

**First Breeding Record of Javan Munia  
(*Lonchura leucogastroides*) in Sumatra, Indonesia**

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**ABSTRACT**

Javan Munia (*Lonchura leucogastroides*) has become a common bird species in southern Sumatra recently, but no breeding record had been reported from Sumatra. On 11 October 2015, an active nest of Javan Munia and few juveniles were seen among bunches of banana (*Musa* sp) fruits in Sukarejo Village, Musi Rawas District, South Sumatra Province. This observation constitutes the first record of Javan Munia breeding in Sumatra.

Keywords: First, observation, nest, Javan Munia, Sumatra.

**INTRODUCTION**

Javan Munia *Lonchura leucogastroides* range from extreme south of Sumatra, Java, Bali and Lombok (MacKinnon & Phillipps 1993, Payne 2010). Feral populations were established in Singapore since 1922, but have declined and become less common due to development of rural areas (Jeyarajasingam & Pearson 2012, Seng 2009). This is a very common and widespread species up to 1500 m of latitude in Java and Bali (MacKinnon 1988). The bird is locally common in Lombok, up to 1820 m above sea level (Coates & Bishop 2000).

In Sumatra, the bird is presumed introduced from Java, but might be a genuine colonies in Lampung (Marle & Voous 1988). All records of Javan Munia in Sumatra are from Lampung province, as follow: small numbers with munias in cropped land around Tambang 20 May 1992, confirmed as common in wet riceland south of Kotabumi on 20 November 1992, common in agricultural along the Way Kanan and few specimens available from Lampung (Holmes 1996, Marle & Voous 1988, Parrot & Andrew 1996). Although the bird has colonised and become common in southern Sumatra, but breeding record is unknown. On 11 October 2015, a nest visited two adults was observed in Sukarejo village, Musi

Rawas district, South Sumatra province. To our knowledge, this observation is constitute first breeding record of Javan Munia in Sumatra.

## **MATERIALS AND METHOD**

A bird survey on 10-14 October 2015 was carried out around Sukarejo village (03°08'S, 102°56'E), Musi Rawas district, South Sumatra province, Indonesia. The habitat of Sukorejo village is mix agriculture, rubber plantation and ricefields. This is typically suitable habitat for Javan Munia. A random line transect survey route was done follow path around and inside rice field and plantation. The route was walked by by team slowly. The walk allowed stop overs where birds detected. The birds were observed using nikon binocular, and documented using high ultra zoom camera of Fujifilm Pinepix S1.

The Javan Munia was identified by its specific characters: smallish munia (11 cm), upperparts brown and unstreaked, face and upper breast black, belly sides and flanks clear white, dark rump and vent. Following various references and field guide, these features are showing characters of Javan Munia (Jeyarajasingam & Pearson 2012, MacKinnon 1988, MacKinnon & Phillipps 1993, Payne 2010, Restall 1996). Based on characters above, we scanning Javan Munia carefully with other birds in the field.

## **RESSULT AND DISCUSSION**

At least a total of 50 Javan Munias were observed around Sukarejo village, Musi Rawas district, South Sumatra province, Indonesia. During survey, incidental observation of active nest of Javan Munia was made. The nest was built among bunches of banana fruit (*Musa* sp) in banana tree (Figure 1 & 2). A pair of adult was observed inspecting the nest (Figure 3 & 4), indicating the nest still use by them. Unfortunately, the materials inside nest cannot be seen. Few juveniles were also seen with adult birds in flocks. Breeding record defined as a record of nest-building, nests, eggs, fledging or young being fed with yellow or orange side to the mouth (Davison 1988).



**Figure 1.** Banana tree where Javan Munia laid their nest among bunches of banana fruit in Suka Rejo village, Musi Rawas, South Sumatra.



**Figure 2.** Close up of nest of Javan Munia among bunches of banana fruit on in Suka Rejo village, Musi Rawas, South Sumatra.



**Figure 3.** A pair of Javan Munia inspecting the nest.



**Figure 4.** Adult of Javan Munia which is breed in banana tree in Sukarejo village, Musi Rawas, South Sumatra.

MacKinnon (1988) describe nest of Javan Munia is a loose, hollow sphere of grass blades or other material fixed quite high in a tree among epiphytes, palms axils or other confined spot. It seems to be an opportunistic breeder, breeding all year round in West Java where there is lush grass growing at all times, but in the dryer part of east Java it breeds only in the wet season (Hoogerwerf 1949, Restall 1996). In Singapore, documented breeding season is March to October (Seng 2009). Finding of active nest and few juveniles on October in Sukarejo village (Musi Rawas, South Sumatra) presumed breeding season of Javan Munia in South Sumatra during September to November. Restall (1996) reported incubation is about 13 days and the nestlings fledge in 18 to 20 days. So, Javan Munia need approximately one month a week for incubation to carrying egg to be fresh fledge bird. Most previous breeding records of Sumatran birds are from January to June (Marle & Voous 1988), but recent work by Danielsen & Heegard (1995) show few species have been recorded breed from July to September. However, more work is needed to to clarify the seasonality of breeding among Sumatran birds.

In Sumatra, all records of Javan Munia only known from Lampung province (Holmes 1996, Marle & Voous 1988). There is no previous information that Javan Munia has been breed in Sumatra and reached further to South Sumatra (Balén *et al.* 2009, Balén *et al.* 2011, Balén *et al.* 2013, Balén *et al.* 2014). Record of 50 Javan Munias in Sukarejo village is not only first breeding record for Sumatra, but also first its distribution range to South Sumatra province and a northernmost record so far known for Sumatra.

## **CONCLUSION**

Observation of an active nest and few juveniles of Javan Munia on 11 October 2015 in Sukarejo village (Musi Rawas district, South Sumatra province) is constitute first record of Javan Munia in Sumatra. In addition, record of 50 Javan Munias in Sukarejo village is not only first breeding record for Sumatra, but also first its distribution known for South Sumatra province and a northernmost record so far Sumatra.

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