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Inside this Issue

- 1 Editorial
- 2 Regional News
- 3 Project update
Rarest of the rare
- 4 Recently published
- 5 Profile
- 6 Staff News
- 7 Recent Publications

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The Babbler

BirdLife International in Indochina

Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of *The Babbler*. This is our new-look quarterly report, which we hope you will enjoy reading.



The need for change was, we felt, because our previous quarterly report was, well, a little dull, and we felt we were not reaching enough of you concerned with bird conservation in Asia. Hence *The Babbler* which will be posted quarterly on our web-site. You will notice too that the scope of *The Babbler* is wider too. This is a reflection of the broader regional approach we are taking. We are doing this to maximise the potential contribution we can make to conservation and also to take advantages of new opportunities and adapt to new constraints as they arise. *The Babbler* will bring to your attention news relating to bird conservation issues in the Indochina region. By Indochina we mean the countries of Cambodia, Burma (Myanmar), Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. The Babbler was the natural choice for a name given there are babblers everywhere, under every bush, bamboo clump, on the end of every telephone and in coffee shops and bars from Hkakaborazi to Can Tho! That's northern Kachin State to the southern Mekong Delta in case your geography is rusty. In this first issue that scope is reflected with news on developments with our JBA project which is covering Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, as well as reports on logging in Burma and the recent declaration of Pu Mat National Park in Vietnam. If you have any comments or have any suggestions, please let Phuong know on Phuong@birdlife.netnam.vn

Regional News

Logging in Burma

One of the world's "biodiversity hotspots" is under siege, as a growing number of business interests seek to cash in the "peace" in northern Burma's Kachin State. A project is in progress to build a number of roads in Kachin State in return for huge logging concessions.

A recent agreement involves the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO), the New Democratic Army-Kachin (NDA-K), the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) and a Chinese construction company. The middleman in the deal is the Kachin Jadeland company, owned by Kachin businessmen Yup Zau Hkawng. The agreement stipulates that the Chinese company will build roads leading from Myitkyina to Sumprabum and, eventually, Putao, from Myitkyina to Bhamo, and from Wai Maw to the Chinese border near Kampaiti. In return

for building these roads, the Kachin Jadeland company and the Chinese company have been given huge logging concessions deep in Kachin State. There are two concession areas, one located between the Mali Hka and the N'mai Hka rivers (the whole triangle-shaped area), and the other one between the railway line from Myitkyina to Mandalay to the road leading from Myitkyina to Bhamo. This area is in the heart of the Kachin State and has never been subject to large-scale logging.

Continued logging in Burma threatens one of mainland Southeast Asia's most forested regions as Burma contains half the forest in the region. Further concessions endanger one of the world's remaining sources of biodiversity. And the destruction of forests in this area along the headwaters of the Irrawaddy River will not only damage the environment but will also have a grave impact on the livelihood of people downstream. Increased flooding endangers rice paddies along the

Irrawaddy as well as riverine fisheries. Kachin State is a very underdeveloped area. Many communities live in very isolated and remote areas, and lack of transportation and communication facilities present huge obstacles in the development of the area, despite the fact that Kachin State is rich in natural resources.

Source: enviro-vlc by Vern Weitzel <weitzel@undp.org.vn>, UNDP

Vietnam: Pu Mat Becomes National Park

The Government of Vietnam has decided to upgrade the Pu Mat Natural Reserve in the central province of Nghe An into the Pu Mat National Park, the 14th national park in Vietnam.

Decision No 174 states that the national park will have a total area of 91,113 hectares, including 89,517 hectares under strict protection and 1,596 hectares for ecological revival. Pu Mat comprises one of the last primary landscapes in Vietnam.

Biodiversity assessment of PT Daisy



During September a multi-disciplinary team from TFT and BirdLife conducted a biodiversity assessment of the PT Daisy logging concession, Berau District, East Kalimantan, Indonesia. The purpose of the study was to provide baseline data on the biodiversity of PT Daisy and to make conservation recommendations that can serve as a basis and provide guidance for planning the subsequent programme of forestry activities proposed by TFT and the management of PT Daisy.

A total of 60 mammal species and 230 bird species were recorded in PT Daisy during the survey. Mammal and bird species richness at PT Daisy was found to be above average in comparison with 11 other protected areas in Borneo. In terms of rarity, of the 290 species of mammal and bird recorded in PT Daisy, almost a quarter were Red-listed. Amongst birds this is a particular reflection of the international concern of the conservation status of lowland Sundaic forests. The survey concluded that PT Daisy is situated within three "Hotspots." It lies within an Endemic Bird Area (EBA), an Important Bird Area and a Centre of Plant Diversity, which are all measures of its international conservation importance.

