

First Record of Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* for New Guinea

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Catatan Pertama Bambang merah *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* di Papua

Ringkasan Dipertelakan catatan pertama tentang Bambang merah *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* di Papua.

The Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* is a common resident of marshes and ricefields of many parts of Asia, including Sulawesi and the Lesser Sundas (Noske & Ueda 1996; Coates & Bishop 1997). However there are no published records to date for New Guinea or Australia (Beehler *et al.* 1986; del Hoyo *et al.* 1992).

While birding around the rice paddy fields at Aimas II on 14 June 2001, the transmigration area, about 30 km south of the centre of Sorong, on the westernmost tip of the Vogelkop, Irian Jaya (West New Guinea), J. Gerson and I flushed a small bittern. It was slightly larger than the locally common Yellow Bittern *I. sinensis*, having uniform chestnut upperparts. It flew to a perch, half way up a tall reed, less than 50 m from us, and showed its ventrum briefly before disappearing down into reeds. The neck was streaked cinnamon-brown on buff. The bird did not show the blackish tips to the wings of the Yellow Bittern, or any contrast in the coloration across the back and wings.

The author has observed Cinnamon Bitterns in the same district on two occasions since this first record. One instance concerns a single female bird seen on 15 February 2003 at the Aimas II site again. The other concerns a male bird that was repeatedly flushed from swampy grassland on the edge of Sorong airport, located near the central market (Pasar Remu) west of the town, on 28 May 2003. All birds were observed with the aid of 10 x binoculars.

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