

# Newsletter of the Asian Waterbird Census

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## 1. Letter from the AWC International Coordinator

Dear AWC coordinators and participants,

It's time again for all of us to get ready for the AWC. I believe all of you are already very excited to go for the waterbird count!

The AWC 2006 is a special one! This will be our 20<sup>th</sup> AWC since the programme was established in 1987. With all of your support in the past, over 6,000 wetland sites in 26 countries have been surveyed at least once. The AWC has achieved great success in supporting waterbird and wetland conservation in the region. However, in some countries and in some years, the AWC was conducted with inconsistent site and species coverage, and poor quality of data was sometimes received. Therefore, the AWC is still not able to evaluate all waterbird population trends well at the regional level. I therefore strongly encourage you to cover all the important sites in your country every year; so that we can achieve this important target!

The suggested date for the AWC 2006 is 7-22 January 2006. Guidelines, forms and further information can be downloaded from the AWC website at

<http://www.wetlands.org/IWC/awc/awcmain.html>.

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 reports can be produced in a timely manner.

With the recent outbreak of the bird flu in many Asian countries, the possibility exists that you may see dead or sick waterbirds during your field count. We would like to advise you not to hold or try to get too close to any suspicious birds. In such an event, please report to your government agencies that are in charge of bird flu issues and Wetlands International as soon as possible in order to take immediate action.

For further development of the AWC, we have been working hard in seeking funding support to publish the AWC 2002-2004 report and to organise the second AWC national coordinator meeting, as well as conduct training in some of the selected countries in 2006. We shall keep you informed on the status of our fundraising effort. I would also like to encourage the AWC coordinators to raise funds at the national level to improve the site coverage and data quality of the AWC as well as to produce national AWC reports.

Finally, I wish you all a very enjoyable AWC season in 2006 and happy new year!

Best regards,

David Li  
AWC International Coordinator, Wetlands  
International, [david@wetlands.org.my](mailto:david@wetlands.org.my)

## 2. AWC 2002 - 2005 Results Update

by David Li, [david@wetlands.org.my](mailto:david@wetlands.org.my)

The table below provides you an update of AWC data received during 2002-2005 as of 1 November 2005. We plan to produce the AWC 2002-2004 report in year 2006. Therefore, kindly submit to us any AWC count you have conducted during the 2002-2004 period for inclusion in the report. Information received after 30 March 2006 may not make it into the report.

| Country/Region         | 2002        | 2003        | 2004        | 2005       |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Bangladesh             | 33          | 33          | 49          | *          |
| Bhutan                 | 6           |             |             | *          |
| India                  | 356         | 528         | 421         | 138*       |
| Maldives               |             |             | 2           |            |
| Nepal                  | 3           | 2           | 10          | 13         |
| Pakistan               | 70          | 87          | 10*         | 6*         |
| Sri Lanka              | 67          | 99          | 65          | 5*         |
| <b>South Asian</b>     | <b>535</b>  | <b>749</b>  | <b>557</b>  | <b>162</b> |
| Brunei                 | 9           |             |             | 1          |
| Cambodia               | 5           | 1           | 6*          | 9          |
| Indonesia              | 44          | 34          | 14          | *          |
| Laos                   |             |             |             | 1          |
| Malaysia               | 23          | 47          | 43          | *          |
| Myanmar                | 53          | 77          | 37          | 57         |
| Philippines            | 49          | 49          | 61          | 55         |
| Singapore              | 1           | 9           | 9           | *          |
| Thailand               | 9           | 26          | 21          | 141        |
| Vietnam                | 16          | 4           | 4           | 9          |
| <b>South East Asia</b> | <b>209</b>  | <b>247</b>  | <b>195</b>  | <b>273</b> |
| Mainland China         | 7           | 33          | 63          | 2*         |
| Hong Kong              | 3           | 3           | 3           | 1*         |
| Macau                  | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1          |
| Taiwan                 | 33          | 23          | 33          | 47*        |
| Japan                  | 106         | 116         | 70          | *          |
| North Korea            |             |             |             |            |
| South Korea            | 118         | 118         | 118         | 124*       |
| Mongolia               |             | 1           |             |            |
| Eastern Russia         | 2           | 1           | 2           | 2          |
| <b>East Asia</b>       | <b>270</b>  | <b>296</b>  | <b>290</b>  | <b>53</b>  |
| Australia              | 29          | 29          | 28          | *          |
| New Zealand            |             |             |             |            |
| Papua New Guinea       |             |             |             |            |
| <b>Australasia</b>     | <b>29</b>   | <b>29</b>   | <b>28</b>   | <b>0</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>           | <b>1043</b> | <b>1321</b> | <b>1070</b> | <b>612</b> |

Note: \* indicates that either the original count form was not received, or the complete data has not been received or data has not been received at all.

