

# Reviews

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## WIWO Reports

*WIWO, Foundation Working Group for International Waterbird and Wetland Research, is a Dutch statutory body established to initiate, stimulate and organise scientific research on waterbirds and wetlands worldwide and to disseminate the gathered information for the protection of the habitats and bird populations involved. The reports reviewed here are available from WIWO, PO Box 925, NL-3700, AX, Zeist, The Netherlands or e-mail: reports@wiwo-international.org.*

**Spoonbill count on the Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania, January 2000. (WIWO report 70) O. Overdijk, C. de le Court & A. Gueye. 2001. 59 pp. including tables, maps and line drawings. Price: € 9.00.**

This report documents the fourth spoonbill count in the Parc National du Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania, for the Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucordia leucordia* and the Mauritanian Spoonbill *P. l. balsaci*. The authors also report on migration and turn-over rate, nest counts, site fidelity, food resources and feeding behaviour. Their main findings are that the Parc National du Banc d'Arguin is an

important breeding site for the Mauritanian Spoonbill and one of the most important wintering sites for the Eurasian Spoonbill on the East Atlantic Flyway. The report has both English and French translations and is recommended for anyone interested in spoonbill research, particularly in Europe and West Africa.

**Counts and ecology of waterbirds in the Sivash, Ukraine, August 1998. (WIWO report 71) J. van der Winden, E.A. Diadicheva, W.T. de Nobel & M.W.J. van Roomen (eds.) 2001. 118 pp. including tables, maps and graphs. Price: € 13.50.**

This report covers an expedition to this large Ramsar site in the northern part of the Black Sea to gather more detailed information on waterbird numbers and habitat use at the Sivash lagoon. Specific studies were also carried out including aspects relating to moult and feeding ecology of marsh terns and migration ecology of waders. Additional aims included training and education of local junior participants of the Azoz-Black Sea

Ornithological Station (AOS) and to provide support to AOS regarding analyses of research work carried out previously in the area. The report is written in English and is divided into ten chapters or papers, each devoted to a specific aspect of the research carried out during the expedition. It is well written and essential for anyone interested in wetlands, waterbird counts and wader ecology.

**Searching for Slenderbilled Curlews in Iran, January–February 2000. (WIWO report 72) T.M. van der Have, G.O. Keijl, J. Mansoori & V.V. Morozov. 2001. 69 pp. including tables, maps and black-and-white photographs. Price: € 9.00.**

The Slenderbilled Curlew is a globally threatened species and its status in Iran, and indeed worldwide, is poorly understood. However, during winter waterbird surveys in the 1980s and 1990s along the Persian Gulf coast these birds were regularly sighted. This, together with the fact that WIWO had identified the Persian Gulf coast as a research priority, prompted an expedition to this area to carry out a three week waterbird survey, paying particular attention to the presence and abundance of Slenderbilled Curlews, Eurasian

Curlews and Whimbrels. Although the area includes suitable habitat, no Slenderbilled Curlews were observed. However, more than 53 000 waterbirds of 82 species were counted including globally threatened species such as Dalmatian Pelican, Marbled Teal and White-tailed Eagle. The report contains five chapters and six appendices and highlights the importance of wetlands along the Iranian coast for waterbirds, particularly waders. It should be of interest to all wader and waterbird ecologists, particularly in eastern Europe.

**Waterbird count of Zanzibar and Pemba Islands, Tanzania, January 1998. (WIWO report 73) R. Geene (ed.) 2001. 88 pp. including tables, maps and graphs. Price: € 13.50.**

This report covers the results of an expedition in January 1998 to estimate the numbers of waterbirds wintering on Zanzibar and Pemba Islands, with special attention to Crab Plover *Dromas ardeola* status, abundance and distribution. Although the survey team did not manage to cover all areas on the islands, nearly 50 000 waterbirds were counted from specific counting areas. An estimated 8000–9000 Crab Plovers were counted: an important find, as this represents 20% of the global population. Curlew Sandpipers were the most abundant small wader (c. 10 000 birds) with Whimbrel (c. 5100 birds) and Terek Sandpiper (c. 3200 birds) numbers also being significant. The importance of the islands as a waterbird refuge is highlighted with counts from Zanzibar Island for three species,

namely Crab Plover, Terek Sandpiper and Grey Plover all meeting the Ramsar criteria. Kiwini Island, just south of Pemba Island, meets the Ramsar criteria for Crab Plover and Grey Plover. The report is divided into eight chapters and includes an annotated list of the waterbirds and other bird species observed and an appendix with the counts of all waterbirds per counting area plus overall totals. The report covers a region where few waterbird counts have been done before; it therefore provides an essential base from which further waterbird monitoring can now take place. All waterbird monitors in East and southern Africa, and wader ecologists, should be interested in obtaining a copy of this report.

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