

Around the Archipelago

Compiled and edited by S. (Bas) van Balén and Richard Noske

This section of *Kukila* publishes reports of bird species that are poorly-known or rarely-observed, including those that constitute the second (or subsequent) records of a species for a province or island. Author's initials appear in brackets after the record, and their full names given at the end of the report. Readers are encouraged to submit their records of rarely-seen species, or bird lists of previously under-surveyed areas, to the Interesting Bird Records Committee of the Kukila secretariat for possible inclusion in *Around the Archipelago*. Records in this section may be cited as in the following example:

Muchtar, M. 2006. Java and Bali in *Around the Archipelago*. *Kukila* 13: 84.

Sumatra

A large flock of **Green Imperial Pigeons** *Ducula aenea*, comprising 300-500 individuals, was observed in Sungai Terusan Dalam Nature Reserve, South Sumatra, on 10 April 2003. The birds were flying from Pulau Betet over Terusan Dalam village. A few birds were also observed in mangrove forest on Pulau Betet on 12 April 2003 but there was no evidence of breeding. Although this species is commonly recorded throughout Sumatra, such a large aggregation has never been reported. In Peninsular Malaysia, this species is known to form large communal roosts in or at the edge of mangrove forest, which is also said to be nesting habitat. [MI]

A putative sighting of two **Black-naped Fruit-Doves** *Ptilinopus melanospila* in flight on 11 April 2003 in the swamp forest of Terusan Dalam River, Sembilang National Park [MI], would constitute the second record of this species for Sumatra, and the first for the island's mainland, but requires confirmation.

A duetting pair of **Long-billed Partridges** *Rhizothera longirostra* was tape-recorded in the logged and moderately to heavily disturbed lowland forest near the camp (2°10'S, 103°09'E) at the Ibul rivulet (Asialog forest concession), Jambi, Sumatra, on 26 and 27 October 2003. These records constitute, together with one in 1988 from Gunung Leuser, the only post-1931 records of this species, and the first for Jambi province (van Marle & Voous 1988; Holmes 1989, 1996). [SvB, DL]

Three **Chinese Pond-herons** *Ardeola bacchus* in full breeding plumage were flushed from an abandoned paddyfield near Batang Toru village, southeast of Sibolga, North Sumatra, on 19 March 2004. The very dark brown neck and head immediately distinguished them from the Javan Pond-heron *A. speciosa*. The Chinese Pond-heron is a winter visitor from East Asia, but with few records for Sumatra (van Marle & Voous 1988), and only one conclusive old record from the mainland (Holmes 1996). [SvB]

Java and Bali

Observations of probable **Booted Eagles** *Hieraaetus pennatus* were made in three localities in Java: Mount Sawal Wildlife Sanctuary (West Java) on 11 December 1998, Pangandaran Nature Reserve at Cikamal (West Java) on 15 December 1998, and Baturaden (Central Java) on 21 October 1999 [MM, APS, IS, AG]. All sightings were of single pale morph birds, and although behaviour and plumage were consistent with this species, confusion with other eagles, e.g. immature Changeable Hawk-eagles *Spizaetus cirrhatus*, cannot be confidently excluded. Nevertheless, the third record is remarkably close in date and locality to that of the first confirmed record of the Booted Eagle for Java (Nijman 2003), which concerned a pale morph bird in the Dieng Mountains, Central Java, on 22 October 1999. These observations, together with a sighting in Bali (Ash 1984), suggest that the species may be a more regular winter visitor to Java and Bali than previously suspected.

During a visit to the Pasar Satria bird market in Denpasar, Bali, on 2 September 1999, a caged **Large Wren-babbler** *Napothera macrodactyla* was found (Plate 1), allegedly trapped the previous day on the western slopes of Mount Batur (8°20'S, 115°40'E), Bali [MG]. This report represents the first of this species for the island, but as the trader's information may have been unreliable, it is possible that the bird had been trapped outside Bali.



