

FAUNISTIC NOTES FROM BALI
with some new records

By

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Summary

New records for Bali are provided for *Dendrocygna javanica*, *Accipiter trivirgatus*, *Treron bicincta*, *Cacomantis sonneratii* and *Ficedula mugimaki*. Also included with the descriptions and discussion of these records are faunistic notes on *Tyto alba*, *Phodilus badius*, *Glaucidium castanopterum*, *Pycnonotus melanicterus*, *Zoothera sibirica* and *Zosterops chloris*.

Ringkasan

Disajikan catatan terbaru jenis-jenis burung di Bali, meliputi jenis-jenis *Dendrocygna javanica*, *Accipiter trivirgatus*, *Treron bicincta*, *Cacomantis sonneratii* dan *Ficedula mugimaki*. Juga diberikan catatan untuk jenis-jenis *Tyto alba*, *Phodilus badius*, *Glaucidium castanopterum*, *Pycnonotus melanicterus*, *Zoothera sibirica* dan *Zosterops chloris*.

During fieldwork since April 1989 for the Bali Starling Project, sponsored by **ICBP**, in the Bali Barat National Park (West Bali), observations were made that add to the information given by Ash (1984), MacKinnon (1988), and Mason & Jarvis (1989) on the birds of Bali. A visit was also made to the Batukahu Nature Reserve and its surroundings near Bedugul (8°17' S, 115°10' E), and a local birdmarket. Observations were made under fair weather conditions, unless indicated otherwise, using 10 x 42 binoculars.

***Dendrocygna javanica* Lesser Treeduck**

On 21 Jan 1990, at 08.00 hrs while looking for waders in Gilimanuk Bay (8°10' S, 114°26' E) in Bali Barat National Park, N. Andalusi, S. Riyadi and I observed a treeduck flying from across the bay. The bird veered away after approaching the observers to within only 25 m. Its dark cap, chestnut and black wings, but otherwise mainly pale buffy brown plumage, without a trace of white plumes on the flanks, left no doubt that it was a Lesser Treeduck *Dendrocygna javanica*.

Treeducks are uncommon on Bali, where only the Diving Treeduck *Dendrocygna arcuata* was known until now, except for a possible observation of *javanica* at Tukad Sawan (Mason & Jarvis 1989). However, *javanica* is not rare on the mainland of Java, as nearby as Baluran National Park.

It has been suggested for Wallacea that no island can contain more than one *Dendrocygna* species (White, in White & Bruce 1986), except for Sulawesi, where both *arcuata* and *guttata* occur, though probably not sympatrically. Evidence shows that two species also occur together on the other Greater Sunda Islands. However, *arcuata* on Java, and *javanica* on Bali are at present much rarer than their respective congener on these islands: almost all recent observations of treeducks in Java concern *javanica* and until now only *arcuata* was found in small numbers on Bali. Vorderman (1883) reported a reversed situation for Jakarta and mentioned *arcuata* as the most abundant species. A similar inconsistency is found for Kalimantan, where Smythies (1981) reported only six specimens of *arcuata*, but large numbers of *javanica* in the southern marshes; Holmes & Burton (1987) observed only a few treeducks of both species in S. Kalimantan, where C. Prentice and I observed numerous *arcuata*, but only few *javanica* in Jan 1989.

Apparently two (or more) species of treeducks never become equally abundant in any one locality at the same time. It remains uncertain whether this is the result of shifting numbers in relation to migration movements or population dynamics under influence of yet unknown factors, possibly interspecific competition. The bird observed on Bali was probably only a straggler from the mainland of Java, though it is worth mentioning that *javanica* has been reported for Sumbawa (Rensch, in White & Bruce 1986: two specimens) and Flores (Somadikarta & Noerdjito 1982: two specimens; Schmutz, in White & Bruce 1986: one specimen; Paynter, in White & Bruce 1986: one specimen).

Accipiter trivirgatus **Crested Goshawk**

During a crosswalk in northern direction through the forest of peninsular Prapat Agung (Bali Barat NP; 8°08' S, 114°28' E) on 10 May 1990, a call was repeatedly heard, in quality somewhat resembling that of a Brown-throated Sunbird. After some searching and waiting, a glimpse was caught of a largish brown bird, much larger than any sunbird could possibly be, flying restlessly in the canopy. Some more patience yielded an excellent view of two Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*. The call (or song) sounded very consistently as follows:

"wleeEEK, wleeEEK, wleeEEK, cheewleeEEK, CHEEwleek (CHEEwleek)" seeming much too weak for such large birds, and was uttered repeatedly throughout the time the area was passed (11.00-12.00 hrs). The first bird seen had a dark grey head with a crest held at rest, white throat with a black medial stripe and black fringes to the cheeks, breast with dense, rufous streaks, belly and tibia feathers barred blackish, and back evenly brown. The eyes were golden yellow, the feet yellow with black claws. The second bird had the same plumage, except for a more brownish nape.

