

## First records of White-capped Munia *Lonchura ferruginosa* in Sumatra

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**Ringkasan.** Burung Bondol oto-hitam merupakan jenis endemik Jawa dan Bali. Pada tanggal 4 Agustus 2007, dua individu teramati di persawahan di Kota Belintang, Sumatera Selatan. Catatan ini, ditambah dengan satu bukti foto dari Liwa (Lampung) dan lima burung yang dilaporkan pedagang burung ditangkap di Sungai Lilin (Sumatera Selatan) menunjukkan bahwa jenis ini sepertinya telah menyebar di bagian Selatan Sumatera.

On the morning of 4 August 2007, whilst watching several munias in a paddy field about 2 km from Belintang (4°15'S, 104°26'E), I observed two White-capped Munias *Lonchura ferruginosa* perched on ripe rice plants. Belintang is the capital city of Ogan Komering Ulu Timur District in the province of South Sumatra. I focused on the diagnostic head pattern, which differed from the White-headed Munia *L. maja* in having a black throat and breast (Plate 1), as shown in a photograph taken at the time (see Ed's. note below). The centre of the belly and under tail coverts were black, and the rump and upper tail coverts had a maroon gloss. In addition, at least five White-capped Munias were discovered among White-headed Munias in a cage in Sungai Lilin, Musi Banyuasin district, South Sumatra (Plate 2). The bird trader who owned the cage reported that the birds were caught in rice fields around Sungai Lilin.

There is currently little agreement on the taxonomy or English name of this taxon. I have followed authors who consider it a distinct species, *L. ferruginosa*, and assign it the common name of 'White-capped Munia' (Sibley & Monroe



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**Plate 1.** White-capped Munia at Pondok Bali.

1990; Robson 2000; Sukmantoro *et al.* 2007; Clements 2009) or 'Chestnut Munia' (MacKinnon *et al.* 1998). However others consider it as a sub-species of the Black-headed Munia *L. malacca* (Andrew 1992; Inskipp *et al.* 1996) or as a sub-species of the 'Chestnut Munia' *L. atricapilla* (Gill & Donsker 2009), which has itself been split from the Black-headed Munia according to the most recent checklists (Clements 2009; Gill & Donsker 2009).



**Plate 2.** White-capped Munias (yellow arrows) in a cage of bird trader at Sungai Lilin on 15 October 2009.

The White-capped Munia is considered to be endemic to Java and Bali (MacKinnon *et al.* 1998) and there is no report of it occurring historically in Sumatra (Marle & Voous 1988; Holmes 1996; MacKinnon *et al.* 1998). This observation, made in 2007, appears to constitute the first record of the species in Sumatra, extending the known range westward. Subsequent to this record the species has also recently been photographed near Liwa in Lampung Province (Ashley Banwell *in litt.*, April 2008), suggesting the species may be widespread in southern Sumatra. I encourage observers to pay more attention to munia flocks in southern Sumatra to confirm the status of this bird.

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[Ed's. note. Although the author's photograph of the wild bird was sufficient to identify the species, its quality was of insufficient quality to publish].

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