

First record of Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* for Bali Island, Indonesia, at Serangan Island in Benoa Bay

Steve Jones¹ & Colin R. Trainor^{2,3}

¹stevejones19510@gmail.com

²Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods, Charles Darwin University, NT 0909, Australia.
Halmahera@hotmail.com

³Faculty of Science and Technology, Federation University Australia, Mt Helen, VIC, 3350, Australia

Keywords: Pectoral Sandpiper, vagrancy, migrant, Bali Island, Indonesia

On 19 August 2015, SJ visited Serangan Island, Bali Island, Indonesia (8°44'22"S, 115°13'13"E; Fig. 1), making an initial stop at a large pond in the centre-west near Benoa Bay. The pond is also part of a project to reclaim parts of Benoa Bay and is 'land under reclamation'; it is landlocked and fed by rainwater and not affected by tidal movements. As the tide recedes thousands of shorebirds and waterbirds disperse to all areas of Benoa Bay, and return again to these ponds on the incoming tide. Shorebird species that stay at the ponds during low tide are usually quieter and hence there are opportunities to take photographs. While attempting to photograph birds of local interest such as Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*, SJ took photographs of two birds; one was clearly a Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*, but the other with bright yellow legs could not be identified in the field. When the photos were processed the yellow-legged bird was identified as a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*, but when later uploaded online it was confirmed on social media by several shorebirders (see *Acknowledgements*) as a Pectoral Sandpiper *C. melanotos*. About six photographs were taken initially, but SJ returned to take clearer shots on 21 August 2015. The identity of the bird was then confirmed and it was also considered to be a probable adult female. The key features visible in the photos that distinguish Pectoral from Sharp-tailed Sandpiper include the obvious pectoral band, yellowish legs and 'small-headedness' (Fig. 2). It was not seen by SJ on subsequent visits made with the specific aim of relocating the bird (25–26 & 28 August 2015), so it had presumably left the site.

In the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, the Pectoral Sandpiper breeds from N Siberia through the Chukotskiy Peninsula to Alaska and Hudson Bay. The majority of birds winter in South America, while a small fraction of the Siberian population migrates through Japan and Korea to Australia and New Zealand (Hayman *et al.* 1986, Piersma *et al.* 1996). Adult birds begin migration in late June and juvenile birds in early August (Hayman *et al.* 1986). In surveys over four summers (1981–1985), 123 birds were counted around Australia and probably fewer than 20 birds reach New Zealand each year (Marchant & Davies 1996). In South Asia, Pectoral Sandpiper is a vagrant with the first record for the Indian subcontinent as recently as 1998 (Undeland & Sangha 2002). In SE Asia the Pectoral Sandpiper is a vagrant to the Thai-Malay Peninsula (Wells 1999) and Singapore, where the

only record is of an adult present at Tanah Merah from 26 November 1999 to 3 January 2000 (Seng 2009). Robson (2005) lists it as a vagrant for Peninsula Malaysia and Singapore; and there are no published records for Borneo (Phillipps & Phillipps 2009).

The first Pectoral Sandpiper record for the Indonesian archipelago was a single bird at Lake Laga, Timor-Leste, on 2 December 2004 (Trainor 2005). The first national record for Indonesia was of one at Kali Progo Delta, Java, on 12 October 2012 (Assiddiqi *et al.* 2014). A record of a vagrant Pectoral Sandpiper on Bali is unsurprising and is part of a spate of new distribution records of vagrant and migrant shorebirds in Indonesia. This appears to relate to rapidly increasing interest in birdwatching, especially shorebirds, and easier access to binoculars and cameras with long lenses (Iqbal *et al.* 2009, Assiddiqi *et al.* 2014, Taufiqurrahman *et al.* 2014).