© Magnus Gelang

Plate 1. Large Wren Babbler *Napothera macrodactyla* at market in Denpasar, Bali.

A pair of **Chestnut Munias** *Lonchura atricapilla* with one immature was seen in a gelagah *Saccharum spontaneum* reed bed along a mud pool on 9 July 2003 near Tanjung Air in the Muara Gembong swamps northeast of Jakarta. The Munia seems to have established here, with regular sightings since 1998, although there were reports from the Rawa Rotan swamps near Jakarta in the 19th century (Vorderman 1885). These occurrences undoubtedly refer to escaped cage birds or their descendants. Numbers should be closely monitored, as well as any interactions, especially interbreeding, with the closely related Javan-endemic

Black-throated Munia *L. ferruginosa* (Restall 1997) of which only few recent records are available. [SvB, ZT]

A single **Fire-tufted Barbet** *Psilopogon pyrolophus* was scoped and photographed below the hot springs, at c. 1900 m asl on Gunung Gede, West Java, on 13 September 2003 [NR]. In September 2005 a pair was seen along the trail between the Junction and Air Panas on Gunung Gede [PL]. This species has not previously been recorded on Java, and these records, as well as reports in the logbook at Freddy's Homestay, suggest that a pair or population has established at this site, possibly escapees from local aviaries.

A **Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia* was observed among over 100 Little Terns *Sterna albifrons* on mudflats close to the Brantas River Estuary, Ujung Pangkah (6°51'S, 112°33'E), East Java, on 20 December 2003. The species is vagrant to the Greater Sundas, with records for East Sumatra and Brunei (MacKinnon & Phillips 1993), but this appears to be the first for Java. [MS]

A **Brown Wood-owl** *Strix leptogrammica* was heard and tape-recorded in sub-montane forest at c. 750 m asl on the west slopes of the Gunung Gede-Pangrango National Park, in August 2004. The call, consisting of a series of loud, single notes ("hoo") with long intervals, was confirmed as this species by J.-H. Becking. There are very few recent records of the west Javan race of this species, which is sometimes considered a full species: Javan Wood-owl *Strix bartelsi* (König *et al.* 1999). [SvB]

Four **Nicobar Pigeons** *Caloenas nicobarica* were observed in Casuarina trees on the small (20 ha) islet of Seruni (5°31'48"S, 110°34'51"E), within the Karimunjawa island group off northern Java, on 29 December 2004, during a survey by the Jogjakarta Wild Animal Rescue Centre (Pusat Penyelamatan Satwa Yogyakarta). [TS, IF]

Kalimantan

Two **Storm's storks** *Ciconia stormi* were seen soaring over the Kelai River, Berau Regency, East Kalimantan, on 16 December 2002. This is the first record of this species in this area and one of fewer than 10 records for East Kalimantan (Smythies & Davison 1999). The Kelai River is the primary action site for The Nature Conservancy's East Kalimantan program and this may provide an opportunity for the conservation of this endangered species. [EP]

Nusa Tenggara

LOMBOK A brief visit to Lombok on 26 and 27 May 1990 yielded many species which have not, or only rarely, been observed on the island in recent times, and which were not reported by Johnstone *et al.* (1993) or Myers & Bishop (2005). First post-1930 records for Lombok include: a **Savanna Nightjar** *Caprimulgus affinis* heard near Pempek village, north of Mataram; a **Chestnut-capped Thrush** *Zosterops interpres* and a **Tawny-breasted Parrot-finch** *Erythrura hyperythra* seen in sub-montane forest at c. 900 m asl

on the northern slopes of Mt Rinjani. Second records since 1930 include: three **Java Sparrow** *Padda oryzivora* at c. 300 m asl along the road north of Bayan; a single **Green Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula aenea* flying above the coastal hills north of Sunaru; a **Singing Bush-lark** *Mirafra javanica* seen and heard singing along the road north of Mataram; a single female **Zebra Finch** *Taenopygia guttata* seen in open woodland north of Bayan at 300 m asl; a **Green Junglefowl** *Gallus varius* heard north of Mataram; a single soaring **Short-toed Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus* near the road fork of Bayan and Sembuyan; several **Black-naped Fruit-doves** *Ptilinopus melanospila* and several **Rusty-breasted Cuckoos** *Cacomantis sepulchralis* heard in hill forest on the lower north-eastern slopes (600-800 m asl) of Mt Rinjani; and a **Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* seen near Sembalun. [SvB]

