

Rare Bird Sighting Report

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

Date: 23rd November 1997
Time: 0830 - 0900 Hours
Location: Sungei Buloh Nature Park. Main Hide
Habitat: Mud flat tidal ponds, ground elevation
Weather: Fine & Sunny.
Equipment: Kowa x 20-60, Bushnell, Nikon scopes and Leica 10 x 40 Binoculars.
Distance: About 70 metres.
Description: A roundish, short sandpiper with Stint like appearance, but much larger. Size is slightly bigger than the Curlew Sandpiper and almost the same size as the Marsh Sandpiper. Black heavy beak, medium length, slightly decurved. Prominent white supercilium from forehead to hineneck. Brownish crown, greyish upperparts with black primaries, and barrings on tail. Underparts are white with grey scalings on breast. Legs are short and greenish yellow in colour.
Behavior: This single Knot was seen together with a mix group of 20 waders standing on the edge of the pond. It stayed closed to the Curlew Sandpipers. The others include Common Greenshanks, Marsh Sandpiper and a Black-tailed Godwit. They were all just resting at the edge and not feeding. Their movements were confined to a few short steps to each side, changing profiles for better observations. No calls were heard.
Discussions: The larger size and greenish legs rules out any of the Stints and Sanderlings. The Broad-billed and Curlew Sandpipers have a longer and more pronounced decurved bill. All the observers may not be familiar with the Red Knot but have seen the Great Knot closed up on many occasions to see the similarities and the difference in size.
Additional Notes: There were no unusual weather the night before, except that the North East Monsoon have started about 2 weeks ago. The disappearance of others suitable habitats ie Tuas, Senoko may be funnelling more migrants to Sungei Buloh.
Observers: Lim Kim Chuah, Kenneth Kee, Alfred Chia, Yang Pah Liang, Werners Peters and Alan OwYong.
Report by: Alan OwYong. [REDACTED]
Report Date: 23rd November 1997.

ATTN: MR KENNETH KEE

Notes on sighting of a Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*).

Date : 23/11/97.

Location : SUNGAI BULOH NATURE PARK. (main pond).

Time : 0830 - 0905 HRS.

Weather : Sunny.

Distance : 30-35 metres.

Observers : Alan Owyang, Lim Kim Chuah, Yang Poh Liang, Kenneth Kee, Werner Peters, Alfred Chia

Equipment : Kowa 20x-60x TSN 3 spotting scope.

Field notes :-

- dumpy wader whose neck is non-discernable.
- first impression that of a stint. But size is definitely much larger than stint on closer observation. Standing side by side with a Cullen Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), it was also distinctly larger. Gist and size reminds of Grey-tailed Tattler (*Tringa brevipes*).
- crown to nape a very light brownish-grey.
- eyes black
- bill a lighter black (about 2.5 to 3 cm long). Fairly decurved.
- white supercilium extends beyond eye.
- greenish-yellow legs.
- upperparts greyish.
- underparts whitish.
- chin to breast streaky.
- black tip to primaries.

Alfred Chia.

23/11/97.