The two most important threats to biodiversity at PT Daisy were identified as non-sustainable timber extraction and the isolation and fragmentation of both forest within PT Daisy and at the wider landscape level. Principle causes of biodiversity loss included failure to adopt and implement selective cutting system as stipulated by concession agreement, lack of awareness of benefits of reduced-impact logging, illegal cutting and poor regional land-use planning.



Lowland evergreen primary forest in the Khe Toi valley on the banks of the main river
Photo: SFNC/EU project

The current non-sustainable approach to forest management at PT Daisy threatens sustainability of the forest as a commercial forestry operation and in the long term will inevitably lead to seriously reduced levels of biodiversity. To achieve more sustainable, certified forest management at this site, PT Daisy and the TFT are developing a new collaborative project that will see PT achieve Forest Stewardship Council certification within three years.

Project updates

Major non-breeding site for Sarus Crane found in Cambodia

Sarus Crane *Grus antigone* is one of a number of globally threatened waterbirds found in South-East Asia. The South-East Asian race of the species, Eastern Sarus Crane *G. a. sharpii* is now thought to number less than 1,500 individuals. This race breeds in Preah Vihear, Stung Treng and Ratanakiri provinces in north-eastern Cambodia. During the non-breeding season, the species concentrates at Ang Trapeang Thmor Conservation Area in north-western Cambodia, and at Tram Chim National Park and the Ha Tien Plain in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam.

During January 2002, a fourth major non-breeding site for Eastern Sarus Crane was found in Takeo province, southern Cambodia. This site was identified in March 2001, during an aerial survey by the International Crane Foundation (ICF), the Department of Forestry and Wildlife (DFW) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), and the Department of Nature Conservation and Protection (DNCP) of the Ministry of the Environment (MoE). A follow-up survey by Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), BirdLife International, DFW and DNCP staff from 4 to 6 January 2002, as part of the Danida-funded project *Improved conservation planning through institutional strengthening in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam*, revealed that the site supports a major non-breeding population of Sarus Crane, as well as a number of other species of global conservation concern. During the Danida-funded survey, a minimum of 123 Sarus Cranes was recorded. As a result of these findings, the site qualifies as an Important Bird Area (IBA), a globally important site for bird conservation. It is vitally important, therefore, that decision makers at all levels are made aware of the global importance of this site, so that appropriate management can be put into place and development initiatives that conflict with conservation can be avoided.

Please see next page

Rarest of the rare

Bengal Florican *Houbaropsis bengalensis*



Bengal Florican in Cambodia
Photo: Jonathan Eames

Status: This bustard has very small, rapidly declining population largely as a result of widespread loss of its grassland habitat. It therefore qualifies as Endangered

Identification: Length: 66-68 cm. Mostly black bustard with largely white wings.

In flight, wings entirely white except for black tips. Female and immature are buff-brown to sandy-rufous, and have buffish-white wing-coverts with fine, dark barring. Voice Croaks and strange, deep humming during display. Sometimes shrill metallic chik-chik-chik when disturbed. Hints: Search grasslands during march-May when displaying males are most conspicuous.

Range and population: The Bengal Florican has two disjunct populations, one in the India subcontinent, another in South-East Asia (SEA). The former occurs from India, through the terai of Nepal, to Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, India, and historically to Bangladesh. It has declined dramatically and only survives in small, highly fragmented population (220-280 birds in India and up to 100 in Nepal). The SEA population occurs in Cambodia and adjacent southern Vietnam. It is poorly known but recent survey work as part of the IBA project suggests it occurs widely in Cambodia and the population may number 1,000 birds. In Vietnam it is much rarer and only a relict population is believed to survive.

Ecology: It inhabits lowland dry, or seasonally inundated, natural and semi-natural grasslands, often interspersed with scattered scrub or patchy open forest. Most of the Indian population appear to be resident. In SEA, it is thought to make seasonal movements in response to the south-west monsoon, probably breeding in central and northern Cambodia and occurring at other times southward, to southernmost Vietnam.

Threats: The key threat is extensive loss and modification of grasslands through drainage, conversion to agriculture, overgrazing, inappropriate cutting and burning regimes and heavy flooding. Excessive hunting for sport and food may have triggered its decline, and continues to be a serious threat, especially in Cambodia. Other threats include human disturbance and trampling of nests by livestock. Most populations in the Indian sub-continent are small, isolated and vulnerable to local extirpation.

