

## First Record of Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus* on the Northern Coast of Irian Jaya (Papua)

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### **Catatan Pertama Cerek Asia *Charadrius veredus* di Pesisir Utara, Irian Jaya (Papua)**

**Ringkasan** Dipertelakan pengamatan Cerek asia *Charadrius veredus* di Manokwari, yang merupakan catatan pertama di pesisir utara Propinsi Papua.

The Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus* breeds on the steppes of Mongolia and northern China and migrates mostly to north-western Australia. In Indonesia it occurs as a rare transient in both the Greater Sundas and Wallacea (Coates & Bishop 1997). It was recently recorded for the first time on mainland Kalimantan (van Balen & Hedges 2000). It is also an uncommon passage migrant through New Guinea, with most records from the south coast (Beehler *et al.* 1986) but several reports also from the north coast of Papua New Guinea (Coates 1985). Hoogerwerf (1964) reported three sightings of 3-15 birds in November-December 1960 from the Merauke vicinity on the south coast of Irian Jaya in the western (Indonesian) half of the island, but there have been no reports yet from the north coast of Irian Jaya (Bas van Balen *pers. comm.*).

On 26 September 2001, a group of five birdwatchers including myself were observing waders around Rendani Airport, which is located less than 200 m from the seashore, Manokwari, Irian Jaya. After watching a group of Whimbrels *Numenius phaeopus*, which landed in the grass on the edge of the airfield, we noticed a single plover standing on the grass next to the asphalt runway. The bird did not flush even when we approached to within 10 m of it. It seemed exhausted, standing on one leg initially, then eventually squatting on the ground. During the 30 min of observation we noted the dark brown cap, white stripe above eyes, sandy brown neck and pale yellowish legs.

The present record extends the known range of the Oriental Plover in Irian Jaya approximately 1,300 km northwest (of Merauke). In addition, the species is said to visit New Guinea from mid-October to mid-February, mostly during October and November (Coates 1985), so it appears that the above bird arrived somewhat earlier than typical for the species.

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