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A RECENT SIGHTING OF SALVADORI'S PHEASANT

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Salvadori's Pheasant *Lophura inornata* has been listed as one of the 126 species of threatened bird that occur in Indonesia (Collar & Andrew 1988). The species is a Sumatran endemic, confined to the Barisan Mountain range and isolated mountain tops from the Ophir districts (00°04'N, 99°59' E) of Sumatra Barat, south to Mount Dempu (04°02'S, 103°09'E) in Sumatra Selatan. The bird has been reported to inhabit the floor of lower montane forest at 1000-2200m (Van Marle & Voous 1988). Very little is known about Salvadori's Pheasant, and its taxonomic affinities with the closely related Hoogerwerf's Pheasant *L. hoogerwerfi* are unclear. Nevertheless, although *L. hoogerwerfi* has been incorporated into *L. inornata* in the past, differences are thought to be sufficient to treat these two as separate species (Van Marle & Voous 1988).

Prior to the record documented below, Salvadori's Pheasant had not been recorded in the wild since the period 1913-1917, when a series of 34 specimens was collected by Robinson & Kloss (1918) and E. Jacobson (Robinson & Kloss Robinson & Kloss (1918) and E. Jacobson (Robinson & Kloss 1924) at various sites. Nevertheless, four live specimens were imported into France in 1939, and several pairs (perhaps a mixture including both Salvadori's and Hoogerwerf's Pheasants) are reported to have reached Europe and North America in 1975 and 1976 (Delacour 1977).

On 26 December 1986, the authors observed a pair of Salvador's Pheasants at an altitude of c.2200m on the summit trail of Mount Kerinci, Sumatra Barat (01°42'S, 101°42'E), above the village of

Kerisik Tya. The birds were observed at close range for about 20 seconds before they walked into dense understorey, giving a quiet alarm call. The vegetation in this area had been extensively altered, with scattered areas of planted bananas slightly lower on the mountain, and evidence that a significant proportion of the larger trees had been felled. Further down the mountain (perhaps 100m lower) the forest had been clear felled to plant crops. Just above the area where the pheasants were seen, the forest appeared to be untouched.

Although, it is a heartening discovery that Salvadori's Pheasant still survives on the slopes of Mount Kerinci, and presumably at other sites, much of the former forested range of the species, lying at lower altitudes, has been cleared. The birds observed on Mount Kerinci were at the upper known limit of the species' known altitudinal range, and it seems likely that further illegal agricultural encroachment and land clearance will occur. The Kerinci-Seblat National Park has been classified as one of the ten most threatened protected areas in the Indomalayan realm (Thorsell 1985).

Whilst the birds were observed in an area of forest modified by man, their existence here does not necessarily imply that the species can survive indefinitely in secondary forest. It is possible that these birds were occupying a marginal habitat because of altitudinal constraints which prevent them from moving to primary forest at slightly higher altitude.

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LESSER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa flavipes* IN SUMATRA - NEW TO S.E. ASIA

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Early in the afternoon of Wednesday 27 September 1983, the authors were watching waders on the shallow pools adjacent to the west boundary fence of the P.T. Arun Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) plant near Lhokseumawe on the east coast of Aceh province, northern Sumatra (5°14' N, 97°04' E).

Waders present on the pool were Marsh *Tringa stagnatilis*, Wood *T. glareola* and Common *Actitis hypoleucos* Sandpipers and another medium-sized *Tringa* species. The unidentified *Tringa* was initially seen with three Wood Sandpipers. When approached, the bird was flushed and flew inside the gas plant, out of sight. It had long, trailing, orange legs and a square, white rump and was obviously not one of the common Asian wader species.

With the cooperation of the gas plant operators, we gained access and approached the area containing the *Tringa* sp., only to see all the birds fly back to the other side of the fence. We walked over and looked through the fence at the original pools and noticed a single "shank" by itself in the corner of a pool. Through the Questar telescope, it appeared rather like a Marsh Sandpiper with a fairly straight bill, greyish upperparts with white-bordered feathers, whitish underparts and a prominent white eyering. It was flushed and again showed bright orange legs and a square white rump. It dropped back inside the fence of the gas plant, but this time it was alone. We again stalked it with the Questar, and took some rather distant photographs before recording the following notes :

The bird was taller than a Wood Sandpiper but similar in colour except for a paler head. At rest, the wings were longer than the tail. The bill