Conservation: Several populations occur within protected areas, the most important in the Indian sub-continent being Chitwan National Park and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve, Nepal, Kaziranga, Dibru-Saikhowa and Dudwa National Parks, India. In SEA a tiny population occurs in Tram Chim NP, Vietnam, and another in the Ang Trapeang Thmor Reserve, Cambodia. In parts of the inundation zone of the Tonle Sap lake the species is common, even accruing in anthropogenic landscape. The question arises how best to conserve this internationally important population given the trend towards agricultural intensification and development initiatives proposed for the Tonle Sap lake.

We are pleased to report that the Government of Cambodia is taking rapid steps to establish this site as a protected area. We hope that H.E Prime Minister Hun Sen will sign a decree establishing it as such late this year.

Vietnam: New Black-faced Spoonbill site discovered in Quang Ninh



Black-faced Spoonbill/Photo: Woei-Horng Fang

On 19 December 2001, during a survey of the coastal zone of Quang Ninh province as part of the Danida-funded project *Improved conservation planning through institutional strengthening in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam*, a team from the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR), BirdLife International and Quang Ninh Department of Science, Technology and the Environment (DOSTE) discovered a new site for Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor* on Ha Nam island in Yen Hung district. This globally endangered species, which has a global population of only around 800 individuals, breeds in the Korean peninsula and the coast of north-eastern China, and over-winters in Vietnam, Taiwan, Japan, Hong Kong and Macau. Prior to this survey, the only known over-wintering sites for Black-faced Spoonbill in Vietnam were located in the Red River Delta. Ha Nam is the first over-wintering site to be found outside of the delta.

During the survey, only four juvenile Black-faced Spoonbills were recorded on Ha Nam island. However, because only a small part of the island was surveyed, it is possible that the actual number of spoonbills at the site is greater. A return visit will be made to the site during the annual synchronised Black-faced Spoonbill count, during which it is hoped that more data on the

Laos: Green Peafowls persist at Ban Nakay IBA

Fifty years ago, Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus* was found throughout Laos but, today, it is known from only six sites. The main reason for this dramatic decline is hunting. The decline in the Lao population has been mirrored by declines in the other parts of the species' range, and it has already gone extinct in Malaysia. Consequently, the species is considered to be globally threatened.

As part of the Danida-funded project *Improved conservation planning through institutional strengthening in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam*, the Forest Inventory and Planning Centre, the Division of Forest Resources Conservation, the Wildlife Conservation Society and BirdLife International have been identifying and documenting Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Laos. One of the first IBAs to be identified was Ban Nakay in Phou Khao Khouay Protected Area. This IBA was identified on the basis of the discovery of a population of Green Peafowl at the site in 1994. However, as there have been no published records of this species at the site since 1995, it was considered necessary to conduct a rapid field survey to assess its current status.

A survey team, comprising Khamsene Ounekham, Michael Hedemark and Jack Tordoff, visited Ban Nakay IBA between 1 and 3 February 2002. Local people guided the team to a peafowl roost site, where fresh droppings and tracks were seen. During dawn and dusk counts at the roost site, a minimum of five birds were heard calling and a single bird was seen, confirming the persistence of the species at the site.

Given the amount of suitable habitat available and reports by local people of other roost sites in the area, it is likely that Ban Nakay IBA supports a significant but not large population of Green Peafowl. Although the population remains highly susceptible to hunting, a community-based conservation initiative at the site appears to have controlled this activity. A more immediate threat is posed by timber extracting, which is taking place throughout the site. It is hoped that this activity can be controlled, at least within the peafowl roost sites, and that the future of the Green Peafowl population at Ban Nakay IBA can be secured.

status of the species at the site can be collected. Ha Nam island also supports large numbers of over-wintering waterfowl, including Northern Pintail *Anas penelope* and Eurasian Wigeon *A. acuta*. At present, the bird populations at the site are threatened by the activities of sport hunters from Hanoi and Hai Phong cities. However, providing measures are implemented to control these activities, the potential to develop Ha Nam island as a key area for waterbird conservation is high. In comparison with the coastal zone of the Red River Delta, the coastal zone of Quang Ninh province has received little ornithological attention in recent years. Therefore, a number of interesting discoveries were made. In the Ba Che estuary, two species listed in the Red Data Book of Vietnam, Collared Crow *Corvus torquatus* and Great Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo, were recorded. For both species, these are only the second recent records, illustrating the lack of data on the current status of these species in Vietnam. Around Tra Co island, near Mong Cai town, close to the Vietnam-China border, eight globally vulnerable Saunders's Gulls *Larus saundersi* were observed. This site was also found to be important for migratory shorebirds and other gull species. Based on the results of the IEBR/BirdLife/Quang Ninh DOSTE survey, two sites in the coastal zone of Quang Ninh province qualify as Important Bird Areas (IBA): Ha Nam island and Tra Co island. Initial conservation activities for both sites are currently being planned, in order to secure their important biodiversity value.

