
FIRST RECORD OF GREY-TAILED TATTLER IN SUMATRA

by

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(Final draft received, 7 March 2000)

On 1 April 1999, a single adult Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes* was seen at low tide along the rocky coral shelf / mangroves edge at the southern tip of Muara Siberut beach, Siberut Island, West Sumatra (99°14'E; 01°36'S). At distance, the distinctive dull yellow legs and stocky build were diagnostic. On closer approach, good views at about 15 metres distance were obtained, as the seemingly tame bird perched on exposed rocks and fallen tree trunks on the shore. The entire upperparts were a uniform dull grey (lacking the fresh dark fringes of an immature bird), contrasting with paler underparts and dull yellow legs. The bird showed a well marked black eye stripe and pale supercilium, with a short dull yellow bill, obviously tipped black. In flight the entire upperparts were uniform grey, lacking any pale super tail or wing markings.

The Grey-tailed Tattler breeds in north-east Siberia, wintering from the Philippines through Indonesia to Australia (Marchant *et al.*, 1986), with most migrating birds presumably passing to the east of, or over flying, western Indonesia. Although recorded from all other faunal regions in Indonesia, this sighting represents the first record for Sumatra (Derek Holmes *in litt.*; Andrew 1992; Marie and Voous 1988). Similarly, birds regularly occur in small numbers along the south-east coast of the Malay Peninsula, though very rarely along the west coast (Wells 1999).

References

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