

Eye-browed Thrush – *Turdus obsucrus* Christmas Island

Seen at 6 Rocky Point Cres Christmas Island (Lat 10 25 23 S Long 105 40 33 E)
At approx. 4:30 pm on 18 December 2019 in the daylight.

The bird was first observed, by Karenn Singer, flying into an open garden area. It remained foraging on the grass for at least another hour. At one stage, we were around five metres from the bird. Its behaviour was similar to the Island thrush – *Turdus poliocephalus*. The bird was slightly larger in size, with a lighter brownish colour and had a distinctive white eyebrow, dark bill, dark head and white throat with black stripes on the sides.

The weather on Christmas Island was in the build-up of the wet season with periods of dry weather interspersed with showers. During the observation the weather was dry with a brief (five minute) shower. Winds have been light during the days prior to the sighting. The temperature was estimated to be around 30 degrees Celsius.

The Australian Bird Guide CSIRO was used to identify the bird with it most likely being the Eye-browed Thrush on P 508.

As birders Lisa Preston and Richard Baxter were on Christmas Island, they were called to view the bird and arrived around 4:45pm. Richard confirmed it was an Eye-browed Thrush, having seen one in the previous fortnight on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. They were accompanied by Alexandre Ramos, an ornithologist who further identified it as immature due to the spots on the wing and the not fully formed orange patch on the breast.

This is believed to be the first sighting of the Eye-browed thrush on Christmas Island.

Observers

Lisa Preston
Richard Baxter
John Jaycock
Lynnie Jenyns
Lynda Collette and
Alexandre Ramos



Image taken by Karenn Singer



Image by Lisa Preston

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