

# COUNTS AND LOCATIONS OF WATERBIRDS IN TWO PROTECTED AREAS IN EAST JAVA

by  
**Mochamad Indrawan, S (Bas) van Balen and Uday Udaya**

Received 28 November 1996

Little information has been published on waterbirds of protected areas in East Java (Silvius *et al.* 1987). Alikodra *et al.* (1990) provided ecological information from Alas Purwo's coastal wetlands, incorporating data on macrobenthic abundance of a mudflat, but the status and distribution of the colonial waterbirds remained poorly documented. Through this note, we report our observations, made sporadically during November 1989 and between February 1993 and January 1994, on the Woolly necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* and Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus* in two protected areas in East Java, namely Baluran and Alas Purwo National Parks. Additionally, two mudflat localities harbouring considerable numbers of waterfowl were visited on different occasions in Alas Purwo

## RESIDENT STORKS.

The Lesser Adjutant was regularly observed, foraging, resting and sometimes soaring at midday, in wooded grasslands of Sadengan in Alas Purwo. Usually 11-13 birds were seen but once a group of at least 51 birds was flushed from the site's freshwater creek (30 October 1993, 0900 h). In Baluran we saw this bird only occasionally, never more than three birds.

The Woolly necked stork was observed in smaller numbers. In Baluran two or three individuals were seen regularly and sometimes close to villages and paddyfields and once seven foraging individuals were encountered on the open swamps of Semiang (Baluran). In Alas Purwo, fifteen to twenty birds were counted near the teak forest of Rowobendo (19 November 1989).

## WATERFOWL LOCATIONS.

Waterbird abundance was recorded on visits to two mudflat areas in Alas Purwo, namely Segara Anakan and Tanjung Sembulungan (respectively 19-21 November 1989 and 28-30 September 1995). A total of 29 species including 17 migratory waders was noted (Appendix 1).

## DISCUSSION.

The observed number of Lesser Adjutant is notable because the bird is considered globally threatened (Collar *et al.* 1994) and is now encountered only rarely in Java (Silvius & Verheugt 1989). Only three individuals were seen during an extensive survey in the Brantas and Solo deltas in the north of East Java (Erftemeijer *et al.* 1988). Nesting records for this bird in Java are found only in older literature, i.e. Hoogerwerf in 1938, who reported several nests in large mangrove trees along the north coast of West Java (Silvius & Verheugt 1989). The present observations on both these far ranging birds

at the two closely situated National Parks are thus encouraging.

Considering the rather early observation dates the waders observed can probably be assigned only "passage" rather than true "wintering" status. No waterbird hunting was observed, which confirmed the earlier report by Alikodra *et al.* (1990). Although the sites do not harbour as many waterbirds as other important areas in Java, such as Segara Anakan (Central Java) and Brantas Delta (East Java), the localities reported presently merit special attention considering their protected status. For both localities in Agus Purwo (Tanjung Sembulungan and Segara Anakan), the mudflats in which most of the present observations were made were located in the buffer zone of the national park, where the shellfish are occasionally collected by local people. Eventually we suggest that for conservation management purposes both sites can be used to quantify the rate of human disturbance to the foraging waterbirds.

We would like to thank Ms. Yeni Aryati Mulyani for drawing our attention to the earlier ecological work done in Alas Purwo.

#### REFERENCES

- Alikodra, H.S., Mulyani, Y.A., Priyono, A., Mustari, A.H., Sinarojo, D.A. & Ismail. 1990. *Laporan penelitian ekologi dan konservasi burung wader bermigrasi di Jawa*. [A report on the ecology and conservation of migratory waders in Jawa]. Fakultas Kehutanan Institut Pertanian Bogor (internal report).
- Collar, N.J., M.J. Crosby & A.J. Stattersfield. 1994. *Birds to watch 2. The world list of threatened birds*. Birdlife Conservation Service No 4, Cambridge, U.K.
- Erfemeijer, P., B. van Balen and E. Djuharsa. 1988. *Survey of coastal wetlands and waterbirds in the Brantas and Solo deltas, E. Java*. PHPA Asian Wetland Bureau/ INTERWADER Report No 6, Bogor.
- Silvius, M.J., A.P.J.M. Steeman, E.T. Berczy, E. Djuharsa & A.W. Taufik. 1987. *The Indonesian Wetland Directory. A Preliminary compilation of existing information on wetlands of Indonesia*. PHPA, AWB/INTERWADER, EDWIN. Bogor.
- Silvius, M. J., & W.J.M. Verheugt. 1989. The status of storks, ibises and spoonbills in Indonesia. *Kukila* (4) 3 4: 119 132.

#### ADDRESSES:

- M. Indrawan, YABSI Indonesian Foundation for the Advancement of Biological Sciences, Jalan Tana Baru Raya No 98 , Depok 16421.. S. (Bas) van Balen. Birdlife International Indonesia Programme, PO Box 310, Bogor 16003.
- Uday Udaya. Tainan Nasional Baluran/Alas Purwo, Pos Wongsorejo 68453, Banyuwangi, Jawa Timur, Indonesia.

Appendix 1. List of waterbirds observed on two mudflats in Alas Purwo

- a. count result from Segara Anak (Bas van Balen). The migratory waders listed presently was also listed previously by Alikodra *et al.* (1990), who indicated type of substrate used by the waders, but didn't report detailed count results.
- b. count result from Tanjung Sembulungan, 28–30 September 1995 (M. Indrawan & U. Udaya