling "rrr"s, sometimes followed by loud "kekekeke"s (dropping in pitch). A later view revealed two male birds, of which the entirely red head, black chin, grey upper breast, brown wings with black white checkered coverts, and brown upper tail with white outer feathers, were diagnostic of the Whitehead's Trogon. The birds were observed during several minutes before they disappeared deeper into the rather sparse moss forest.

This Bornean endemic was known from a number of localities in North Borneo (Smythies 1957), but not from Kalimantan (Andrew 1992).

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**Golden naped Barbet** *Megalaima pulcherrima*. The characteristic but otherwise rather unobtrusive call of this species, a many times repeated "tk tk trrrt", was heard very commonly and tape recorded between 1600 and 1800 m on Mt Lunjut during April 1996. A foraging bird was seen on the morning of 4 April: its golden yellow nape, blue throat, forehead and crown, light green cheeks, and emerald green body were brighter than any of the illustrations consulted, but removed any doubt of the species' presence.

These observations are the first for Kalimantan of this Bornean endemic (Andrew 1992).

**Whitehead's Broadbill** *Calyptomena whiteheadi*. On the morning of 27 August 1993 two large, rich green broadbills with large black spots on the body were seen foraging in the canopy of a tree near the camp site on Mt Lunjut. In the late afternoon of the same day a peculiar call, sounding like "teek waaaaarr" was tape recorded at the same spot; after having taken wing a woodpecker like cackle was heard. Comparison with tape recordings made by A. Lewis on Mt Kinabalu confirmed that they were of this species. Copies of the tapes have been deposited with BLOWS (No. 47821). The birds were not seen or heard during 1996.

This is the confirmation of an earlier record by Pfeffer (1960 1961) of this Bornean endemic from Mt Duk Nan above the Upper Kayan and which was suspected to be a locality in Kalimantan (Andrew 1993).

**Grey chinned Minivet** *Pericrocotus Solaris*. Minivets were frequently heard near the camp site on Mt Lunjut at ca. 1700 on 26 28 August 1993; a female was seen on 26 August. The bright yellow underparts, and entirely grey head, including the chin and throat, were diagnostic.

There are no previous observations in Kalimantan of this species (Andrew 1992), widespread in SE Asia and in Borneo commonly found between 3000 and 8000 ft, from Mt Kinabalu to Mts Mulu and Dulit (Smythies 1957).

**Blue winged Leafbird** *Chloropsis (cochinchinensis) flavocincta*. A pair of rather small leafbirds was seen on 25 August 1993, at 1000m on Mt Lunjut; both had black throats, which in one bird was bordered by a yellow lower fringe and forehead; the blue was not very conspicuous in either of the birds. Another pair was seen on 27 August at ca. 1675m on the same mountain; the male had an entirely yellow head, and black throat, the female with black throat, and blue in the wings. Unless in both cases two males have been observed, this would be the first record of this race for Kalimantan, hitherto only known as an abundant montane resident endemic to the mountains from Kinabalu along the spinal range to Mt Dulit above 600m (Smythies 1957). More birds (of both sexes) were seen and tape recorded during April 1996 on the same mountain.

This race is considered by some authorities as a distinct species endemic to the Bornean

mountains.

**Flavescent Bulbul** *Pycnonotus flavesceus*. A single bird was seen in the canopy of a low tree in the moss forest of Mt Lunjut at 1925m on 27 August 1993, but a pair was seen more regularly during April 1996. The birds resembled the Yellow vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier*, but were readily distinguished by a brighter yellow vent, greyish underparts and largely whitish head, without dark lores. The bird observed in 1993 remained silent, but calls of the species were recognized by D. Yong (pers. comm. 1995) from tapes recorded at Mt Lunjut.

This is the first record for Kalimantan of this species, which is a common, higher montane resident above 1000m from Mt Kinabalu and Trus Madi along the spinal chain to Mt Murud, and down to Mt Mulu (Smythies 1957).

**White browed Shortwing** *Brachypteryx montana*. A loud, rather irregularly repeated song was heard in the Mt Lunjut area, between ca. 1500 and 1700m. The first, slurred strophs were deceptively similar to the song of a Flycatcher *Gerygone sulphurea*, but were often followed by some concluding, faster notes. The song missed the introduction of slow, loud whistles at different pitches, "quickened to a plaintive babble" (Holmes in MacKinnon & Phillips 1993), typical of the Javan White browed Shortwing. The males did not react to playbacks of their song, but on 4 April a female approached me within a few meters, when I played back her "kak" and "kakak" calls. The chestnut brown head, breast and belly, contrasting with the dark slaty grey back and (cocked) tail were diagnostic.

The species had not previously been recorded from Kalimantan (Andrew 1992).

**Sunda Bush warbler** *Cettia vulcania*. On 27 August 1993 the species' characteristic whistled call was heard and tape recorded in the undergrowth of the moss forest of Mt Lunjut at 1925m. The bird was seen only briefly. No streaks were seen on the breast, which are typical of the North Bornean race (MacKinnon & Phillips 1993; but see Harrap 1994), but the uniformly brownish upperparts, lighter underparts and pale eyebrow, in addition to the unmistakable call, were diagnostic. Copies of the tape recording have been deposited with BLOWS (No. 47815). During April 1996 a single bird was seen again, tape recorded and photographed.

