

## RECORD OF SPOTTED REDSHANK *TRINGA ERYHTROPUS* IN SUMATRA (INDONESIA) AFTER 19 YEARS

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Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* is scarce visitor to Sumatra, Indonesia. The only two previous known records from Sumatra are between September 1988 and March 1989. An observation of approximately three Spotted Redshanks in Galas River, Sembilang National Park on 31 October 2008 is thus the third and most recent record of this species in Sumatra after a break of 19 years (from 1989 to 2008).

### INTRODUCTION

Sumatra is the westernmost and second largest island in Indonesia. Wetlands are well distributed in Sumatra, particularly on the east coast of the island. Wetland sites in Sumatra are important for waders. Numerous sites around the coastline of Sumatra support upwards of 30 migratory waders. Eastern Sumatra supports wader populations comparable or greater than those found on the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia (Li *et al.* 2006). Surveyed sites known to support 10,000 birds or more include Bagan Percut and Pantai Sejara-Tanjung Tiram in North Sumatra Province; Tanjung Datuk and Tanjung Bakung in Riau Province; Tanjung Datuk and Tanjung Bakung in Riau Province; Tanjung Jabung in Jambi Province and the Banyuasin Peninsular, Musi Delta and Lumpur Bay in South Sumatra (Crossland *et al.* 2006).

There are 37 species of migratory wader recorded in Sumatra (Crossland *et al.* 2006). From all that species, Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* is scarce visitor to Sumatra. This paper outlines details of a recent report of Spotted Redshank on 31 October 2008 in Sumatra (Indonesia), after previously known record between September 1988 and March 1989 by Verheugt *et al.* (1990).

### SURVEY SITE

Telok Galas river geographically lies at 010 59'59 7" S and 104048'29 8" E. This river is part of Banyuasin Peninsular, South Sumatra, Indonesia (Figure 1). Administratively, the area located in Banyuasin II Sub-district and Sungsang District, South Sumatra Province. Now, the area is part of Sembilang National Park, a new National Park in Indonesia. The habitat is an intertidal mudflats and mud-banks are extensive, during low spring tides, they locally extend out to two kilometers from the coast. The substrate is extremely soft and access is consequently difficult. However, they provide excellent feeding grounds for many large waterbirds and waders.

### SPOTTED REDSHANK RECORD

At 09.00 hrs on 31 October 2008, we observed three rather elegant shorebirds with longish and relatively long, slender

bill has a red base to the bill and conspicuously bright orange-legs (Figure 2). The bird is slightly larger (taller) than Redshank *Tringa totanus* (Figure 3), differs in shape in longer and slightly droop-tipped bill and longer neck (Figure 4). The birds look smaller when standing or feeding than the accompanying Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* and Bartailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* (Figure 5). After consultation with some field guides, the characters were consistent with adult non-breeding Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* as outlined in the description of van Gills & Wiersma 1996; Hayman *et al.* 1986; Mackinnon *et al.* 1998; Robson 2005 and Sonobe & Usui 1993.

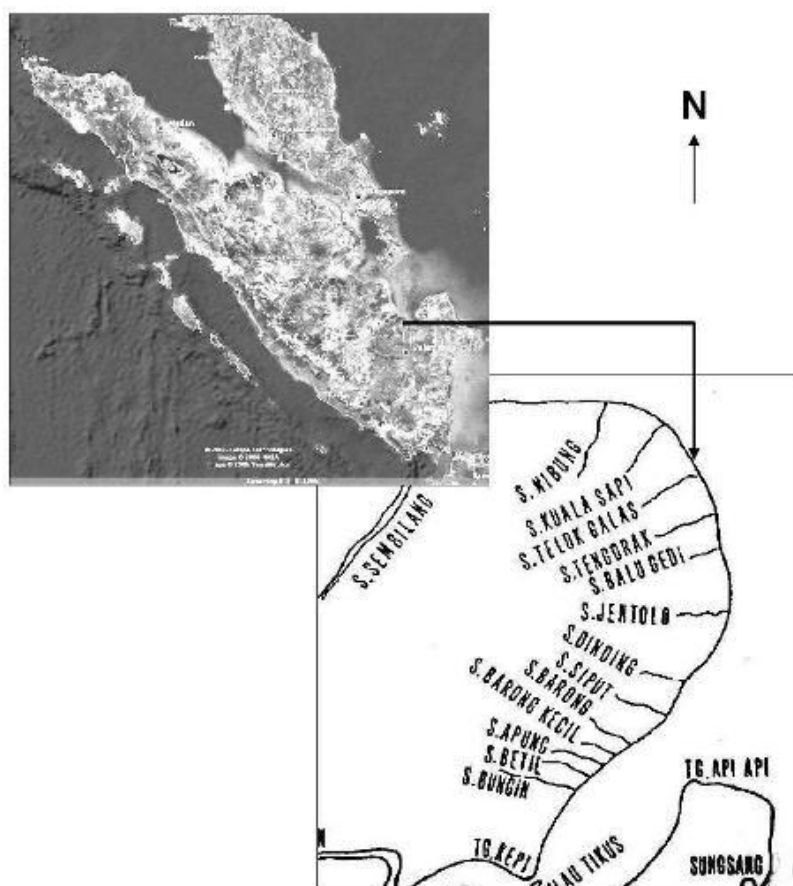
### DISCUSSION

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* breed in North Scandinavia and Northwest Russia across North Siberia to Chukotsky Peninsula. Birds winter from West Europe through the Mediterranean to Equatorial Africa, and East through Persian Gulf and India to Southeast Asia, Southeast China and Taiwan (van Gills & Wiersma 1996). The bird is winter visitor In Southeast Asia and vagrant to South Thailand (Robson 2005).

Crossland *et al.* (2006) stated that Spotted Redshank are a scarce visitor to Sumatra. In Sumatra, the bird has only been recorded two times in Lebak (a floodplain habitat in South Sumatra) where eight birds were recorded at Lebak Pampangan on 9 October 1988 and three at Lebak Teluk Tomang on 31 March 1989 (Verheugt *et al.* 1993).

There are no recent reports for Spotted Redshank in Sumatra (Holmes 1996, Crossland *et al.* 2006). This record of approximately three birds in Galas River (Sembilang National Park) is only the third record for this species in Sumatra and also for Indonesia (Sukmantoro *et al.* 2008). The record is also a recent record after 19 years for Indonesia.

Unlike of Lebak Pampangan and Lebak Teluk Tomang which are freshwater habitats, Galas River is an intertidal mudflat along the coast. This new locality is new habitat for Spotted Redshank in Sumatra. Hayman *et al.* (1986) stated that when not breeding, Spotted Redshank prefers freshwater lakeshores or blackish lagoons, but also occurs on sheltered muddy coast.



**Figure 1.** Map of Galas river



**Figure 2.** The Spotted Redshank is a rather elegant shorebird with longish and relatively long, slender bill has a red base to the bill and conspicuously bright orange-legs



**Figure 3.** The Spotted Redshank look taller than Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*.



**Figure 4.** The Spotted Redshank has slightly droop-tipped bill.



**Figure 5.** The Spotted Redshank look significantly smaller when standing or feeding beside Godwits.

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