

## First record of Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* for Wallacea

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**Ringkasan:** Satu individu Hupo Tunggal *Upupa epops* ditemukan di satu kebun di Bitung, sangat dekat dengan batas Suaka Alam Tangkoko-Batuangus, bagian ujung timur laut Sulawesi. Ini merupakan laporan pertama pengamatan jenis tersebut yang didokumentasikan untuk Wallacea, dan untuk Indonesia diluar Kalimantan dan Sumatera.

On 28 September 2011 an unfamiliar bird was discovered by the wife of local Tangkoko guide, Jukber “Bobby” Lambaihang (JL) in the garden of Tangkoko Lodge, Bitung, on the far northeast tip of Sulawesi (127°07’25”E, 1°27’43” N). The following day, JL found the bird in the garden and observed it for 30 minutes. The following account was provided to RM on 2 October 2011 during a visit to Tangkoko Lodge.

Being a skilled naturalist and highly familiar with the local fauna, JL instantly realised that it was a species that he had not previously seen, yet was unable to identify it from *A Guide to the Birds of Wallacea* (Coates & Bishop 1997). The bird was described as being the size of a small chicken, with a shaggy crest, and having pale orange body plumage with black and white “zebra stripes” on its wings. The bill was long, thin and “bent down”. It foraged on the ground “like a chicken” before flying off, and was not seen again.

RM believed the bird to have been a Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*, a species he had seen many times. Indeed, after flipping through the pages of RM’s copy of *A Field Guide to the Birds of Borneo, Sumatra, Java and Bali* (MacKinnon & Phillipps 2003), JL immediately recognised the bird he saw from the illustration of the Eurasian Hoopoe. This identification was confirmed by JL’s wife who had originally discovered the bird.

Although no photographic evidence exists, JL’s description of both the bird and its terrestrial feeding behaviour is extremely convincing. Having been a member of the North Carolina and Missouri bird record committees in the USA, RM was careful to extract JL’s account prior to providing him with a book having an illustration of the suspected species, never suggesting the name of the bird, and allowing him to discover the illustration on his own.

The Eurasian Hoopoe is a distinctive species, and both the time of the year and location suggest that the sighting is a valid record of vagrancy. It would further be likely that the bird represented the race *U. e. longirostris*, with a non-breeding range that includes the Thai-Malay Peninsula and Indochina, and vagrancy as far as Australia (Onton *et al.* 2012). The species has been recorded at least eight times in northern Borneo (Sabah, Sarawak and Brunei) as far south as Kuching (Mann 2008; Phillipps & Phillipps 2009), and at least seven times in the Philippines, mostly in the far north (Kennedy *et al.* 2000). The only previous record from Indonesia dates back to September 1912, when it was observed in Medan, North Sumatra (Beaufort & de

Bussy 1919). The present record therefore constitutes the second ever for Indonesia, and the first for Wallacea. The recent occurrence of Hoopoe in Australia coincided with very wet weather and extensive flooding in large areas of Southeast Asia, and it has been speculated that this may have forced birds further south than normal (Onton *et al.* 2012). It is interesting that the Sulawesi record reported here occurred only two months after the Australian record.

## References

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