

## The status of the Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus* in Java, Indonesia

Muhammad Iqbal

KPB-SOS, JalanTanjung api-api km 9 Komplek P & K Blok E1 Palembang 30152, Sumatra Selatan, Indonesia  
Email: kpbsos26@yahoo.com

**Summary.** The Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus* has been reported from Bogor (West Java, 107°E) to Ujung Pangkah and Alas Purwo National Park (East Java, 112–114°E). A photograph of a Pelican in Cisarua (Bogor) on 21 May 2011 was probably taken in a zoo and, in the absence of further observations in West Java, it is suggested that that bird had not reached there naturally. Several recent records from East Java suggest that the Pelican is a regular visitor there.

The Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus* is distributed throughout Australia, including Tasmania. It is a regular visitor to the southern coast of New Guinea and the Bismarck and Solomon Islands and a vagrant to New Zealand, Indonesia, Christmas Island, Vanuatu and Fiji (Elliott 1992). During an irruption in 1978 into Indonesia, it was recorded in southern West Papua, the Tanimbar Islands, the South Moluccas, Flores, Sulawesi, the Lesser Sunda Islands, Java and Bali (Somadikarta & Holmes 1979). In Western Indonesia (Sumatra, Kalimantan, Java and Bali), Mackinnon & Phillips (1993) stated that Pelicans reach Sumatra (probably) and Java, but the few subsequent records are unconfirmed. A record from the Way Kambay in southern Sumatra (Marle & Voous 1988) has not been accepted, and the species is considered as unconfirmed in Sumatra (Holmes 1996).

The Australian Pelican was reported in Bogor (West Java) and East Java in 1978 without any detail of localities (Somadikarta & Holmes 1979). After these records, there are only a few records of the species in Java:

### West Java (105–109°E)

A Pelican photographed in Cisarua (near Bogor) on 21 May 2011. The photograph appeared in Oriental Bird Images (OBI) (<http://orientalbirdimages.org>). After checking with the photographers, it is likely that the photograph was taken at the zoo in Cisarua or Bogor (Vijay Anand Ismavel pers. comm.), and thus the record is not accepted.

### Central Java (between 109° and 111°E)

No records.

### East Java (111–114°E)

A single Pelican in January 1985 in Alas Purwo National Park (Grantham 2000).

Ten possible Pelicans in the early 1990s in Alas Purwo National Park (Grantham 2000).

~100 Pelicans photographed by Neville Kemp in Ujung Pangkah on 1 October 2003. The photograph appeared in OBI.

~30 Pelicans in Ujung Pangkah in 2004 (without detail of day and month: Iwan Febrianto pers. comm.). Possibly the same birds observed again in 2006 (without detail of day and month: Ferry Hasudungan pers. comm.).

~45 Pelicans observed in Ujung Pangkah in 2007 (without detail of day and month: Agus Satriyono pers. comm.).

All records of Australian Pelicans in Java are based on sightings from West Java (Bogor) and East Java [Ujung Pangkah (112°E) and Alas Purwo National Park (114°E)], with no records from Central Java.

Bogor has a hilly landscape and lacks open waters as potential feeding and roosting habitat for pelicans. This suggests that the Australian Pelican recorded in Bogor in 1978 (Somadikarta & Holmes 1979) was possibly from the zoo. No precise information is available on Pelicans in East Java at that time.

Since 1978, Australian Pelicans have been recorded in East Java four or five times in the areas of Ujung Pangkah and Alas Purwo National Park. It is suggested that this species is possibly a regular visitor in East Java. The largest number recorded was ~100 birds on 1 October 2003 at Ujung Pangkah. In East Java, the Pelican has been recorded in October and January. Previous records of Pelicans in Indonesia have been between May and December (White & Bruce 1986). Ujung Pangkah could be the north-westernmost location in the world for this species. Further monitoring is needed to fully determine the status of the Australian Pelican in East Java.

I would like to thank Agus Satriyono, Ferry Hasudungan, Iwan Febrianto and Vijay Anand Ismavel, who shared their observations on Pelicans in Java. I am grateful to Andrew Ley and anonymous reviewers who provided comments that improved the manuscript.

## References

- Elliot, A. (1992). Family Pelecanidae (pelicans). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliot, A. & Christie, D.A. (Eds). *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 1: Ostrich to Ducks*, pp. 290–311. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.
- Grantham, M. (2000). Birds of Alas Purwo National Park, East Java. *Kukila* **11**, 97–121.
- Holmes, D.A. (1996). Sumatra bird report. *Kukila* **8**, 9–56.
- Mackinnon, J. & Phillips, K. (1993). *A Field Guide to the Birds of Borneo, Sumatra, Java and Bali*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK.
- Marle, J.G. & Voous, K.H. (1988). *The Birds of Sumatra: An Annotated Check-list*. British Ornithologists' Union Checklist **10**. Tring, UK.
- Somadikarta, S. & Holmes, D.A. (1979). An influx of Australian Pelicans *Pelecanus conspicillatus* in Indonesia. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* **99**, 154.
- White, C.M.N. & Bruce, M.D. (1986). *The Birds of Wallacea (Sulawesi, the Mollucas & Lesser Sunda Islands, Indonesia): An Annotated Checklist*. British Ornithologists' Union Checklist **7**. Tring, UK.