### Newsletter of the Asian Waterbird Census

No. 8, December 2004

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#### 1. Letter from the AWC International Coordinator

Dear AWC coordinators and participants,

Time is flying by, the year 2004 is nearly ended and AWC 2005 is just around the corner. I would like to report on the developments of the AWC since May 2004 and seek your support and participation in AWC 2005.

After the launch of the AWC 1997-2001 report in April, Wetlands International contributed 10,000 Euro to support the development of the AWC in 2004. The funding supports AWC coordination and data management, and allows us to continue to seek funds to sustain the programme, keep up to date with the AWC networks, and promote the AWC throughout the region.

We also are working hard to standardize our AWC database to ensure easy access to all of the AWC data from the establishment of the AWC in 1987 until now. We expect this work will be done by early 2005. We will be working on the AWC 2002-2004 report in the year 2005 and hope to make the information available to the public soon thereafter. We also are pleased to acknowledge Nancy Drilling, who covered her own flight cost to travel to Malaysia this September to help enter the AWC 2002 - 2004 data for two and a half months.

For AWC 2005, we are expecting a great success with all of your support! The suggested AWC period for 2005 is from 8 January to 23 January. Guidelines, forms and further information can be downloaded at the AWC website at <a href="http://www.wetlands.org/IWC/awc/awcmain.html">http://www.wetlands.org/IWC/awc/awcmain.html</a>. Kindly organize and conduct the censuses accordingly. For AWC participants, kindly report your count data to the national/sub-national coordinators as soon as possible after you have done the count so that the national report can be produced in a timely manner. Your kind cooperation also will allow us to speed up the production of the regional AWC report as well.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support and wish you all a very happy New Year!

Best regards,

David Li AWC International Coordinator Wetlands International

## 2. Message from Nancy Drilling, volunteer for the AWC database

Hello! Please let me introduce myself - I am Nancy Drilling from the U.S. and I am spending about 2.5 months in Wetlands International's Malaysia office helping AWC lead coordinator David Li enter the 2002-2004 count results into the AWC database. I am excited to be here and to be able to assist in any way I can. Wetlands International, especially the Indonesia office, was extremely helpful when I was conducting my dissertation research on white-winged ducks in Sumatra. So I am very pleased that now I can return the favor. This is a wonderful opportunity to help the crucial efforts of the AWC. The continent of Asia has such incredible wetland resources which are extremely valuable for waterbirds. In such a vast area, it is essential to have an organized, systematic monitoring effort to have any hope of keeping a handle on the status of waterbirds within the region. I see the AWC as key to ensuring that we have the facts needed to make informed decisions about managing Asia's waterbirds and wetlands.

From what I have seen of the AWC thus far, I am very impressed by all of the effort, dedication, and hard work that thousands of volunteers and coordinators put into the AWC every year. Many countries already are highly organized and efficient and well on their way towards an effective country monitoring scheme. Other countries have not quite achieved this level but all clearly are showing great improvement every year. I hope that not only will the AWC improve every year, but that it will become an enjoyable annual tradition for volunteers all across Asia.

Entering data into the computer is not particularly glamorous work but I am enjoying it nevertheless. It is interesting to see what species occur at which sites. Every day while I am sitting at the computer, I get to vicariously experience every count and feel excited about the numbers and species of birds. And now I feel that I know many of the volunteers and coordinators, even though we have never met, just based on their handwriting and waterbird identification prowess! Finally, I would like to thank Wetlands International, the Malaysia programme staff, and especially David Li, for giving me the opportunity to be involved with the AWC and for making my stay in Malaysia possible and pleasant.

Happy Waterbird Counting!

## 3. AWC 2002 - 2004 Results Update

David Li, david@wiap.nasionet.net

As of 1 December 2004, a total of 1,051, 1,158 and 476 sites were counted in 2002, 2003 and 2004 respectively as reported by the AWC coordinators and individual counters (see accompanying Table). We encourage countries that have not yet reported their count results to do so as soon as possible, in order for us to gain a holistic picture of the census.

