

## REPORT ON THE MALAYSIAN WATERFOWL CENSUS JANUARY 2000

A total of 15,566 (56 species) of the listed birds were recorded at 26 sites in 9 states by 36 participants. This compares favorably with the 1999 figures (11,182 birds of 56 species at 20 sites in 7 states by 20 observers.)

A wide range of habitat was covered including mangroves, mudflats, high tide roosts, ricefields, old mining pools and wetland sanctuaries, reservoirs.

The most numerous species recorded:

2,417 Mongolian Plover *Charadrius mongolus* (from 6 sites)

831 Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

793 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*.

A sharp decrease in the number of Redshank recorded this year bears watching in future counts.

Further Breakdown:

2,282 Herons, Bitterns and Egrets of 11 species

168 duck of 3 species

11,331 waders of 29 species

1,529 terns of 5 species

Although the number of species was the same for 1999 and 2000, there were some differences: this year there were no Glossy Ibis, Rufous Crowned Night Heron, Slaty-breasted Rail, Eastern Reef Egret, Greater Crested or Lesser Crested Terns, Whiskered Terns, Red Knot.

Additional species included this year were: Garganey, Ruddy Crake, Painted Snipe, Grey-headed Lapwing, Oriental Pratincole, Ruddy Turnstone, Long-toed Stint, Nordmann's Greenshank.

There were two threatened species on this year's list: the Lesser Adjutant (2 indivs) and Nordmann's Greenshank (2 indivs).

Once again the high-tide roost at Kapar Power Station in Selangor and the adjacent mudflats and beach proved to be the most important site, yielding 5,107 birds on 9/1/00 (and 2,000 at a second count on 23/1/00 when the tide was not quite so high.)

Another important site was included this year: Kampung Buntal near Kuching in Sarawak, with some 4000 waders being recorded in a fifteen minute count. This site has no protection.

Sites which show declines in numbers are ex-mining pools. Ulu Yam and Kelana Jaya in Selangor and Malim Nawar in Perak were counted again this year, but numbers were well down from some past counts at these sites because of land use disturbances and neighbouring development. Disappointing numbers were recorded from a freshwater peat swamp site at Paya Indah in Selangor and it seems that this protected site will not help to maintain numbers of migratory or resident waterbirds as compared to the possibilities of old mining sites, probably because of the water acidity. It is hoped that continuing efforts to gain a protected site at an old mining areas will be successful soon, before this habitat virtually disappears.