There were no previous records for Kalimantan (Andrew 1992) of this higher montane resident, which in Borneo is restricted to high peaks only, from Kinabalu along the spinal range to Mt Murud and Mt Mulu (Smythies 1957).

**White browed Rhinomyias** *Rhinomyias gularis*. On 4 April, at 09.05 hrs a largish flycatcher was glimpsed, joining a noisy flock of small passerines, in low undergrowth of mainly palms and bamboo, not far below the summit of Mt Lunjut at ca. 1800m. The plump bird had a short rufous tail; its shape, white throat and grey breast suggested the White browed Rhinomyias. On 5 April another bird, more downhill in the lower storey of forest on a steep slope at 1500m was seen for 10-15 minutes. Tail, upperparts and very "high" cheeks (adding to the bird's plump appearance) were rufous brown. A broad

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white eyebrow from the lores became thinner behind the eyes. The grey breast, contrasting with the white throat, became gradually whitish towards the belly. An often repeated alarm call "prrrt" was tape recorded. The colour plate in MacKinnon & Phillipps (1993) gives the bird's jizz strikingly well, far better than the plate in Davison's birds of Mt Kinabalu (1992).

This species was not previously recorded for Kalimantan (Andrew 1992). The species occurs in several races in the Philippines and in Borneo, amongst which the Bornean nominate race is considered a full species by some authors (See also Davison, this issue, for a record from SE Kalimantan).

**Indigo Flycatcher** *Eumyias indigo*. A single bird was seen at ca. 1700m in primary montane forest on Mt Lunjut on 26 August 1993; another was seen the next day at 1925m in moss forest on top of the same hill. The black mask, with whitish blue forehead, black chin, blue upper breast, white belly with yellowish wash, and buffy vent were diagnostic. In April 1996 the flycatchers were quite commonly seen and heard between 1400 and 1800m at the same locality. A harsh alarm call, sounding as a fast, almost rattling "tzit tzit tzit", and a soft song, similar to the Javan race but shorter, were heard.

This constitutes the first record for Kalimantan of this higher montane resident, which is one of the most characteristic birds of Kinabalu and Trus Madi to Mt Murud and Mt Mulu above 1000m (Smythies 1957).

**Whitehead's Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera juliae*. On several occasions rather large, unidentified spiderhunters were seen at ca. 1675m on Mt Lunjut on 27 August 1993; calls sounding as a peculiar, wheezy "wit whiill" and "whiill" were tape recorded in the same area and later confirmed by comparing with those made by A. Lewis on Mt Kinabalu in 1991. Copies of the tape recordings have been deposited with BLOWS (Nr. 47819). Birds were heard regularly and seen well during April 1996 at the same locality. The dark and white streaked breast, yellow undertail coverts and typical spiderhunter bill were diagnostic.

Whitehead's Spiderhunter is a locally common montane resident, endemic to Borneo, and was hitherto only known from North Borneo, ranging from Mt Kinabalu along the spinal chain to Usun Apau plateau and Mt Dulit, and Mt Mulu (Smythies 1957, 1981).

**Black capped White eye** *Zosterops atricapilla*. A small noisy flock of these white eyes was seen foraging in the canopy of low trees in the moss forest on Mt Lunjut at ca 1850m on 27 August 1993. The black foreheads and mask, white eyerings, greenish upperparts and throats, greyish belly and yellowish vent were diagnostic. Calls heard were of a trembling. Dark eye *Lophozosterops* quality. Copies of the tape recording have been deposited with BLOWS (No. 47817). The white eyes were seen again in April 1996 on the same mountain.

This is the first record of the species for Kalimantan, hitherto only known from above 1000m on Mt Kinabalu, Mt Mulu, Batu Patap, Ulu Sabai and Tutoh river (Smythies 1981).

**Tawny breasted Parrot finch** *Erythrura hyperythra*. On 14 April 1996 during the afternoon, a small

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greenish finch was seen flying from a harvested dry ricefield at *ca.* 400m asl, near the air strip north of Long Alango. On 16 April, at *ca.* 12.35 hrs, three Tawny breasted Parrot finches were flushed from the ground in the ricefield. The silent birds landed in a tree bordering the field. Two birds were seen well from about 20m distance: green upper parts, yellowish green tail, uniform pinkish underparts and around the eyes and sides of the head, black forehead, pink feet and dark bill. No blue was seen on the crown, and one of the birds had a greyish green wash on the mid breast.

This parrot finch is a higher montane very rare resident, previously known only from Mts Kinabalu and Mulu (Smythies 1957).

**Black and crimson Oriole** *Oriolus cruentus*. A single bird was seen in the lower canopy of a tall tree above a rivulet at *ca.* 1000m on Mt Lunjut, foraging on a mossy branch, on 26 August 1993. The blood red breast and wing spot, black body parts and dark grey bill were diagnostic. Another adult and a juvenile bird, blackish with chestnut breast, were seen during April 1996 at about the same locality.

This is a confirmation of its occurrence in Kalimantan since Pfeffer (1960 1961) collected a female in April 1957 on Mt Duk Nan, also in Kalimantan (Andrew 1993; P. Pfeffer 1996 pers. comm.).

#### Concluding remarks

The finding of the above mentioned montane species in Kalimantan is not unexpected, and was actually predicted by Mjöberg (1930), considering the location of the Kayan Mentarang mountains in the southeastern part of the spinal range that runs in a southwesterly direction from Mt Kinabalu and the Kelabit Uplands (both in North Borneo), where these species had been recorded.

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