Serangan Island (ca. 580 ha based on a Google Earth measurement using the polygon tool) is part of the greater Benoa Bay (ca. 3,800 ha in total; ca. 1,000 ha of mangrove) which is an internationally important site for shorebirds and other waterbirds, supporting >1% of the flyway populations of Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* and Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* (MacKinnon *et al.* 2012, Conklin *et al.* 2014) and Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* (Durand 2016). Most of Serangan Island was created during past reclamation works. However it is not listed in the Indonesian national 'Wetland Database' of the Wetlands International Indonesia Programme (2015). Local bird-watchers, expatriates living on Bali and bird tour parties regularly visit the site. While documentation of vagrant shorebirds has improved (Gilfedder *et al.* 2011, Hjerpe *et al.* 2015) the overall significance of the site for migratory shorebirds is poorly documented. We intend to remedy this in the future. Documentation for Benoa Bay on ebird (2016) lists an impressive total of 40 shorebird species from 63 checklists submitted up to 6 April 2016. Up to ca. 4,000 individual shorebirds have been observed on Serangan Island by SJ and Seppo Hjerpe (unpubl. data).

There are a number of threats to shorebirds and shorebird habitat at Serangan. Immediate concerns are disturbance by noisy local motorbike riders and fisherman which disturb shorebirds and cause them to take flight. The major threat to Serangan and Benoa Bay may be plans for broad-scale reclamation works in the bay, including



Fig. 1. Location of the study site (red arrow) on Serangan Island; the Ngurah Rai international airport in the Benoa Bay region in the south of Bali Island, Indonesia.

the pond where the Pectoral Sandpiper was observed, to build either hotel complexes, golf courses or a Formula 1 racetrack (Bell 2015).

Thanks to Kevin Bartram, Gus Daly, Demetris Bertzeletos, Michael Gooch, Nikolas Haas, Dave Newman, Philip Peel and Greg Roberts for confirming identification and online discussion (Facebook group 'Australian Bird Identification') of the bird's age and gender; thanks to Muhammad Iqbal for review comments which improved the manuscript, and also to Mat Gilfedder for directing us to ebird resources and Seppo Hjerpe for information on abundance of shorebirds at Serangan Island.

REFERENCES

- Assiddiqi, Z., S.Y. Azizah, L. Nazar, A.F. Rohmah, N. Rahmawan & H. Azmi. 2014. First Indonesian record of Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*. *Kukila* 17: 136–138.
- Bell, L. 2014. Bali uprising: plan to convert protected area into golf courses, mall spurs outrage. Accessed 19 Nov 2015 at: <http://news.mongabay.com/2014/08/bali-uprising-plan-to-convert-protected-area-into-golf-courses-mall-spurs-outrage>.
- Conklin, J.R., Y.I. Verkuil & B.R. Smith. 2014. *Prioritizing migratory shorebirds for conservation action in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway*. WWF, Hong Kong.
- Durand, B. 2016. eBird Checklist. Accessed 6 Apr 2016 at: <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S28463709>.
- eBird. 2016. *eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance* [web application]. eBird, Ithaca, New York. Accessed 6 Apr 2016 at: <http://www.ebird.org>.