Country/Region	No. of Sites Counted		
	2002	2003	2004
Afghanistan			
Bangladesh	37	38	56
Bhutan	6		
India	356*	462*	
Maldives			2
Nepal	3	2	10
Pakistan	70	80	10
Sri Lanka	76	68	
South Asia Total	548	650	78
Brunei	9		
Cambodia	5	1	6
Indonesia	44		
Laos			
Malaysia	23	47	43
Myanmar	53	77	37
Philippines	49	49	61
Singapore	1	9	9
Thailand	9	26	21
Vietnam	16	4	4
Southeast Asia Total	209	213	181
Mainland China	2	32	61
Hong Kong	3	3	3
Macau	1	1	1*
Taiwan	33	23	33
Japan	106	116*	
South Korea	118	118*	118*
Mongolia		1	
Eastern Russia	2	1	2
East Asia Total	265	295	217
Australia	29		
New Zealand			
Papua New Guinea			
Australasia Total	29		
TOTAL	1,051	1,158	476

Note: \* indicates the number that has been reported by the coordinators, although count data is yet to be received.

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#### 4. AWC News from the Region

The following section provides an update of AWC 2004 activities and plan for the AWC 2005 in the region.

#### **Bangladesh**

Enam UI Haque, Bangladesh Bird Club, enam.gqi@qq-group.com

AWC 2004 in Bangladesh was special in several ways. It was the first time the AWC was planned to be completed in January and not continue with it till mid-February like in previous years. In the past, it usually took at least six weeks to conduct AWC at 40 odd sites in Bangladesh by one, or at best, two teams formed by a handful of participants. In 2004, three strong teams of participants fanned out to the three major concentrations of sites: *Chars* - the coastal mudflats in the south, *Beels* - the lakes in the north-center, and *Haors* - the large lakes in the northeast. Several sites, previously ignored for want of survey-time, were included in 2004.

A total of 56 sites were surveyed and 575,858 birds of 87 species were counted; all of these were high figures for Bangladesh. Twenty-one species of ducks and geese and 30 species of shorebirds were seen. Most numerous ducks were Northern Pintail (85,000), Gadwall (82,000), and Eurasian Wigeon (59,000). Most numerous shorebirds were Black-tailed Godwit (1,700) and Pacific Golden Plover (1,600). Most notable rare birds seen were Glossy Ibis, Asian Openbill, Masked Finfoot, Great Thick-knee, and Asian Dowitcher. Most surprising absences were Comb Duck, Ruddy Crake, and Black-bellied Tern.

The AWC 2005 has been planned as follows; we invite oversea experts to join us for the survey as usual.

Date	Site	Note
Jan 1-2	Muhuri Dam, Patenga Beach	Reservoir and seashore. Watch ducks, waders & other waterbirds.
Jan 7	Pond in Dhaka city	Small ponds in JU Campus, Dhaka Zoo & Mirpur Ceramic Factory. Watch ducks & other waterbirds.
Jan 7-15	Coastal Islands	20 coastal islands on board a fishing- trawler. Participants bring sleeping- bag, back-pack. Watch ducks, waders & other waterbirds including Spoonbill Sandpiper, Asian Dowitcher & Indian Skimmer at newly accreted islands.
Jan 18	Jamuna River in Sirajganj District	5-hour canoe-ride around islands in Jamuna River. Watch ducks, waders & other waterbirds.
Jan 21-24	Sundarban	Tour of Sundarban (a Ramsar & Heritage site) aboard a tourist boat. Watch ducks, waders & other waterbird including Masked Finfoot. See pristine mangrove and possibly tiger, crocodile, and wild boar.
Jan 27 - Feb 2	Aila, Halir, Pashua, Shoni, Banua, Tangua lakes	Tour of 10 large lakes including Tangua Haor, a Ramsar site, aboard a boat. Participants bring sleeping- bag, back-pack. Watch ducks, waders, crakes & other waterbird.
4 days during Jan 7-28	Hail, Hakalooki lakes	Tour of 5 lakes.

#### **Hong Kong**

Yu Yat Tong, Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, <a href="https://hkbws@nkbws.org.hk">hkbws@nkbws.org.hk</a>

The AWC at the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site in Hong Kong took place on both 17 and 25 January 2004. The latter day was aimed to provide some supplementary counts to the first day. A total of 36,478 waterbirds were counted, and the figure shows a dramatic decrease of 32% compared to 53,795 in January 2003.

This decrease was caused by a significant reduction in the numbers of ducks (2003: 20,203; 2004: 5,554) and gulls (2003:13,191; 2004: 8,703). Reasons for the decrease of waterbird numbers were unclear, but observations of habitat deterioration caused by sedimentation at the intertidal mudflat and poor visibility resulting from air pollution were considered main factors.

Results of the Hong Kong census are available for download at:

http://www.hkbws.org.hk/waterbird/

The AWC 2005 is scheduled on 16 January 2005 and recruitment of volunteers for this count will be started soon. In addition to the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site, Starling Inlet and Shuen Wan will also be included in the AWC 2005.

