

Record of Dimorphic Dwarf Kingfisher, *Ceyx margarethae* Blasius 1890 (Coraciiformes: Alcedinidae) in Balogo sub-watershed, CALSANAG Forest Reserve, Tablas Island, Philippines

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Photograph by: Reymark Manoy.

Subject identified by: Ace Kevin S. Amarga, Desmond Allen.

Location: Tablas Island, Balogo sub-watershed, Calatrava-San Andres-San Agustin (CALSANAG) Watershed Forest Reserve, Municipality of San Andres, Romblon Province, Philippines.

Elevation: 250 metres ASL.

Habitat: Lowland secondary forest and agroforest.

Date and time: 20 September 2018, 06: 00 hrs. (retrieved from the net).

Identity of subject:

Dimorphic Dwarf Kingfisher, *Ceyx margarethae* Blasius 1890 (Aves: Coraciiformes: Alcedinidae).

Description of record:

An adult *Ceyx margarethae* (Fig. 1) was captured in a mist net established near forest edge within a semi-closed canopy area near the camp of the Balogo sub-watershed study site. The captured specimen was immediately released back to the wild after identification and photographic documentation.



Figure 1. *Ceyx margarethae* from Balogo sub-watershed, CALSANAG Forest Reserve.

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Remarks:

Following the morphological description provided by Allen (2020), the specimen was identified as *Ceyx margarethae*. The morphological attributes according to Allen (2020) are as follows: adult has lores, malar stripe and breast-sides bright rufous, white patch behind ear-coverts, head and upperparts from electric aquamarine blue to bright metallic cobalt blue, or mix of both with black; flight feathers are black and edged blue on secondaries; throat buff-white, breast and belly rufous-yellow; bills, legs, and feet reddish orange to scarlet. Furthermore, this species is part of the *Ceyx lepidus* species complex, a group of phenotypically diverse species group native to the Philippines extending to Wallacea, New Guinea and Melanesia (Andersen et al. 2013).

Ceyx margarethae is an endemic species in the Philippines and known to occur in several islands including Tablas, Romblon, Sibuyan, Negros, Panay, Cebu, Siquijor, Semirara, Camiguin Sur, Dinagat, Mindanao, Basilan, and Sulu archipelago (Allen 2006; Andersen et al. 2013; Allen 2020; Lepage 2021). It inhabits lowland areas of primary and secondary forests and is usually found on undergrowth (BirdLife International 2016; Allen 2020). It feeds on small fishes and insects as observed from the remains in its gut contents (del Hoyo et al. 2020). Furthermore, Allen (2020) noted that this species is a local resident and common on small islands.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) listed this species as Least Concern. This report represents the first account of *C. margarethae* in Balogo sub-watershed.

Permit: This finding is in part of the Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring System (BAMS) conducted in CALSANAG Watershed Forest Reserve through the Monitoring and Detection of Ecosystems Changes for Enhancing Resilience and Adaptation in the Philippines (MODECERA) Research Program with the Romblon State University–Odiongan Campus.

References:

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