

A WINTER FLOCK OF PHEASANT-TAILED JACANAS T CIAMIS, WEST JAVA.

By M. Indrawan

Ringkasan

Suatu pengamatan telah dilaksanakan terhadap 40 sampai 70 ekor Burung Sepatu (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*) di dekat Ciamis, Jawa Barat. Ini merupakan jumlah terbesar yang pernah dilaporkan untuk jenis migran yang langka tersebut di Pulau Jawa.

A flock of Pheasant-tailed Jacanas *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* was observed at a swamp locally known as "Kedungbelis", near Sindawangi village, south of Ciamis, West Java (ca. 7°24'S, 108°31'E) in March 1990. Observations made on three days from 17 to 19 March revealed daily counts of between 40 and 70 birds, but it is likely that more were present.

The flock was usually dispersed among the marsh vegetation, but mostly adjacent to areas of lotus plants, where they were difficult to observe. An approach was generally possible in a two-man boat up to about 15 metres, at which point small groups would take off suddenly and fly short distances, about 20 metres, often with manouevres and turns similar to the flight of snipe. On one occasion, landing with raised wing and a short glide was observed. Once when a playback of the calls was made from a stationary boat, unexpectedly an inconspicuous small flock nearby took to flight, indicating a group reaction to a warning call.

The Pheasant-tailed Jacana is widespread in South-East Asia, including Sumatra and Borneo, but in Java it is assumed to be only a vagrant (Hayman *et al.* 1986) or rare winter migrant to the north coast of West and Central Java (MacKinnon 1988). The present observations, made almost on the south coast of West Java, indicate that the species may be a regular migrant to the freshwater swamps that are now severely diminished on Java and ornithologically little explored.

The species was apparently not rare at Jakarta a century ago, with 20 birds being collected in 1881-82 (Vorderman 1882). In East Java, Kooiman (1940) saw it once on the south coast. A single bird was observed on 6 March 1951 at Ujung Kulon, West Java (Hoogerwerf 1950), but MacKinnon (*pp. cit.*) reports that there are no more recent records on Java. However, a group of more than 15 was seen on 18 February 1987 at Salatri, Sindangbarang, on the south coast of West Java (Van Balen and Marhadi, pers. comm.), and a solitary bird was seen near Jakarta airport on 23 November 1986 (D.A. Holmes, pers. comm.).

The swamps at Ciamis are little known. One of the first publications on the area is from Polak (1949), where it is described as an area locally known as "Rawa Lakbok", a rare example of peat swamp in Java with a maximum depth of six metres. The Indonesian Wetlands Inventory (Silvius *et al.* 1987) lists it as the largest peat area on Java, however agricultural development is rapidly changing the nature of the swamps, and there are indications that bird hunting forms a considerable threat to the bird populations. It is recommended that surveys are made, with an assessment on the potential for establishing a conservation area in South Ciamis to preserve this rare example of Javan peat swamp habitat (Indrawan 1990).

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Address

Kemanggisan Ilir Raya 16, Komplek Pajak, Jakarta Barat 11480. (*Full descriptions of the Pheasant-tailed Jacanas were provided, Ed.*)

BLUE-CROWNED HANGING PARROT ON JAVA

by **S. van Balen & A. Lewis**

Ringkasan

Dipertelakan dua Catalan tentang *Loriculus galgulus* di Carita, Jawa Barat. Nampaknya burung tersebut adalah lepasan-sangkar. Diskusi terutama ditujukan kepada kemungkinan terjadinya imigrasi alami dari Sumatera.

During a visit on 12-14 Jul 1989 to the Carita Recreation forest, ca 10 km north of the village of Labuhan (6°21' S, 105°48' E) on the west coast of Java, AL observed a Hanging Parrot at the forest edge not far from the Curug Gendang waterfall. The bird showed a red throat and was provisionally identified as either an aberrant Javan Yellow-throated or feral Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot.

About one year later, on 6 Jun 1990, the area was visited by SvB. A Hanging Parrot with red throat patch, red rump, but otherwise green plumage was observed during a few seconds in a tree at the edge of a clearing south of the above mentioned waterfall.

On Java and Bali the only resident species of hanging parrot so far known is the endemic Yellow-throated Hanging Parrot *Loriculus pusillus* (MacKinnon 1988). Descriptions of both present birds however fits best with the Blue-crowned *L. galgulus*, a species occurring on Kalimantan, Sumatra, peninsular Thailand and Malaysia (King *et al.* 1975). Very likely the observations at Carita concerned one or more escaped cagebirds. Vorderman (1883) mentioned the breeding of feral Blue-crowned Hanging Parrots in Jakarta, and reported that local sailors regularly brought them from southern Sumatra to Anyar, Caringin and Merak in the far northwest of Java. However, the possibility of more natural immigration should not be excluded. West Java is separated from southern Sumatra by a strait of ca 25 km in which lie some islands that may serve as stepping stones. Van Marle & Voous (1988) mentioned the species for most of the islands off Sumatra, and the absence of races in the species (Forshaw 1973) may indicate interchange amongst the different populations throughout its range. Its dispersal abilities are attested by the arrival of three birds on Selingan island, 40 km off Sabah, after a storm in July 1973, as reported by de Silva & Chong (1974).