#### **Taiwan**

Woei-horng Fang, Wild Bird Federation Taiwan, whfang@ha.mc.ntu.edu.tw

The announcement of AWC in 2005 is scheduled to be published in the December issue of our monthly magazine. This Census will be held simultaneous with our 'New Year Bird Count', which is counting all the birds; and also coincide with the 'Black-faced Spoonbill Census'. In our 'Important Bird Area in Taiwan' some 26 wetland and estuary sites were listed. Previously, these sites were not all systematically monitored. We are trying to promote Asia Waterbird Census as one of basic monitoring mechanism for these IBA starting in the coming year.

In the past 3 years we experienced some problems in communication of the census. We lost contact with some experienced counters at some sites, thus we did not get good counts at these sites. This year we will make more personal contacts with previous active counters.

As in previous years, Wild Bird Federation Taiwan will prepare a pin as a gift to all participants of the census. The logo of the pin was designed

according to the most interesting bird that shows up in the count. In the past, the birds chosen were all globally threatened species. For last year, we used Far-Eastern Curlew. It will be very interesting to know which species will be used for the coming year.

#### Malaysia

Yeap Chin Aik, Malaysian Nature Society, natsoc@po.jaring.my

As usual, the AWC national report (for 2004) will be sent out to the volunteers to inform them in detail the outcome of their efforts. It is hoped that by doing so, the volunteers would realize their value in this yearly census and continue to pledge their commitment again in the coming census in January 2005.

For 2005, priority sites such as wetland-related Important Bird Areas, Ramsar Sites, waterbird Network Sites, and other nationally important wetland sites will be covered as best as possible. Other usual wetland sites will also be checked. A small grant received from the Oriental Birding Club by Wetlands International for surveys of wintering Nordmann's Greenshank and Chinese Egret in Malaysia will help to improve the coverage of sites in 2005.

The volunteer network for AWC in Malaysia recently lost one of its members. The late Laurence Poh passed away peacefully recently after a long battle with cancer. Laurence faithfully surveyed the Kinta Nature Park with Chiu Sein Chiong for every AWC. We will miss him dearly in January 2005.

#### Nepal

Dr Hem Sagar Baral, Bird Conservation Nepal, <a href="mailto:bcn@mail.com.np">bcn@mail.com.np</a>

For the coming year, we are preparing rather early for the mid-winter water bird count. We are doing this keeping in view that all sites counted regularly in previous years also should be covered adequately this time. We aim to have better counts at Pokhara, better coverage at Chitwan, and also we aim to cover Koshi Tappu and Barrage as well as Karnali River in the west. We are hoping that some funding opportunities may enable us to visit recently declared Ramsar Sites such as Jagdishpur Reservoir and Ghodaghodi Lake Complex too. The former of the Ramsar sites is very little known in terms of avifauna and any information from there will be useful for us.

Our current plan is to launch the waterbird count programme jointly with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and mobilize some of the technical staff in this department. A new staff at Himalayan Nature will especially be recruited to make this count more effective and assist in receiving the forms. Bird Conservation Nepal has already highlighted the count in their scheduled bird watching calendar, which should help to make this event more successful.

We have had feedback from those who received free copies of 'Numbers and distribution of waterbirds and wetlands in the Asia-Pacific region' recently released publication by Wetlands International. Some participants were keen to know if a similar report for Nepal can be produced within a country. It is very good feedback from our participants and we will be aiming for such a publication for the country with expert guidance from Wetlands International.

Copies of all the data thus collected will be sent to Wetlands International in Kuala Lumpur. A copy will be kept in Nepal for national record. I am sure this event once again will be a very important event for us. I take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers and Ms Sushmita Sharma at Bird Conservation Nepal for her assistance during the last count and look forward for an increased cooperation.

#### **Thailand**

Petch Manopawitr, Bird Conservation Society of Thailand, <u>pmanopawitr@wcs.org</u> and Krairat Aeamamphai, Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Thailand.

Counts of 21 wetland sites were conducted by at least 86 observers from 13 groups of people. Most of the counts were carried out during the Asian Midwinter Waterfowl Census from 10 January to 25 February 2004. Thale Noi and Thung Kha were counted around a week before and after AWC period respectively. The geographical coverage was from the northern provinces of Chiang Rai (Nong Bong Kai and Chiang Saen Basin), the north-east (three wetlands of Buriram and Nong Rahan of Sri Saket), the central (Bung Boraphet), the east (Bang Pra), the lower central plain (Nakorn Pathom), parts of the inner gulf (Khok Kham, Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia) and in the southern provinces of Chumphon (Thung Kha) and Patthalung (Thale Noi). This resulted in a total of 216, 463 waterbirds of 99 species being counted.