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## 3. AWC News from the Region

The following section provides an update of AWC 2005 and work plan for the AWC 2006 in the

region.

### Cambodia

by Hong Chamnan, Wildlife Conservation Society-Cambodia, [wcs.hc@everyday.com.kh](mailto:wcs.hc@everyday.com.kh)

The AWC 2005 in Cambodia has attracted a record number of participants who counted a total of 61,195 water birds of 45 species at nine sites across the country. The participation of 39 volunteers shows a growing interest in nature outings in Cambodia. The AWC can be regarded as a simple, inexpensive tool for building awareness for waterbird and wetland conservation in Cambodia and as such, deserves continued support in the coming years.

A total of nine sites were visited from 17 January to 6 March 2005, compared to seven sites visited in 2004. The sites visited were namely, Boeng Veal Samnap, Stung Treng, Stung Chinnet river, Angkor area, Kulen Prumtep wildlife sanctuary, Boung Prek Lapeuw, Krous Krom, Prek Toal and Ang Trapaing Thmor.

Ang Trapaing Thmor is the largest wetland area in the northwest of Cambodia and a very important place for waterbirds. At least 17,500 Lesser Whistling Ducks were counted in that area. The site also supports a good number of Garganey and Sarus Crane in the non-breeding season. Moreover this area supports many important bird species such as the Black-necked Stork, Black-headed Ibis, White-shouldered Ibis, Spotted-billed Pelican and Woolly-necked Stork. In the AWC 2005, a total of 32,423 waterbirds of 42 species were recorded.

Prek Toal is host to a large waterbird breeding colony in Southeast Asia. Both nesting birds and birds feeding around the area were counted. Among those worth mentioning are the Indian Cormorant (7,022 individuals), Little Cormorant (1,276) and Oriental Darter (1,765). The total number of waterbirds recorded was 22,191 individuals of 37 species.

Stung Treng Province is located in northeastern Cambodia and bordered by Vietnam, Lao and Thailand. The Mekong River is the major river, covering most parts of the province, comprising several connecting streams which all together create a large wetland, which supports a variety of biodiversity and natural resources. Because of its diverse biodiversity and ecosystem, the Mekong River is very important for flora and fauna i.e., plants, fish, birds and waterfowls. In recognition of its global significance, the upper part of the Mekong River from the Stung Treng town up to the Lao border was designated a Ramsar Site in 1999 and named Stung Treng Ramsar Site.

The AWC 2005 at Stung Treng Ramsar site recorded birds such as the Great Thick-knee,

Little Pratincole and River Lapwing. A total of 478 waterbirds of 29 species were observed. However, the forest habitat is threatened by local farmers who have been clearing it for crop-cultivation and plantations. Wildlife poachers and evidence of poaching were encountered almost everywhere within the Ramsar Site. Wild animals were illegally transported and sold at the Lao border market. There are no checking points to control illegal wildlife trade. Therefore, wild animals and the forest habitat will be destroyed in the immediate future if no effective action is taken to address the problem or if a conservation programme is not established.

The AWC 2005 covered at least four more new sites; Boeng Prek Lepeuw in Takeo province, Krous Krom and Stung Chinnet river in Kampong Thom Province and Kulen Promtep in Presh Vihear province. These are good wetlands and we found interesting numbers of waterbirds such as 1,523 waterbirds in Boeng Prek Lepeuw, 1,987 waterbirds in Krous Krom areas, 450 waterbirds in the Stung Chinnet area and 62 waterbirds in the Kulen Promtep area.

Fewer waterbirds were found in Beung Veal Samnap and the Angkor area compared to last year due to too much human disturbances. In all, 1,701 waterbirds were counted in Beung Veal Samnap and 380 waterbirds in the Angkor area.

