Newsletter of the Asian Waterbird Census

No. 16, December 2008

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1. Letter from the AWC Coordinator

Dear AWC coordinators and participants,

I take this opportunity to introduce myself as the newly appointed international coordinator of the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) and to update you on the developments related to the AWC since June 2008.

As a part of the largest voluntary network in the world dedicated to bird monitoring by highly-motivated and dedicated participants and professionals generously contributing towards the noble cause, it is very satisfying to see that we have made significant contributions to waterbird and wetland conservation in Asia.

With David Li moving on from his position of AWC International Coordinator based with Wetlands International (WI) - Malaysia to take up a new position with the Sungei Buloh Wetland Centre in Singapore, WI Malaysia Office is working out a partnership with the Wetlands International South Asia, Delhi office to manage the AWC.

For the moment, having recently joined WI-South Asia office in November, I am working with the WI-Malaysia office to undertake this coordination task.

As a way of an introduction, I have completed my Ph.D. in wildlife ecology from the Wildlife Institute of India in 2003. Since then, I have worked on several projects in the Gujarat state of India, including status surveys of Sarus Crane, *Gyps* vultures and Indian Bustard.

Gujarat, from where I originate and am currently based, is well placed on the global waterbird map - with its many coastal and inland wetlands providing important habitats for a very high diversity and density of resident and migrant species. Therefore the urgent need for conservation of waterbirds and their habitats means a lot to me. I also recognise the importance of keeping abreast with current trends and practices in waterbird and habitat conservation. In view of growing concerns over declining global waterbird populations, I find myself with an extremely important responsibility and opportunity to support your efforts by coordinating the AWC.

To do this, I depend on your kind support, cooperation and similar enthusiasm to take the AWC ahead and to continue to build and improve it. The *Asian Waterbird Census: Development Strategy 2007–2015* published by Wetlands International provides us a valuable guide in this work. I am confident that with your enthusiasm and efforts, we will continue to ensure that the AWC provides a popular and powerful tool to contribute to the conservation of waterbirds and their habitats in the region.

I thank Wetlands International, Wetlands International- Malaysia office and Wetlands International-South Asia for providing me such an opportunity to coordinate the AWC.

Best wishes for a great year ahead and a successful AWC 2009,

Dr Bharat Jethva, AWC Coordinator
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2. Thanking David Li

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On behalf of Wetlands International, we would like to extend our deepest appreciation to David Li for his excellent service of more than a decade to the organisation. Over the last eight years, through his commitment, dedication, and support of the AWC country coordinators, the AWC network has flourished and grown. The publication of the AWC data with other colleagues to support our advocacy work on conservation of wetlands and waterbirds, workshops to train and improve coordination activities, and the AWC discussion group to facilitate exchange of information and concerns are just some of his legacy to the network. We wish David all the success in his new undertaking in Singapore.

3. Dates for Asian Waterbird Census 2009

Bharat Jethva, AWC Coordinator
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As always the dates for the Asian Waterbird Census-2009 decided in consultation with many of you is between **10 and 25 January 2009**. This period would provide us three weekends and some local holidays to conduct the work. I request all the National and Regional Coordinators to urgently communicate with their networks and volunteers in order to conduct waterbird census during this dates. The AWC Site and Count forms to be used remain the same. Forms continue to be available on the AWC website page**:**
http://www.wetlands.org/Whatwedo/Wetlandbiodiversity/MonitoringWaterbirds/AsianWaterbirdCensus/AWCFormsGuidelines/tabid/1069/Default.aspx

In case any of you require any forms etc. kindly communicate with me on bharat.jethva@wi-sa.org

I request all the AWC volunteers to actively participate in AWC-2009 and I assure you that your contribution multiplied many times over across the Asian region will help us to generate a dataset that will have continue to benefit the conservation of waterbirds in the region. Importantly, kindly don't forget to request for completed count and site forms to be sent to the national/sub-national coordinators to verify and compile the data.

4. AWC 2008 Results Update

Bharat Jethva, AWC Coordinator
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We are now heading towards the AWC-2009 in a few days time! At this juncture it is important to provide an update on the status of the AWC-2008 data received from different countries. As of 25th December 2008, AWC Coordinators from countries and individual counters had submitted reports from 408 sites in 2008. The following table provides country wise information on sites covered and status of submission of data. We request coordinators that have not yet reported and submitted their count results to do so as soon as possible.

Latest update on the status of the AWC data (as of 25 Dec. 2008).