Overall, this was an excellent praiseworthy effort from BCST members, BCST office staff, Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant

Conservation (DNP) staff of the Wildlife Research Group, and other local bird conservation groups, who helped coordinate the survey. A special note should be taken of the submission from staff of Non-hunting Areas at wetlands in Buriram, for sustaining their annual coverage of three key wetlands in the Province including Sanambin, Huai Jorakaemak, and Huai Talat.

Bung Boraphet Wildlife Research Station and BCST co-organized a comprehensive count at the site on 14<sup>th</sup> January with great input from 22 dedicated volunteers. A total of 154,432 waterbirds were recorded on one day including 19 Glossy Ibises, 1 Tuft Duck, 5 Painted Storks, 164 Grey Herons, and 75 Purple Herons. The most numerous species counted at Bung Boraphet were Lesser Whistling-duck (86,204), Asian Openbill (52,613), Garganey (4,325) Little Cormorant (2,563), Cotton-Pygmy Goose (2,062), and Little Grebe (1,091).

Counts totaling 1,960 ducks were made at Nong Bong Kai Non-hunting Area and near the Mekong River in Chiang Saen, Chiang Rai Province. This included a single Mallard, 2 Baer's Pochard, 2 Mandarin Duck, 3 Ruddy Shelduck, 400 Spotbilled Duck, 6 Northern Shoveler, 660 Northern Pintail, 40 Garganey, 41 Ferruginous Pochard, 20 Tufted Duck, 30 Common Teal, and 750 Lesser Whistling-duck. Two Great Crested Grebes also were observed at the site.

Globally threatened species counted were 4 Spoon-billed Sandpipers (Khok Kham and Pak Thale), 43 Nordmann's Greenshank (Khok Kham, Pak Thale and Chiang Saen) and two Black-faced Spoonbills (Laem Phak Bia). Larger gulls counted at Laem Phak Bia were Heuglin's Gull (29), Pallas's Gull (6) and Mongolian Gull (1). Another nationally scarce species was Painted Stork (33 birds). Notably, one single Indian Skimmer was observed at Laem Phak Bia in April 2004.

In total, 7 Important Bird Areas (IBA) were covered more or less comprehensively in 2004. More protected area sites were surveyed outside the AWC period as part of the DNP's waterfowl country-wide survey. BCST and the Wildlife Research Group of DNP will continue to coordinate AWC 2005 with strong input from DNP, BCST members, and other local conservation groups, aiming to cover a greater range of potential sites, especially at other IBAs.

In preparation for AWC 2005, BCST promoted AWC activities through its partners at the 4<sup>th</sup> Thailand Birdwatching Festival held in Bangkok on 21 November 2004 under the theme "Save the Inner Gulf of Thailand." The event drew about 1,000 people and was opened by Bangkok governor Mr. Apirak Kosayothin. The event publicized the importance of wetlands and the Inner Gulf of Thailand as a key habitat for

migratory waterfowl and the livelihood of many local people. BCST has started a campaign against the proposed multi-billion dollar road-bridge motorway project in Inner Thai Gulf, which likely will have imminent impact on the integrity of this outstanding wetland site. This year, BCST plans to conduct a comprehensive count in Inner Thai Gulf and also expand the count to other IBA sites through its key local volunteer. The arrival of more than 200 Asian Dowitchers at Thachin estuary, Samut Sakorn, and a few Spoon-billed Sandpipers at Laem Phak Bia last month, have encouraged and motivated Thai birdwatchers to participate more in AWC this year.

The author would like to take the opportunity to thank the volunteers who have kindly contributed to the census.

#### **Vietnam**

Nguyen Duc Tu, BirdLife International – Vietnam Programme, tu@birdlife.netnam.vn

Since November 2004, several unsystematic counts were carried out at a few sites, such as Xuan Thuy and Ha Nam, by BirdLife staff and other volunteers. While the results are not synthesized yet, at least 28 Black-faced Spoonbills (3 in Ha Nam and 25 in Xuan Thuy) and 4 Spoon-billed Sandpipers (at Xuan Thuy) were recorded during the surveys. In addition, a comprehensive survey to review all of the key wetlands in the Red River Delta has been planned by BirdLife Vietnam for January 2005. The AWC 2005 will be conducted during that survey.