A number of areas were not covered in 2005 due to a lack of funding for surveys and for the training of more people on waterbird identification and counting techniques.

During AWC 2006, we plan to count more important sites especially in the coastal area and around the Mekong River in Southwest Cambodia. We would like to encourage more volunteers in some provinces around Phnom Penh especially the provinces along the Mekong River to participate in AWC.

## **China Taiwan**

*by Dr. Woei-horng Fang, Wild Bird Federation Taiwan (WBFT), [whfang@ha.mc.ntu.edu.tw](mailto:whfang@ha.mc.ntu.edu.tw)*

This year marked the seventeenth year of participation of Taiwan in the AWC. The census was coordinated by the Wild Bird Federation Taiwan. In the counts conducted between 1 January and 31 January 2005, a total of 108,750 birds were recorded in 47 sites. The total number of waterbirds recorded is about the annual average of the past several years. The coverage of counting sites was much improved from last year. This was mainly due to better planning and announcing among our members.

The sites which recorded the highest numbers of waterbirds were Chu-An (11,981 individuals), Chin Men (10,375), Tseng-Wen Hsi (9,578), Han Pao (7,617) and Lan-Yang-Hsi (7,068).

Globally threatened species included: 1,102 Black-faced Spoonbills (650 in Tseng-Wen Hsi were the highest count ever in AWC and 277 in Szu-Tsaio); 2 Dalmatian Pelicans (one each was separately recorded in Kinmen); one Chinese Egret at Lin-Pien; one Oriental White Stork at Chu-Shui Chi; one Baikal Teal at Guandu; and 189 Saunders' Gulls were recorded this year (160 at Han-pao).

The census was participated by more than 100 participants. WBFT produced a pin featuring the Dalmatian Pelican that was sent to all participants as a gesture of thanks for their efforts in this annual count.

For the upcoming 2006 count, we will announce this event in the December 2005 issue of WBFT monthly magazine. We will also make an announcement at the Waterbirds Society Special Meeting held in late November in Tainan.

## **Republic of Korea**

*by Jeong-Yeon Yi, Ecological Restoration Division, Nature and Ecology Research Department, National Institute of Environmental Research(NIER), [jyyi@me.go.kr](mailto:jyyi@me.go.kr)*

The AWC in Korea has been conducted by NIER and the Ministry of Environment, Korea since 1999. During the AWC 2005, 124 sites were surveyed on 15 January 2005 and a total of 1,186,295 waterbirds of 182 species were counted. 131 counters divided into 66 groups participated in the survey. The survey recorded the highest number of waterbirds since 1999, an additional 170,000 birds were recorded compared to the average count (1,015,000 birds) in the last 5 years (1999-2004).

The five most numerous species in 2005 were the Baikal Teal (337,588), Mallard (249,432), Bean Goose (86,116), White-fronted Goose (84,039) and Spot-billed Duck (83,079). Gochenam-ho Lake recorded the highest number of waterbirds (137,133 individuals), followed by Geum-gang River (116,343), Youngsan-ho Lake (85,343), Hangang Estuary (54,478) and Mangyong-gang Estuary (52,954).

Globally threatened waterbird species recorded were the Black-faced Spoonbill, Red-Crowned Crane, Oriental White Stork and Saunder's Gull.

The AWC 2006 in Korea will be held in mid January 2006 and NIER plans to further expand the site coverage of the census.

## Myanmar

by Thet Zaw Naing, Myanmar Bird and Nature Society, [marketing@sstmyanmar.com](mailto:marketing@sstmyanmar.com)

The Myanmar Bird and Nature Society and the Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division, Forest Department, Myanmar, jointly coordinated the AWC in Myanmar. In AWC 2005, a total of 59,843 waterbirds of 103 species was recorded at 57 wetland sites. The Myanmar Bird and Nature Society is currently preparing for the AWC 2006 with the cooperation of the Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division, universities and other volunteers and we expect a more fruitful result and extended coverage for the census in 2006.

