

Barc Submission of multiple sighting of Asian House Martin on Cocos Keeling Islands late 2019 through to early January.

Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus*

Seen by Pam Jones and Geof Christie and at least four birding tour groups.

The story starts on the 3<sup>th</sup> December 2019 when what was thought to be a House Martin was spotted on the Southern end of Horsburgh Island. This bird was doing laps close to the ground and was photographed by a small group of Richard Baxter's twitchers. The next day another small group of twitchers again photographed this bird.



Photo by  
Tony Neilson

Horsburgh Island  
bird.

Later ID as Tree  
Martin

On the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019, Karina Sorell and Rohan Clark photographed another Martin on the Northern tip of West Island. This is the closest land to Horsburgh Island so it was assumed it could be the same bird, but was ID by Rohan Clark as an Asian House Martin. A second group of twitchers was now at this site as there was a Mugamaki Flycatcher and multiple Eye-browed Thrushes present.

Photo by Karina Sorell of the first sighting of Asian House Martin on West Island on the 9<sup>th</sup> December. Notice the notch on the second primary of the right-hand wing.



On the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019, 2 Asian House Martin were spotted hawking the Qstation road by Pam Jones. These two birds stayed for two weeks in the same location. By the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2020 there was only one bird for a few more days. This bird was seen by Jan England and Richard Baxter's last Twitcher group. Then on the 8<sup>th</sup> January the same bird was next seen on Horsburgh Island doing exactly the same hawking circuit as the original Tree Martin. You could tell it was the same Asian House Martin by the notch on the right-hand wing.

The following photographs are from Geof Christies collection when one then two birds Hawked the road side next to the Qstaion on West Island



Asian House Martin 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Dec 2020 . West Island.  
White throat rules  
out Northern House  
Martin and Tree Martin.  
Pale rump rules out  
Nepal House Martin.  
Uniform chest colours  
rules out Sand Martins



Here are the two Martins together. Note the right -hand bird looks bigger and has a notch on the second primary of its Right- wing



A zoomed-in photo of the smaller Martin. Notice the longer second left-hand primary that identifies this House Martin.



A close-up shot of the larger Martin with the notched second primary on the right-hand wing which identifies this Martin.

Black crown extends below eye, tail has small notch.

Then by the 6<sup>th</sup> January only the Martin with the notched right-hand wing primary was at the Qstation on West Island.

Then on the 8<sup>th</sup> January the Asian House Martin with the Notched primary was seen on Horsbough island hawking the same circuit as the Tree martin hawked back in earl December.

Ref  
Australian bird guide  
Perth Museum John Darnell  
Birds of South-East Asia Robson

