

BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee

Unusual Record Report Form

This form is intended to aid observers in the preparation of a submission for a major rarity in Australia. (It is not a mandatory requirement) Please complete all sections ensuring that you attach all relevant information including any digital images (email to tonyp@bigpond.net.au or andrew.silcocks@birdlife.org.au). Submissions to BARC should be submitted electronically wherever possible.

Full Name: James Mustafa	Office Use
---------------------------------	------------

Address: 11 Tamar Street, Ringwood North, Victoria	
---	--

Species Name: Blue Rock Thrush	Scientific Name: Monticola solitarius
Date(s) and time(s) of observation:	
How long did you watch the bird(s)?	This bird has been seen by many over multiple occasions
First and last date of occurrence:	December 1 st – 4 th December
Distance to bird:	10 metres – 50 metres

Site Location
At the jetty on Home Island, Cocos Keeling

Habitat (describe habitat in which the bird was seen):
Jetty and shoreline
Sighting conditions (weather, visibility, light conditions etc.):
Initial sighting was clear day with bright sun.

To your knowledge, is the species seen frequently at this site?
I believe there is a previous record for 2008 of this species from exactly the same location

Were other observers present Do any of the other observers disagree with your identification, if so, who? (please give names, addresses and phone numbers)?
This bird was seen majority of the birds on Richard Baxter's 2018 December tour, as well as Paul Taylor and local birders Pam Jam and Geof Christie. Initial sighting was seen by
James Mustafa – jamesmustafamusic@gmail.com
Sue Taylor - suetaylor1@bigpond.com
Robert Shore - shore.rob@hotmail.com

Sue Abbotts - suechat@bigpond.net.au
Jan England - janengland8@bigpond.com
Glen Pacey - glenpacey@bigpond.com
Tania Ireton - taniai@ozemail.com.au

How confident are you of your identification?, e.g. 70%, 100%. If not 100%, why not?

100%

Please confirm that you are willing for BARC to display your images (fully credited with your name) electronically
YES or NO
(YES)

Other details: e.g. Do you have historical and or anecdotal information/comments relating to the prior occurrence/status of the species within or near this location?

Our group (mentioned above) travelled across to Home Island in attempt to see the previously reported Grey-streaked Flycatcher. As we departed the boat and crossed the wharf, I spotted a medium sized bird run across the ground between the wharf and the tin shed before it flew up and hopped around an opening between the wall and the roof before subsequently entering the building. Only Jan England and myself saw the bird initially, but soon the bird flew out and perched high on telecommunications tower where it perched allowing for photos.

It then flew to another tower before flying into a large tree into the main first garden opposite the wharf. We then lost the bird.

The Blue Rock Thrush was seen a second time on Monday 3rd and again on Tuesday 4th December 2018.

In case of any further relevance: <http://www.bigdipbirding.com/cocos-keeling-2018---part-2.html>

Physical Description of Bird - *Please describe only what you saw:* (1) No. of individuals present (living or dead); (2) age (adult, juvenile, immature) and sex; (3) size and shape; (4) plumage colour and pattern (including any details of moult); (5) colour of bill, eyes and legs/feet; (6) calls; (7) behaviour, movements, flight pattern, and anything else that might help to identify the bird e.g. feeding, interactions with other birds, describe where the bird was – on ground, in canopy, flying etc. Were comparisons made with other species?

My initial hand written notes stated:

- Thrush (blue/grey plumage)
- Dark eye
- Scaly breast with slight orange/rufous patches

We took many subsequent photos, attached.

Please indicate other species with which you think it might be confused and how these were eliminated?

We checked Craig Robsons “birds of south-east Asia” and ruled out other Rock thrush species such as White-throated Rock Thrush and Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush. The only species that remotely similar was Blue-capped Rock Thrush, though our bird omitted the black colour from the eyes and the lores that was diagnostic of Blue-capped Rock Thrush.

Was the description written from memory? YES

Were photographs taken? (please include where possible)

YES and attached

What experience have you had with the species in question? (Did you know it was a Rare bird when you first saw it?)

It was my first experience with this species, though when knew it was something notable instantly because of our location.

Name: James Mustafa

Email Address:

Please email all material