Country	Sites	Note
Bangladesh		To be reported
Bhutan		No contact available
India	65	From-Kerala, more to be reported
Maldives		No contact available
Nepal	20	
Pakistan	9	Received from Punjab
Sri Lanka		To be reported
South Asia	***94***	
Brunei Darussalam	17	
Cambodia	3	
Indonesia		To be reported
Lao PDR		No contact available
Malaysia	14	
Myanmar	21	
Philippines	159	
Singapore		To be reported
Thailand	10	To be reported
Timor Leste		To be reported
Vietnam		To be reported
Southeast Asia	***224***	
China		
Mainland		To be reported
Hong Kong		To be reported
Macao		
Taiwan		To be reported
Japan*		To be reported
DPR Korea		No contact available
Republic of Korea		To be reported
Mongolia		No contact available
Eastern Russia	2	
East Asia	***2***	
Australia	88	
New Zealand		To be reported
Papua New Guinea		No contact available
Total No. of Sites	**408**	

5. AWC News from the Region

i. Asian Waterbird Census – 20 Years Review- update

Andrea Bloem, Netherlands
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Wetlands International is carrying out a review of the data collected for the Asian Waterbird Census database from 1987 to 2007. This review effort is to ensure that the use of the high quality the AWC data for analysis of the status and trends of waterbirds and their habitats can be improved.

The work is carried out by Andrea Bloem as WI consultant. With major inputs from David Li, and supported by other WI offices: Malaysia, Netherlands, South Asia. The report and analysis is being carried out in consultation with experts, national and regional coordinators. The first draft of the review was prepared at the end November 2008 and has been circulated for an internal review. The national and regional coordinators and local experts are being consulted to help solve some of the possible identification errors and add their local knowledge regarding species distribution and population trends etc. We hope to finalize the draft report by January 2009. The final printing and publication of the report is expected to be done by the end of February 2009.

ii. Announcing of an AWC training course

As part of the *Asian Waterbird Census: Development Strategy 2007–2015* to strengthen and improve the capacity of the AWC network, efforts of national coordinators to conduct training programmes in selected countries are being supported through raising of funds from a range of sources. Such training is targeted to enhance local skills in systematic monitoring of waterbirds, management and conservation of their habitats.

A training course is scheduled to be held in Bogor, North coast of Java in Indonesia between 20 and - 23 January 2009. The training is supported by WI Malaysia with the help of financial assistance from the Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF) Japan. The course will be coordinated and conducted by Yus Rusila Noor and Ferry Hasudungan from the WI Indonesia office. A total of 25 participants from across Indonesia are expected to participate.
For more details contact: Yus Rusila Noor co_ccfpi@wetlands.or.id and Ferry Hasudungan, biodiv@wetlands.or.id Wetlands international – Indonesia Office.

iii. Shorebird 2020 Update – Shorebird monitoring in Australia

Source: REPORT ON POPULATION MONITORING COUNTS 2007 AND SUMMER 2008 by BRIAN KEARNEY, ANGIE HASLEM, AND ROB CLEMENS

Many shorebird areas across Australia have been surveyed for the last 28 years. These data are invaluable for understanding how shorebird populations in Australia have changed over time, and how important areas are for shorebirds. Therefore, it is vital that data continue to be made available for effective conservation management.

In 2007 Birds Australia, in collaboration with AWSG, NHT and WWF launched Shorebirds 2020 with the aim of reinvigorating shorebird monitoring in Australia. As a result, there has been a large increase in the number of people undertaking shorebird counts across Australia. Further, shorebird data is available for a greater number of shorebird areas: many are areas that have not been surveyed in recent years, others are new areas that have not been regularly surveyed in the past. We are still waiting for some data, from a few areas but most of it is reported here for summer 2007, winter 2007, and summer 2008 counts.

In response to the increased quantity of data being collected, there are a few slight changes to the way that this shorebird data is reported in the summaries published in Stilt. First, we have revised the boundaries of what a “shorebird area” includes. In some cases this has meant smaller areas within a region are reported. For example, previous Stilt summaries reported figures for NE Tasmania: these data were collected at three individual shorebird areas (Cape Portland, Great Musselroe Bay, GeorgeTown/Tamar Estuary). Similarly, data collected in the SE coast of South Australia has also been presented as a single region, but are reported as two areas here. We still have much to learn on how to define a shorebird area, but each shorebird area is meant to include the entire area used by each shorebird population over the peak summer months. We have no doubt that as we learn more from shorebird experts throughout the country, these boundaries will continue to be refined, but analysis of the data in some areas suggest that these revised boundaries will reduce annual count variation.