Important Bird Area found in Van Ban district, Lao Cai province

During March 2002, the BirdLife International, the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources and Fauna & Flora International Vietnam Programme conducted a survey in Van Ban district, Lao Cai province. The survey was part of the Danida-funded project *Improved conservation planning through institutional strengthening in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam*.

During the fifteen-day survey in Van Ban district, 156 bird species were recorded, including two species listed in the 2000 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Red Beautiful Nuthatch *Sitta formosa* and Yellow-billed Nuthatch *S. solangiae*. Van Ban district is known to support populations of two of the four restricted range species that define the Fansipan and Northern Lao Secondary Endemic Bird Area: Yellow-billed Nuthatch and Broad-billed Warbler *Tickellia hogdsoni*. The site also supports suitable habitat for the third and fourth restricted-range species, Ward's Trogon *Harpactes wardi* and Red-winged Laughingthrush *Garrulax*

formosus, however, these species were not recorded during the field survey.

Van Ban district supports a range of natural habitats (lowland forest, lower montane forest and upper montane forest), which, together, support a high diversity of bird species. Van Ban supports 58 species restricted to the Sino-Himalayan Subtropical Forests Biome, including Green Cochoa *Cochoa viridis*, Grey Laughingthrush *Garrulax maesi* and Black-headed Shrike Babbler *Pteruthius rufiventer*. Van Ban also supports a further 20 species restricted to the Sino-Himalayan Temperate Forests Biome, including: Hill Partridge *Arborophila torqueola*, Yellow-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa flavirostris* and Streaked Barwing *Actinodura souliei*.

The presence of the above species means that Van Ban district qualifies as an Important Bird Area (IBA). In addition, the result of the survey indicate that Van Ban district is worthy of protected area status. One option, given the areas' high biodiversity value and ecotourism potential, would be to

combine Van Ban district with forest areas in Sa Pa and Than Uyen districts to form a national park. Habitat loss, selective timber extraction and hunting continue to threaten the biodiversity of the area. However, with continued support from all levels, the site has every possibility to become one of the key protected areas in Vietnam.



Silver Pheasant *Lophura nycthemera*
Photo: FFI Vietnam

Conservation Monitoring at Xuan Thuy Nature Reserve

Xuan Thuy Monitoring Conservation Project

BirdLife International has now completed the first phase of a project entitled *Conservation Monitoring at Xuan Thuy Nature Reserve*.

With the financial support from Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF), this project has successfully provided essential equipment and infrastructure for Nature Reserve Management Board, trained staff members in ecological monitoring and established a research and ecological monitoring programme and baseline for Black-faced Spoonbill and Saunders's Gull.

We look forward to working on phase second of this project in 2003.

Black-faced Spoonbill census (please see next page)



Black-faced Spoonbill census



The Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor* is a migratory waterbird distributed along the East Asian coast. The species used to be classified as Critically Endangered, and is now classified again as Endangered. "Endangered" is defined as "facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future".

From 1993 through 2002, conservationists from numerous countries in the East Asia have coordinated synchronized global winter population counts of Black-faced Spoonbills. Volunteer participants from winter ranges in South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, and Vietnam have joined in the annual counts. From a starting point of 294 birds in 1988-90, the global population estimate increased to 870 birds by January 2001. Wintering BFS were reported from at least 23 different sites in January 2001. Wintering populations increased in South Korea, Japan, mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan, but declined in Vietnam.

Since the first international count in 1993, BirdLife International had actively participated by undertaking counts made in all the known wintering sites of Black-faced Spoonbill in the Red River Delta. However, in the recent years, while wintering populations increased in all other countries, the population of this species has declined in Vietnam. The reasons for this are believed to be habitat loss and over human disturbance along the coast of Vietnam.

