
RECORD OF BORNEAN TREEPIE FROM KALIMANTAN BARAT

By

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[This record has been submitted as referring to Bornean Treepie *Dendrocitta cinerascens*, but it should be noted that the currently valid Indonesian checklist (Andrew 1992) recognizes only Sunda Treepie *Dendrocitta occipitalis*, of Sumatra and Borneo. However the Oriental Bird Club checklist (Inskipp *et al.* 1996) accepts the Bornean *cinerascens* and Sumatran *occipitalis* as full species, and we will be reconsidering this status. The species is also reported to occur commonly in the proposed Kayan Mentarang national park, Kalimantan Timur (S. van Balen pers. comm.) *Ed.*]

Two Bornean Treepies *Dendrocitta cinerascens* were observed in the Muller Range, Kalimantan Barat, by myself and two guides from Nanga Bungan, Kapuas Hulu. The birds were observed on 25 December 1996 on the summit of Gunung Nahaloh, 1573 m (0°58'N, 113°44'E), which is the first major peak on the ridge between Sungai Tahanyan and Sungai Bara, a ridge that eventually leads to several points above 1700 m on the watershed between Sungai Kapuas in Kalimantan Barat and Sungai Mahakam in Kalimantan Timur.

The birds were only briefly observed, for three minutes through dense moss forest, but were easily identified by the following combination of characters: large size (about size of European Magpie *Pica pica*), compared with nearby Sunda Cuckoo shrike *Coracina larvata*, mostly pale body, yellowish pink or salmon underparts and head, paler crown, dark wings and mantle with white lower margin to mantle, pale rump, and dark tipped tail (about apical third); large deep, parrot like grey bill (crown and bill forming continuous curve); long tail, about one and a third body length. Calls were not noted. The two birds on Gunung Nahaloh were flitting through the crowns and lower branches of dense stunted trees in moss forest, on the narrow and steep sided summit.

This species is described as common in northern Borneo, and its presence in Kalimantan is indicated by Smythies (1957) who states that it occurs in "the Murut upcountry in N.W. Indonesian Borneo" but not in the Kapuas or Mahakam areas. The present observation represents a small but not unexpected extension southwards of the known range. My guides from Nanga Bungan, about 15 km west of Gunung Nahaloh, were familiar with the species, naming it *kurvreheh*. These people forage on the higher parts of the Muller Range for *geharu*, *clamor* and other forest products.

In a thumbnail sketch made on the spot I noted a narrow white tip to the tail of one bird, a feature which is not indicated by MacKinnon & Phillipps (1993). There are no specimens of Bornean Treepie in the Bogor Zoological Museum and I have been unable to confirm this observation.

The birds were observed during the course of an insect survey of Gunung Nahaloh, conducted as part of the general survey of Taman Nasional Bentuang Karihun by Dr. Herwasono, Worldwide Fund

for Nature, Jakarta. I thank Dr. Herwasono for the opportunity to participate in the survey. I also thank my guides, Mutan and Borare, without whom I would still be walking in circles in the Muller Range.

References

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