
EDITORIAL

Kukila is now entering its fifth volume (fourth volume of the new series, see inside front cover) five years after its revival, and it has been a satisfying, if sometimes frustrating, experience to produce it. The management had no previous experience of running a scientific bulletin, and some mistakes have been made, but we were very grateful to the *Voice of Nature* magazine (then managed by the Green Indonesia Foundation) to help us get started with Volume 2 in 1985-86. After that, we were on our own, one result being that Volume 3 (1-2) was so poorly reproduced that it had to be re-printed. We have slowly removed the teething problems, and we are particularly grateful for the assistance increasingly being given in type-setting and printing by Asian Wetland Bureau-Indonesia.

The initial plan to produce a quarterly bulletin was clearly unrealistic, and soon we reduced this to the production of double issues at about ten month intervals. This will now be formalized, with two single issues per volume, each of approximately 80 pages, with the intention of producing one volume per year although this frequency is not guaranteed.

We are grateful for the support of our subscribers and benefactors, and those ornithologists visiting or working in Indonesia should remember that the quality of *Kukila* ultimately depends on their contributions. *Kukila* is committed to publishing annotated checklists and notes that improve our knowledge of bird distribution in Indonesia. A complimentary project designed to store records for future publication is the *Kukila* database, introduced below.

KUKILA DATABASE

The opportunities for bird-watchers visiting Indonesia are considerable. The avifauna is spectacular but its current status is poorly known. To collect records, the Ornithological Society of Indonesia is setting up an atlas project, to be known as the *Kukila* DATABASE. It will be based on lists of species recorded in 10' squares. Bird-watchers will now have a framework in which to assist the mapping of the distribution and abundance of species in Indonesia.

The database will store records from 10' squares (10' latitude by 10' longitude) throughout Indonesia. Each 10' square is approximately 18 x 18 km, and is identified by the co-ordinates of its central point.

The boundaries of each 10' square can be identified on 1:1,000,000 topographical charts. Photocopies of the relevant charts will be supplied free to any bird-watcher visiting or resident in Indonesia and prepared to submit records from at least one 10' square. These charts should be used together with conventional tourist or road maps; those in the "Nelles Maps" series are recommended. In this series, there are maps of (1) Sumatra, (2) Java and Nusa Tenggara, (3) Bali, (4) Kalimantan, (5) Java and Bali, (6) Sulawesi, and (7) Irian Jaya and Maluku. All are at 1:1,500,000 scale except 3 (1:180,000) and 5 (1:650,000).

To facilitate the submission of records, seven checklists, covering Sumatra, Kalimantan, Java & Bali, Sulawesi, Maluku, Nusa Tenggara and Irian Jaya have been prepared. Checklists appropriate to the areas being visited will also be provided.

The following data are required from each 10' square visited:

- i) Co-ordinates of the centre point of the 10' square (e.g. The summit of Gunung Pangrango is in 6° 45'S, 106° 55'E; also add the coordinates of a named point (e.g. village, mountain) close to the recording area.
- ii) Name of contributor(s), and date and duration of visit.
- iii) Outline of area (village, road, transect, etc) and habitat (gardens, *Casuarina* forest, etc) visited, including altitudinal range. Indicate whether there has been substantial recent forest clearance.
- iv) A list of all species recorded within the square (the list can be in english or scientific names, but names should be referred to an identified source, and the sequence in that source must be adhered to).
- v) Annotations on abundance. Add notes on altitudinal range and habitat preference of particular species whenever you can be specific. Record any breeding data (with dates).

Individual lists do not have to be exhaustive, nor need they include notable species; records of common or widespread species are equally valuable. The squares may contain both pristine habitat or portions of nature reserves, as well as farmland, plantations, degraded land, or other less frequented areas.

The records will become a database for the eventual publication of an atlas of Indonesian birds. Records submitted to the database will not be used in any prior publication without the consent of the contributor, but it is hoped that this consent will be freely given. Selected records would be required for publishing in interim *Kukila* Bird Reports (see below). Note that records in the *Kukila* Bird Reports are acknowledged and referable to *Kukila* (e.g.: "see Sulawesi Bird Report, *Kukila* 5 (1)").

Further information, and photocopies of relevant charts and checklists, can be obtained from: **Paul Andrew**, #1/38-B **Mona Road, Darling Point**, NSW 2027, **Australia**, to whom the lists should be submitted.

REGIONAL BIRD REPORTS

This issue sees the first of what is planned to become a regular feature in *Kukila* - regional bird reports. This first report covers the island of Sulawesi. These periodical reports are intended to serve as a medium for the publication of scattered records of different observers, in the same way as ornithological societies publish annual reports for their regions. The *Kukila* reports will each cover a single region over a period of several years. The authorship of these reports will be The Ornithological Society of Indonesia, or *Kukila* for ease of reference. The compilers are presently Paul Andrew and Derek Holmes.

For this purpose, Indonesia will be divided into seven regions as follows: Sumatra, Kalimantan, Java and Bali, Sulawesi, Maluku, Nusa Tenggara and Irian Jaya (based on faunal rather than on administrative regions), although the compilers reserve the right to adjust this list when appropriate. All observers are invited to submit their records for all of the regions now. The present report serves as an example of the type of records required. In many cases, submission of records for the Database will be sufficient, as significant records can be extracted from these. However, it is known that many observers have a large number of significant records that cannot now be located to individual 10' squares, and *Kukila* is anxious to collect such records for later publication. Grid references should be supplied for little-known place names.

Ironically, this issue also includes a paper by M.C. Baltzer on the wetland avifauna of South Sulawesi that greatly expands the knowledge of many species in the region, rendering some of the records in the Sulawesi Bird Report as out-of-date. Apart from occasional cross-references to Baltzer (1990), we have deliberately not amended the Bird Report in the light of this new data, partly because of the timing, but also in illustration of the volume of new data that can be collected from more intensive surveys even in the more accessible areas, and of the need for such surveys.

D.A.H.