

First record of Shining Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus* on Sulawesi

ACHMAD RIDHA JUNAID^{1,2} AND NURULIAWATI¹

¹Wildlife Study Group Comata, Universitas Indonesia, Depok, West Java, 16424

²Corresponding author email: achmad.ridha.junaid@gmail.com

Ringkasan. Seekor Kedasi emas *Chrysococcyx lucidus* teramati dan terdokumentasi dengan baik di kawasan tambak di Kabupaten Pangkep, Sulawesi Selatan. Kepastian jenis ini ditentukan berdasarkan corak hijau metalik pada bagian sayap hingga punggung dan lingkaran mata yang berwarna kuning. Burung ini tercatat merupakan jenis migran dari Australia dan mendatangi Indonesia hanya sampai pada kawasan Lombok, Sumbawa, Sumba, Flores dan Wetar. Perjumpaan ini merupakan catatan terbaru dan pertama mengenai kehadiran *Chrysococcyx lucidus* di kawasan Sulawesi.

While birdwatching on 23 July 2014 in a mangrove-dominated fishpond at Boriappaka Village, Pangkep, South Sulawesi (4°49'S; 119°31'E), we observed a bird that we initially identified as Gould's (Little) Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx (minutillus) russatus*, a resident species in Sulawesi. It was perched in an Agate tree *Sesbania grandiflora* but c. 2 minutes after it was sighted, it flew into the mangroves. It did not make any calls, but photographs were obtained (Plate 1) to confirm its identity. The absence of a red eye-ring ruled out the possibility that it was a male Gould's Bronze Cuckoo, and absence of dark marks on the ear-coverts and around the eye ruled out the female of that species. Moreover whilst the photographed bird resembled the female Gould's Bronze Cuckoo in having a yellow eye-ring, glossy olive-green crown and nape, and white underparts with dark brown barring, it differed in that the crown to mantle was a dull coppery-bronze, and the wings and back were shining bronze-green. In addition, the dark barring on the white underparts was broader, bolder, less broken and more widely spaced (Plate 1) than the barring on a Gould's (Little) Bronze Cuckoo. These characteristics were later used to identify the bird as a Shining Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus*, and therefore was a migrant from Australia or New Zealand.



Plate 1. Shining Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus* in South Sulawesi, July 2014.

There are at least four well-differentiated subspecies of the Shining Bronze Cuckoo, one of which (*C. l. plagosus*) is known to migrate to Indonesia. This subspecies breeds in eastern and south-western Australia, and migrates north for the austral winter, some birds reaching New Guinea and the Lesser Sundas (Higgins 1999; Erritzøe *et al.* 2012; Payne 2016). In Indonesia, it is described as an uncommon “winter” visitor from early April to October (Coates & Bishop 1997), found in a wide range of wooded habitats including forest, mangrove, woodland, savanna, scrub, and plantation from sea-level to 1900m asl (Higgins 1999; Erritzøe *et al.* 2012). It has been recorded at Ashmore Reef, between Roti and northern Western Australia, and since it has never been recorded between the latter region and eastern Australia, it is likely that these individuals derive from the south-west. All sightings from Ashmore Reef are confined to the austral autumn (March to May), when birds may be expected to be moving northwards (M. Carter, pers. comm.). The lack of sightings in spring (September to November) suggests that southward migration is by another route, or that there is no stop-over (M. Carter, pers. comm.).

There are relatively few specimen-based records or recent observations of the Shining Bronze Cuckoo in Indonesia and therefore the wintering range in Indonesia is poorly known. White & Bruce (1986) listed the Lesser Sunda islands of Lombok, Sumbawa, Flores, Sumba, Dao, Roti and Wetar for the species, and Coates & Bishop (1997) added Komodo Island. The Indonesian distribution is mapped as the entire Lesser Sundas from Lombok eastwards to Tanimbar, Aru Islands, Kai, Buru, Seram and Papua in Higgins (1999) with mention of specimens being collected from April onwards in the Lesser Sundas. The Timor record by Noske (1994) was missed by both Coates & Bishop (1996) and Erritzøe *et al.* (2012), and the latter monograph does list the species for Timor-Leste.

Apart from published literature we also checked through several online databases for Sulawesi records of Shining Bronze Cuckoo (Oriental Bird Images www.orientalbirdimages.org; Internet Bird Collection website: <http://ibc.lynxeds.com>; and eBird <http://Ebird.org>) as well as data compilations in the ‘From the Field’ sections of *BirdingASIA* (Robson 2004–2015) and the ‘Around the Archipelago’ section of *Kukila* (van Balen *et al.* 2009, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015). No records were found in any of the above sources and as far as we are aware this is the first record of Shining Bronze Cuckoo for the Sulawesi region. It is possible that the species is under-reported in Indonesia, or even mistaken for other Bronze Cuckoos. Given the recent increased interest in photographing birds in Indonesia, associated with the ease and relatively low cost of using digital cameras, we encourage birders to take photographs of Bronze Cuckoos, and submit them, along with details of their observations, to eBird or Burungnesia (<http://bit.ly/Burungnesia>).

Acknowledgements

The authors are deeply thankful to Colin Trainor, Bas van Balen, Mike Carter and Danny Rogers for their help in confirming the identity of the bird. Richard Noske, Mike Carter, Colin Trainor and Nurul Laksmi Winarni are also thanked for improving the manuscript.

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