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A SECOND SET OF GENERAL BIRD NOTES FROM THE FOURTH DIVISION OF SARAWAK**J.E. Duckett****INTRODUCTION**

An initial paper "Some General Bird Notes from the Fourth Division of Sarawak" appeared in Vol. XXXIV No. 55 (New Series) in 1985. These covered the writer's observations and notes from 1982 into mid 1984. This second paper continues observations made subsequently up to May 1986 during visits from Peninsular Malaysia, mainly to Batu Niah Estate and more recently to developments in the Suai area.

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by

J.E. Duckett*

INTRODUCTION

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ERRATA

There are two amendments to the initial paper which should be noted and are as follows –

- i) BARRED GROUND (PEACEFUL) DOVE (*Geopelia striata*) should have as its "King's" number 344 and NOT 304 as printed.
- ii) BROAD BILLED ROLLER (DOLLARBIRD) (*Eurystomus orientalis*) – 468

In the note on mobbing reference to "White-breasted Swallow Shrike" should correctly read "White-breasted Wood-Swallow".

As in the earlier paper the listed common names are those used by Smythies in his 3rd Edition of "The Birds of Borneo", 1981, which is the major reference. They are followed by a number which refers to the identification number given in King *et al* in "The birds of South-East Asia" 1975. The latter reference does not cover all Borneo birds and King's common names in certain cases differ from those in Smythies.

The Roman numerical one, in brackets (I), before the common name in the following list indicates that a note on this species appeared in the initial paper.

The aims of these notes remain the same as those stated in the initial paper in the series.

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The initial paper has generated a certain interest, and some correspondence, and hopefully further contributions from other and more able hands will be forthcoming in the *Sarawak Museum Journal* in the future. For those who may wish to participate, it appears to this writer that areas requiring particular attention could be as follows –

- 1) Notes on early and late dates for migrants, particularly, but not exclusively, the migrant birds of prey.
- 2) Notes on coastal birds and birds of the adjoining waters. A keen bird watcher at any of the off-shore oil installations could provide very valuable information here, and may well obtain considerable records of migrants.
- 3) Identification of food material for various species upon which references are currently rather sparse.
- 4) Nest sites and types for many of the species which still have no records.
- 5) General records and bird lists for various sites remain of great value, particularly from less frequently visited areas, in order to obtain some ideas on distribution of the various species.
- 6) Records from various altitude for different species would be of interest as it is possible that several of what, in Peninsular Malaysia, are looked upon as lowland birds, may be found in the highlands. An example of this is the Yellow vented Bulbul which is found widely in the Kelabit uplands to 3,700 ft. but is rarely found so high in Peninsular Malaysia.
- 7) Specific species observations on the following would be of interest –
 - a) Collared Kingfisher (*Halcyon chloris*) –
whilst a bird of the coastal area, I believe that it is spreading inland as has occurred in Peninsular Malaysia. Sightings of this away from the coast should be recorded and reported.
 - b) Jungle Crow (*Corvus macrorhyncos*) –
“a mystery bird in Borneo” according to Smythies but I believe that it is present in certain areas (Miri & Batu Niah) and if so could well be more widespread.
 - c) The Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) –
not recorded in Smythies as a bird of Borneo, but I have recently had unconfirmed sightings reported to me from Oil Palm Areas in Sabah. In Peninsular Malaysia this was a very rare bird until the Oil Palm industry developed and the rats therein provided a food source, following which the Barn Owl became relatively common in such areas. Development of the Oil Palm areas in Sarawak may see the arrival of this species here and it should be looked out for.
 - d) Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) –
following on from Smythies notes on its initial introduction to Borneo, an up to date set of records of its current status through