On 26-27 January 2002, BirdLife International organised Black-faced Spoonbill counts at Xuan Thuy Nature Reserve, Nam Dinh Province, Thai Thuy Nature Reserve, Thai Binh Province, and Ha Nam island, Yen Hung District, Quang Ninh Province. In total, 54 Black-faced Spoonbills were counted including 51 birds at Xuan Thuy Nature Reserve and 3 birds at Ha Nam island, Quang Ninh Province. In this effort we were joined by our colleagues from Taiwan Wildbird Federation

Ha Nam island is the first wintering site for the species in the country to be identified outside of the coastal zone of the Red River Delta after a recent record of 4 immature birds from a BirdLife/IEBR survey. On the return visit to the site on 26 January 2002, three juvenile Black-faced Spoonbills were observed, together with a single Eurasian Spoonbill *P. leucorodia*. The remains of the fourth Black-faced Spoonbill were seen in the house of a local person. The death of this bird highlights the continuing threat to this species in the absence of strict controls on hunting at this site.

New White-shouldered Ibis site in Cambodia

During March an IBA survey team lead by Seng Kim Hout and Pech Bunnat with Jonathan Eames riding shotgun, conducted a rapid appraisal of four sites in Kompong Thom province. A mission objective was to try and crack the enigma of jut where Cambodia's White-shouldered Ibis population is concentrated. The team visited the Colixim logging concession which is in the process of being clear-felled and converted to agriculture. The few large

wetlands which remain are really doomed. The second survey site the 250,000 ha Boeng Per Wildlife Sanctuary faces a similar fate. The survey team were shocked to find widespread forest clearance and conversion to cashew and coffee. The most promising locality identified was Veal Srangai a very large area of seasonally inundated grassland south of the Stung Sen on the border between Kompong Thom and Kompong Chhnang provinces. Here the team received reliable reports of White-shouldered Ibis and saw many Bengal

Floricans. Another highlight included a single flock of 262 Lesser Adjutants feeding in a burnt area. Although the team did not find any White-shouldered Ibis, Pete Davison later visited the site and saw two!

Recently published

The importance of Vu Quang Nature Reserve by J.C. Eames, R.Eve and A.W. Tordoff. *Bird Conservation International* (2001) 11:247-285.

Vu Quang Nature Reserve was brought to the attention of the world's scientific community following the discovery of two previously undescribed large mammal species in the early 1990s. In light of the identification of other sites of high biodiversity value in the Annamite mountains of Vietnam and Laos, the relative importance for biodiversity conservation of Vu Quang needed to be reassessed. Whilst Vu Quang supports one of the highest numbers of recorded bird species of all 14 protected areas in the eco-region, a complementarity analysis revealed that Vu Quang does not fall within the critical subset of sites necessary to

conserve 95% of the avifaunal diversity of the Annamese Lowlands Endemic Bird Area (EBA). The site should not, therefore, be considered a regional bird conservation priority. Furthermore, of the nine restricted-range species known from the Annamese Lowlands EBA, only three are known from Vu Quang, which is not, therefore, a priority site for the conservation of endemic bird species either!

New taxa and new records of butterflies from Vietnam by Monastyrskii, A. and Devyatkin, A. L. 2000. *Atalanta* 31 (3/4): 471-492.

This paper, by the leading authorities on Vietnam's butterfly fauna, describes six new species and six new sub-species of butterfly principally from the central highlands. Several of the new forms were collected as part of the EC-funded *Expanding the protected-areas in the 21st Century* project. The paper

provides further evidence that EBAs are also centres of endemism for butterflies.

Towards a Vision for Biodiversity Conservation in the Forests of the lower Mekong Ecoregion Complex. by Baltzer, M. C, Nguyen Thi Dao and Shore, R. G. (eds.) 2001. WWF Indochina/WWF US, Hanoi and Washington D. C. (report and technical annex).

This document presents the results of a biological assessment and proposes a biodiversity conservation vision for the forests of Cambodia, and much of Laos and Vietnam. The documents are the results of a long consultative process undertaken by WWF. This is the first time that a landscape based approach has been used to elaborate a sub-regional conservation planning vision. These well produced and attractive documents are available from the WWF Indochina Programme office in Hanoi.

