

## First Photographic Evidence and a Breeding Record of a Frogmouth on Siberut, Mentawai Islands, West Sumatra

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**Ringkasan.** Tulisan ini menginformasikan dan menyajikan bukti pertama catatan tentang Paruh-kodok di Pulau Siberut, Kepulauan Mentawai, Sumatera Barat, Indonesia. Catatan ini disertai satu foto Paruh kodok yang dipelihara penduduk lokal. Catatan ringkas mengenai masa berbiak burung ini dijelaskan juga dalam tulisan ini.

Siberut is the largest island in the Mentawai Archipelago, lying c. 145 km from the south coast of mainland West Sumatra. The Mentawai Islands are well known for their endemic mammals, but they also support an endemic owl and 12 endemic subspecies of birds. Kemp (2000) conducted bird surveys over 2.5 years on Siberut, adding many species to the island's known avifauna, and noting the absence of 17 bird families that were present on mainland Sumatra, including the frogmouths (Podargidae). Nevertheless, he included unconfirmed auditory records of the Javan (or Horsfield's) Frogmouth *Batrachostomus javensis*, accompanied by a description of the bird from an informant, and cited Mitchell's (1982) unconfirmed record of the Gould's Frogmouth *B. stellatus*. He overlooked a record of an unidentified frogmouth in McNeely *et al.* (1980), which was probably based on a sighted dead specimen (A. Whitten, *in litt.*).

On 7 April 2006, whilst conducting a vegetation survey in the secondary lowland forest near Tinit, a coastal village in the northwestern part of Siberut Island (0°58'N, 98°45'E; 20 m asl), a local guide (Bernadus) found a nestling bird, which he took to keep as a pet. Upon being showed the bird, I immediately recognized it as a frogmouth, but as I could not readily identify the species, I photographed it (Plate 1). Later I consulted with experts who suggested that this bird was probably a Gould's Frogmouth based on the colour of the chick of that species, and its altitudinal range (Bas van Balen, pers. comm.; Nigel Cleere, pers. comm.). In addition, an adult frogmouth was sighted at the Peleonan forest, approximately 12 km west of the location of the nestling (Hidayat, pers. comm.).

Mainland Sumatra has five frogmouth species: the Gould's Frogmouth (25 cm in length), Javan Frogmouth (25 cm), Sunda Frogmouth *B. cornutus* (28 cm), and Large Frogmouth *B. auritus* (40 cm), all occurring in lowland forest; and the Short-tailed Frogmouth *B. poliophus* (30 cm) in submontane forest (van Marle & Vous 1988; MacKinnon & Phillipps 1993). The above nestling is unlikely to represent the last two species, based on its plumage and altitude. Data on the breeding seasons of the remaining three species are sparse, but range from

February to June (Holyoak 1999). Assuming that the nestling was at least 10 days old (based on the amount of down), and that the incubation period is approximately 30 days (Holyoak 1999), its mother probably laid its egg(s) in late February.

Considering the levels of endemism on Siberut, there is a possibility that the bird(s) in question represent a new taxon (Bas van Balen pers. comm.; Nigel Cleere pers. comm.). Further observations are required to confirm the identity of frogmouths on the island.

I am deeply thankful to Richard Noske for improving this manuscript, Bas van Balen and Nigel Cleere for their advice on frogmouth identification, Philippe Verbelen and Tony Whitten for notes on previous frogmouth records on Siberut, and to Bernadus, who brought my attention to the frogmouth.

**Editors' note:** Since the original version of this manuscript was received, several older, unpublished records of frogmouths on Siberut Island have come to light. In 2005 a juvenile of a small (unidentified) frogmouth was captured and photographed, and an adult secured (M. Waltert *in litt.*). Additional frogmouths were photographed in 2009 by B. Demeulemeester and many sound recordings made by F. Verbelen (*in litt.*). The birds in 2005 and 2009 were tentatively identified as Sunda and Javan Frogmouths, respectively, but alternatively, as suggested above (and by the observers), may include an undescribed taxon.

## References

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**Plate 1.** Unidentified frogmouth chick from northwest Siberut Island.