On 23 June 1990 the area was visited again, in company of D. Quammen and S. Suparto, and calls of this species were heard repeatedly, and also feathers of different parts of the body and of the wings were found on the path.

Mason & Jarvis (1989) mentioned a possible record of Crested Goshawk for Teluk Terima (Bali Barat NP) and the observation in the Prapat Agung peninsula is the first confirmed record of the species on Bali.

Treron bicincta **Orange-breasted Green Pigeon**

In the Bali Barat National Park, in particular the peninsula of Prapat Agung (8°08' S, 114°28' E), this seems to be the most common species of green pigeon. In the males, first observed on 17 Apr 1989, the orange breast, fringed above with purplish pink (not extending to the back of the neck), the greenish head, with a greyish wash only if seen from certain angles, and the broad, greyish-white terminal bar on the undertail were unmistakable. Female birds were distinguished from female *T. griseicauda* by the rufous green uppertail coverts (not yellowish green), and from female *T. vemans*, by the broad (not narrow) pale terminal tail bar and greyish wash on the head (if seen from certain angles). Songs produced by the male birds were very similar to those of *T. vemans*, starting with a long drawn, siren-like whistle, followed by some gurgling notes and ending in two, three or more rasping notes, sounding as "ko-WRRROOOK, ko-WRRROOOK, ko-WRRROOOK" or "kreeew-kreeew-kreeew".

On several occasions, juvenile birds were observed, e.g., on 23 May 1989 near Teluk Kelor (female feeding two fledglings with small greenish berries, presumably *Lantana camara*) and on 26 May 1989 on the south slope of Prapat Agung hill (male feeding one fledgling). Apart from a curious, rather loud and rising "mmmm" heard on arrival of the adult bird, no audible sounds were produced during the feeding sessions-

Until now *T. bicincta* has not been recorded from Bali (Mason & Jarvis 1989) and was presumed to be extremely rare on Java: only eight pre-war skins in collections are known, amongst which two are stored in the Leiden museum (G.F. Mees, pers.comm.) and two are in the Bogor museum. Only as recently as August 1988, the species was rediscovered in Java, in Baluran National Park in the east corner of the island (G. Richards, pers.comm.), where it appeared to be the most common green pigeon (A. Lewis, pers.comm.); a cagebird of unknown origin, but most probably from East Java, was offered for sale at a birdmarket in Surabaya in Apr 1988. The resemblance to *T. vemans* may have caused the late discovery of the species in Bali. In juvenile plumage *T. griseicauda* is a likely candidate for misidentification: in the zoological Museum of Bogor two immature *T. bicincta* are stored (coll. nrs 29509 and 29510), labelled as *T. griseicauda*. They had been collected on 5 Jul 1984 near Goris in the Bali Barat National Park. Though the plumage, especially the undertail, closely resembles that of *T. griseicauda*, the rufous green uppertail coverts and greyish uppertail (in stead of, respectively, yellowish green, and greyish with a greenish wash in *T. griseicauda*) exclude any other species.

Sympatry of *T. vemans* and *T. bicincta* was proved by the observation of several male (and perhaps also female) *T. vemans* together in groups of *T. bicincta*, on 10-11 Dec 1989 and 13 Jan 1990 in the park. The latter species always outnumbered *vernans*, which was distinguished by its smaller size, finer, grey bill (greyish green in *bicincta*) and plumage.

Cacomantis (Cuculus) sonneratii **Banded Bay Cuckoo** On 28 May 1989 at 06.30 hrs the typical four note whistle of this species was heard in mixed hill forest along the road to the microwave station at Klatakan (8° 13' S, 114°29' E), at 300 m a.s.l. Two series were heard at intervals of 10 minutes. Upon imitation of the call no reaction followed from the bird other than complete silence.

