

First record of Hardhead *Aythya australis* from Bali

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Ringkasan. Itik mata-putih *Aythya australis*, spesies burung pengembara, teramati pada waktu pengamatan burung di Nusa Dua bagian selatan Bali dan merupakan catatan pertama untuk pulau itu. Dengan bantuan monokuler 20-45x perbesaran juga dicatat dan dibandingkan ciri spesifik yang membedakan spesies ini dari kebanyakan jenis *Aythya*.

On the morning of 3 December 2004, I encountered a flock of Wandering Whistling-Ducks *Dendrocygna arcuata* in sewage ponds in the very south of Bali. Next to them swam an unusual duck, clearly an *Aythya*, which I could not identify with the books I had with me. I took notes, aided by a 20-45 x telescope. The plumage was dark rufous-brown overall but the undertail-coverts were conspicuously white. The bill was bluish-grey, with a broad pale band before a dark tip.

Consulting the literature (in particular MacKinnon & Phillipps 1993; Madge & Burn 1988) two days later, the bird could be identified as a Hardhead *A. australis*. I can safely exclude most other *Aythya* species based on the extended white undertail coverts and the general plumage coloration. Although the Ferruginous Duck *A. nyroca* also shows white undertail-coverts and a rufous tone to the upperparts, it does not show a broad pale subterminal band across the bill. The Bali bird lacked the conspicuous white iris and the overall richer plumage colouration of breeding-plumaged male Hardheads, but the extent of the pale bill band indicate that it might have been an immature male (Madge & Burn 1988).

The Hardhead is a vagrant to Indonesia. One male specimen was collected at Lake Lindu, North Central Sulawesi, on 26 March 1917 (White & Bruce 1986). An astonishing breeding record exists from the Yang Plateau in East Java in May/June 1937 (Kooiman 1941). Trainor (2005a,b) has recorded many Hardheads in Timor and on Roti Island. The nearest record to Bali was seven birds seen on 23 December 1998, in flight off Gili Air, Lombok, and three birds on the same day on a beach in the east of Lombok (Grantham 2000). Grantham (2000) cites a record of a male present on Flores from January to November 1990. Hence, its occasional occurrence on Bali, as described here, is not totally unexpected. The Hardhead is known to undertake wide-ranging movements from its breeding grounds in Australia (Carboneras 1992).

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