

**A FURTHER REVISION OF THE  
MAIN WINTERING RANGE OF THE ASIAN DOWITCHER  
*Limnodromus semipalmatus***

By

Marcel J. Silvius and Paul L.A. Erfteemeijer

(Received 25 April 1988)

In addition to the notes on the Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus* in Silvius (1988) the observation of a flock of 1,000 Asian Dowitchers on the north coast of East Java confirms that the main wintering area of the species extends south at Sumatra and Borneo and includes the island of Java.

The flock was observed on 10 February 1988 on a mudflat at the south-east side of the estuary of the Kali Lembaan, part of the Bengawan Solo delta. They were roosting in a mixed flock with 1,750 Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* at medium high tide. In the same flock, after extensive scanning with a telescope, 2 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* were discovered. In addition 700 waders from other species, mainly Mongolian Plover *Charadrius mongolus* (300), Redshank *Tringa totanus* (235), Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* (55) and Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* (40) were present at the roost, but these were gathered mainly in smaller flocks nearby.

The observation and count started at 11.30 hours with about 550 Asian Dowitchers present. Until 12.45, small flocks of Asian Dowitchers (5-50 individuals) and one flock of 225, totalling about 450 individuals, flew in to the roosting site from north-west of the Lembaan estuary, presumably from their feeding areas.

Nearly all birds were in full wintering plumage, with less than 10 individuals having started to moult into breeding plumage, showing rufous spots on the breast.

A small flock of 27 individuals was later (14.20 hours) discovered at the estuary of the Kali Klewean, north-west of the Lembaan estuary, in a mixed flock with 5 Bar-tailed Godwits and about 175 waders from other species, mainly Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* (74), Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* (50) and Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* (27).

Prior to these observations, the Asian Dowitcher was known from Java from 19 specimens collected between 1908 and 1925 by Bartels on the north coast of West Java (Silvius et al., 1988). Bartels Jr. (1938) mentioned that his father had observed the species -in large numbers on the north coast of Java. In addition Bartels Jr and Stresemann (1929-1930) mention two specimens from Java in collections in India and England. The species is also listed for Java by Hoogerwerf (1948).

The present observations were made during a two month survey of waterbirds and mangrove habitat in the Brantas and Solo delta, a cooperative project of the INTERWADER - Indonesia programme of Asian Wetland Bureau and the Indonesian Directorate-General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (PHPA). For further details of this survey, see Erftemeijer (1988). The survey was financed by Asian Wetland Bureau, ICBP, WWF-Netherlands, Van Tienhoven Foundation (Netherlands) and Greshoff's Rumphius Fund (Netherlands).

## References

- Bartels, M. Jr. 1938. Ornithologischer Brief aus Java. *Ornithologische Monatsberichte* 46 (3) : 76-79.
- Bartels, M. Jr. & E. Stresemann. 1929-1930. Systematische Übersicht der bisher von Java nachgewiesenen Vogel. *Treubia* XI: 89-106
- Erftemeijer, P.L.A. 1988. *A survey of coastal wetlands and waterbirds in the Brantas and Solo delta. East Java*. Asian Wetland Bureau - INTERWADER/PHPA report no.6 Bogor.
- Hoogerwerf, A. 1948. Contribution to the knowledge of the distribution of birds on the island of Java, with remarks on some new birds. *Treubia* 19(2) : 83-137.
- Silvius, M.J. 1988. On the importance of Sumatra's east coast for waterbirds with notes on the Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*. *Kukila* (3-4) : 117-137.
- Silvius, M.J., W.J.M. Verheugt & J. Iskandar. 1986. *Coastal wetlands inventory of south east Sumatra*. Report of the Sumatran Waterbird Survey Oct - Dec 1984. ICBP Study Report No.9. Cambridge.

## Address :

Asian Wetland Bureau (Indonesia), P.O. Box 254/Boo, Bogor.