# 5. International Black-faced Spoonbill Census 2005

Yu Yat Tong, Coordinator of the International Black-faced Spoonbill Census, Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, <a href="https://hkbws@nkbws.org.hk">hkbws@nkbws.org.hk</a>

January 2004 was a remarkable moment for the globally endangered Black-faced Spoonbill. A total of 1,206 individuals were counted, indicating that the population is recovering from the brink of extinction in the early 1990s. However, the Black-faced Spoonbill is still facing various threats in its breeding, staging and wintering grounds. The yearly census of the wintering population of the spoonbill can provide an annual comparable figure, which is one of the key components for conservation of this endangered species.

I am pleased to inform you that the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS) will continue to coordinate the International Black-faced Spoonbill Census this coming winter. The dates of the census are fixed for 21-23 January 2005. You are cordially invited to mark these dates in your calendar and start preparing for the census.

To help our preparations, please kindly advise us whether you will be participating in the coming census and the site you will be responsible to. Please reply to <a href="https://hkbws.org.hk">hkbws@hkbws.org.hk</a> and <a href="https://hkbws.org.hk">https://hkbws.org.hk</a>.

Guidelines and suggestions can be downloaded at

http://www.hkbws.org.hk/bfs/Census\_guideline\_english.pdf . It helps to ensure that the census will produce results as accurate as possible. The previous report of the census and updated information are available at the Black-faced Spoonbill homepage at

http://www.hkbws.org.hk/bfs/; you also are welcome to post your finding of the species at the Black-faced Spoonbill Newsgroup at http://www.hkbws.org.hk/cgi-bin/yabb/YaBB.pl?board=Spoonbill

6. Update of Waterbird Population Estimates – fourth edition

Simon Delany, Waterbird Conservation Officer, Wetlands International PO Box 471, 6700 AL Wageningen, The Netherlands, simon.delany@wetlands.org

Wetlands International produces updates to the publication *Waterbird Population Estimates* (WPE) every three years, under agreement with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The third edition was produced immediately before the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (CoP) to the Ramsar Convention in 2002. The electronic version of the WPE 3 for update is available online at <a href="http://www.wetlands.org/pubs&/WPE.htm">http://www.wetlands.org/pubs&/WPE.htm</a>. For an extracted Excel version of WPE3 (with species and population analyses only for the Asia-Pacific region) and notes for the update, please contact David Li at <a href="mailto:david@wiap.nasionet.net">david@wiap.nasionet.net</a>.

We are starting work on the fourth edition (WPE 4), so that it will be ready in time for the next Ramsar CoP in Kampala, Uganda in November 2005. As you know, Wetlands International relies on its network of Asian Waterbird Census coordinators to act as special contributors of updated information for each edition of WPE in the Asia-Pacific region. This is one of the important and highly valued contributions made to

the organisation by this network. We are interested in any new information about populations, numbers and trends of waterbirds that will serve to update the table. We would be grateful to receive the results of your review of population estimates before 31 December 2004.

### 7. News on the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy

- On 17-18 November 2004, the 9th Annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee was held at Seosan City, South Korea. Discussions focused on the development of a new framework for post-2005. The meeting decided that separate programmes of work should be developed for the East Asian- Australasian Flyway and the Central Asian Flyway in the 2006-2010 period. It also decided that the existing three waterbird Site Networks (Anatidae, Crane, and Shorebird) could be combined into one single Waterbird Site Network. Various options on the shape of the 2006-2010 Strategy framework were discussed including a partnership linked to a WSSD Type II initiative to conserve migratory waterbirds. The meeting endorsed the recommendation by Wetlands International on the role of the AWC in supporting waterbird conservation in the next strategy period. For more information contact Taej Mundkur, Strategy Coordination Officer, Wetlands International taej@wiap.nasionet.net.
- The first partnership meeting of the WSSD initiative to conserve migratory waterbirds and wetlands in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway was held on 18-19 November 2004 at Seosan City, South Korea. Representatives from 13 of the 22 countries in the flyway participated. The meeting brought together senior representatives from governments of the region, development agencies, and NGO partners to discuss using the WSSD Type II partnership model. The WSSD proposal is available at

http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/search/partnerships/48.html. For more information contact Mr Jason Ferris, Assistant Director, Migratory and Marine Species Section, The Australian Government Department of the Environment and Heritage, Jason.ferris@deh.gov.au

 On 19 November 2004, a public Waterbird Symposium entitled 'Biodiversity in Rice Fields in East Asia - the importance of the habitat for waterbirds', organized by Wetland Conservation Committee of KFEM, was held in Seosan City, South Korea. Contact Ms. Sunyoung, Coordinator, Nature Conservation Group, KFEM, <a href="mailto:sunyoung@kfem.or.kr">sunyoung@kfem.or.kr</a>, for more information.

