

Submission to Bird Australia Rarities Committee

Submission No. 1010
Species: Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus*
Location: West Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, IOT
Observation Date: 24 and 26 January 2016
Observers Geof Christie and Pam Jones
Submission Date 6 July 2018
Submitted by: David James, Geof Christie and Pam Jones
Email:

Circumstances

Geof Christie and Pam Jones reported a Grey-headed Lapwing at “the Goat Paddock” on West Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands on 24 and 26 January 2016 (Christie & Jones 2016).

Description

See the attached photographs, taken by Geof Christie and Pam Jones.

Identification

- Among the 24 species of lapwings (genus *Vanellus*) worldwide (as recognised by HBW/Birdlife International), Grey-headed is the only one with an entirely grey head without any patches of white or black. Other species that have mostly grey heads all lack the dark breast band.
- The upperwing pattern is distinctive and diagnostic: tricolored pattern of black primaries, white secondaries extending across the outer coverts to the leading edge at the carpal, and grey remaining inner coverts.

Ageing

It is an adult. Juveniles lack the dark breast band.

Status

See BARC case 1007.

References

- Christie, G. & Jones, P. (2016), ‘January 2016 Bird Report from Cocos (Keeling) Islands.’ Unpublished report.
- Handbook of the Birds of the World and BirdLife International (2017) *Handbook of the Birds of the World and BirdLife International digital checklist of the birds of the world*. Version 9.1. Available at: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/taxonomy>.
- Hayman, P., Marchant, J. & Prater, T. (1986). *Shorebirds: An identification guide to the waders of the world*. Christopher Helm, London.



Plate 1. Grey-headed Lapwing, West Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, 24 Jan 2016 (Photo: Geof Christie)



Plate 2. Grey-headed Lapwing, West Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, 24 Jan 2016 (Photo: Pam Jones; copied from Christie and Jones (2016))



Plate 3. Grey-headed Lapwing, West Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, 24 Jan 2016 (Photo: Geof Christie)



Plate 4. Grey-headed Lapwing, West Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, 26 Jan 2016 (Photo: Geof Christie)