

Hardhead is an irruptive migrant, breeding in southern Australia (August–December) and dispersing to northern Australia after heavy rains (Marchant & Higgins 1990). Vagrants have reached New Zealand, New Guinea and Indonesia (Marchant & Higgins 1990). In Indonesia, there is a successful breeding record from the Yang Plateau in East Java in May–June 1937 (Kooiman 1941), but there are no recent records from Java. There are two records from Wallacea (Coates & Bishop 1997), a male collected at Lake Lindu in Central Sulawesi 26 March 1917 (Riley 1924) and a male present on Flores from January to November 1990 (Verhoye & Holmes 1999). Thus this record represents only a third record for Wallacea (and is also a somewhat unusual date).

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MATSUDAIRA'S STORM PETREL SECOND RECORD FOR THE LOMBOK STRAIT

by

Mark Grantham

(Final draft received 7 March 2000)

Whilst travelling from Lombok to Bali in the late afternoon of 12 September 1999, four medium-sized petrels were seen. Firstly, a single Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii* passed close to the boat, followed shortly after by two more birds together further west. All these birds showed the typical long-winged, pointed tail appearance of this species, with an obvious pale covert bar on the upperwing, but showing no pale primary bases. Further west again, a single similar petrel passed the boat some 30–40 m distant. As this bird banked towards the low sun, obvious white patches were seen on the upperwing at the base of the primaries. The tail shape of this bird was not noted, though the white primary bases are diagnostic of Matsudaira's Storm Petrel *Oceanodroma matsudairae*. The flight pattern of this bird and the earlier Bulwer's Petrels was considered quite similar, though the Matsudaira's tended to bank more, without the upward loops of the Bulwer's Petrels.

Matsudaira's Storm Petrel breeds south of Japan, migrating through Indonesia to the Indian Ocean. Described by Coates and Bishop (1997) as a regular migrant through Wallacea, there are only two previous confirmed records from the Greater Sundas: a single bird in the Sunda Strait in 1994 (Bas van Balen *in litt*), and a single bird in the Lombok Strait on 31 May 1988 (Johnstone *et al.* 1993). Conversely, Bulwer's Petrel is considered regular in the Greater Sundas (MacKinnon and Phillipps 1993) though rarely recorded in Wallacea (Coates and Bishop 1997).

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NEW AND INTERESTING WORDS FROM WEST SUMBAWA

by

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(Final draft received 7 March 2000)

In September 1999, the author visited several sites in West Sumbawa, notably the area around Taliwang (9 September) and the southern slope of Gunung Olet Sangeges, from Semongkat to above Batu Dulang (10-11 September). The following observations are all from this period, and include six new records for Sumbawa (*cf.* Coates & Bishop 1997).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Seldom recorded in Wallacea, three birds were seen in coastal mangroves south of Taliwang. These birds associated with Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* in a possible mixed breeding colony.

[Ed: Collin Trainor (in litt. to editor, 8 July 2000) has added the following further records of this species during 2000: one at Lake Taliwang on 19 May, one on fishponds c. 10 km west of Empang on 7 May, and one at the freshwater swamp 10 km north of Plampang on 7 July.]

[Bittern sp. *Lixobrychus* sp.]

A single bird was seen at dusk at Lake Taliwang, flying across the lake and into thick vegetation on a small island, some 40m distant. This bird, though seen in failing flight, showed a distinct pale patch on the forewing, contrasting noticeably with a darker mantle and flight feathers. The only *Lixobrychus* bittern in the region to show this distinctive plumage pattern is Schrenck's Bittern *Lixobrychus eurhythmus*, previously unrecorded from the Lesser Sundas. The Yellow Bittern *I. sinensis* has a similar wing pattern but would show a pale mantle. The only confirmed Wallacean records of Schrenck's Bittern are from Sulawesi, from early September to April.