

# 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](mailto:tonyp@bigpond.net.au) or [andrew.silcocks@birdlife.org.au](mailto:andrew.silcocks@birdlife.org.au)). Submissions to BARC should be submitted electronically wherever possible.

<b>Full Name:</b> Tobias Ley	Office Use
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<b>Address:</b>	<b>Phone No:</b>
	<b>Email:</b>

<b>Species Name:</b> Chinese Pond Heron	<b>Scientific Name:</b> Ardeola bacchus
Date(s) and time(s) of observation:	31/05/2019, Midday
How long did you watch the bird(s)?	30 minutes
First and last date of occurrence:	31/05/2019
Distance to bird:	20m

<b>Site Location</b> Marlgu Billabong bird hide, Parrys Lagoon, Wyndham, Western Australia
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<b>Habitat</b> (describe habitat in which the bird was seen): Billabong, wetlands
<b>Sighting conditions</b> (weather, visibility, light conditions etc.): Fine conditions

<b>To your knowledge, is the species seen frequently at this site?</b>  No
<b>Were other observers present Do any of the other observers disagree with your identification, if so, who?</b> (please give names, addresses and phone numbers)? One other birder first saw the heron, ID'd as Javan or Chinese Pond Heron, posted to Australian Twitchers Facebook page
<b>How confident are you of your identification?</b> , e.g. 70%, 100%. If not 100%, why not? In a discussion on the Australian Twitchers Facebook page, several birders, including Damian Baxter, Adrian Boyle and Geoffrey Christie, agreed it was Chinese, but not with absolute certainty.  Geoffrey Christies comment: By the distinct yellow skin behind the eye I put it down as Chinese. My photos of immature Javan all show the yellow -behind-the-eye as indistinct or covered over.

**Please confirm that you are willing for BARC to display your images** (fully credited with your name) electronically  
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?

**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?

Flew between various lily pads

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

Javan Pond Heron, as above

**Was the description written from memory?**

**Were photographs taken? (please include where possible)**

Yes

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

**Name:** Tobias Ley \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please email all material













