The Slaty-backed gull *Larus schistisagus* is a large, dark-backed gull that breeds in northeastern Asia. It winters in ice-free regions from the Commander Islands and Hokkaido southward in the Sea of Japan to Korea and Bohai Gulf and on the Pacific coast to Nansei Shoto and Taiwan; occasionally it occurs along the coast of China (Olsen & Larsson 2003, Brazil 2009). The species has been reported as a vagrant to northern North America, mainly between southern Alaska and Oregon, with scattered records in Ontario, Quebec, Missouri, Texas and Hawaii (Burger & Gochfeld 1996, Olsen & Larsson 2003). It was reported from Cooktown, Australia (Carter et al. 2008, Jeff Davies pers. comm.) in 2008, but to date no information exists for this species in southeast (SE) Asia or Indonesian waters, and it is considered extralimital in the region (Sukmantoro et al. 2007, Pratt & Beehler 2015). Here we report the occurrence of a Slaty-backed Gull on Lombok Island, Indonesia.

During 8–12 February 2016, an unidentified gull was observed and photographed on Ampenan beach (8°34′15.31″S, 116°4′19.25″E), Lombok Island, West Nusa Tenggara province, Indonesia. On 17 February 2016, we revisited Ampenan beach, but the unidentified gull was not present. It was tentatively identified as a Heuglin’s Gull *L. fuscus heuglini*. However, identification of juvenile gulls is difficult and represents one of the greatest challenges in birding (Harrison 1985, Robson 2011), and many species need to be considered before a final determination is made. The gull showed typical first winter plumage for a Heuglin’s Gull, including a black bill, pinkish legs, and a worn appearance (Fig. 1). However, it was not a Heuglin’s Gull, nor did it come from the *cachinnans* taxon, as it had a plain dark underwing. The bird was similar to a Mongolian Gull *L. vegae mongolicus*; however, this species does not have the simple pattern on the coverts (although worn and faded) that was observed on the gull in question (Fig. 1), and structurally it did not appear like the *mongolicus* taxon. We also considered the Steppe Gull *L. fuscus barabensis* and Caspian Gull *L. cachinnans*, as they are known to have a darker underwing, but the bird in question lacked the typical bars and notches of the Steppe Gull. We quickly ruled out Vega Gull *L. vegae*, as this species resembles a European Herring Gull *L. argentatus*, and the gull in question did not.

Because of the challenges of identifying the gull correctly, we shared a series of photos on the Pacific Seabird Group Listserver and on “Pelagics seabirds birding worldwide,” a global Facebook group. This spurred further discussion with seabird experts, suggesting that the observed larid was a Slaty-backed Gull.

We finally confirmed the bird was a Slaty-backed Gull from the plain dark underwing without bars or notching to the coverts and auxiliaries, and the combination of a white head and breast and brown belly. Its underwing was the typical coloration of a late first winter-spring Slaty-backed Gull (Fig. 1). There was some white at the base of the outer rectrices, but in Slaty-backed Gulls this is not uncommon (Jeff Davies & Michiaki Ujihara, pers. comm.).
Overall, a combination of the greater extent of the primaries, uniformity of the underwing, general body structure, and, most notably, the great expanse of the secondaries visible below the greater coverts identified this bird as a first-year Slaty-backed Gull in winter plumage.

The occurrence of a Slaty-backed Gull on Lombok Island is the first record of this species in Indonesia and the southernmost record for this larid. We had not initially considered this species in our tentative identification, as this species has been seen only once before in SE Asia, on 5 November 1991 in the Philippines (Davao Gulf, Mindanao; Kennedy et al. 2000). It has not been reported in SE Asia since (Robson 2011, Jayarajasingam & Pearson 2012, Goes 2013, Phillipps & Phillipps 2014). Owing to difficulties in the identification of gulls, and juvenile gulls in particular, it is possible that Slaty-backed Gulls have been overlooked in SE Asia in the past. Further studies of gulls in Indonesian waters are needed to clarify the status of this species and other gulls in Indonesia.

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