

AN OBSERVATION OF PIED IMPERIAL PIGEONS *DUCCULA BICOLOR*
ON AIR (AVER) ISLET, THE FIRST RECORD FOR LOMBOK

Stephen V. Nash and Anne D. Nash

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On the mornings of 30 and 31 October, 1985 several observations were made of two white *Ducula* type pigeons, on the small coral islet Gili Air (Ayer), approximately one kilometer off the north-west coast of Lombok in the Lesser Sundas. The plwage of the pigeons was completely white, with the exception of the primary and secondary wing feathers and part of the tail, which were black. The outer rectrices appeared to be wholly white, or only very slightly tipped with black. As the other rectrices are broadly tipped black, the appearance from below of both birds' tails was white with a large central black spot at the distal end. Under tail coverts and tibial feathers were white, without black markings, which with the preceding marks identifies the two birds as Pied Imperial Pigeons *Ducula bicolor*. This is the first sighting around Lombok and appears to be the first onfirmed account for the Lesser Sunda region.

King *et al.* (1975) gives the distribution of *D. bicolor* as from the Andaman and Nicobar islands, the coast of mainland South-east Asia, through the Sundas and the Philippines, to New Guinea. Furthermore, Goodwin (1977) includes the Lesser Sundas within the range of *D. bicolor*, but White & Bruce (1986) assert that there are no records from the Lesser Sundas. A review of the literature supports the latter view (Berlioz 1936, Hoogerwerf 1955, 1967, Kuroda 1930, Vorderman 1895, Wallace 1893). As pointed out in White & Bruce (1986), Pfeffer (1958) mentions that Hoogerwerf had found this species around the Komodo, Padar and Rinca islands, but Hoogerwerf's paper (1955) on the birds of these islands does not mention the species, and his 1967 paper, dealing in part on *D. bicolor*, does not mention any Lesser Sunda localities.

Similar species are the White Imperial Pigeon *D. luctuosa* and the Torres Strait Imperial Pigeon *D. spilorrhoea*. These, however, are rapidly eliminated as both have readily noticeable black markings around the tibial and ventral areas, and the tibial areas and under tail coverts respectively.

In adult *p. bicolor*, the outer rectrices are white with a narrow black edging along the outer edge, and with a black tip. However, the white extends farther on the outer webs, giving the impression from below that only the central rectrices are broadly black-tipped. A juvenile specimen of *D. bicolor* from Billiton Island in the Java Sea preserved in the Bogor Museum has almost completely white-tipped outer rectrices, with only a hint of pale grey instead of black. If the development of the black tips is in fact related to age, then the two birds of Air Islet may have been juveniles.

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Ringkasaan

Ducula bicolor yang terlihat untuk pertama kali di Pulau Air (1 km dari pantai timur laut Pulau Lombok), Penambah jenis dalam daftar jenis burung untuk Pulau Lombok. Jenis burung ini terlihat beberapa kali pada pagi hari tanggal 30 dan 31 October 1985. Didasarkan kepada warna buiunya jenis *Ducula* ini, adalah *D. bicolor* dan bukan *D. luctuosa* raaupun *P. apilorrhoa*.

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- Address .
- World wildlife Fund, P.O.Box 133, Bogor, Indonesia.