

# UPDATING RECENT CHECKLIST OF SHOREBIRDS IN BANYUASIN DELTA (SEMBILANG), SOUTH SUMATRA, INDONESIA

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## UPDATING RECENT CHECKLIST OF SHOREBIRDS IN BANYUASIN DELTA (SEMBILANG), SOUTH SUMATRA, INDONESIA

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This paper updating recent checklist of shorebird species in Banyuasin delta (Sembilang), Sumatra, Indonesia. The shorebirds in Banyuasin delta has been surveyed from 1984 to 2008, recording 25 species. Surveys over the last decade (2009 to 2019) added three species of shorebirds in Banyuasin Delta, including: Pied Avocet *Recuvirostra avocetta*, Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus* and Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*. Black-winged Stilt both feed and breed in the aquaculture habitat in Banyuasin Delta.

### INTRODUCTION

Asia's eastern coastline serves as a migration flyway for the many species that nest in north-eastern Russia and Alaska, but spend the non-breeding season in Asia, or head south to Australasia (MacKinnon et al. 2012). Indonesia has sites of international importance for each of the 20 priority populations, across 17 countries in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (Conklin et al. 2014). The most important sites are in Sumatra, including Banyuasin Delta or Sembilang (Bamford et al. 2008, Birdlife International 2019) which supports the highest shorebird diversity.

Indonesia recognised Banyuasin (200,000 ha) as a new network site in 2012 (EAAFP 2012). It contains important mangrove and intertidal ecosystems. Surveys from 1980s were replicated recently and confirmed the ongoing importance. The site supported up to 100,000 migratory waterbirds, with at least three populations at 1% level (Silvius 1988, Verheugt et al. 1990, EAAFP

2012). Banyuasin Delta is an important site in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway in Indonesia. It is a national park and a Ramsar Site (EAAFP 2012, Birdlife 2019) currently under management authority of Berbak Sembilang National Park. This paper reviews and updates the shorebird checklist in Banyuasin delta.

### METHODS

We compare previous and recent reports of shorebird in Banyuasin delta, South Sumatra, Indonesia. Banyuasin delta administratively located in Banyuasin district, South Sumatra province, Indonesia (02°14'S, 104°50'E; Fig. 1). Previous reports were surveys from 1984 to 2008, and recent reports are surveys between 2009 to 2019.

### RESULTS

A total of 29 shorebird species was recorded in Banyuasin delta (Table 1). Previous records (during 1984 to 2008) listed 25 shorebird species. The checklist



**Figure 1.** Map showing the Banyuasin Delta, South Sumatra, Indonesia.

**Table 1.** Recent checklist of shorebirds species in Banyuasin delta, South Sumatra province, Indonesia.

English Name	Scientific Name	Previous Report				Additional Species		
		Silvius 1988	Verheugt 1990	Goenner et al. 2001	Iqbal et al. 2009	Imansyah & Iqbal 2015	Iqbal et al. 2019	
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avocetta</i>					+		
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>						+	
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	+	+					
Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	+	+					
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	+	+					
Lesser Sandplover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	+	+	+				
Greater Sandplover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	+	+					
White-faced Plover	<i>Charadrius dealbatus</i>							
W. T. Noddy	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	+	+	+				
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	+	+	+				
Far Eastern Curlew	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	+	+					
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	+	+	+				
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	+	+	+				
Asian Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i>	+	+	+				
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	+	+	+				
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		+					
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				+			
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	+	+	+				
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	+	+	+				
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	+	+					
Spotted Greenshank	<i>Tringa guttifer</i>		+					
Serebek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	+	+	+				
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	+	+					
Great Knot	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	+	+					
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	+	+					
Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>		+					
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		+					
Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	+	+					
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	+	+					

present in Table1 follow del Hoyo & Collar (2014) for taxonomy, English and scientific name. Four shorebird species have been added during a last decade: Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avocetta*, Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus*, White-face Plover *Charadrius dealbatus* and Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*.

**DISCUSSION**

As the largest area of mangrove and intertidal ecosystem in Southern Sumatra, Banyuasin delta support up to 100,000 waterbirds (Verheugt et al. 1990, EAAFP 2012; Fig. 2).

The Pied Avocet is a vagrant species in Indonesia. Record of Pied Avocet in Banyuasin delta on 14 June 2014 is not only a new record for this area, but also a first record for Indonesia (Imansyah & Iqbal 2015).



**Figure 2.** Shorebirds migration on 1 November 2008 in Banyuasin Delta, South Sumatra, Indonesia (by ©Muhammad Iqbal).

The first confirmed record of Black-winged Stilt in Banyuasin delta was of two birds in May 2010, followed by two in December 2012; after which numbers increased from 50 in 2012 to 500 in 2018 (Iqbal et al. 2019). There are no historical records of Black-winged Stilts in Sumatra before it was suggested they might occur in 1977. Recently it has been suggested that the Black-winged Stilt is expanding its range within Sumatra (Iqbal et al. 2013). The colonisation of the Banyuasin delta by Black-winged Stilts can be attributed to the conversion of large areas of mangrove forest into fishponds. These fishponds have proved attractive to Black-winged Stilts as both feeding and breeding sites (Iqbal et al. 2019).

The Spotted Redshank in Banyuasin delta on 31 October 2008 was the third record of this species in Sumatra after a break of 19 years (from 1989 to 2008) (Iqbal et al. 2009). It has been recorded in South Sumatran freshwater wetlands, but never been recorded in Banyuasin delta (Verheugt et al. 1993). Spotted Redshank is scarce visitor to Sumatra, Indonesia. However, this species is very similar to Common Redshank, thus possibly overlooked in the field by researchers.

New records of shorebird species in Banyuasin delta during last decade can be attributed to a rapidly increasing number of local Indonesian researchers and local birdwatchers in South Sumatra, as well as easier access to binoculars and cameras (Iqbal et al. 2009, Iqbal et al. 2010, Imansyah & Iqbal 2015).

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