
First Record of Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicaria* for Indonesia

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Ringkasan. Seekor Kakirumbai merah *Phalaropus fulicaria*, spesies burung pantai pengembara, teramati di laguna Pantai Trisik, Kulon Progo, Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta. Perjumpaan ini menjadi catatan pertama kehadiran spesies tersebut di Indonesia. Kepastian penemuan ini didapat setelah mendiskusikan bukti foto dan penelusuran pustaka. Catatan tentang suara, penandaan yang dilakukan serta masa tinggal spesies ini di lokasi disajikan dalam catatan.

On 20 April 2008, while watching shorebirds for Monitoring Burung Pantai Indonesia (MoBuPI) on a lagoon at Pantai Trisik, Kulon Progo, Yogyakarta (07°58'42.6"S, 110°12'04.1"E) we observed an unfamiliar shorebird with a distinctive foraging behaviour among a group of c. 200 Sanderlings *Calidris alba* and Rufous-necked Stints *C. ruficollis*. The solitary bird swam very actively while occasionally twisting its body on the water surface and dipping its head. Occasionally it took a rest on the land but returned to the water immediately. It was about the same size as the Sanderlings, and slightly larger than the Stints, but appeared slimmer and longer-necked than the former.

Of the seven observers that watched the bird, only DAS had experience with phalaropes, namely the Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*. Based on its broad white forecrown, and blackish eye stripe, hind-crown and nape, and its relative size (see above), we believed that the bird was a Red (Grey) Phalarope *P. fulicaria*, but had difficulty initially seeing the shape, size and colour of its bill. However, IT took photographs of the bird at the time of the observation, and posted them on the Sahabat Burung Indonesia-Info (SBI-Info) online mailing list to discuss the identity of the bird with members of that group. Our initial identification was confirmed after online discussion and inspection of the photos, which revealed the thick base of the bill, with a yellowish spot at the base of the lower mandible, and blunt tip (Plates 1, 2). Moreover the photos showed that its upperparts were very pale and uniform, unlike *P. lobatus*, which has broad white edging to these feathers, and the dark eye-patch extended horizontally behind the eye and was square-ended (Plate 1), in contrast to that of *P. lobatus* which tends to turn down and taper to a point (Higgins & Davies 1996). This description matches that in several field guides (MacKinnon & Phillips 1993; Sonobe & Usui 1993; Message & Taylor 2005). The presence of

blackish-brown primaries, secondaries and perhaps tertiaries suggests that the bird was in its first year, having retained these flight feathers from its juvenile plumage.

On 2 May 2008, we re-visited the lagoon and heard the bird make some vocalizations while trying to land. It was a short monotonous-sounding ‘*tchit-tchit-tchit*’ at intervals of about 2 seconds. Members of the Avian Influenza Surveillance Team soon caught the bird using a single-shelf mist-net, and banded it with an incoloy band (ID-LIPI-BGR 1A01301) on its right tarsus and pink cable ties on its left tarsus. The last sighting of this bird after its release was on 11 May 2008, 21 days after the first sighting.

We believe that this is the first record of *P. fulicaria* in Indonesia, as well as the fourth record for Southeast Asia. The only previous known record for the Greater Sunda is of two birds among hundreds of *P. lobatus* flocking at sea between Santubong and the Turtle Islands off the coast of Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo, on 2 October 1968 (Smythies 1981). The other Southeast Asian records were at Tabayas Bay, Luzon, Philippines, on 6 December 1981 (Wischusen *et al.* 1984), and at Pak Thale, Petchaburi, Thailand, on 5 January 2006 (Wright 2009). All of these records fall within the austral spring (late) and summer, when one might expect Palearctic shorebirds to visit. However the individual we observed was visiting during the austral autumn (April).

The Red Phalarope breeds in the high Arctic tundra of Eurasia and North America and winters mainly at sea off the west coast of South America and Africa (Piersma *et al.* 1996). It is a rare vagrant to Australia with only four accepted and three unverified reports between 1976 and 1992 (Higgins & Davies 1996; Geering *et al.* 2007). There were also seven records from New Zealand (all June-July), the northernmost of which is at a very similar latitude to those of the Australian records. All accepted Australian records were from coastal southeast Australia, only one being inland, some 300 km from the coast (Higgins & Davies 1996).

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Plate 1. Red Phalarope in Yogyakarta on 5 May 2008, showing yellow tinge at base of bill and horizontal dark eye-patch ending bluntly.

Plate 2. The same bird as in Plate 1, showing broad and flat appearance of bill when viewed from the front.