

Kamp, J. van der & Diallo, M. 1999. *Suivi écologique du Delta Intérieur du Niger: les oiseaux d'eau comme bio-indicateurs. Recensements crue 1998-1999. Mali-PIN publication 99-02. Wetlands International, Sévaré (Mali) /Altenburg & Wymenga, Veenwouden (The Netherlands). 63 pp. {In French with English summary}*

Available from: The Natural History Book Service (NHBS), 2-3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN, UK. E-mail: nhbs@nhbs.co.uk.

A collaborative project between the Malian government and Wetlands International (supported with funding from the Dutch government) has been running since 1998 to provide relevant ecological hydrological and socio-economic data to aid the integrated and sustainable management of the Inner Niger Delta.

This short report summarises the initial results of fieldwork during the first complete flood-cycle (1998-1999) that has been studied. The study area is a central part of the Inner Niger Delta and is a complex of two lakes — Lac Debo and Walado Debo (part of a Ramsar site of 103,100 ha).

The report presents the result of the monthly Debo waterbird counts and relates numbers to flood volume and water levels.

The main part of the report consists of short species accounts for the principle species encountered. There are short accounts (of varying length) for the following waders: *Rostratula benghalensis*, *Himantopus himantopus*, *Recurvirostra avosetta*, *Burhinus senegalensis*, *Pluvianus aegyptius*, *Glaerola pratincola*, *Glareola cinerea*, *Vanellus spinosus*, *V. tectus*,

V. albiceps, *V. senegallus*, *Pluvialis squatarola*, *Charadrius hiaticula*, *C. dubius*, *C. dubius*, *C. pecuarius*, *C. alexandrinus*, *C. marginatus*, *Limosa limosa*, *L. lapponica*, *Numenius arquata*, *Tringa erythropus*, *T. totanus*, *T. stagnatilis*, *T. nebularia*, *T. ochropus*, *T. glareola*, *T. hypoleucos*, *Arenaria interpres*, *Gallinago media*, *G. gallinago*, *Calidris alba*, *C. minuta*, *C. temminckii*, *C. alpina*, *C. ferruginea* and *Philomachus pugnax*.

In addition to information on waterbirds, the surveys have highlighted the huge importance of this area for wetland passerines, including several hundreds of thousands of Sand Martins *Riparia riparia* as well as 200,000 Yellow Wagtails *Motacilla flava* ssp.

The study is due to continue to 2001, with the possibility of further work after that. The results gained

so far are already a huge advance in our understanding of this wetland of major regional importance for waders and many other waterbirds. We await future data and analysis with anticipation!

David Stroud

Also received (these volumes will be reviewed in a future *Bulletin*)
Pollitt, M., Cranswick, P., Musgrove, A., Hall, C., Hearn, R., Robinson, J. & Holloway, S. 2000. *The Wetland Bird Survey 1998-99: Wildfowl and Wader Counts*. BTO, WWT, RSPB & JNCC, Slimbridge. 236 pp. £30.
WIWO 2000. *WIWO Annual review 1999*. WIWO, Zeist, The Netherlands. 112 pp.
Melter, J. & Schreiber, M. 2000. *Wichtige Brut- und Rastvogelgebiete in Niedersachsen. Vogelkundliche Berichte aus Niedersachsen* 32, Sonderheft. 320 pp. Germany.

Special WSG meeting in Virginia, USA - May 12-13, 2001

A special meeting of the WSG is to take place in Virginia, USA in May 2001. Barry Truitt and Tom Dick will organise the meeting at the Wallops Marine Station, two and a half hours from Delaware Bay. It will be a weekend, as normal, and a Sunday excursion in the neighbourhood. One of the session topics will be the flyway on the east coast of the Americas.

After that people can go to Delaware Bay, to witness the spectacle of the horseshoe crabs and the waders and perhaps participate in the catching that will be taking place during this period.

**For further information please contact :
Petra de Goeij, email: petra@nioz.nl.**

