

Javan Cochoa *Cochoa azurea* in Gunung Merapi National Park, Yogyakarta

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Ringkasan: Ciungmungkal Jawa *Cochoa azurea* merupakan salah satu burung endemik Jawa yang selama ini penyebarannya diketahui terbatas di Jawa Barat dan Jawa Tengah. Tulisan ini mendeskripsikan temuan beberapa pengamat burung Yogyakarta yang telah mencatat kehadiran burung berstatus Rentan (*Vulnerable*) ini di bukit Plawangan, lereng selatan Taman Nasional Gunung Merapi, Yogyakarta, semenjak 2001. Adanya dokumentasi foto menjadi bukti penguat yang mengonfirmasi catatan tersebut. Catatan-catatan dari bukit Plawangan ini mengungkap perluasan wilayah perjumpaan Ciungmungkal Jawa hingga sejauh sekitar 150 km dari G. Slamet yang sebelumnya diketahui menjadi lokasi perjumpaan paling timur.

The Javan Cochoa *Cochoa azurea* is a poorly known thrush (Turdidae) endemic to the mountains of West and Central Java (MacKinnon and Phillipps 1993; Collar 2005; Sukmantoro *et al.* 2007; BirdLife International 2008). The species has been recorded in eleven localities. Prior to 1930, specimens were collected at the following seven localities in West Java (with year of collection in brackets): Jampang (1895); Pasir Pacar, Gunung Salak (1882); Pengalengan (undated); Gunung Manglayang, Bandung (1925); Gunung Rakutak (1900); Gunung Guntur, Garut (1900); and Gunung Ciremai (1925-1926). In Central Java it was found only at Gunung Slamet, first in 1911 on the northern slope at the Kaligua tea estate, and later, in 1925, at Purbalingga on the southern slope. Recent records (all post-1980) come from just three localities: Cikuya, above Ciusul in Gunung Halimun National Park (now Gunung Halimun-Salak National Park); Gunung Gede-Pangrango National Park, and Gunung Tangkuban Prah (BirdLife International 2001). Due to its small global range and population, which is likely declining, it has been classified by IUCN as Vulnerable (BirdLife International 2008).

Recently, however, there have been several reports of the species from Plawangan Hill (1,300 m asl) on the southern slope of Gunung Merapi National Park, where the remnant mid-montane forest occupies about 282 ha, but includes many introduced tree species such as *Schima wallichii*, *Cinchona succirubra*, *Agathis* sp, and *Pinus merkusii* (BKSDA DIY-UGM 2003). The forest is popular area for local birdwatchers and also hosts about 52 species of orchids and 73 ferns (Andrianto 1999).

The first observation of Javan Cochoa in the area was made in 2001 by Lim Wen Sin and staff of Balai Konservasi Sumber Daya Alam (Nature Conservation Authority), Yogyakarta, who listed the species in “Petak 5” and “Petak 6”. During the same year, members of the Matalabiogama Universitas Gadjah Mada Naturalists’ Club also reported seeing Javan Cochoa on Plawangan Hill (Setiawan *et*

al. 2008). A further sighting was reported in 2008 by members of Kelompok Studi Biologi (Biology Study Club), Universitas Atma Jaya Yogyakarta, shortly after Gunung Merapi was declared as a national park. Unfortunately, no other details or documentation were provided with any of these important sightings to confirm the occurrence of the species. On 13 June 2011, I made a short visit to Plawangan Hill. At around 09:10 hrs I saw a dark medium-sized bird sitting quietly about 10 m away from me on the branch of a tree that was on a steep slope. The location was beside a trail on sloping ground in mid-montane forest at around 1,000 m asl ($7^{\circ}35'21''\text{S}$, $110^{\circ}25'37''\text{E}$). Although the light was poor, I was able to watch and photograph the bird (Plate 1). The bird was slightly larger than the common Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster* and generally dark brown except for the crown, tail and edges of its wing feathers which were light blue. Its bill, eyes and feet were black. These features match the description of the female Javan Cochoa in MacKinnon & Phillipps (1993) and the illustration in Collar (2005). The only species that might be misidentified as a Javan Cochoa is the Sunda Whistling Trush *Myophonus glaucinus*. The latter is common on Plawangan Hill, and when disturbed typically flies a short distance from the ground or between branches, while giving loud alarm calls and fanning its tail. This contrasts with the highly inconspicuous behaviour of the Javan Cochoa, as described by Collar (2005).

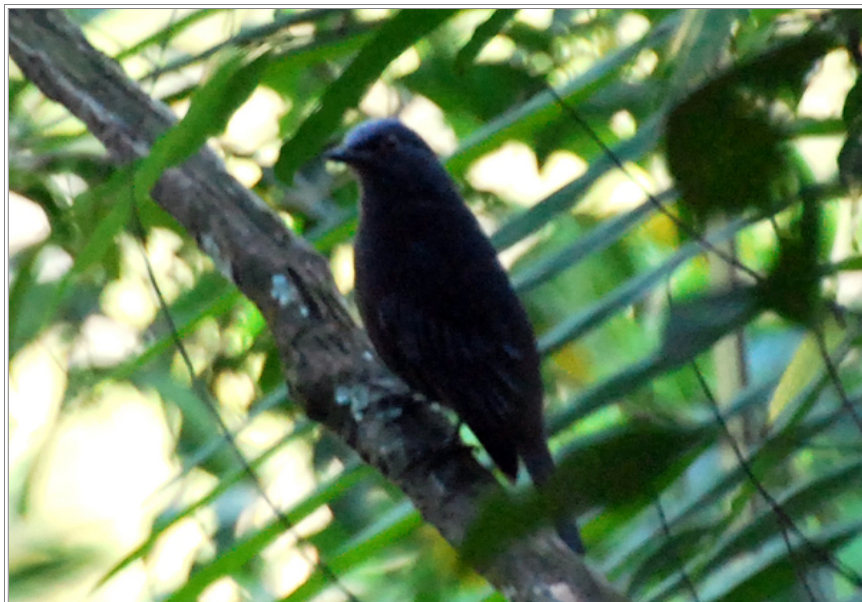


Plate 1: Javan Cochoa, Plawangan Hill, Gunung Merapi National Park. 13th June 2011

This was my first experience of the Javan Cochoa in the area, but on 6 March 2011 I had observed a female of the species in Curug Cipendok, on the south-western slopes of Gunung Slamet ($7^{\circ}20'11.1''\text{S}$, $109^{\circ}8'11.9''\text{E}$), and secured a photograph of it, which was uploaded to the Foto Biodiversitas Indonesia website (http://www.fobi.web.id/v/aves/f-tud/coc-azu/Cochoa-azurea_Cipendok_IT.jpg.html).

The photographic evidence confirms the species' occurrence on Plawangan Hill, and adds weight to earlier reports, suggesting that one or more birds have survived in this area for at least 10 years. These records also constitute the most easterly record of the species, approximately 150 km further east of the previously known eastern limit of Gunung Slamet. Plawangan Hill is located c. 4 km from the top of the volcano of Gunung Merapi. As ash from the 2010 eruption of this volcano caused some damage to the forest, opening up the canopy in some areas, a larger eruption could threaten the survival of the species in the region.

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