Second, Stilt summaries have reported data collected in a core group of shorebird areas in which counts have been undertaken consistently over the last 20+ years. The number of shorebird areas for which data are reported in Stilt will increase as Shorebirds 2020 progresses. It is important to emphasise that future Stilt summaries

should not be interpreted as indicating that shorebird numbers are increasing in Australia. Rather they will reflect an increased survey effort across the country, thus providing a better understanding of the importance of a greater number of areas to different shorebird species, and an increased ability to detect population changes.

Lastly, Stilt summaries have traditionally reported the count figures collected during the biannual Population Monitoring Count (summer/winter) undertaken at each shorebird area. Often, this will be the only count conducted in shorebird areas. However, in some areas shorebird counts are undertaken on a monthly basis, and this year there were several new areas that conducted repeated summer counts. When more than one count is undertaken in summer or winter, the maximum number of individuals for each species recorded over all counts undertaken in these seasons will be reported. Thus, the figures reported for one shorebird area may relate to counts undertaken on different days. For the purposes of calculating the maximum count of each species, 'summer' includes the months of November to February, inclusive, and winter includes the months of May to August, inclusive.

Shorebird's 2020 staff and volunteers have been working with the historic National Shorebird Database, to learn how best to determine population trends for shorebirds at a national level, and to determine site-based population trends. Power analyses done on the existing data showed that statistically significant national population trends would require visits to from 30 to 35 areas for each species. We have identified 149 shorebird areas throughout Australia that would meet those requirements for 28 migratory shorebird species, and over the next year we will be attempting to get counts happening in each of those areas.

For site-based population trends we have found during the power analyses that the best way to determine population trends for more species in more areas is to reduce the annual count variation at each site. We are still learning how best to do this. Fortunately, the repeat counts done this summer, and in previous years give us some data to investigate. A quick look at the repeated counts done over the summer of 2008 suggests that repeated counts would reduce annual count variation if we take a maximum count over multiple counts. The degree to which a maximum over multiple counts reduces variation appears to be dependent on local site characteristics, and the way shorebirds in the area use the area. It is likely that areas with high count variation would benefit most from more surveys, as well as potentially some changes to the area covered or counting methods.

Again we will continue to look into this, but this year showed some clear cases where repeated summer counts were valuable. In Shallow Inlet, for example, three counts were conducted, and yet Sanderling (a species usually there in the hundreds) was only recorded on one of the counts. Likely this was related to very windy conditions during two of the counts. Similarly, counts of Pacific Golden Plover during the surveys in Shallow Inlet varied from zero to 88 to 167. Over the last two years repeat counts have been conducted in a season at 31 shorebird areas, with as many as four counts done in a season at some areas. Counts for some species in some areas were nearly identical, but on average the within season variation suggests that the annual variation would be too high to detect site specific population trends. We will look to quantify the benefits of repeated counts in the coming years. We will also be continuing to explore some analytical methods to reduce variation with the help of some new data on possible co-variates (on the new data sheets), but finding ways to reduce the actual variation in counts for more species in more areas will increase our ability to report on population trends.

In the short term due to the obvious benefit observed this year from taking the maximum of repeated counts, we will be recommending that at least two summer counts be planned if possible, with the understanding that as many as four (possibly more) summer counts may be ultimately needed in some areas.

For more detailed information on the work we have been doing, for maps of the areas we need counted, data sheets, and ID or counting training information please visit "The Toolkit" section of the revised website www.shorebirds.org.au

iv. Report of a Meeting with the AWC National Coordinator-India

Bharat Jethva, AWC Coordinator
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As readers will be aware, the AWC was initiated in the Indian subcontinent in 1987 within the framework of the International Waterbird Census. India is a major contributor to the AWC and has the longest list of wetland sites that have been surveyed (more than 3,000 since 1987). To achieve the main objectives of the AWC, it has been recognised that there is a need to rationale the efforts to maintain an optimum balance of quality and quantity of data and to strengthen the coordination activities.

The census has been coordinated by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) through a network of regional and state coordinators. The BNHS has been responsible for national coordination -

promoting participation, information quality checks and data entry and reporting at the national and international level. On 10 November, Dr Bharat Jethva, the new AWC coordinator met with the AWC India National Coordination team at the BNHS office in Mumbai, including the BNHS Director, Dr Asad Rahmani and some staff members. The meeting covered progress on the AWC coordination and activities achieved following the AWC national review meeting held on 10-11 December 2007.