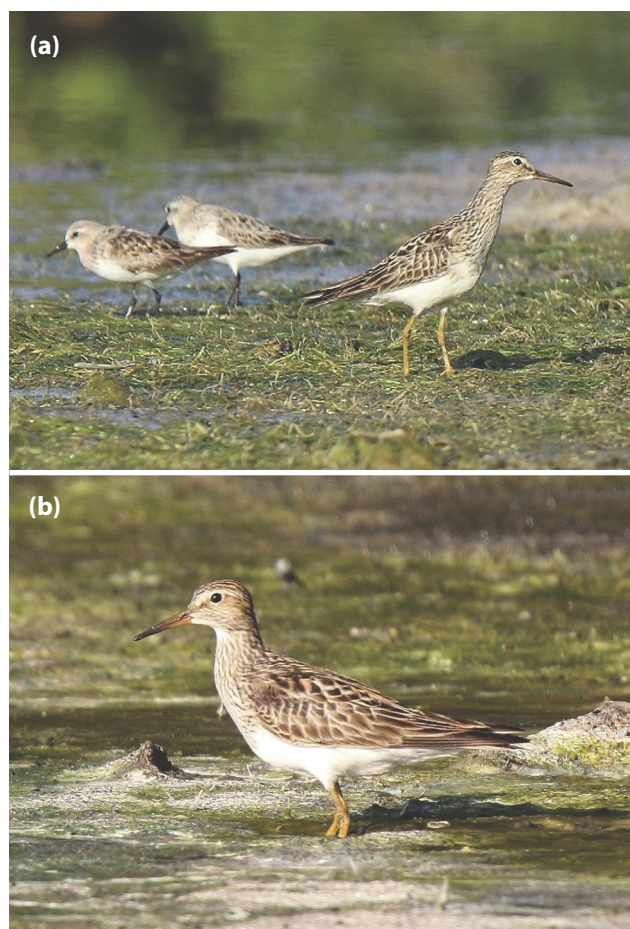


Fig. 2. Pectoral Sandpiper on Serangan Island, Bali Island, Indonesia, on (a) 19 August and (b) 21 August 2015 (photos: Steve Jones).

- Gilfedder, C., M. Gilfedder & N. Brickle.** 2011. First record of Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris* for Bali and the Greater Sundas. *Kukila* 15: 124–125.
- Hayman, P., J. Marchant & T. Prater.** 1986. *Shorebirds. An identification guide to the shorebirds of the world.* Croom-Helm, New York.
- Hjerppe, S., S. Jones, M. Vakiala & C.R. Trainor.** 2015. First Indonesian and South-east Asian record of Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* at Benoa harbor, Bali, Indonesia. *BirdingASIA* 24: 137–139.
- Iqbal, M., H. Mulyono, A. Zakaria, F. Takari & Rasam.** 2009. Record of Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* in Sumatra (Indonesia) after 19 years. *Stilt* 56: 19–22.
- MacKinnon, J., Y.I. Verkuil & N. Murray.** 2012. *IUCN situation analysis on East and Southeast Asian intertidal habitats, with particular reference to the Yellow Sea (including the Bohai Sea).* Occasional paper of the IUCN Species Survival Commission No. 47. International Union for Nature, Gland, Switzerland & Cambridge, UK.
- Marchant, S. & S.J.J.F. Davies.** 1996. *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds, Volume 3. Snipe to Pigeons.* Oxford University Press, South Melbourne, Victoria.
- Phillipps, Q. & K. Phillipps.** 2009. *Birds of Borneo: Sabah, Brunei and Kalimantan.* John Beaufoy Publishing, Oxford.
- Piersma, T., J. van Gils & P. Wiersma.** 1996. Scolopacidae (Sandpipers, Snipes and Phalaropes). Pp. 444–533 in: *Handbook of the Birds of the World. Vol. 3: Hoatzin to Auks* (J. del Hoyo, A. Elliot & J. Sargatal, Eds.). Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.
- Robson, C.** 2005. *Birds of Southeast Asia.* Princeton University Press, Princeton.
- Seng, L.K.** 2009. *The Avifauna of Singapore.* Nature Society, Singapore.
- Taufiqurrahman, I., H.Z. Ulya, A.M. Tampubolon, A. Kristanto & A.Z. Abdullah.** 2014. Recent records of Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* in Java. *Kukila* 17: 131–135.
- Trainor, C.R.** 2005. Waterbirds and coastal seabirds of Timor-Leste (East Timor): status and distribution from surveys in August 2002–December 2004. *Forktail* 21: 61–78.
- Undeland, P. & H.S. Sangha.** 2002. Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*: a new species for the Indian Subcontinent. *Forktail* 18: 157.
- Wells, D.R.** 1999. *The Birds of the Thai-Malay Peninsula, Volume 1.* Academic Press, San Diego & London.
- Wetlands International-Indonesia Programme.** 2015. Wetlands International/PHPA – Indonesian Wetland, Database. Accessed 19 Nov 2015 at: <http://indonesia.wetlands.org/Infolahanasah/DatabaseLahanBasah/tabid/2833/language/en-GB/Default.aspx>.
-