

RECORDS OF BLACK CAPPED KINGFISHER IN JAVA

by

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Recent sight records of the Black capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata* were made on the peninsula of Alas Purwo national park in East Java at 8°42'S, 114°28'E, and at the Bogor Botanical Gardens in West Java at 6°36'S, 106°45'E. In both cases, the identification was based on plumage: black

cap, white nape, throat and cheek, rufous washed breast, deep blue back, and a red bill, all of which preclude other kingfishers in Java (*cf.* Fry *et al.* 1992, MacKinnon & Phillips 1993).

In Alas Purwo, the bird was seen in the patch of semi deciduous limestone forest on the coast between 'Triangulasi' and 'Sadengan' at 09.53 hours on 30 October 1993. As local people on a path through the forest flushed a group of three drongos noisily from their perch, a kingfisher in reaction to this moved to a new perch in front of the observer (MI), who was standing still. The bird was observed at a distance of ca 7 metres, at a height of 4 metres. Although it appeared tame, it flew off when binoculars were raised. The bird was silent throughout.

In the Bogor Botanical Garden, this species was observed repeatedly on 2, 4 and 5 February 1994 (PC and DG, later joined by Rudyanto), involving apparently a single individual using a particular hunting perch on the pond, near the main gates. On the first occasion, the generally quiet bird was seen twice diving to catch small fish.

Additionally, a possible sighting was made on Rawa Danau Nature Reserve in West Java at 6°11'S, 105°59'E, an inland swamp forest, on 10 November 1993. A single bird thought to be this species was seen on a shoreline vegetated by sedges, grasses and *Phragmites karka*, on a river 5.6 metres in width, but no detailed description was taken at the time (Scott Frazier pers. comm.).

The Black capped Kingfisher migrates south as far as Sumatra and Kalimantan during the northern winter, but is a very rare migrant on Java; it has never been recorded on Bali (MacKinnon & Phillips 1993). There are at least five previous records from Java, consisting of four from Dampar in Central Java (Kooiman 1940) and one from Cilacap in West Java (museum type at MZB, reported by Hoogerwerf 1948). All these records were made before the 1950s.

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