

## Recent Records of Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* in Java

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**Ringkasan.** Trinil Rumbai *Philomachus pugnax* tercatat sebagai pengunjung yang jarang di Sunda Besar. Tulisan ini mendeskripsikan seluruh catatan burung pantai tersebut di Jawa, termasuk tiga temuan terbaru di sepanjang 2006-2011, masing-masing dari Taman Wisata Alam Angke Kapuk (DKI Jakarta), Pantai Trisik (Yogyakarta) dan Taman Nasional Alas Purwo (Jawa Timur). Ketiga catatan itu menjadi yang pertama untuk masing-masing propinsi tersebut.

### Introduction

The Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* is distributed from North West Europe through Siberia to the Chukotsky Peninsula and Sea of Okhotsk. It winters from the Mediterranean and sub-Saharan Africa through the Middle East to the Indian Subcontinent (Piersma *et al.* 1996). The birds migrate south to winter to South-east Asia and Indonesia, with regular visitors as far as Australia. In the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, no estimation number resulted for its population (Bamford *et al.* 2008). In the Greater Sundas, Ruff is a rare visitor. Two records made from Suwung, Bali of a female on 12 & 16 September 1981 and a male on 25 August 1982 were the first records for the Greater Sundas (Ash 1984). In Borneo and Sumatra, it known as rare (MacKinnon & Phillipps 1993). A group of 5-6 birds at Samosir I., Toba Lake, North Sumatra on 16 October 1982 was the only Sumatran record (van Marle & Voous 1988). In Borneo, Ruff is a rare non-breeding visitor and passage migrant to coastal North Borneo, with no historical record for Kalimantan (Myers 2009).

There are several records from Lesser Sundas. White & Bruce (1986) mentions three records, with the highest number being 12 birds near Polewali, South Sulawesi on 6 March 1979, while Coates & Bishop (2000) mentions four records, with the highest was of 48 birds at Mampie Game Reserve, South Sulawesi on 15 January 1989 that is the highest number recorded in Indonesia. In Flores, two adults were observed on 5 December 2004 at Tambak Koliaduk fishponds at Maumere (Schellekens 2009). While in Timor-Leste, the bird is a regular passage migrant, with at least four records of 1-4 birds during August to December in 2005-2006 (Trainor 2011).

In Papua, the bird is a regular but very uncommon passage migrant. It only recorded in small numbers with the majority came from Port Moresby area, Papua New Guinea. No record for the bird in the western part of the island (Indonesian region) (Bishop 2006).

The first Javan record of Ruff was a juvenile in a fresh plumage feeding in a large, open fishpond in Karang Mulya, West Java on 5 September 1984 (Bowler *et*

al. 1985) and the second Javan record was of one bird foraging (with Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*, Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* and Common Greenshank *T. nebularia*) at a fishpond in Bekasi, West Java on 21 August 2004 (Fajaryanti 2005, Fajaryanti, *pers. comm.*). A single bird was seen foraging with White-headed Stilts *Himantopus leucocephalus* in the same area by Surya Purnama and Iwan 'Londo' Febrianto on 4 November 2006 (S. Purnama *in litt.*). Thus all Javan records to date have come from West Java.

Here we report three other observations of Ruff from elsewhere in Java. The sightings were made by the authors between 2006 and 2011: the first at Taman Wisata Alam Angke Kapuk (Angke Kapuk Nature Tourism Park), Special Capital City District of Jakarta (DKI Jakarta), in 2006, the second at Pantai Trisik, Yogyakarta in 2009 and the last at Segoro Anak, Alas Purwo NP, East Java in 2011. Each of these records constitutes the first record of Ruff for each province.

## Observations

### *Jakarta*

At 8:32 on 4 October 2006, during a waterbird survey, AK and Imanuddin observed a single Ruff at Angke Kapuk Nature Tourism Park (06°06'03"S, 110°44'16.8"E). The bird foraged on the mudflat with four Javan Plovers *Charadrius javanicus* and a single Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* (Kristanto & Imanuddin 2008). This represents the first record of Ruff for DKI Jakarta (Hoogerwerf 1937).

### *Yogyakarta*

On the morning of 29 December 2009, IT and HZU observed three medium size shorebirds with short bills, foraging on the Kali Progo delta. The birds were in a mixed flock with about 10 Common Greenshanks, 10 Javan Plovers, five Common Sandpipers, 348 Sanderlings *Calidris alba*, 65 Pacific Golden Plovers, a single Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaulti* and other waterbirds. As the birds were observed from about 300m, IT & HZU then decided to approach the birds from the west side.

Only IT observed the birds at a range of about 5m. It was larger than the Common Greenshanks' that foraged nearby, but it clearly showed the short bill, brown chest and brownish upperparts. The birds foraged with a pecking bill-movement and walked straight with a slow movement. When it flew, IT noted the clear white ovals which almost reached the tip of the tail and black middle of the tail (Plate 1).

In the afternoon, IT returned to the location with AMT and observed two birds which were photographed to confirm identification (Plate 1). This was the first record of Ruff for Yogyakarta province as it not listed in Setiawan *et al.* (2008).

### *East Java*

During three days of observation (17-19 November 2011) in Segoro Anak river, Alas Purwo NP (08°35'30"S, 114°15'35"E), AZA counted 13-15 medium-sized shorebirds foraging on mudflat with Common Redshanks *Tringa totanus*, Whimbrels *Numenius phaeopus* and Common Greenshanks. The size of the birds

was similar to Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* but taller. The bill was black and sturdy, and a similar length to the skull. AZA was unsure of their identity and therefore took photographs (Plate 2) which were subsequently confirmed as Ruff by AMT, Iwan ‘Londo’ Febrianto & Muhammad Iqbal.



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**Plate 1.** Two of three Ruffs with five Common Greenshank at Pantai Trisik, Yogyakarta on 29 December 2009.



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**Plate 2.** Two of the 13-15 individual Ruff recorded at Segoro Anak, Alas Purwo NP on 18 November 2011.

## Discussion

Records from Segoro Anak river constitute the first for the Alas Purwo NP as no records of Ruff are mentioned by Indrawan *et al.* (1997) and Grantham (2000). They are also the first records for East Java province as there have been no records during previous ornithological surveys (Kooiman 1940; Noni & Londo 2006). The number of birds observed (13-15) was noteworthy, as it constitutes the highest number of Ruff recorded in Java.

Records of Ruff on Java have increased slightly during recent years, with all records being made in August to December during the southward migration. Presumably Ruff are frequently overlooked but the increasing number of bird watchers in Java and increasing use of digital cameras to document records and confirm identification suggests that Ruff is a more frequent visitor to Java than previously known.

It is noteworthy that during past few years, several surveys for shorebird have been carried out, particularly in order to search the Critically Endangered Javan Lapwing *Vanellus macropterus*. Various wetland types in Muara Gembong district, West Java on the north-coast and the south-coast of Lumajang, East Java, were the main visited locations (Iqbal *et al.* 2013). A monthly survey program named Monitoring Burung Pantai Indonesia (Indonesian Shorebird Monitoring) has also been conducted in several locations in Java, Bali and Sumatra from 2007 until the present. Many Javan birdwatcher clubs make a contribution by covering various locations, such as the fishpond area in the north coast of Semarang, an estuary in Karimunjawa NP (Central Java), Pantai Trisik (Yogyakarta) and Wonorejo fishpond, Surabaya (East Java). This increased survey effort increases the likelihood to record Ruff and other rare migrant shorebirds on Java.

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