

## BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee Unusual Record Report Form

Section A: Submitter details	
Your name(s) Joint submissions are fine	Alistair Stewart
Your email, phone or address	
Section B: Record details	
Common and scientific names Include subspecies if relevant	Asian Brown Flycatcher <i>Musciapa dauurica</i>
Site location (with GPS if possible)	Territory Day Park, Drumsite, Christmas Island 10°25'56.24"S, 105°40'6.83"E (from Google Earth).
Date(s) and time(s) of record (First and last date of occurrence if known)	22/12/2021 ~7:55 pm to ~9:30 pm Christmas Is time. Subsequent sightings were made by another visiting birdwatcher but I did not relocate the species on two subsequent day time visits on 24 <sup>th</sup> and 28 <sup>th</sup> December.
How many individuals were there?	1
What was the distance to the bird(s)?	~15m
Habitat description	Small park with mown grass and carpark, with scattered tall rainforest trees, between dense rainforest and peri-urban area.
Sighting conditions (e.g. weather, visibility, light conditions)	Night time. Spotlit with Ledlenser H14.2 headtorch while looking for Christmas Island Hawk-Owl ( <i>Ninox natalis</i> - imm. and adult present). LED Lighting made bird appear very pale, almost entirely white underneath, due to black background and high contrast. Clear night, low wind.
How confident are you in the identification (as a %) and why?	99%. Happy to be corrected.
Did you find and/or identify the bird initially? Who else recorded the bird and do they agree with the identification?	I initially found and photographed the bird but am relatively inexperienced with identification of vagrant <i>Musciapa</i> flycatchers. I contacted Richard Baxter who arrived very quickly. We viewed the bird and reviewed images on the back of the camera for ID features of other potential small flycatchers and Richard was happy that it was an ABF. On return to the hotel, I reviewed the images and compared the features previously discussed with Richard with 3 e-field guides.
What experience have you had with this species?	ABF previously seen on West Island, Ashmore Reef in Nov 2014 (BARC submission #848) and in India a couple of times while travelling in 2013. Previous observations were diurnal, at eye level, active and calling (contact call).
Has this species been seen at this location before? When?	1 <sup>st</sup> record for Christmas Island. Previous records at Ashmore Reef and Cocos (Keeling) Islands
Have photographs of the bird or discussion of it occurred on the internet? (Please provide the site name, a summary, electronic link, etc.)	Three images were posted on the Australian Twitchers Facebook page with brief details of sighting. No discussion or questions of ID were received.

Do you permit BARC to display your images etc. electronically (credited with your name)

Yes

You may choose to delete or ignore this page, but please include as much of the requested information in your submission as possible, especially Sections C and E.

**Section C: Supporting evidence**

Please include evidence that supports the identification, such as photographs, video, call recordings, etc. Digital images can be pasted into this document below, at the end, or provided separately. Digital video and sound recordings can be sent separately to this form. Label photos etc or insert captions to make note of relevant features they show.







The full series of full resolution, original Canon raw images can be provided on request.

**Section D: Description of the bird(s)**

Please provide a description of the bird(s) including all identification features recorded. Provide all possible details that might corroborate the identification.

<b>Plumage</b>	Whitish underparts, with white throat and undertail coverts. Breast washed light brown, paler medially. Eye ring whitish and pale lores. Crown and nape brown. Upper wings, back and upper tail not visible.
<b>Bare parts</b>	Basal ~half of lower mandible yellow with dark tip.
<b>Moult details</b>	Unknown.
<b>Structure and 'jizz'</b>	Small, round headed flycatcher with large eye. It was difficult to ascertain size at night in spotlight, so it appeared larger at first sighting due to pale underparts and white LED lights with a black background.
<b>Calls</b>	Not heard calling.
<b>Behaviours</b>	Sat, perched on the same branch the whole time. Perch was on the lower, outer hanging branch of a tall rainforest tree above mown lawn, next to a bitumen car park.
<b>Age, sex and/or taxonomy</b>	Sex and age not known.

**Section E: Confusion species**

Please indicate other species that the bird(s) might be confused with and how they can be eliminated

Grey-streaked Flycatcher, Dark-sided Flycatcher, Brown-streaked Flycatcher, Blue and white Flycatcher, Narcissus Flycatcher.

Relatively large bill compared with Dark-sided and Grey-streaked. The yellow base of the lower mandible appears to reach forward to the nares, but not as extensive as in Brown-streaked. Lores appeared pale and unmarked and lacked the small dark wedge of other species. Unmarked, white undertail coverts.

**Section F: References and aids**

Did you use books, journal articles or on-line sites or pages to help you prepare this submission? Which ones?

Robson, Craig 2015. *Birds of South-East Asia concise edition (digital)*. Bloomsbury Publishing.

Brazil, Mark 2009. *Birds of East Asia: China, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, and Russia*. A&C Black.

Grimmett, Richard, Carol Inskipp, and Tim Inskipp 2014. *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent Digital edition*. Bloomsbury Publishing.

Clarke, Rohan 2014. *Asian Brown Flycatchers Muscicapa dauurica in Australia and its Territories: Multiple submissions to BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee (BARC)*

Additional flycatcher ID discussion on Australian twitchers Facebook group on Bruce Greatwich's post about Brown-streaked Flycatcher 9 Oct 2020  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/718576241555767/posts/3358599264220105/>

Would you like to acknowledge the assistance of others in the identification process or preparation of this submission?

Richard Baxter arrived 10 minutes after being contacted and I greatly appreciate his assistance in the field. He quickly considered the features of the possible vagrant flycatchers and was happy with the ID on site.