## The Philippines

by Carlo Custodio, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau, the Philippines, [custodiocarlo@yahoo.com](mailto:custodiocarlo@yahoo.com)

The turnout of counters for the year 2005 was expected to be low due to government financial difficulties. It should be remembered that unlike other countries most of the counters from the Philippines come from the government and more particularly from the DENR. Surprisingly, the turnout of counters was still almost similar in number compared to the year 2004. Although admittedly fewer in numbers, the difference was not significant with 135 counters in 2004 compared with 124 counters in 2005. The number of sites visited in 2005 dropped to 55 as compared to 61 in 2004. While the number of sites that were not visited in 2005 was almost similar in number to those in 2004 (12 sites in 2005 versus 11 in 2004), there was only half the number of new sites visited in 2005 compared to 2004 (5 sites in 2005 versus 11 sites in 2004). The reduction in the total number of sites visited in 2005 was mainly due to the fewer new sites added to the list. The new sites are Dulong Bayan, Bacoar, Cavite; Naujan Lake in Mindoro Oriental; Barangay (village) Lipata, Culasi, Antique; Old Buswang, Batan and Altavas – all in Kalibo, Aklan; and, Arturo Penaflor fishpond in Cotabato City in Mindanao. Naujan Lake is not actually a new site but it was not accounted for in 2004. The Lake in fact is part of the Anatidae Site Network in the East Asian Flyway.

Personnel of the DENR from Region one in northwest Philippines covering the Ilocos Provinces, La Union and Pangasinan participated in the count for 2005. The exercise, however, was more in the nature of field orientation and capacity building such that the results were not included in this report. They are expected to participate in the AWC 2006.

There were 111,371 waterbirds counted in 2005 and the number remained at par with the 113,412 waterbirds counted in 2004 considering that there were fewer sites monitored this year. Eighty-three (83) species of waterbirds were recorded in 2005 compared with the 85 species in 2004. There were some species recorded in 2005 that were not recorded in 2004. Some of them were the Little Grebe, Eurasian Bittern, Slaty-breasted Rail, Red-legged Crake and Pheasant-tailed Jacana. There was a slight increase in the recorded number of Chinese Egret from 890 in 2004 to 969 in 2005. There was an apparent sharp increase in the recorded number for Tufted Duck from 5,371 in 2004 to 14,900 in 2005. This increase, however, could not be an actual increase in population but rather it was due to the fact that Naujan Lake was not accounted for in the previous count. There were persistent reports that the Australian Stilt could be found in the Vitali Wetlands in Zamboanga del Sur in Mindanao and that they stay in the area even if the rest of the migratory waders have gone. This information needs to be verified. There was also a report from Mr. Blas Tabaranza of BirdLife International - Philippines, of an individual of the Pied Avocet being recorded in Liguasan Marsh in Mindanao. The observation, however, was outside of the AWC count period and so it was not incorporated in this report.

## Thailand

by Petch Manopawitr, Bird Conservation Society of Thailand (BCST), [pmanopawitr@wcs.org](mailto:pmanopawitr@wcs.org) and Krairat Aeamamphai, Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Thailand.

The AWC in January 2005 set a new record for the country, with 141 sites covered and a total of 259,403 waterfowls of 117 species counted by almost 200 observers from nearly 60 groups of people. Wildlife Research Division did an outstanding job in mobilizing so many counters through its wildlife research station around the country to cover at least 86 sites during the AWC period in January. The sites were well distributed throughout Thailand from the northern provinces of Chiang Rai (Nong Bong Kai and Chiang Saen Basin), the north-east (IBA sites of Buriram and Nong Khai), the central (Bung Boraphet), the east (Chonburi, Rayong), the lower central plain (Nakorn Pathom), the Inner Gulf of Thailand (Bang Prakong, Bang Pu, Khok Kham, Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia) and in the southern provinces of Prachuab Khirikhan (Sam Roi Yot), Patthalung (Thale Noi) and Pattani.

Overall, this was an excellent collaboration between the Wildlife Research Division at Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation and BCST. Wildlife Research

Station staff, BCST members and other local bird conservation groups helped coordinate the survey and were very praiseworthy. The results from a lot of new sites were submitted by staff of Non-hunting areas and staff from wildlife research stations. A special note should be taken that key wetland sites such as Bung Boraphet Non-hunting Area (NHA), Thale Noi NHA and the wetlands in Buriram province are now well covered regularly by their own staff. The active Lanna Bird Club continued to sustain their annual coverage of key wetlands in the Chiang Saen basin of Chiang Rai province.

