

**Reference:**

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**RINGKASAN**

Dipertelakan dua sarang *Leptoptilos javanicus* yang ditemukan tidak jauh di luar batas Taman Nasional Tanjung Puting. Catatan ini merupakan penemuan baru yang penting untuk Taman Nasional tsb., dan diusulkan agar batas Taman Nasional ini diperluas untuk melindungi tempat bersarang burung tsb.

**ON THE PITFALLS OF IDENTIFYING  
LESSER KNOWN ISLAND ENDEMIC**

by J.R.D. Mall

The middle levels of the northern slopes of Gunung Rinjani from about 500 - 1500 m, northern Lombok, are clothed in little-disturbed primary forest which has a closed canopy and a thin lower layer of saplings and shrubs: the ground vegetation cover is sparse and there is thick leaf litter. While walking along a well-marked path through this forest on 12 May 1988, I observed an unidentified thrush-like bird. Notes on its appearance and behaviour and a sketch were made.

Briefly, the bird was about 18-20 cm long and was quite strikingly coloured. Its bill, crown, wings, breast and tip of tail were black, contrasting with a white belly; two prominent white spots appeared on its secondary wing coverts. Its back was a light reddish brown and its rump and upper tail coverts reddish brown. The most striking visual feature was its facial pattern which comprised a white oval from the bill to above and behind the eye, crossed obliquely from front to rear by a black band passing through the eye. I saw the bird initially at a distance of some 10-15 m but it was quite tame: it hopped quite calmly away from me, pausing at intervals to inspect the litter and occasionally hopping onto the lower branches of shrubs. This bird made no call, but a second sighting was made a few hundred metres further upslope where the same or a second bird was perched on a low branch some 3 m from the ground and was singing. The song was too complex to

describe easily but was liquid-like in the manner of a thrush and lasted for several seconds.

Later reference to the standard field guides of the adjacent regions proved confusing. Not unexpectedly, there were no birds of this description north and «fe«t of the Wallace's Line, but on examining books of the south and east side of this line, there were close similarities with the 'Northern Scrub Robin *Drymodes superciliaris*, in particular with 'the unusual oblique black stripe through the oval white face patch, the rufous back, black wings and prominent white wing spots. However, the call of the Scrub Robin was quite dissimilar, its habits secretive and its known disjunct distribution confined to New Guinea, the Aru Islands in eastern Maluku and the northern tip of Cape York and western Arnhem Land in Australia: it is also non-migratory.

Lengthy correspondence ensued at the instigation of the Editor of (*Kukila*. in an attempt to identify this most distinctive bird. Ultimately, given away by its song which is so unlike that of the Scrub Robin, David Bishop and Paul Andrew were able to home in on what we had called the "Northern Scrubwink". Two photographs taken by Paul Andrew on G. Mutis, Timor, showed that the bird is in fact a Chestnut-backed Thrush *Zoothera dochertyi*, a WaUacean endemic of Lombok, Sumbawa, Fibres, Sukba and Timor. It is noteworthy that these two quite different species have such similar markings and it is interesting to speculate on the significance of the facial pattern.

#### **AdknowledgBnient**

I am most grateful to Paul Andrew for the loan of his excellent photographs.

#### **Address**

The British Embassy, Jakarta.

*Editor's note:* A description of *Zoothera dochertyi* is given in *The birds of Wallaces* (White & Bruce, BOU Checklist No. 7, 1986). This account emphasizes the great need for an authoritative and illustrated field guide for Wallacea.

## **BIRD OBSERVATION AT DANAU KURUMOI, IRIAN JAYA**

by Paul L.A. Erftemeijer & Gerald R. Alien  
(Received It 11 November 1989)

On 31 March 1989 the authors visited Danau Kurumoi, a small, uninhabited freshwater lake in the Masikeri mountains of Irian Jaya at an elevation of about 600 m. This site is situated in the middle of the narrow isthmus that connects the Bird's Head or Vogelkop Peninsula with the remainder of Irian Jaya, at approx. 2°10'S, 134°05'6. The lake was characterized by relatively