

First records of Rufous Night-heron *Nycticorax caledonicus* for Sumatra

MUHAMMAD IQBAL AND FADLY TAKARI

KPB-SOS (Kelompok Pengamat Burung Spirit of South Sumatra), Jl. Tanjung api-api km 9,
Komplek P and K Blok E 1, Palembang 30152, South Sumatra Province, Indonesia.
Email: kpbsos26@yahoo.com

Ringkasan. Seekor Kowak-malam merah *Nycticorax caledonicus* dalam kondisi dan warna bulu tubuh yang nampaknya dalam keadaan berbiak teramati diantara kelompok Blekok sawah di Lebak Tanjung Aur, Dataran Banjir Lebak Ogan Komering Sumatra Selatan. Keberadaan spesies ini di desa Meok, termasuk dua buah foto didalamnya, juga tercatat dalam laporan Bengkulu Birdwatching Club tahun 2000.

On 13 May 1999 at 15:30 hrs, the first author observed a single night-heron amongst more than 200 Javan Pond-herons *Ardeola speciosa* in breeding plumage at Lebak Tanjung Aur (Dataran Banjir Lebak Ogan Komering), South Sumatra. The black crown with two long white plumes, white underparts and absence of black or darker colour on the upper wing coverts identified it as a Rufous Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*. Since this sighting, the species was mentioned in a report (including two photographs) by the Bengkulu Birdwatching Club for Enggano Island, c. 100 km off the south-west coast of Sumatra, where it was seen at Meok village between 27 September and 5 October 2000.

The Rufous Night-heron breeds on islands in the Philippines, eastern Indonesia and Australasia (Sonobe & Usui 1993). In western Indonesia it is known to breed in Java (Hoogerwerf 1952, 1966; Erfteimeijer 1989), and North Kalimantan (Smythies & Davison 1999), but until the present report there have been no documented records for Sumatra (van Marle & Voous 1988; Andrew 1992; Holmes 1996). However, the species has also been observed several times on the Coco-Keeling Islands (12°30'S, 96°50'E) in the south-eastern Indian Ocean (Marchant & Higgins 1990), even further west than either Enggano Island (102° E) or Lebak Ogan Komering (104° E).

References

- Andrew, P. 1992. *The Birds of Indonesia: A Checklist (Peters' Sequence)*. Indonesian Ornithological Society, Jakarta.
- Erfteimeijer, P. 1989. The occurrence of nests of Nankeen Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus* in East Java. *Kukila* 4: 146-147.
- Hoogerwerf, A. 1966. The occurrence of *Nycticorax caledonicus* in Java. *Ardea* 54: 81-87.
- Marchant, S. & P.J. Higgins. 1990. *Handbook of Australia, New Zealand and Antarctic birds*, vol. 1. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.
- Marle, J.G. van & K.H. Voous. 1988. *The Birds of Sumatra*. British Ornithologists' Union, Tring, UK. [BOU Checklist No. 7]
- Smythies, B.E. & G.W.H. Davison. 1999. *The Birds of Borneo*. Fourth Edition. Natural History Publications (Borneo), Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

Sonobe, K. & S. Usui (eds). 1993. *A Field Guide to the Waterbirds of Asia*. Wild Bird Society of Japan, Tokyo.