During the meeting it was learnt that BNHS had been generously supporting and coordinating the AWC through its staff members and the census has been implemented by a wide network of ornithologists, birdwatchers, university students and enthusiasts.

The need for improvement in the quality of the AWC counts was highlighted. Achieving this was seen to be linked to building the capacity of new volunteers; such as through organisation of training courses in various states and of finding ways to increase access to bird guides and equipment. It was recognised that this could only be realised through additional fund raising.

The importance of ensuring consistent annual coverage of at least 100 sites was recognised; these sites could be prioritized based on their importance viz. Protected Areas, Ramsar sites, Important Bird Areas (IBAs), wetlands of national importance and wetlands of international importance. The need to make some changes in state/regional coordinators especially those who have stopped active coordination, communication and sending of data - the BNHS would soon communicate and appoint new state/regional coordinators soon.

v. Chhari Dhand – a wetland of international importance receives legal protection

Bharat Jethva, AWC Coordinator
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The “Chhari Dhand” located in the north-west part of Gujarat state in western India, a site covered regularly by the AWC has been declared as a “Conservation Reserve”.

The site is a seasonal wetland of international importance to waterbirds. Spread over 227 sq km, it lies between the “Rann of Kachchh”, a seasonally flooded saline desert and the “Banni grassland”, the country’s largest grassland tract.

Located in semiarid-desert region it supports large number of migratory birds on their annual migration and during the non-breeding period. The AWC census conducted in year 2006 recorded over 78,000 birds including Great White Pelican, Eurasian Crane, Demoiselle Crane, Lesser Flamingo, Greater Flamingo, Eurasian Spoonbill, Black-headed Ibis, Painted Stork, Black-necked Stork, Black-winged Stilt, Purple Swamphen, Lesser Whistling Duck, Comb Duck, and many species of ducks and waders.

It meets the criterion for designation as a Ramsar site. It is also identified as one of the Important Bird Area (IBA) by the BNHS and BirdLife International as it is supports more than 200 species of birds in large numbers.

Recognizing the importance of this wetland for its global conservation values and local socio-economical values, the Gujarat government has declared it as a “Conservation Reserve” under the Wildlife Protection Act of India on 9 July 2008. It is indeed a great effort by the local government in protecting such a critical and important wetland and its biodiversity.

It is hoped that this new status will encourage the agencies to develop a comprehensive management plan that addresses conservation of the birds and their habitat and controls illegal fishing and poaching activities. Such measures also raises hope for our efforts to protect and conserve wetlands along the global flyways ensuring long term survival of migratory birds and wetland biodiversity.

vi. Sightings of Sociable Lapwings in India

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The Sociable Lapwing or Sociable Plover is listed as a critically endangered species in 2007 by BirdLife International due to a rapid population decline for poorly understood reasons. The species breeds in open grasslands in Russia and Kazakhstan. They migrate south through Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Armenia, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Turkey, to key non-breeding sites in Israel, Syria, Eritrea, Sudan and north-west India. Birds are occasionally reported in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Oman. The current population was estimated to be between 600 and 1,800 mature birds in 2006 (BirdLife International), but is currently being revised to the upward scale, possibly more, following the discovery of the species' previously unknown main non-breeding grounds in Syria, where 1500 birds of all ages were encountered. Additionally, in October 2007, a large flock of approximately 3200 lapwing was discovered in Turkey (according to Guven Eken, Director of the Turkish Nature Association). The

current IUCN classification is CR A3bc - meaning that the population is expected to decline in the next decade or so by 80%, but this is based on theoretical considerations and the known habitat destruction rather than direct observation of the birds. Thus, the new discoveries might mean that as more data becomes available, the species could be down listed to Endangered. In this context, the information on any other important non-breeding grounds is crucial. There is not much information available on their non-breeding grounds in India. Moreover, efforts for their population estimates are likely to be biased towards their counts around wetlands.

One such probable non-breeding area that is worth exploring is north western India, especially the Rann of Kachchh landscape and peripheral areas where the species has regularly been sighted last several years. Some of the recent sightings made by me are mentioned below. The Sociable Plover was observed near Vanod Village in the Little Rann of Kachchh, on 22 November 2007. A flock of 45 birds were seen roosting at a site where I had previously reported 27 birds in 2006. This flock is considered as the largest flock of Sociable Plover found in India to date. The birds were reported again in November 2008 by bird watchers on the periphery of Greater and Little Ranns of Kachchh.

