

First record of Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* in Bali for over 100 years

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Ringkasan. Raja-udang erasia *Alcedo atthis* merupakan spesies yang tidak biasa ada di pulau Bali. Spesies ini teramati kembali pada tahun 2004 dan hasil pengamatan ini merupakan catatan kedua untuk pulau Bali sejak lebih dari 100 tahun, dan mungkin catatan pertama dari anak-jenis migran *bengalensis*. Dengan bantuan monokuler 20-45x perbesaran spesies ini teramati jelas sehingga ciri-ciri spesifik bisa dicatat untuk dibandingkan dengan jenis raja udang lainnya.

On the morning of 3 December 2004, whilst watching several Small Blue Kingfishers *Alcedo caeruleascens* at the sewage ponds of Nusa Dua in the very south of Bali, I noticed a different kingfisher which was perched in a tree on one of the islands. The bird reminded me immediately of the Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*, with which I am familiar from Europe. After reading the field guides that I had with me (Mason & Jarvis 1989; Strange 2002; Tilford 2000), I was aware that Common Kingfisher would be an unusual bird for Bali, so I took field notes as I viewed the bird through a 20-45 x telescope.

The upperparts were blue with a green tone, and the underparts rufous. I focused on the diagnostic head pattern, with the rufous ear-coverts, similar in tone to the underparts, separating the blue crown from the blue malar stripe. I did not note any difference in the extent of the rufous ear-coverts compared to the subspecies *atthis* with which I am familiar, and I believe the rufous was not as much restricted to a small area as shown by Woodall (2001) for the subspecies *floresiana*. The rufous ear-coverts and the greenish-tinged light blue upperparts exclude the main species with which it could be confused, Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting*, and suggest that it was the migratory race *A. atthis bengalensis*, which is paler and more greenish tinged than *A. a. floresiana*. The Common Kingfisher is a widespread "winter" visitor to most parts of Indonesia, with the subspecies *floresiana* breeding on the Lesser Sundas, and *bengalensis* being a winter visitor to Java (Woodall 2001; Sumadi *in litt.*). There is, however, only one previous record from Bali, concerning a female of *floresiana* collected by Doherty in "low country" during March or April 1896 (Hartert 1896). This makes the bird at Nusa Dua the second confirmed record of the species for Bali, and, most likely, the first record of the migratory subspecies *bengalensis* for the island.

I would like to thank Wayan Sumadi for recommending Nusa Dua as a birdwatching destination and for information on previous records of Common Kingfisher on Bali. I am also grateful to Tim Inskipp and Colin Trainor for pointing me to literature and for additional information on its occurrence. Tim Inskipp and Wayan Sumadi kindly commented on the first draft of this note.

References

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