The count in the western Inner Gulf of Thailand from Bang Khun Thien to Laem Phak Bia was emphasized by over 40 BCST members and volunteers. This resulted in a total of 31,301 waterbirds of 72 species being counted including one Far Eastern Curlew, 2 Spoon-billed Sandpipers, 17 Nordmann's Greenshanks, 67 Asian Dowitchers, 37 Ruffs, 121 Great Knots, 245 Grey Herons, 1,858 Black-tailed Godwits and 7,639 Brown-headed Gulls. The WWF team covered many sites in the eastern Inner Gulf of Thailand from Bang Pu to Bang Prakong estuary. In contrast, the results showed a rather low number of waterfowls with 4,011 birds of 30 species recorded. More than half of the waterfowl counted in this area was the Brown-headed Gull (2,209).

Bung Boraphet Non-hunting Area still received the highest count with a total of 98,502 waterbirds including 9 Glossy Ibises, 25 Spot-billed Pelican, 25 Tufted Ducks, 3 Painted Storks, 2 Oriental Darters, 178 Grey Herons and 62 Purple Herons. The most numerous species counted at Bung Boraphet were the Asian Openbill (45,934), Lesser Whistling-duck (40,025), Cotton-Pygmy Goose (1,953) and Little Grebe (1,913).

Counts totaling 1,900 ducks were made at the Nong Bong Kai Non-hunting Area near Mekong River in Chiang Saen, Chiang Rai Province. This included one Baer's Pochard, one Mandarin Duck, 3 Falcated Duck, 5 Gadwals, 3 Northern Shovelers, 10 Mallards, 208 Spot-billed Ducks, 288 Northern Pintail, 152 Garganey, 25 Ferruginous Pochards, 8 Tufted Ducks, 32 Common Teals, 14 Eurasian Wigeons and 1,150 Lesser Whistling-ducks. Two Great Crested Grebes were also observed at the site.

The globally threatened/near-threatened species counted were the Milky Stork (1); Lesser Adjutant (2), Painted Stork (21), Baer's Pochard (3), White-winged Duck (5), Black-faced Spoonbill (1), Black-headed Ibis (7), Spoon-billed Sandpiper (2), Asian Dowitcher (67) and Nordmann's Greenshank (23).

The most numerous species counted were the Lesser Whistling-duck (111,825), Asian Openbill (46,036), Cattle Egret (10,184), Brown-headed

Gull (9,849), Little Egret (8,440), Cotton Pygmy Goose (8,124), Black-winged Stilt (5,935), Little Cormorant (5,537), Purple Swamphen (3,932), Lesser Sand Plover (3,955), Little Grebe (3,319), Marsh Sandpiper (2,581), Black-tailed Godwit (2,167), Common Tern (1,665), Whiskered Tern (1,547) and Red-necked Stint (1,483),

In total, 11 Important Bird Areas (IBA) identified by the *Directory of Important Bird Areas in the Kingdom of Thailand: Key sites for Conservation* (Bird Conservation Society of Thailand 2004) were covered more or less comprehensively in 2005, namely the Chiang Saen Basin (TH007), Sanambin NHA (TH020), Bung Khong Long NHA (TH021), Bung Boraphet NHA (TH030), Inner Gulf of Thailand (TH032), Khao Sam Roi Yot NP (TH036), Mu Ko Libong NHA (TH050), Palian Langu (TH052), Thale Noi NHA (TH056), Ao pattani (TH058) and Pa Phru To Daeng (TH062).

Currently, the wildlife research division is carrying out bi-monthly country-wide waterbird surveys aimed at both resident and migratory species. The information gathered from the survey will be very useful to see changes in the spatial and temporal distribution of waterfowl in Thailand. More protected areas and IBAs will also be covered through this scheme.

In August 2005, a controversial proposed US\$1.5 billion motorway road bridge project to be built across the inshore waters of the Inner Gulf of Thailand was scrapped due to potential environmental impact and unacceptably high investment costs. This was excellent news after the long campaign by BCST, other conservation NGOs, academics, and local communities. Thailand's greatest wetland is saved from a massive destructive project, at least for now. However, it is still essential to put in place a comprehensive zoning plan for the conservation and development of the gulf. The data on the distribution and population density of waterfowl will be crucial towards accomplishing this.