- During 15-16 November 2004, the 8<sup>th</sup>
   Shorebird Working Group (for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway) annual meeting was held at Seosan City, South Korea. The meeting reviewed the implementation of the Shorebird Action Plan in 2004 and identified priorities for 2005. For more information contact Warren Lee Long, Shorebird Flyway Officer at Wetlands International-Oceania, warren.leelong@deh.gov.au
- On 24-27 November 2004, the 7th Working Group Meeting of the North East Asian Crane Site Network was held at Izumi, Japan. For details of the meeting, contact Simba Chan <u>simba@wing-wbsj.or.jp</u>.

#### 8. New Publications

Important Bird Areas in Asia - The first comprehensive inventory of Asia's most important places for birds and biodiversity reveals that more than half have no legal designation or are only partially protected by law. The publication, launched by BirdLife International on 18 November 2004 in Bangkok, identifies 2,293 Important Bird Areas, covering 7.6% of the region's total land area, of which 976 (43%) are unprotected and a further 325 (14%) are only partially protected. The inventory warns that one in eight of the region's 2,700 birds are threatened with extinction unless these areas are adequately protected and managed.

The Directory of Important Bird Areas in the Kingdom of Thailand also was launched in Bangkok in November. This publication provides details of the 62 IBAs in Thailand, of which 22 are unprotected or only partially protected. A number of IBAs in Thailand are facing threats including the Inner Gulf of Thailand IBA, which will be affected by a planned road bridge.

For further information on either of these publications, please contact Ed Parnell, Communications Officer, BirdLife International, ed.parnell@birdlife.org.

Important Bird Areas in India: Priority sites for conservation was released on Thursday 4th November, 2004 in New Delhi. 465 IBA sites were identified throughout the country, covering almost all threatened species, restricted range species, biome assemblages and congregatory species

(mainly wetland birds) of India. An overview of Indian IBA sites gives clear understanding of the conservation status of the most significant sites for birds in India. For more information, contact Zafar-ul Islam at Bombay Natural History Society, <a href="mailto:bnhs@bom4.vsnl.net.in">bnhs@bom4.vsnl.net.in</a>, <a href="mailto:IBAbnhs@vsnl.net">IBAbnhs@vsnl.net</a>.

Waterbirds Survey of the Middle and Lower Yangtze River Floodplain in Later January and early February 2004 published in September 2004 in both Chinese and English language. For more information contact Mark Barter at markbarter@optusnet.com.au.

### English and Scientific names of bird species mentioned in the Newsletter

#### **English Name Scientific Name** Little Grebe Tachybaptus ruficollis **Great Crested Grebe** Podiceps grisegena Little Cormorant Phalacrocorax niger Grey Heron Ardea cinerea Purple Heron Ardea purpurea Painted Stork Mycteria leucocephala Asian Openbill Anastomus oscitans Glossy Ibis Plegadis falcinellus Black-face Spoonbill Platalea minor Lesser Whistling Duck Dendrocygna javanica Ruddy Shelduck Tadorna ferruginea Comb Duck Sarkidiornis melanotos Cotton-Pygmy Goose Nettapus coromandelianus Mandarin Duck Aix galericulate Eurasian Wigeon Anas penelope Common Teal Anas crecca Garganev Anas querquedula Mallard Anas platyrhynchos Spot-billed Duck Anas poecilorhyncha Northern Pintail Anas acuta Gadwall Anas strepera Northern Shoveler Anas clypeata Baer's Pochard Avthva baeri Ferruginous Duck Aythya nyroca Tufted Duck Aythya fuligula Ruddy Crake Porzana fusca Masked Finfoot Heliopais personata Pacific Golden Plover Pluvialis fulva Great Thick-knee Esacus recurvirostris Black-tailed Godwit Limosa limosa Asian Dowitcher Limnodromus semipalmatus Far Eastern Curlew Numenius madagascariensis Nordmann's Greenshank Tringa guttifer Eurynorhynchus pygmeus Spoon-billed Sandpipers Heuglin's Gull Larus heualini Pallas's Gull Larus ichthyaetus Mongolian Gull Larus mongolicus Black-bellied Tern Sterna acuticauda Indian Skimmer Rynchops albicollis