FLORES A large woodpecker was reported from a cashew plantation in the village of Mausambi (8°30'S, 121°47'E) close to sea level, about 30 km west of Maumere, on the north coast of Flores, on 27 July 2003. Its size, long slender neck, long straight bill, greyish brown colour, pale chin and throat and very light iris suggested the **Ashy Woodpecker** *Mulleripicus fulvus* [UF, MP]. However, subsequent visits by a number of ornithologists to the area failed to locate the bird. As the Ashy Woodpecker is known only from the Sulawesi subregion (Coates & Bishop 1997), this record must be considered tentative, and though there is a possibility that it was introduced to Flores by humans, further sightings on Flores are needed to confirm its presence on the island.

Sulawesi

A single **Asian Palm-swift** *Gypsiurus balasiensis* was observed with a mixed flock of swiftlets on 14 August 2001 at the irrigation dam near Toraut, Bogani Nani Wartabone National Park [PB, CB, PH], constituting the first record for mainland North Sulawesi, although there are at least two records for southern Sulawesi (Coates & Bishop 1997; Wardill *et al.* 1999). Three possible **Sand Martins** *Riparia riparia*, which would be the first for Sulawesi, were seen on 14 March 2005 near Limboto Lake. [MA]

At least six (up to nine) **Greater Painted Snipes** *Rostratula benghalensis* on a small wetland at Toraut, on the boundary of Bogani Nani Wartabone (Dumoga-Bone) National Park, on 15 August 2001 [PB, CB]; another seen near Limboto Lake on 14 March 2005 [MA]. These two records constitute the second and third records for Sulawesi, the first being of a group of birds at Toraut in 1997 (Bishop & Bishop 1999).

A **Red-backed Thrush** *Zoothera erythronota* watched on Gunung Ambang National Park on 23 August 2001 was at an altitude of 1250 m asl, slightly higher than the maximum altitude (1000 m) given by White & Bruce (1986) for Sulawesi [PB, CB, PH].

Just off the north coast of North Sulawesi on 4 September 2001, while on the ferry from Tahuna (Sangihe) to Manado, six shearwater-like birds were tentatively identified as **Bulwer's Petrels** *Bulweri bulweri* [PH]. This record is consistent with the southward migration of the species, as indicated by the records of Argeloo & Dekker (1996).

A single **Oriental Honey-buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus* was seen on 10 March 2005, passing by Santika Hotel in Manado, and is the first Sulawesi mainland record of this northern migrant [MA]. A **Snoring Rail** *Aramidopsis plateni* was seen well along the path to the Lombongo waterfalls at the western entrance of the Bogani Nani Wartabone National Park, on 15 March 2005. [MA]

Single **Eye-browed Thrushes** *Turdus obscurus* were seen three times on 17 March 2005 in Gunung Ambang National Park [MA], being the second record of this elusive thrush for Sulawesi.

In the course of attempting to capture Sulawesi Tarsiers *Tarsius diana*e (a small nocturnal primate) by mist-netting between September 2000 and October 2001, 47 birds of 12 species were caught in various habitats within Lore Lindu National Park, Central Sulawesi. The mist-nets were operated during the early mornings (05:00-06:30 hrs) and late afternoons (17:00-19:00 hrs) only, for a total of 1220 net-hours. Three of the 12 species were never caught by Waltert *et al.* (2005) during their previous extensive mist-netting study in the same area, possibly because mist-nets were operated only during the early mornings (05:00-06:30 hrs) and late afternoons (17:00-19:00 hrs) to catch tarsiers. **Speckled Boobooks** *Ninox punctulata* were caught in both undisturbed and heavily disturbed forest (one individual each). The other two species were caught in slightly disturbed forest: one **Red-bellied Pitta** *Pitta erythrogaster* and one **Red-backed Thrush** *Zoothera erythronota*. [SM, JE]