In 2006, BCST will continue its conservation focus in the Inner Gulf of Thailand through the monitoring of shorebird populations and expanding environmental education program in targetted areas. With proposed support from Wetlands International, BCST will conduct a comprehensive survey for the Inner Gulf of Thailand. It will cover all the sites monitored during the survey in 1998-1999 (Paul Erftemeijer and Roongroj Jukmongkol 2000, *Migratory Shorebirds and their habitats in the inner gulf of Thailand*) plus many other sites particularly the Phetchaburi sites that hold some key concentrations.

As for AWC 2006 in other sites, BCST and the wildlife research division of DNP will continue to coordinate the count with strong input from DNP,

BCST members and other local conservation groups, with the aim to cover a greater range of other potential sites and IBAs as well as revisit all the key wetland areas.

Acknowledgement: The report would not have been possible without contribution from Philip Round (BCST/Mahidol University) and Wanlaya Chanittawong (DNP) and all contributors who submitted their count forms.

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## 4. International Black-faced Spoonbill Census 2006

Yu Yat Tong, Coordinator, International Black-faced Spoonbill Census, Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, [bfspoonbill@hkbws.org.hk](mailto:bfspoonbill@hkbws.org.hk)

The 2006 International Black-faced Spoonbill Census is scheduled for 6-8 January 2006. The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS) still continues to coordinate this census. You are cordially invited to start preparing for the census. To help with our preparations, please kindly advise us on whether you will be participating in the coming census and the site you are responsible for.

This census has been well documenting the growth of the Black-faced Spoonbill population and the census can provide an annual comparable figure. Besides a new high number of 1,475 spoonbills counted, the number of participants and surveyed sites were also higher than any previous census. This clearly shows the importance of this international cooperation to the conservation of this globally endangered species. Such success cannot be achieved without your support.

The reports of 2005 and some previous censuses are available at the HKBWS Black-faced Spoonbill homepage at <http://www.hkbws.org.hk/bfs/>, you are also welcome to post your finding at the Black-faced Spoonbill Newsgroup at <http://www.hkbws.org.hk/cgi-bin/yabb/YaBB.pl?board=Spoonbill>

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## 5. Progress on the Waterbird Population Estimates – fourth Edition (WPE 4)

by Simon Delany, International Waterbirds Census Coordinator, Wetlands International, [Simon.Delany@wetlands.org](mailto:Simon.Delany@wetlands.org)

Crucial information needed for the effective conservation of any species includes estimates of the number of individuals of the species that exist, where they are found, and whether their numbers are increasing, stable or decreasing. It is the aim of Wetlands International's global Waterbird Population Estimates project to provide this information. The project is found within the programme of work undertaken by Wetlands International on behalf of the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the estimates published in Waterbird Population Estimates form the basis of Ramsar Criterion 5 for the designation of Wetlands of International Importance, under which a site qualifies as a Wetland of International Importance if it holds 1% or more of a population of waterbirds.

Time flies, and the WPE 4 will be published on CD RoM and on the Wetlands International website around the end of 2005. The draft tables were approved by the ninth Ramsar Conference of the Parties (CoP 9) in Kampala in November and the manuscript is now with the designer. The fourth edition is strongly based on the third edition (WPE3) which was published in 2002, and the improved contribution from the Asia-Pacific region in 2005 was one of the noteworthy enhancements.

The comprehensive and enthusiastic contribution from the Asia-Pacific region in 2005 resulted in many new estimates from the region, as well as improvements on the old ones published in WPE3. The AWC network proved to be an excellent source of information, and many high quality individual contributions via this network were made. Coverage for the AWC is now sufficiently extensive to provide a basis for many of the estimates and trends presented.

The table below compares the information presented in WPE4 with that available since 2002 in WPE3. The number of species and populations under consideration has increased slightly, principally because of taxonomic splits. The number of populations for which estimates and trends are now available has also increased, and the number of estimates and trends available from Asia and Oceania are catching up with the rest of the world, largely thanks to improving coverage of the AWC. Something that the table does not show is the improvement in the quality of data.

Very many of the old estimates and trends were updated with better ones in 2005.

