

Three new records from Lubang island, Philippines

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Limited information is available regarding birds of the small, fringing islands in the Philippine Archipelago. Lubang island, although close to Luzon and Manila, has seen remarkably little exploration. Indeed, a recent summary (Dickinson *et al.* 1991) indicated that it had received detailed surveys only by McGregor in October–November 1902 and by Forbes in July 1913, although some subsequent visits must have occurred.

Here, I report on a small collection made recently on Lubang island, documenting three new island records: Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx erithacus*, Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta* and Mangrove Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis rufigastra*. The kingfisher record represents an extension of the overall known range of the species northward from Mindoro.

A survey team of herpetologists and mammalogists from the University of Kansas Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center (KUNHM) worked on Lubang island during 5–14 December 2005. The team camped in second growth and selectively logged primary forest at 150 m (13.796°N 120.159°E), and—as part of the surveys—occasionally collected birds at night by spotlight, as well as a few swiftlets from small caves. All birds captured had snippets of liver tissue sampled and preserved in 95% ethanol, and the remainder of the bird preserved in formalin as a voucher and specimen for study. All specimens mentioned below—as well as additional material of bird species not constituting new records—are deposited at KUNHM. New records, with brief commentary, are as follows:

ORIENTAL DWARF KINGFISHER *Ceyx erithacus*

This species ranges from South and South-East Asia through the Sundas into the Philippines, where it is known to occur on Palawan and satellite islands, the Sulu Archipelago, and on Mindoro (Kennedy *et al.* 2000). As such, its occurrence on Lubang island, documented by five specimens collected (KUNHM 97123–97127), extends its known distribution northward, curiously close to Luzon, where the congeneric Philippine Dwarf Kingfisher *C. melanurus* is present. Limited comparisons suggest that the Lubang island series is not distinct from populations on Mindoro (subspecies *C. e. rufidorsum*).

GLOSSY SWIFTLET *Collocalia esculenta*

This species is known to occur broadly across the Philippines, including on many small and fringing islands (Kennedy *et al.* 2000). It is present on Luzon and Mindoro,

which are adjacent to Lubang island. The five specimens collected (KUNHM 97129–97133) are referable to *C. e. marginata*, instead of *C. e. bagobo* of the southern Philippines.

MANGROVE BLUE FLYCATCHER *Cyornis rufigastra*

This species is widespread, ranging from South-East Asia into the Sundas, Sulawesi, and the Philippines (Kennedy *et al.* 2000). Its occurrence on Lubang island, documented by four specimens collected (KUNHM 97120–97122, 97128), is therefore not surprising. Subspecies *C. r. blythi* is present on Luzon to the east, whereas *C. r. mindorensis* is on Mindoro to the south. Determination of the subspecific affinities of the Lubang populations, however, must await the availability of better comparative material, as the differences between subspecies are subtle, and preservation in formalin has some effects on the fine details of coloration.

Other species represented in this small collection include White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*, Philippine Bulbul *Hypsipetes philippinus*, Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*, Rufous Paradise-flycatcher *Terpsiphone cinnamomea*, Purple-throated Sunbird *Nectarinia sperata* and Lovely Sunbird *Aethopyga shelleyi*. The three new records, even among such a small and preliminary collection, suggest that much remains to be learned from detailed surveys on Lubang island, as well as many other small, isolated islands across the Philippines.

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