Kennedy, R. S. and Ruedas, L. S. (1992) Centers of biological diversity in the Philippines: surveys, training, and museum modernization. Unpublished.

Magsalay, P., Brooks, T., Dutson, G. and Timmins, R. (1995) Extinction and conservation on Cebu. *Nature* 373: 294.

Mallari, N. A. D., Tabaranza, B. R. and Crosby, M. J. (2001) *Key conservation sites in the Philippines: a Haribon Foundation and BirdLife International directory of Important Bird Areas*. Makati City: Bookmark, Inc.

Mittermeier, R. A., Myers, N. and Mittermeier, C. G. (1999) *Hotspots: earth's biologically richest and most endangered terrestrial ecosystems*. Mexico City: CEMEX.

Swedish Space Corporation [SSC] (1988) Mapping of the natural conditions of the Philippines. Final Report. 30 April 1988. Unpublished.

*N. A. D. Mallari, Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources, 4/F Fil Garcia Tower, 140 Kalayaan Avenue and corner of Mayaman Street, Diliman, Quezon City 1101, Philippines.*
*Email:* naldrin_mallari@yahoo.com

*M. J. Crosby, BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA, U.K.*
*Email:* mike.crosby@birdlife.org

*N. J. Collar, Conservation Biology Group, Department of Zoology, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EJ and BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA, U.K. Email:* nigel.collar@birdlife.org

# Description of the nest and nestling of Great Eared Nightjar *Eurostopodus macrotis* from Luzon, Philippines

J. S. STRIJK

During March and April 2002, I conducted fieldwork 6–7 km north-east of Masipi-East, Barangay Masipi-East, Cabagan municipality, Isabela province, on north–east Luzon, Philippines (17°38′N 121°87′E). The area is submontane (100–300 m) and characterised by extensively grazed grasslands with gallery forest fragments. Fragments are heterogeneous in composition as well as structure and have a mean canopy cover of 70%, a mean canopy height of 13 m, and c.20% cover at a height of 1.5 m.

On April 2, in a small area of semi-closed forest, I flushed a nightjar from the ground, which I identified as Great Eared Nightjar *Eurostopodus macrotis*, a species that I am very familiar with in the Philippines. This particular fragment was open on two sides, with clear access to the surrounding grasslands. Close examination of the leaf litter on the forest floor revealed a single nightjar chick lying motionless amongst dead and dry leaves.

The nest consisted of dead leaves, but was barely distinguishable from the surrounding leaf litter. The chick measured c.9 cm from bill to tail. The throat, breast and cheeks were covered with a warm chestnut-brown down, and the upperparts and nape with beige to yellowish-brown down. The back, upperwing and tail were light brown. The bill was greyish with a black tip. The nestling made no sound or movement, and kept its eyes almost closed. The head was slightly tilted backwards, with the bill pointing up at a 30–40° angle (Plate 1).

Great Eared Nightjar is a common resident in the Philippines, easily identified from other nightjar species in the Philippines in flight by its size, ear-tufts and the lack of white patches in wing and tail (Cleere and Nurney 1998, Kennedy *et al.* 2000). However, its nest, eggs and chicks had not been previously described.

On a separate note, the species is commonly reported to be crepuscular i.e active at dusk and dawn. It is indeed active at twilight, but it is also active during the night. Its characteristic call (a sharp 'tsiik', followed after a short pause by a two-syllable 'ba-haaaww') was heard every evening and night.

**Plate 1.** Great Eared Nightjar *Eurostopodus macrotis* chick, Masipi-East, Isabela province, Luzon, Philippines, April 2002.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Fred de Boer and Hendrik Rypkema are kindly acknowledged for their advice concerning the preparation of this paper.

## REFERENCES

Cleere, N. and Nurney, D. (1998) *Nightjars: a guide to the nightjars and related nightbirds*. Mountfield, Sussex, U.K.: Pica Press.

Kennedy, R. S., Gonzales, P. C., Dickinson, E. C., Miranda, H. C. and Fisher, T .J. (2000) *A guide to the birds of the Philippines*. New York: Oxford University Press.

*J. S. Strijk, Dotterbloemstraat 46, 9404 GM, Assen, Netherlands. Email:* joerisergeystrijk@botanymail.com

# Observations on a nest of Sri Lanka Frogmouth *Batrachostomus moniliger*

K. D. THANDULA JAYARATHNA

Sri Lanka Frogmouth *Batrachostomus moniliger*, the only frogmouth species in the Indian subcontinent, remains poorly studied owing to its reclusive behaviour. In Sri Lanka, frogmouths are fairly well-distributed and common in the low to mid-elevations (Grimmett *et al.* 1999), yet so difficult to see that the ornithologist G. M. Henry saw the species only twice in his lifetime (Henry 1971). While there have been some descriptions of frogmouth nests previously, knowledge about parental care is lacking for the species (Ali and Ripley 1987).

I observed the nesting behaviour of a pair of frogmouths in the Sinharaja World Heritage Reserve, Sri Lanka (6°26′N 80°21′E, 450 m). The nest was located quite close to a road in the fork of a small tree *Wendlandia bicuspidata* about 6 m from the ground. Like nests that have been previously described (Henry 1971, Ali and Ripley 1987), it was a platform of length 55 mm, width 28 mm, and height 35 mm, made out of small twigs, camouflaged on the outside with lichen and some moss, and filled in the inside with the birds' down.

On the morning of 22 August 2003, I saw the male sitting on the branch, with the beginnings of a nest under him. On 4 and 6 September, I watched during the early evening (18h45 to 20h00), and saw that both the male and the female contributed to the effort of nest building. The male continued to sit on the empty nest during the daytime. On 7 September, the male left the nest at 18h45, and this time I saw there was a single egg in the nest. The egg was white with no markings, elliptical, and with a length of 30.4 mm, and a width of 22.8 mm.

The male and female birds shared incubation duties over the next week. After leaving the nest at around 18h45, the male would return at 19h00, and leave at

**Plate 1.** Nest containing chick of Sri Lanka Frogmouth *Batrachostomus moniliger*, Sinharaja World Heritage Reserve, Sri Lanka, 16 September 2003. Photo by K. D. Thandula Jayarathna.

**Plate 2**. Adult and juvenile Sri Lanka Frogmouth *Batrachostomus moniliger* on nest. Sinharaja World Heritage Reserve, Sri Lanka, 6 October 2003. Photo by K. D. Thandula Jayarathna.