

THE FIRST BREEDING RECORD OF THE PACIFIC BLACK DUCK ON JAVA

by

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During 12-15 March 1991, the author visited the small mountain lakes on the northern slopes of Mount Semeru in the southern part of the Bromo/Tengger National Park in East Java.

The lake of (Ranu) Pani was surveyed in the late afternoon of 12 March, where a single Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa* was observed. The bird appeared rather tame, allowing close observation for several minutes. Its light buffy head contrasting with the darkish body, and well marked stripes or bars on the sides of the head, were diagnostic. In addition, a group of six Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* was exhibiting courtship behaviour (this is a very rare bird on Java, see White & Bruce 1986, MacKinnon 1988)

At noon on 13 March, the lake of (Ranu) Kumbolo was visited, c.13 km south-west of Lake Pani. This lake lies at c.2500 m elevation, and was devoid of floating vegetation and reed beds. The banks consisted of meadows alternating with low *Casuarina* trees. On arrival from the north, a group of five adult ducks was observed dabbling along the western shore under the cover of trees that lay half down in the water. The shape of the body, white underwings, lightish head, grey bill and legs suggested Pacific Black Duck. A closer look revealed the presence of four ducklings, c. one week old, with an indistinct (partly due to the distance) down pattern of light yellowish-brown and dark brown. One of the adults kept the young somewhat separated, by driving the other birds away if they approached.

The Pacific Black Duck is a widespread species in Australasia and the western Pacific (Madge & Burn 1988). In Java, the species occurs mainly on mountain lakes, but recently has been recorded at only a few localities, eg. Dieng (Central Java - MacKinnon 1988, J. Erard *in litt.* 1989) and Telaga Patengan (West Java - author's observation). Although listed as a resident species for Java and Sumatra, no reliable breeding records were previously known for either island (Hellebrekers & Hoogerwerf 1967, MacKinnon 1988, van Marle & Voous 1988).

**References**

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