

Another inland Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* record for western Iran

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The Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* breeds in northern and northeastern Russian Federation, northern and western Alaska and winters in India, southern China, southeastern Asia, Australia and New Zealand (Cramp & Simmons 1983, Higgins 1999, BirdLife International 2015). It is a long distance migrant of the East Asian–Australasian flyway. Red-necked Stint is a vagrant to Europe, Africa, North and South America, the Middle East and western Asia (Cramp & Simmons 1983, BirdLife International 2015). This note presents a new inland record of *C. ruficollis* in western Iran, at the Shirinsu wetland, near Shirinsu village, Hamedan province.

Red-necked Stint was not listed in Scott *et al* (1975) or Scott & Adhami (2006). The first occurrence of this stint in Iran was documented by Kirwan (2007). Two specimens were taken by Walter Koelz at Borujerd, Lorestan, an inland site, on 25 July 1941. Roselaar & Aliabadian (2009) noted that Koelz had collected two other specimens there, on 18 and 20 July 1941. Ghasemi & Khaleghizadeh (2015) reported a Red-necked Stint from the Bandar Abbas coast, Hormozgan province, 17 May 2012.

On 8 July 2010, two unidentified stints were recorded in Shirinsu wetland, western Iran, and photographed (Plate 1). They were not Little Stints *C. minuta*. We recognized the two stints after reading and seeing the photo in Ghasemi & Khaleghizadeh (2015). They were Red-necked Stints in summer (breeding) plumage with chestnut red in lower face, throat and upper chest and rusty-chestnut, grey and white in upperparts.

Shirinsu wetland (35° 29' 59" N, 48° 26' 31" E, 1825 m asl, 57–60 ha, Plate 2) is a small part of the Qara Chai river/Central Iranian basin. The wetland has 119 recorded bird species (waterfowl and waders 71 spp, terrestrials 48 spp) and is a dam reserve and could be an Important Bird Area in the Middle East (criteria: A1, B2). It is the most important birdwatching site in Hamedan province (Gholami 2013).



Plate I. Two Red-neck Stints *Calidris ruficollis* Shirinsu wetland, western Iran, 8 July 2010. © J Gholami



Plate 2. Reed *Phragmites* and Tamarisk *Tamarix* are the main plant species of the Shirinsu wetland, western Iran. © J Gholami

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