

**FIRST SIGHT RECORD OF BUCK-CRESTED BULBUL
Pycnonotus melanicterus ON BALI**

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On 18 April, 1986 at approximately 08.30, a small foraging flock of *Pycnonotus melanicterus* was observed; to our present knowledge, this species is hitherto unrecorded on Bali (34 references, including unpublished data and personal communications). The species was encountered on a mountain spur along the Tukad Salak river, some 2.5 km south-west of Tukad Suinoga village, near Celukanbawang in north-west Bali (approximate co-ordinates 114°51" E, 8°14' S). The birds foraged on foliage insects in the rather dense canopy of mainly undisturbed sub-montane rainforest at an altitude of 400 m (Thommen altimeter). The birds were observed by means of one 10 x 25 and one 7 x 50 binocular for about 20 minutes. Observation distance varied between some 10 and 30 m and light conditions were favourable. We had the opportunity to record the flock-calls with an unidirectional stereo microphone on a simple cassette recorder; total recording was 4 minutes, 16 seconds. The calls are expressed as 'tee-tee-wheet-wheet', 'whit-wheet-wit' and various combinations of these elements.

The following field description was made: crested bulbul; head black; chin and upper throat bright red; rest of throat, breast and flanks saturated yellow; belly and vent greyish-yellow; upperparts olive; tail square and olive-brown; eye or iris grey. The only other black-headed bulbul, *Pycnonotus atriceps*, was present nearby. The first author is familiar with both species on Java. Confusion can be safely excluded. When the recordings were played to a solitary caged *P. melanicterus*, this bird showed immediate response in attentive behaviour and calls, yet the bird had hardly ever uttered a sound previously and showed no response whatsoever when other tapes were played with vocalization of randomly chosen other species or music, both before and after the *melanicterus* recordings.

As Bali is now comparatively well covered by ornithologists (Hartert 1896, Stresemann 1913, von Plessen 1926, Rensch 1928, 1930, 1931, Bali-Expedition 1937-1938, Ash 1984), the species appears to be either very rare on Bali, or has very local occurrence in the largely neglected sub-montane forests.

This observation was made during a search for the Bali Starling *Leucopsar rothschildi* sponsored by the International Council for Bird preservation, Cambridge, UK.

Ringkasan

Sekelompok kecil burung *Pycnonotus melanicterus* yang sedang mencari makan dapat diaroati pada 1k. jam 08.30 tanggal 18 April 1986 di jalan setapak sepanjang sungai Tukad Salak pada ketinggian 400 m dpi. 1k. 2,5 km barat-daya Tukad Sumoga dekat Celukbawang di sebelah barat-laut pulau Bali. Suara panggilan kelompok burung ini direkam selama 4 menit 16 sekon. *P. atriceps*, yang juga berbulu hitam di kepalanya, ada didekatnya. pengamatan ini, merupakan catatan pertama ditemukannya *P. melanicterus* di Pulau Bali.

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