The habitat in which they were observed was freshly planted wheat fields (around 5 cm tall). The birds showed amazing site fidelity as they were reported at the same place having same micro habitat conditions during both years reported in table below.

Details of some recent sightings of Sociable Lapwing are mentioned below.

Date	No. of Birds	Locations in Gujarat	Coordinates
19/11/2006	14	25 km from Dasada on the Modhera (Sun Temple) road, in Surendranagar District	N 23.29.15.0 E 71.59.20.3
26/11/2006	27	Same site as above	Same as above
23/11/2007	45	Nr. Vanod village in Surendranagar District.	N 23.29.15.7 E 71.59.47.0

6. News from the Region

i. The Ramsar Convention passes an international agreement for flyway conservation

Extracted from BirdLife Flyways Campaign & Wetlands International
http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2008/11/ramsar_resolution.html

A new resolution has been agreed which recognises the importance of promoting international cooperation for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats. The resolution was passed on 3 November 2008 in South Korea at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

"Waterbird populations around the world are continuing to decline as a result of the loss and degradation of wetland habitats and their unsustainable exploitation", said BirdLife's Head of Conservation, Richard Grimmett. "This resolution recognises the crucial fact that conserving the world's waterbirds is an international challenge. Only by working together along flyways can we effectively conserve our precious migratory birds".

The theme of the International conference is 'Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People', reflects the importance of wetland habitats to people. During the last eight days, around 2,000 representatives from 165 countries, international bodies and non-governmental organisations have gathered to advance wetland conservation.

Great risk: Besides shorebirds, many waterbirds in other global flyways are also at great risk including Crowned Cormorant, Vulnerable Slaty Egret, Damara Tern and Endangered Red-breasted Goose in the African Eurasian Flyways and Ruddy-headed Goose and Vulnerable Andean Flamingo in the American flyways.

'The Ramsar Resolution on Flyways is really significant. No country can act alone to protect migratory waterbirds. If we don't collaborate internationally we will push more and more migratory waterbirds to the brink of extinction. We must protect their habitats, especially tidal flats, otherwise species like Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper and Great Knot are doomed in the East Asian - Australasian Flyway.'' said Alison Russell-French, President of Birds Australia (BirdLife in Australia).

Reaffirmation: "The Ramsar Resolution reaffirms that flyway approaches are a vital international

cooperation mechanism to achieve conservation for migratory waterbirds and their inland and coastal habitats through local, national and international action", said Wetlands International's Flyway Programme Manager, Dr Taej Mundkur.

"The Resolution calls for more reporting on the state of the world's waterbirds to all biodiversity Conventions. Furthermore, it recognises the value of the International Waterbird Census which is the largest global volunteer-based annual waterbird monitoring programme in flyway conservation work", said Wetlands International's Biodiversity Programme Manager, Ward Hagemeijer.

Representatives at the Conference used the agreement to encourage Contracting Parties to support and participate in international initiatives, plans and programmes for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats, and urge them to identify and designate important wetlands on migratory flyways as Ramsar sites and improve their management.

Wings Over Wetlands
One particular project that was celebrated by the resolution is the Wings Over Wetlands (WoW) project, which is fostering international collaboration along the African-Eurasian flyways, improving availability of waterbird information, building capacity and demonstrating best practice in the conservation and wise-use of wetlands. WOW is a joint effort between Wetlands International, BirdLife International, the Global Environment Facility through the United Nations Environment Programme, the Secretariat of the AEWA, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, the United Nations Office for Project Services and a range of donors and local partners along the African-Eurasian Flyways.

"It's fantastic that the new Ramsar resolution recognises the innovative approach of the WoW project in joining-up efforts to conserve migratory waterbirds across Africa and Eurasia", said Dr Vicky Jones (BirdLife's Global Flyways Officer).

The resolutions can be downloaded from the Ramsar website:
http://ramsar.org/res/key_res_x_index_e.htm

ii. The CMS Conference update on waterbird conservation

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The 9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS, the UNEP Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals was held in the first week of December in Rome, Italy. Wetlands International has traditionally strongly engaged with the work of CMS, which is about international collaboration for the conservation of migratory species and their habitats, and we have an MOU and Joint Work Plan with CMS and AEWA (African Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement, a daughter agreement of CMS). Ward Hagemeijer and Dr Taej Mundkur made up the core team for Wetlands International and they were supported by Umberto Gallo-Orsi (Wings over Wetlands Project Coordinator).