Wetlands International is extremely grateful for all contributions to this continuing effort. Many thanks indeed to all who contributed. There remain many gaps in information which future editions will gradually fill. Anybody with information or expertise on particular species or regions is invited to participate in the continuing process of updating and refining our knowledge of these populations.

| WPE       | Region  | Number of species | Number of populations | Number of populations with known size | Number of populations with known trend |
|-----------|---------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| WPE3 2002 | World   | 868               | 2271                  | 1725 (76%)                            | 1138 (50%)                             |
|           | Asia    |                   | 697                   | 552 (79%)                             | 279 (40%)                              |
|           | Oceania |                   | 379                   | 250 (66%)                             | 138 (36%)                              |
| WPE4 2005 | World   | 874               | 2305                  | 1809 (78%)                            | 1196 (52%)                             |
|           | Asia    | 344               | 707                   | 577 (82%)                             | 289 (41%)                              |
|           | Oceania | 218               | 385                   | 287 (75%)                             | 163 (42%)                              |

| WPE       | Region  | No trend data | Increasing | Stable | Fluctuating | Decreasing | Extinct |
|-----------|---------|---------------|------------|--------|-------------|------------|---------|
| WPE3 2002 | World   | 50%           | 10%        | 18%    | 1%          | 20%        | 3%      |
|           | Asia    | 60%           | 6%         | 9%     | 0%          | 24%        | 1%      |
|           | Oceania | 64%           | 3%         | 13%    | 2%          | 11%        | 7%      |
| WPE4 2005 | World   | 49%           | 9%         | 22%    | 1%          | 21%        | 3%      |
|           | Asia    | 48%           | 6%         | 15%    | 1%          | 28%        | 2%      |
|           | Oceania | 45%           | 4%         | 16%    | 10%         | 16%        | 9%      |



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

by Dr. Taej Mundkur, Strategy Coordination Unit,  
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### Great progress in migratory waterbird and wetland conservation in the Central Asian Flyway

Two flyway meetings held in New Delhi, India from 10-13 June 2005 have made great progress in international frameworks for migratory waterbird and wetland conservation in the Central Asian Flyway. The Second Central Asian Flyway (CAF) Meeting of Range States to develop a common international framework to promote the conservation of migratory waterbirds and wetlands was held from 10-12 June at the invitation of the Minister for Environment and Forests,

Government of India. The meeting was organised under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), in cooperation with Wetlands International and Wildlife Institute of India. The CAF Meeting was followed by a CMS Meeting to endorse the proposed Western/Central Asian Site Network for Siberian Cranes (and other waterbirds), on 13 June. The meeting brought together the range states of the Siberian Crane and was focused on finalising the framework for the establishment of an international site network to cover the two narrow flyways of the Siberian Crane from western Russia that terminate in Iran and India. The establishment of this network is proposed to be a forerunner for a larger migratory waterbird site network in the CAF to be established under the CAF Action Plan. A comprehensive report of the two meetings can be viewed at

<http://www.wetlands.org/news&NewsItems/CAF.htm>

### Meetings on conservation of migratory waterbirds in the Asia-Pacific

The Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee (MWCC) 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting, Flyway Partnership Working Group Meeting and 9<sup>th</sup> Shorebird Working Group (SWG) meeting will be held in Krabi, in the southwest coast of Thailand, between 15 and 20 December 2005. The meetings will review work undertaken under the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy: 2001-2005 and planning for the future for migratory waterbird conservation in the Asia-Pacific flyways.

### Flyway Partnership Working Group Meeting (15-16 December)

The main aims of the Flyway Partnership Working Group Meeting are to:

- progress development of the Partnership Agreement text as a framework for migratory waterbird and habitat management in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway,
- progress development of the Partnership Action Plan,
- discuss organizational structures and arrangements needed to implement the Partnership, and
- develop a timetable for launch of the Partnership.

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## 10<sup>th</sup> MWCC Meeting (17 December)

The main aims of the annual meeting are: (a) review implementation of the Strategy during 2005, (b) consider outcomes of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Working Group Meeting and proposed framework, (c) review progress of finalization of the Action Plan for the Central Asian Flyway, and (d) review work plans for 2006 including endorsing arrangements for flyway cooperation.

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## The 9<sup>th</sup> SWG meeting (19-20 December)

- review implementation of the Shorebird Action Plan during 2005,
- develop workplan for the implementation of the Shorebird Action Plan in 2006.

