First Indonesian Record of Common Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula

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On 20 October 2013, at c. 09:00 hrs, while watching shorebirds for MoBuPi (Monitoring Burung Pantai Indonesia) at Kali Progo delta, Kulonprogo regency, Yogyakarta province (7°58′52″ S, 110°12′35″ E), we saw an unfamiliar shorebird belonging to the ringed plover group. Other shorebirds in the area were a single Greater Sand Plover Charadrius leschenaultii, several Javan Plovers C. javanicus, a single Red-necked Stint Calidris ruficollis and four Ruddy Turnstones Arenaria interpres. At first we thought the bird might be Kentish Plover C. alexandrinus but after it was photographed from a closer distance we realised that it was not that species.

The bird was superficially similar to the Little Ringed Plover C. dubius but slightly larger. However, it was not as large as the Greater Sand Plover which was standing beside it (Plate 1). Compared to the Little Ringed Plover, its bill was shorter and stouter, breast band wider, supercilium longer (extending behind the eye); it also had orange legs and lacked an orbital ring. After consulting several field guides, we concluded that the bird was a Common Ringed Plover C. hiaticula, which was confirmed by subsequent online discussion among birdwatchers (Pengamat Burung Indonesia 2014). This finding marks the first record of the bird in Indonesia (MacKinnon & Phillipps 1993; Sukmantoro et al. 2007).

After the first sighting, five Common Ringed Plovers were observed in the same place by AZA, IK and WFA on 1 December 2013. A single bird was seen foraging with one Javan Plover while four others were resting in the middle of the delta. When IK approached the foraging bird to take photographs, it flew away making an alarm call, which apparently caused the remaining Common Ringed Plovers to fly also. The call sounded like “tuu iit, tuu iit”, which approximates the alarm call descriptions given by Hayman et al. (1986) and Robson (2000) as “too-li” and “tooweep”. As they flew, the characteristic white wing bar could be seen.

The Common Ringed Plover breeds in Greenland and northern Eurasia, and spends the non-breeding period mostly in Africa (Piersma et al. 1996). It is a vagrant to much of Southeast Asia, having been recorded from Southwest Myanmar and Northwest Thailand (Robson 2000), Vietnam (Pilgrim et al. 2009), the Thai-Malay Peninsula (Wells 1999), but is regular in small numbers, in all months but small peak in October (1-4 individuals per season since 1963) to Singapore (Wells 1999; Wang & Hails 2007). In Borneo, it has
been recorded from Brunei (two birds) in October 1988, and from Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, in April 2005 (Mann 2008). It also occasionally reaches Australia, where there are four confirmed records (BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee 2016).

Plate 1. Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* with a Greater Sand Plover at Kali Progo delta, Yogyakarta, 20 October 2013

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