

REVIEWS AND ABSTRACTS

PARISH, D. PRENTICE, R.C. AND TAYLOR, C.E. 1986. *INTERWADER-East Asia/Pacific Shorebird Study Programme - Annual Report 1985*. Interwader Publ. No. 16, Kuala Lumpur, 36 pp.

PARISH, D. PRENTICE, R.C. AND TAYLOR, C.E. 1987. *INTERWADER-East Asia/Pacific Shorebird Study Programme - Annual Report 1986*. Interwader Publ. No. 19, Kuala Lumpur, 43 pp.

Available for, respectively, US \$ 5 and US \$ 7 (airmail) from Interwader, PO Box 10769, 50724 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

South-east Asia combines soaring human population levels and the concomitant pressures on the natural environment, with impressive wetland resources (mangroves and tidal flats, lakes and swamps) about which virtually nothing was known until INTERWADER started their activities 4 years ago. With the help of volunteers, and always trying to link their activities in with the programmes of other institutions, the dedicated INTERWADER-crew has managed to achieve an impressive array of wetland surveys and more detailed studies. Not only do they manage to write up their material in detailed reports, often at very little delay, but they also manage to translate scientific data into well argued conservation cases and management advice. In addition, educational and specific training programmes are being organised. Indeed, the breadth of activities and production of large numbers of reports (listed individually in Recent Publications on Waders) make it difficult for an interested outsider to keep up (or even keep track!) of INTERWADER's achievements. The Annual Reports are therefore welcome summaries of the wader and wetland research activities in South-east Asia in 1985 and 1986. The format and style have changed since the first two Annual Reports, edited by Parish and Wells: the reports are now more concise and in an A5 rather than A4 format, but with a glossy cover showing a colour picture of a large flock of Asian Dowitchers. In fact Asian Dowitchers very much stand for the success of INTERWADER's activities: a spring survey in 1986 of the wetlands of south-east Sumatra led to the discovery of no less than 4 000 individuals. Only 3 years ago the world population of this species was thought to number only 100's. This increase in the known population level does not mean that the species is no longer endangered: it is dependent on a rather few wetlands, many of which (e.g. Sumatra!) are in immediate danger of being "developed". The reports also document other achievements and provide summaries of the various studies. Highlights for waderologists are the studies on the feeding ecology of Crab Plovers, Spoon-billed Sandpipers and Asian Dowitchers, the hunting of waders in Thailand and Java, and the southwards and northwards migration studies. The scope of the work and the inventiveness of the researchers is well illustrated by a quote from the study on wader hunting in southern Thailand: "...to eliminate hunting activities ... The principal investigators have already been successful in encouraging some hunters to find other occupations and have organised village football matches to provide alternative recreational activities".

Recognising the need for an integrated approach to wetland studies and conservation, INTERWADER is now forming, and is in the process of becoming an integral part of, the IPT-Asian Wetland Bureau (see Notes and News in this

issue). I am looking forward to their annual reports!

Theunis Piersma

RECENT WIWO PUBLICATIONS

The following reports of expedition work on waders in Europe and Africa have been published recently by the Dutch research foundation WIWO. Each report is in A4 format, with coloured card covers and a typewritten text.

Copies can be obtained by sending the appropriate amount of money to postal giro account 2.666.009 of "Stichting WIWO", Ewijk, Netherlands, or by sending an International postal money order to the "Stichting WIWO", Stuyvenbergweg 2-4, 6644 AB Ewijk, Netherlands, stating report number. Prices include postage and packing.

BERK, V. van den, DORP, D. van, HOORN, O. van, AND VOS, R. 1986. *Cranes and waterfowl counts of some Turkish wetlands, October-November 1985*. WIWO Report No. 10, Zeist, Netherlands. 60pp. Dfl 30,-.

Counts at eight wetlands in eastern Turkey presented, with detailed systematic list and information on human impacts and bird use of each site.

BIJLSMA, R.G. AND de RODER, F.E. 1986. *Notes on the birds of some wetlands in Turkey*. WIWO Report No. 12, Zeist, Netherlands. 32pp. Dfl 7,50.

Gives observations from four lakes in Central Anatolia from 17 August - 10 September 1986. Appendix gives counts at Evros Delta, Greece.

DIJKSEN, L.D. AND KONING, F.J. 1986. *Midwinter Waterfowl Census Turkey January 1986*. WIWO Report No. 13, Zeist, Netherlands. 85pp. Dfl 10,-.

Report summarises counts made at important Turkish wetlands in January 1986, including not only ducks and geese, but also grebes, waders, herons and gulls. Detailed counts are presented for 33 major sites visited, with a review of previous Turkish mid-winter counts.

SCHILPEROORD, L. AND SCHILPEROORD-HUISMAN, M. 1986. *Observations of waterbirds in some wetlands in Turkey - July/August 1986*. WIWO Report No. 14, Zeist, Netherlands. 41pp. Dfl 7,50.

Counts and descriptions of human impacts at 9 sites in central and eastern Turkey in July and August 1986, with a full systematic list.

BENNETT, C.A., BIJLSMA, R.G. AND STOUTHAMER, R. 1982. *Survey of waterbirds on Egyptian wetlands, Autumn 1981*. WIWO Report No. 16, Zeist, Netherlands. 34pp. Dfl 7,50.

Details given of November counts at five sites on or near the Nile Delta in 1981, with additional information from the Gulf of Suez in September and October. Counts are presented for all wetland birds seen, including waders. Human impacts on the sites are described, and the report concludes that Egyptian wetlands are in urgent need of protection.

David Stroud