

Rare Bird Reports

MNS-BCC Records Committee Report 2023

This report covers the activities and decisions of the Malaysian Nature Society Bird Conservation Committee Records Committee (RC) during the year of 2023. A report on previous years' events appeared in the *Malaysian Bird Report* Vol 1 (2023).

At the end of 2022, the RC consisted of the following members: Rafi Kudus (Chair), Amar-Singh HSS, Dave Bakewell, Chin Choong Liung, James Eaton, Allen Jeyarajasingam, Khoo Swee Seng, Dr David Wells and Wong Tsu Shi.

Although there has been no new checklist of Malaysian birds published since 2020, the annually updated Clements checklist (Clements *et al.* 2023), which is used by the MNS BCC RC, has added a total of 14 species to the Malaysian list (13 'splits' and 1 novel species – Spectacled Flowerpecker *Dicaeum dayakorum*) since 2020 (full details can be read in Jing-Yi Tou 2023, 2024).

NEW SPECIES RECORDS

2010

Lesser Kestrel: A long-overlooked record of a second-year male photographed on 16-20 Jan 2010 at Sungai Balang paddyfields, Johor, by Paul Wu. The record was discovered by Tan Gim Cheong looking through an old copy of *Suara Enggang* (Vol. 18 No. 1, Jan-Feb 2010 p23)! First record for Malaysia. Accepted on 6 Sep 2020.

2022

Black Tern: A first year bird seen at sea off Tanjung Dawai, Kedah on 28 Oct 2022 by Chris Gibbins *et al.* First record for Malaysia. Accepted on 15 May 2023.

Bluethroat: Up to 5 individuals were discovered wintering at Pasir Puteh, Kelantan, 23 Dec 2022 - 20 Jan 2023 by Azman Baharuddin. First record for Malaysia. Accepted on 30 Jun 2023.

Hen Harrier: A first year male photographed in Hilir Perak on 22 Sep 2022 by Yvonne Blake was the first adequately documented record for Peninsular Malaysia after a reassessment of all previous records in 2020 found none fully conclusive. First record for Peninsular Malaysia. Accepted 2 Mar 2023.

Asian Green Bee-eater: An adult at Alor Setar, Kedah on 12 Dec 2022 - 1 Jan 2023, found by Tan Tian Ching and enjoyed by many. First record for Malaysia. Accepted 2 Mar 2023.

Oriental Turtle Dove: A juvenile photographed on Pulau Mengalum, Sabah on 13 Dec 2022 by Muhammad Ali was the first accepted for Malaysia after two previous sightings had been either assumed to be escapes or were not submitted for assessment by the observers. First record for Malaysia. Accepted 2 Mar 2023.

Pacific Black Duck: A bird at Ulu Dedap, Perak on 17 Dec 2022 found by Zhongying Koay and Muhamad Qayyum. First record for Malaysia. Accepted 2 Mar 2023.

2023

Black-winged Cuckooshrike: Two birds seen near Kangar, Perlis on 2 Feb - 17 Mar 2023 by Huzairi Bin Abd Halim *et al.* First record for Malaysia. Accepted on 27 Nov 2023.

CATEGORY C AND D RECORDS (not considered wild)

Asian Golden Weaver: A record of at least 8 birds at Pasir Puteh, Kelantan on 26-27 Dec 2022 by Ong Kang Woei *et al.* was accepted to Category C (self-sustaining population of captive origin) on the basis of known introduced populations in Peninsular Thailand. Accepted on 15 May 2023.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS

The following records were assessed but found unacceptable:

Black-backed Swampphen: Numerous reports from the states of Melaka, Johor, Perak and Pahang. The shape of the 'pate' on the forehead of these birds suggests that they may be part of an intergrade population with mixed Grey-headed and Black-backed genes. Decision: KIV, 15 Sep 2020.

Common Swift: Photographs of a bird on 30 Oct 2020 at Hulu Perak, Perak were considered inconclusive. Decision: Unproven, 25 Jan 2021.

Mallard: A male photographed on Pulau Langkawi, Kedah and present from 11-27 Dec 2021 was considered to show plumage aspects suggesting domesticated stock genes. Decision: Unproven, 10 June 2022.

Taking into account the additions due to taxonomic changes and the accepted first records of new species since 2020, the total number of Category A & B species (wild birds) recorded in Malaysia now stands at 838 species.

References

1. Clements, J. F., P. C. Rasmussen, T. S. Schulenberg, M. J. Iliff, T. A. Fredericks, J. A. Gerbracht, D. Lepage, A. Spencer, S. M. Billerman, B. L. Sullivan, and C. L. Wood. 2023.

The eBird/Clements checklist of Birds of the World: v2023b. Downloaded from <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/clementschecklist/download/> on 20 June 2024.

2. Jing-Yi Tou (2023). Recent Taxonomic Changes of Birds in Malaysia (Part I: Non-Passerines). *Malaysian Bird Report*. Volume 3/2023, December 2023: pg. 70-77. [online] <https://malaysianbird.report/wp-content/uploads/12-Taxonomic-Changes-of-Birds-in-Malaysia-Part-I-Malaysian-Bird-Report-Dec-2023.pdf> Accessed 24 June 2024.
3. Jing-Yi Tou. (2024). Recent Taxonomic Changes of Birds in Malaysia (Part II: Passerines). *Malaysian Bird Report*. Volume 1/2024, March 2024: pg. 91-101. [online] <https://malaysianbird.report/wp-content/uploads/15-Recent-Taxonomic-Changes-of-Birds-in-Malaysia-Passerines-Malaysian-Bird-Report-March-2024.pdf> Accessed 24 June 2024.
4. MNS-BCC Records Committee Report 2017-2022. *Malaysian Bird Report*. Volume 1/2023, June 2023: pg 19-24. [online] <https://malaysianbird.report/wp-content/uploads/6-MNS-BCC-Records-Committee-Report-2017-2022-Malaysian-Bird-Report-June-2023.pdf> Accessed 24 June 2024.

Citation: MNS-BCC Records Committee Report 2023. *Malaysian Bird Report*. Volume 2/2024, June 2024: pg. 53-55.