

# Caught on camera in the field

AN OCCASIONAL SERIES OF IMAGES OF UNEXPECTED BIRDS IN UNUSUAL LOCATIONS

## First photographic evidence of the Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt* on the Masalembu islands, east Java Sea, Indonesia

The Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt* has a wide range in eastern Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and northern Australia (Elliott 1994, BirdLife International 2013). In the Java Sea it is known only from the Masalembu islands (5.583°S 114.500°E) lying to the north of eastern Java and the Kangean islands (6.917°S 115.383°E) (Jones *et al.* 1995) lying to the east of Java. The Masalembu group consists of three islands, Masalembu, Masakambing and Karamian and the species has previously only been recorded here three times, in 1907 and 2009, but there are no photographic records. It was recorded in 1907 on Solombo Besar (now Masalembu) and Arends island (now Karamian) by W. L. Abbott (Davison 2000). About 102 years later in 2009, the species was recorded on Masakambing island (Nandika 2013).

On 7 June 2013 at about 18h00 an adult was recorded by eight members of the Yellow-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua*

*sulphurea abbottii* monitoring project team on Masakambing, and the first photographic records were obtained (Plate 1). The bird was then seen each morning and evening until 16 June 2013; it foraged, raking the soil, in a goat pen and was undisturbed by the activities of the goats (Plate 2). The pen was close to human dwellings and bordered a *Leucaena leucocephala* plantation and mangrove forest. On Masakambing, the Orange-footed Scrubfowl—which is locally called *Bumbungan*, meaning ‘the bird whose nest is like a mound’—had not been seen for many years, according to local residents (Daeng Usman pers. comm.).

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Joko SETIYONO

*Biolaska Study Club, Islamic State University of Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta 55198, Indonesia*  
E-mail: [joko.kurik@yahoo.com](mailto:joko.kurik@yahoo.com)

SITI DINIARSIH

*Ds. Tayuban, Panjatan, Kulonprogo Yogyakarta 55655, Indonesia*  
Email: [diniarsih611@gmail.com](mailto:diniarsih611@gmail.com)

ASMAN ADI PURWANTO

*Ds Suro RT/ RW 006/003 Kalibagor, Kab. Banyumas Central Java, Indonesia*  
Email: [asmanadi@raptorindonesia.org](mailto:asmanadi@raptorindonesia.org)

AHMAD ZULFIKAR ABDULLAH

*Gang Asem Jawa V No.14 RT/RW 006/012 Karangasem, Sleman, Yogyakarta 55283, Indonesia*  
Email: [aza\\_birding@yahoo.com](mailto:aza_birding@yahoo.com)



**Plate 1.** Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardtii* foraging near goat dung, Masakambing, 7 June 2013.

**Plate 2.** Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardtii* walking near domestic goat, Masakambing, 7 June 2013.

