

BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee

Unusual Record Report Form

This form is intended to aid observers in the preparation of a submission for a major rarity in Australia. (It is not a mandatory requirement) Please complete all sections ensuring that you attach all relevant information including any digital images (email to tonyp@bigpond.net.au or andrew.silcocks@birdlife.org.au). Submissions to BARC should be submitted electronically wherever possible.

Full Name: ADRIAN WALSH	Office Use
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Species Name: NORDMANN'S GREENSHANK	Scientific Name: TRINGA GUTTIFER
Date(s) and time(s) of observation:	1/1/2021 7:00AM
How long did you watch the bird(s)?	20-30 MINUTES
First and last date of occurrence:	1/1/2021 – 2/1/2021 (CONTINUING BIRD)
Distance to bird:	50M-100M

Site Location CAIRNS ESPLANADE, IN FRONT OF MUDDY'S PLAYGROUND

Habitat (describe habitat in which the bird was seen): MUDFLATS
Sighting conditions (weather, visibility, light conditions etc.): OVERCAST MORNING LIGHT

To your knowledge, is the species seen frequently at this site? NO
Were other observers present Do any of the other observers disagree with your identification, if so, who? (please give names, addresses and phone numbers)? NO OBSERVERS AT 7AM ON INCOMING TIDE. AFTER POSTING TO VARIOUS FORUMS, APPROXIMATELY 30-40 BIRDERS SAW BIRD IN THE AFTERNOON ON THE OUTGOING TIDE AT SAME LOCATION AND CONFIRMED ID. ALSO CONFIRMED 2/1/2021 6AM BY MORE BIRDERS.
How confident are you of your identification? , e.g. 70%, 100%. If not 100%, why not? 100%
Please confirm that you are willing for BARC to display your images (fully credited with your name) electronically YES or NO - YES.

Other details: e.g. Do you have historical and or anecdotal information/comments relating to the prior occurrence/status of the species within or near this location? NO

Physical Description of Bird - *Please describe only what you saw:* (1) No. of individuals present (living or dead); (2) age (adult, juvenile, immature) and sex; (3) size and shape; (4) plumage colour and pattern (including any details of moult); (5) colour of bill, eyes and legs/feet; (6) calls; (7) behaviour, movements, flight pattern, and anything else that might help to identify the bird e.g. feeding, interactions with other birds, describe where the bird was – on ground, in canopy, flying etc. Were comparisons made with other species?

1. INDIVIDUAL

2. AGE – APPEARS TO BE ADULT PLUMAGE NON BR AS PER GUIDES. SEX UNKNOWN

3. SLIGHTLY SMALLER/SHORTER THAN COMMON GREENSHANK. SIMILAR SHAPE, BUT APPEARED A LITTLE BIT STOCKIER. HEAD ALSO SLIGHTLY LARGER.

4. NON BREEDING PLUMAGE. WHITE BELLY AND BREAST. WHITE CHIN. GREYISH MILDLY STREAKED HEAD (NOT AS DISTINCTLY STREAKED AS COMMON GREENSHANK), WITH WINGS FOLDED - GREY COVERTS AND SECONDARIES, PRIMARIES DARKER. COULD NOT SEE MOULTING FEATHERS.

5. BILL BICOLOURED, UPPER HALF SLATY GREY, WITH A SMALL AMOUNT OF DULL YELLOW VISIBLE AT BASE, LOWER HALF OF BILL BLACK. BILL THICKER THAN COMMON GREENSHANK ESPECIALLY AT BASE AND UPTURNED IN LOWER HALF. EYE BLACK AND APPEARED SLIGHTLY SMALLER THAN COMMON GREENSHANK EYE. WHITE EYE-RING NOT AS PRONOUNCED AS COMMON GREENSHANK. LEGS APPEARED YELLOWER THAN COMMON GREENSHANK. DID NOT SEE FEET.

6. VIDEO OF FOUR SEPARATE CALLS, SINGLE PIPING NOTE OF 1 SECOND HEARD SEPARATED BY SEVERAL SECONDS.

7. WAS NEXT TO A COMMON GREENSHANK FOR SEVERAL MINUTES. THAT ALLOWED LOTS OF COMPARISON PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO WHICH MADE ID EASIER THAN OTHERWISE. VIDEO OF WINGS BEING LIFTED WHICH ALLOWED VIEW OF WHITE UNDERWING COVERTS AND DARKER GREYISH UNDERWING PRIMARIES AND SECONDARIES, ALSO INDICATIVE OF NORDMANN'S. BIRD DID NOT FEED ON THAT MORNING, SO WAS QUITE DOCILE, WANDERING A FEW METRES, BUT NEVER FAR FROM THE COMMON GREENSHANK. WAS IN COMPANY OF A FEW TEREKS, 19 LESSER SAND- PLOVERS, SEVERAL BAR-TAILED GODWITS, ONE COMMON GREENSHANK AND A FEW GREY-TAILED TATTLERS. THE VERY FIRST DIAGNOSTIC FOR ME WAS THE BILL BEING THAT MUCH THICKER THAN A COMMON GREENSHANK AND ITS BICOLOUR. FLEW OFF QUICKLY AS TIDE CAME IN WITH MOST OF THE OTHER WADERS.