A new initiative from Wetlands International of creating a 'Flyway Think Tank' was accepted at the Conference. This Flyway Conservation working group under the Scientific Council (ScC) will be co-lead by Dr Mundkur, and will lay the groundwork for developing flyway approaches by being a think tank on flyways that will bring together expertise from around the world.

This work will subsequently be interpreted into advise on how to best serve conservation needs in the various flyways in the world through development of new flyway initiatives and strengthening of existing ones. This in turn will be fed into the ongoing discussion about the shape of the CMS family of conservation initiatives.

Preceding the CoP, the 15th Scientific Council convened for two days to elaborate scientific issues and priorities for conservation and management of migratory species and feed them into the discussions and decisions to be made by the CoP. Dr Mundkur who serves as an appointed CMS Councillor on Asiatic Fauna, also represented Wetlands International in that meeting and brought in our views in relation to important issues on e.g. Flyways, Avian Influenza and Species Action Planning (including Marbled Teal, Swan Goose, Houbara Bustard and the east Asian population of the Dalmatian Pelican).

Dr Mundkur was awarded the title of CMS Champion in an Award Ceremony on 1 December, for his global efforts in coordination and advancement of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds, aimed at promoting greater awareness on avian influenza and wild birds. The 14 member Task Force is co led by UNEP/CMS and FAO with strong involvement of Wetlands International from its very beginning. More information can be found on
http://www.iisd.ca/cms/cop9/enbots/2dec.html

A side event of the Task Force aimed at raising awareness about the need for increased monitoring and disease surveillance in wild birds to improve an understanding of the epidemiology of the highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 virus

was organised. This event also raised the curtain on the need for the establishment of a similar working group on disease of migratory wildlife in general. This initiative was adopted in a resolution later in the week of the CoP.

The Wings over Wetlands (WoW) project organized a side event, with Ward Hagemeijer and Umberto Gallo-Orsi contributing from Wetlands International. This side event was amongst the most attended side events of the whole week and got the WoW and Flyway message across in a very professional way. On the Saturday following the CMS CoP, the WoW Steering Committee meeting was held in Rome, benefiting from the fact that a good proportion of the SC members were in Rome already.

The Slender-billed Curlew is a migratory waterbird of Eurasia and North Africa on the brink of extinction. A new effort is mounted, with BirdLife International in the lead, and with Wetlands International as a strong partner, to organize a large scale search for remaining individuals of this species, and to subsequently develop strong conservation approaches. Ward Hagemeijer contributed to a side event on this issue, committing the collaboration of the International Waterbird Census network to this important initiative and announced that Wetlands International has started the administrative processes for signing up to the existing CMS MOU for the Slender-billed Curlew.

The resolutions can be downloaded from the CMS website: http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop9/cop9_meeting_docs.htm#res

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Acknowledgements: *I am grateful to Mr. David Li, my predecessor as Asian Waterbird Census Coordinator for his help in making me understand the coordination of the AWC.*

English and scientific names of bird species mentioned in the Newsletter

English Name	Scientific Name
Great White Pelican	*Pelecanus onocrotalus*
Dalmatian Pelican	*Pelecanus crispus*
Sarus Crane	*Grus antigone*
Common Crane	*Grus grus*
Demoiselle Crane	*Anthropoides virgo*
Lesser Flamingo	*Phoenicopterus minor*
Greater Flamingo	*Phoenicopterus roseus*
Andean Flamingo	*Phoenicoparrus andinus*
Painted Stork	*Mycteria leucocephala*
Black-necked Stork	*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*
Damara Tern	*Sterna balaenarum*
Black-headed Ibis	*Threskiornis melanocephalus*
Lesser Whistling Duck	*Dendrocygna arcuata*
Comb Duck	*Sarkidiornis melanotos*
Marbled Teal	*Marmaronetta angustirostris*
Crowned Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax coronatus*
Slaty Egret	*Egretta vinaceigula*
Red-breasted Goose	*Branta ruficollis*
Ruddy-headed Goose	*Chloephaga rubidiceps*
Swan Goose	*Anser cygnoides*
Eurasian Spoonbill	*Platalea leucorodia*
Purple Swamphen	*Porphyrio porphyrio*
Black-winged Stilt	*Himantopus himantopus*
Spoon-billed Sandpiper	*Eurynorhynchus pygmaeus*
Sociable Plover	*Vanellus gregarius*
Slender-billed Curlew	*Numenius tenuirostris*
Great Knot	*Calidris tenuirostris*
Sanderling	*Calidris alba*
Houbara Bustard	*Chlamydotis macqueeni*
Indian Bustard	*Ardeotis nigriceps*