On 30 June the same locality was visited again, in company of Made Suardika, in order to confirm the cuckoo's identity. At 07.13 hrs a recording of the Banded Bay Cuckoo from West Java was played. Within a few minutes several calls, sounding as four descending "trrrr"s (of the same quality as heard sometimes from the Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris* and Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*, in their "aberrant" calls in excitement). It appeared as if the bird was clearing its throat, because shortly after that, twice two series of the more familiar and clear four-note calls ("tee-tee-tee-tee") were produced. After a second playback, the typical rising call was also heard: "teee-teee-teetetee-tee-teetetee...". Shortly afterwards, the bird was seen: dark eyestripe, lightish eyebrow, rufous upperparts, finely banded underparts and whitish belly were diagnostic. Hereafter the bird kept on calling its rising call, while retiring into the planted teak forest adjacent to the mixed forest. After 07.40 hrs the bird ceased to call. Both the four note and the rising calls were recorded on tape during the same occasion by the author. On 1 and 23 Sep 1989, at resp. 09.00 and 08.30 hrs, the Banded Bay Cuckoo was heard again near Tegal Bundar, about three kilometers northwest of Klatakan. More recently its call was heard on 9 August 1990 in the open woodland near the village of Sumberbatok, in the company of M.N. Soetawidjaya at 07.30 hrs; the bird uttered 6-7 times its "teeteteteetee" call.

It is unclear whether these observations refer to stragglers from the mainland of Java (the species is not rare in nearby Baluran) or an attempt at colonisation on Bali, where its presumed host, the Common lora *Aegithina tiphia*, is common. The cuckoo must be rare on Bali as these are the only records of this vocally rather distinctive bird.

Tytoalba **Barn Owl**

A specimen of an adult Barn Owl, prepared with formalin, is stored in Bali Barat National Park. The bird was found dead after hitting a glass window of the building at the Tegal Bundar complex in Jan or Feb 1989. The bird was not moulting, although it is being damaged by insects, because of poor preservation and storage conditions. On 29 Aug another Barn Owl was observed in the park at 15.15 hrs in a tree not far from the guardpost of Teluk Kelor. Attention to the bird was drawn by a noisy flock of mobbing passerines (*Lalage sueuri*, *Pycnonotus goiavier*, *Aegithina tiphia*, *Parus major* and *Zosterops chloris*). On the morning of 17 Nov a Barn Owl was flushed from the steep rock wall along the beach east of Teluk Kelor. Inspection of the rocks yielded a fair number of skulls of rats (mainly *Rattus tiomanicus*), and some bird and bat remains. Results of a further analysis will be published elsewhere.

A breeding record of Barn Owls in Bali was published in a local newspaper in Oct 1989 (Kamadjaya 1989). A family of seven almost full grown young birds, found in the roof of the temple of Puseh Seronggo at Krambitan (South Bali), was shown in an accompanying picture. As the building was being upgraded, the birds had been evacuated and put together in the cage from where the adults were still able to feed them.

These are the first confirmations of the species, and its first breeding record, on Bali since Mikkola (1986) saw a pair in Kuta (S. Bali). They suggest that this species may be rather widespread on Bali. The possibility of a recent increase or expansion in Bali, perhaps due to an unusual abundance of food, is suggested by the rather abnormally large clutch of the "temple owls": seven (apparently well fed) young, against the usual clutch size of three to four (Hoogerwerf 1949). Also the dead owl found in the national park was far from stunted: its wing measured 32 cm, which is large if compared to the lengths of eleven Barn Owls in the Bogor museum, and of which the wings were measurable: 27.9-32.0 cm (average: 30.8 cm).

Phodilus badius **Bay Owl**

On 3 Oct 1990 a visit was paid to the birdmarket of Denpasar where an adult Bay Owl *Phodilus badius* was offered for sale. The bird was said to have been caught at Kintamani (8°14'S, 115°19'E) in the central part of Bali. This species has not been observed in Bali in the wild since 1911 (Van Helvoort in prep.).

Glaucidium castanopteiium **Asian Barred Owlet**

During various trips in 1988-1990 to the hill forest west of the Klatakan microwave station (8°13'S, 114°29'E) and nearby Mt Penguinan, the two types of song of the Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium castanopterum* could be frequently heard and tape recordings have been made during several occasions. On the 22 July 1990, whilst crossing the Prapat Agung peninsula in a southern direction, an Asian Barred Owlet was flushed from along the forest path and could be observed for several seconds, while it was perched on an overhanging branch. This was in the first part of the dry season, when most of the trees had already shed their leaves in the semi-deciduous forest.

The species was presumed to be extinct on Bali (Mason & Jarvis 1989) as no recent records were available since its collection in the northern central hills at the end of last century (Hartert 1896). Most likely due to lack of familiarity with its call, the birds have been overlooked until now.

