

Probable first record of Japanese Night-heron *Gorsachius goesagi* for Sumatra

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Ringkasan. Survei burung yang dilaksanakan bulan Februari 2004 di pulau Belitung Sumatra bagian selatan menemukan Kowak jepang *Gorsachius goesagi* yang ditangkap di pulau Belitung oleh penduduk setempat. Dalam catatan ini dijelaskan juga deskripsi morfologis singkat spesies serta perbandingan spesies ini dengan Kowak melayu *G. Melanolophus* yang sering membingungkan identifikasi di lapangan.

During a bird survey on Belitung Island, Bangka Belitung Province, northern Sumatra, a Japanese Night-heron *Gorsachius goesagi* was found by the authors on 6 February 2004 in a cage of a local bird-trader. The bird was reportedly caught on Belitung Island by local people during the previous week, but no specific localities were mentioned. The trader mentioned that this bird was locally called *burung senter* ('flash-light bird'). The bird was rufous-brown on the head and neck, with a short crest and blackish-brown crown. The upperparts were chestnut-brown and the wing coverts were spotted black. The yellowish lores were clearly seen (Plate 1).

Confusion is possible only with the Malayan Night-heron *G. melanolophus*, which has bluegreen lores, a black cap and long crest, and lines on the wing coverts. The Japanese Night-heron is considered Endangered, and breeds mainly in Japan (Sonobe & Usui 1993; BirdLife International 2000). Its main wintering area appears to be the Philippines, but it has been recorded as a rare non-breeding visitor to Borneo (Brunei Darussalam), Sulawesi and Halmahera (White & Bruce 1986; Andrew & Holmes 1992). The date of capture of the photographed bird is consistent with the non-breeding season of the species. As the species has apparently not previously been reported in Sumatra (van Marle & Voous 1988; Holmes 1998), this captive bird constitutes the first probable record for the island.

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Plate 1. Captive Japanese Night-heron on Belitung Island.