Profile

Hazel Thwin

Bird Enthusiasts and Nature Conservation Association (BENCA)



Hazel worked for the Division of Nature and Wildlife Conservation for 18 years before leaving to help from BENCA. Initially she served as education officer and developed exhibits, slide and video programs, pamphlets and other materials. During that time, she worked on several special projects, including: Chatthin Community Education Project focused on the Eld's Deer. Hazel also served as Myanmar Compiler for BirdLife's Threatened Birds of Asia project. She was also the resource person for the Basic Wildlife Conservation Training Course, conducted by the Wildlife Conservation Society together with the Forest Department. During the past five years, her duties and responsibilities increased with an assignment to Moyingyi Wetland Bird Sanctuary. Other activities in the wildlife division included various field work such as annual waterfowl census, bird specimen collection, wetland inventory and curator for Myanmar Biodiversity Museum. She also participated in an expedition to the eastern Himalayan ranges in Kachin State searching for Blyth's Tragopan and the other globally threatened bird species. Recently she joined the Bird Enthusiasts and Nature Conservation Association and holds the position of secretary. Hazel loves nature, especially birds, and has since she was young. Her father worked as warden of the Rangoon Zoological Gardens. Hazel was brought-up in the zoo compound and spent her formative years among the animals there. After graduating with a Zoology major she joined the Nature Conservation and National Parks Project (now Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division). Hazel is determined to devote her life to the conservation of wildlife.

Field guide to the large mammal species of Pu Mat Nature Reserve by Pham Nhat and Nguyen Xuan Dang. 2000. *Social Forestry and Nature Conservation in Nghe An Province and Fauna and Flora International-Indochina*. Supported by the European Union. 155pp.

This manual was prepared for the use of forest guards and staff of the Pu Mat Nature Reserve, to facilitate identification of mammal species during biodiversity surveys and monitoring work. The manual was produced as a contribution to the project 'Social forestry and nature conservation in Nghe An province, a joint project of the European Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

This reference manual provides basic information, including illustrations, of 64 mammal species found in Pu Mat National Park. This manual is intended as a guide for forest guards and staff of the Pu Mat National Park but will assist all those with an interest in the mammals of South-east Asia.

Staff news



Nathan Sage has recently joined BirdLife as a consultant for programme development initiatives.

Previously, Nathan assisted BirdLife in August 2001 by developing a small grants proposal to protect the inundated grasslands of Ha Tien in the western Mekong Delta

Yuko Inui. During February Asia Division staffer Yuko Inui from the Wildbird Society of Japan spent a week working with us in Hanoi on project development activities. For the past two years Yuko has been on secondment to the Malaysian Nature Society but sadly her mission to Hanoi was her last before returning to Japan. Yuko did however, manage to squeeze in a diving trip in Malaysia before her departure, where she saw numerous Hammerhead Sharks at Layang Layang. Lucky girl! We enjoyed having you here Yuko. Come back soon!



Jack Tordoff and the Lao IBA project officers (Sipivan Inthapatha and Khamsene Ounekham) during a recent IBA training course. Photo: Arlyne Johnson, WCS Lao Program

Nathan graduated with a B.A. in political science from Trinity College (CT) and an M.S. in marine affairs from the University of Rhode Island. Subsequently, he served one year as technical advisor to the Danida/CARE *U Minh Thuong National Park Conservation and Community Development* project, site of the largest bird colony in Vietnam's Mekong Delta.

Apology We apologise to Seng Kim Hout and Pech Bunnat, the Cambodian IBA project officers, for mixing their names up in the last issue of the Newsletter (October to December, 2001).

Recent publications

Here are three new publications available from the BirdLife Vietnam Programme website: www.birdlifevietnam.com (English) and www.birdlifevietnam.org (Vietnamese).

- Tordoff, A. W., Pham Trong Anh, Le Mang Hung, Nguyen Dinh Xuan and Tran Khac Phuc (2002) A rapid bird and mammal survey of Lo Go Sa Mat Special-use Forest and Chang Riec Protection Forest, Tay Ninh province, Vietnam. Unpublished report to the BirdLife International Vietnam Programme, the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources and Tay Ninh Department of Science, Technology and the Environment. (In English and Vietnamese).
- Le Mang Hung, Nguyen Duc Tu, Tordoff, A. W. and Vu Hong Phuong (2002) A rapid bird survey of the coastal zone of Quang Ninh province, Vietnam. Unpublished report to the BirdLife International Vietnam Programme, the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources and Quang Ninh Department of Science, Technology and the Environment. (In English and Vietnamese).
- Tordoff, A. W., Le Mang Hung, Nguyen Quang Truong and Steven R. Swan (2002) A rapid bird survey of Van Ban District, Lao Cai province, Vietnam. Unpublished report to the BirdLife International Vietnam Programme, the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources and the Fauna and Flora International Vietnam Programme. (In English and Vietnamese).

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