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

| English Name                    | Scientific Name                    |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Little Grebe                    | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>      |
| Great Crested Grebe             | <i>Podiceps grisegena</i>          |
| Spot-billed Pelican             | <i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>      |
| Dalmatian Pelican               | <i>Pelecanus crispus</i>           |
| Indian Cormorant                | <i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>   |
| Little Cormorant                | <i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>         |
| Oriental Darter                 | <i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>        |
| Grey Heron                      | <i>Ardea cinerea</i>               |
| Purple Heron                    | <i>Ardea purpurea</i>              |
| Cattle Egret                    | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>               |
| Little Egret                    | <i>Egretta garzetta</i>            |
| Chinese Egret                   | <i>Egretta eulophotes</i>          |
| Eurasian Bittern                | <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>          |
| Milky Stork                     | <i>Mycteria cinerea</i>            |
| Painted Stork                   | <i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>       |
| Asian Openbill                  | <i>Anastomus oscitans</i>          |
| Woolly-necked Stork             | <i>Ciconia episcopus</i>           |
| Oriental White Stork            | <i>Ciconia boyciana</i>            |
| Black-necked Stork              | <i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>  |
| Lesser Adjutant                 | <i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>       |
| Black-headed Ibis               | <i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i> |
| White-shouldered Ibis           | <i>Pseudibis davisoni</i>          |
| Glossy Ibis                     | <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>        |
| Black-faced Spoonbill           | <i>Platalea minor</i>              |
| Lesser Whistling Duck           | <i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>        |
| White-winged Duck               | <i>Cairina scutulata</i>           |
| Cotton Pygmy Goose              | <i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>    |
| Bean Goose                      | <i>Anser fabalis</i>               |
| White-fronted Goose             | <i>Anser albifrons</i>             |
| Mandarin Duck                   | <i>Aix galericulata</i>            |
| Eurasian Wigeon                 | <i>Anas penelope</i>               |
| Falcated Duck                   | <i>Anas falcata</i>                |
| Gadwall                         | <i>Anas strepera</i>               |
| Baikal Teal                     | <i>Anas formosa</i>                |
| Common Teal                     | <i>Anas crecca</i>                 |
| Mallard                         | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>          |
| Spot-billed Duck                | <i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>         |
| Northern Pintail                | <i>Anas acuta</i>                  |
| Garganey                        | <i>Anas querquedula</i>            |
| Northern Shoveler               | <i>Anas clypeata</i>               |
| Baer's Pochard                  | <i>Aythya baeri</i>                |
| Ferruginous Pochard             | <i>Aythya nyroca</i>               |
| Tufted Duck                     | <i>Aythya fuligula</i>             |
| Siberian Crane                  | <i>Grus leucogeranus</i>           |
| Sarus Crane                     | <i>Grus antigone</i>               |
| Red-Crowned Crane               | <i>Grus japonensis</i>             |
| Red-legged Crane                | <i>Rallina fasciata</i>            |
| Slaty-breasted Rail             | <i>Gallirallus striatus</i>        |
| Purple Swamphen                 | <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>         |
| Pheasant-tailed Jacana          | <i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>    |
| Black-winged Stilt              | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>       |
| Australian Stilt (Banded Stilt) | <i>Himantopus leucocephalus</i>    |
| Pied Avocet                     | <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>      |
| Great Thick-knee                | <i>Burhinus recurvirostris</i>     |
| Little Pratincole               | <i>Glareola lactea</i>             |
| River Lapwing                   | <i>Vanellus duvaucelli</i>         |
| Lesser Sand Plover              | <i>Charadrius mongolus</i>         |
| Asian Dowitcher                 | <i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i>    |
| Black-tailed Godwit             | <i>Limosa limosa</i>               |
| Far Eastern Curlew              | <i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>   |
| Marsh Sandpiper                 | <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>          |
| Nordmann's Greenshank           | <i>Tringa guttifer</i>             |
| Great Knot                      | <i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>       |
| Red-necked Stint                | <i>Calidris ruficollis</i>         |
| Spoon-billed Sandpiper          | <i>Eurynorhynchus pygmaeus</i>     |
| Ruff                            | <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>          |
| Brown-headed Gull               | <i>Larus brunnicephalus</i>        |
| Saunders's Gull                 | <i>Larus saundersi</i>             |
| Common Tern                     | <i>Sterna hirundo</i>              |
| Whiskered Tern                  | <i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>         |