Pycnonotus melanicterus **Black-crested Bulbul**

In the hill forest near Klatakan, this bulbul, discovered as recently as 1986 in the northern hills of Bali (Van Helvoort & Soetawidjaya 1987), appeared to be rather common. A juvenile bird (brown, not white eyes, without or with only a smallish crest), was observed on 28 May 1989 in that area.

Zoothera sibirica **Siberian Thrush**

During a visit, in the company of G.N.P. Dharmawirarta on 22 Jan 1990 to the forest along the south border of Lake Buyan (8°15' S, 115°07' E) at 1225 m a.s.l., a small flock of Siberian Thrushes *Zoothera sibirica* drew attention by their "chit" calls and active movement through the upper canopy of some sparsely leaved, high trees. Despite the misty weather in the early morning at 06.15 hrs, good views were obtained of one of the birds: its conspicuous white eyebrows, blackish upperparts and breast, with the white belly extending in a triangle up the breast, were clearly visible. Its rather untidy appearance and some light brownish spots on the wing suggested that this male bird was in its first year.

Siberian Thrushes are winter visitors from the northern hemisphere that are uncommonly found in (sub)montane forest throughout the Greater Sundas (Smythies 1981; van Marie & Voous 1988; MacKinnon 1988). They have been reported in 1982 by Sudbury from Bali (Van Helvoort, in prep.), but no further details are available. Another recent observation was made by L. Andersen, of a single male in Dec 1989 in the forest along Lake Bratan (8°17' S, 115°11' E). An unconfirmed record was given by Mason & Jarvis (1989) for Wangaya Cede (8°22' S, 115°06' E) in July.

Ficedula mugimaki **Mugimaki Flycatcher**

On 23 Jan 1989 during a walk through the botanical gardens near Bedugul, accompanied by P. Sudarma, a female flycatcher, perched in a three meter high young tree along the asphalt road, just where it enters the more open section of the park, was observed for a few minutes. The medium-sized flycatcher was seen from a distance of ca 10-12 m; it showed clearly its equally lightish brown head, without eyebrows or other marks, rufous throat and breast, rather contrasting with the dirty greyish white belly, brown wings and tail and one pale bar with an anterior smaller bar on the wings.

In Indonesia the Mugimaki Flycatcher is a winter visitor from NE Asia, recorded from Sumatra, Kalimantan, W. Java, Sulawesi and Ternate (King *et al.* 1975; White & Bruce 1986; MacKinnon 1988). In W. Java I have seen it at Cibodas in the submontane forest edge in similar habitat to that of Bedugul. This midwinter record suggests wintering of the species in Bali.

Zosterops chloris **Lemon-bellied White-Eye**

On 23 May 1989, a pair of this species was seen foraging in shrub and low trees along the coast of the Prapat Agung peninsula near Teluk Kelor. Their yellow underparts, duller and darker greyish olive green upperparts, including the rump, the black line under the eyes and through the lores and the typical "cheerp" calls were unmistakable. More birds were heard in the vicinity of these birds. The previous day a flock of this species was seen in trees in the savannah more inland near Teluk Brumbun (8°06' S, 114°30' E). In the national park this white-eye was previously only known from the smaller island of Menjangan (8°06' S, 114°31' E) separated by less than 500 m from the mainland, with no records from the mainland. On Java the bird is known from the smallest islands in the Java Sea, though some birds have been observed in Aug 1984 in flocks of *Z. flavus* along the north coast of W. Java

(Allport & Milton 1988). Interestingly, Hoogerwerf (1967) observed the species in May 1939 on the tiny island of Gili, near Bawean where it was absent; no white-eyes at all were observed in Jun 1954, when both islands were visited again. In Bali the birds were seen again in Jun-Sep on the mainland (in Jun 1990, a flock of 25 + birds near Teluk Kelor), but were not present in Nov-Apr, the rainy season and perhaps also the breeding season on Menjangan Island, where extremely dry and probably unsuitable conditions are unfavourable for breeding during the dry season (Apr-Oct). The white-eyes were abundant on Menjangan Island throughout the year.

G.F. Mees (pers.comm.) pointed to the enigmatic distribution of *Z. chloris*, confined to small islands in the western and eastern part of its range, but on the mainland of the larger central islands (Sulawesi, Lesser Sunda Islands). The present information may only show that the birds' distribution is not as restricted as it seemed, however seasonal the few exceptions may be.

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