"Please insert extra page(s) for this section"

Please indicate other species with which you think it might be confused and how these were eliminated?

IN TERMS OF SPECIES THAT I REGULARLY SEE ON THE CAIRNS MUDFLATS, COULD POSSIBLY BE ONLY CONFUSED WITH COMMON GREENSHANK IF THE VIEWS AREN'T QUITE CLEAR. COMMON GREENSHANK THOUGH HAS A FINER BILL WHICH IS NOT AS CLEARLY BICOLOURED IN NON-BR. COMMON GREENSHANK HAS LARGER WHITE EYE RING. THE SLIGHT UPTURNING OF THE BILL ALMOST IDENTICAL TO COMMON GREENSHANK AND BILL APPEARED A VERY SIMILAR LENGTH, BUT NOTICEABLY THICKER IN THE NORDMANN'S – THAT IS THE FIRST THING I NOTICED. CANNOT BE CONFUSED WITH A TEREK'S SANDPIPER, AS THE TEREK IS SMALLER AND DAINIER WITH ORANGE LEGS. EVEN THOUGH TEREK'S BILL IS UPTURNED, IT IS MUCH FINER. I ELIMINATED ALL THE SIMILARITIES WITH THE COMMON GREENSHANK AND MANAGED TO ID SEVERAL

NORDMANN'S DIAGNOSTICS – THICKER BILL, CLEARLY BICOLOURED BILL, SHORTER LEGS THAN COMMON GREENSHANK. MORE HEAVY-SET THAN COMMON GREENSHANK. WHITE-EYE RING SMALLER. SINGLE NOTE CALL HEARD AND VIDEO. UNDERWING WHITE COVERTS AND DARKER PRIMARIES AND SECONDARIES, WITH CLEAR DELINEATION WAS PHOTOGRAPHED/VIDEO. ALL THESE DIAGNOSTICS DIFFERENTIATED CLEARLY FROM COMMON GREENSHANK.

Was the description written from memory? NO, MEMORY PLUS PHOTOS/VIDEO

Were photographs taken? (please include where possible)

YES. LOTS!

<https://youtu.be/xTTKTmrgW34>

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S78336589?fbclid=IwAR1VnNQeszrfHdV2cI4PvTZ4iy7ZcQh-WTqz9EFn4w9FVC57LzdFXlgGE4o>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=3990650550954057&set=gm.3583115801768449>

What experience have you had with the species in question? (Did you know it was a Rare bird when you first saw it?)

I HAVE NEVER SEEN THIS SPECIES BEFORE. HOWEVER, I HAVE LOTS OF EXPERIENCE WITH COMMON GREENSHANK ID AND HAVE BEEN BIRDING IN CAIRNS FOR 14 YEARS, SO I'M VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE SPECIES ON THE CAIRNS ESPLANADE. I WAS AWARE OF THE NORDMANN'S GREENSHANK (I HAVE BEEN BIRDING FOR 40 YEARS), SO IT WAS THE FIRST BIRD I CHECKED ON MY PHONE, AFTER ABOUT TEN MINUTES OF VIEWING AS I THOUGHT IT WAS A GREENSHANK AND THAT IS THE ONLY OTHER SPECIES I KNEW OF. ONCE I STARTED LOOKING AT PHOTOGRAPHS I WAS PRETTY CONVINCED MY ID WAS CORRECT. ONCE I GOT HOME AND STARTED LOOKING AT THE VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHS AT AROUND 9 AM I KNEW IT WAS HIGHLY LIKELY TO BE THE NORDMANN'S, HOWEVER AS THIS IS A MEGA RARITY I NEEDED CONFIRMATION. I POSTED EBIRD.ORG LIST AND PHOTOGRAPHS AND ALL MY VIDEO TO YOUTUBE CHANNEL. I EMAILED OUR LOCAL BIRDING GROUP AT 9.30AM AND POSTED PHOTOGRAPHS TO AUSTRALIAN BIRD ID FACEBOOK PAGE. AT LEAST ONE BIRDER WHO HAS SEEN NORDMANN'S IN WA CONFIRMED IT WAS NORDMANN'S. THEN I WAS PRETTY CONFIDENT. ABOUT 30-40 BIRDERS SHOWED UP IN THE AFTERNOON OF 1/1/2021 AT THE SAME PLACE ON CAIRNS ESPLANADE AND IT WAS CONFIRMED AGAIN. ON THE MORNING OF 2/1/2021, MORE BIRDERS AT THE SAME PLACE AT 6AM, ALSO CONFIRMED AND PHOTOGRAPHED. WAS WITH THE COMMON GREENSHANK DURING THIS TIME AS WELL. I HAVE NOT MET A BIRDER DURING THIS TIME WHO HAS QUERIED OR DOUBTED THE ID.

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Please email all material