West Papua (Irian Jaya)

A **Blue Rock-thrush** *Monticola solitarius* was on the roof of some buildings of the Papua State University (UNIPA) in Manokwari on 21-22 October 2003 [SvB, KT]; this is the second record for West Papua, the first being at Manokwari airport on 11 January 1994 (Gregory *et al.* 1996).

References

- Argello, M. & R. Dekker 1996. Bulwer's Petrel in Indonesia. *Kukila* 8: 132-134.
- Ash, J.S. 1984. Bird observations on Bali. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 104: 24-35.
- Bishop, R. & A. Bishop 1999. A record of Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* in Sulawesi, Indonesia. *Forktail* 15: 105.
- Coates, B.J. & K.D. Bishop. 1997. *A Guide to the Birds of Wallacea*. Dove Publications, Alderley, Australia
- Gregory, P.I., R. Burrows & G. Burrows. 1996. Blue Rock-thrush at Manokwari, a new record for Irian Jaya. *Kukila* 8: 154.
- Holmes, D.A. 1988. Status report on Indonesian Galliforms. *Kukila* 4: 133-143.
- Holmes, D.A. 1996. Sumatra bird report. *Kukila* 8: 9-56
- Johnstone, R.E., S. van Balen & R.W.R.J. Dekker. 1993. New bird records for the island of Lombok. *Kukila* 6: 124-127.

- König, C., F. Weick & J.-H. Becking. 1999. *A Guide to the Owls of the World*. Pica Press, Sussex.
- MacKinnon J. & K. Phillipps. 1993. *Birds of Borneo, Sumatra, Java and Bali*, Oxford University Press. Oxford.
- van Marle, J. G. & K.H. Voous. 1988. *The Birds of Sumatra*. British Ornithologists' Union, Tring, U.K. [BOU Checklist No. 10]
- Myers, S.D. & K.D. Bishop. 2005. A review of historic and recent bird records from Lombok. *Forktail* 21: 147-160.
- Nijman, V. 2003. The status of three northern migrant raptors rarely observed on Java. *Kukila* 12: 59-65.
- Restall, R. 1997. *Munias and Mannikins*. Yale University Press, New Haven, Connecticut.
- Smythies, B.E. & W.H. Davison. 1999. *The Birds of Borneo* (revised). Natural History Publications (Borneo), Kota Kinabalu.
- Vorderman, A. G.. 1885. Bataviasche vogels VI. *Natuurkundig Tijdschrift voor Nederlandsch-Indië* 43: 208-253.
- Waltert, M., A. Mardiasuti & M. Muhlenberg. 2005. Effects of deforestation and forest modification on understorey birds in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia. *Bird Conservation International* 15: 257-273.
- Wardill, J.C., P.S. Fox, D.J. Hoare, W. Marthy, & K. Anggraini. 1999. Birds of the Rawa Aopa Watumohai National Park. *Kukila* 10: 91-114.

Observers:

MA, Marc Argeloo
 PB, Phil Benstead
 CB, Charlotte Benstead
 IF, In'am Fathoni
 UF, U. Forster
 MG, Magnus Gelang
 AG, Arief Gustiawan
 PH, Pete Hayman
 MI, Muhammad Iqbal
 PL, P. Logtmeijer
 MM, Muchamad Muchtar
 MP, M. Pampus
 EP, E. Pollard
 NR, Nigel Redman
 ZT, Zainudin Tamrin
 MS, Mark Schellekens
 AS, Andi Prima Setiadi
 IS, Iwan Setiawan
 TS, Tri Setyadi
 KT, Kris Tindige
 SvB, S (Bas) van Balen
 SM, Stefan Merker
 JE, Jill Ebert