

several dates in 2001 at Asan Barrage (two on 7 March, 34 on 18 April, and 36 on 18 June). Previously, a maximum count of 30 was recorded at this site (Tak *et al.* 1997).

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Rediscovery of Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor* in the Philippines

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The Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor* winters in Tsengwen estuary in Taiwan, Inner Deep Bay in Hong Kong, Red River delta in Vietnam, Kyushu and Okinawa in Japan, Cheju Island in South Korea, Yancheng and Hainan in mainland China, and there are also recent records from Macao, Thailand, and possibly Brunei. Its known breeding sites are on the western coast of the Korean Peninsula in North and South Korea, Liaoning province in mainland China, and possibly the Tumen estuary, Russia (BirdLife International 2001).

It nests with other waterbirds on cliffs on small rocky islands. Outside the breeding season it is found on tidal flats, mudflats, mangroves, fishponds, marshes, flooded ricefields, estuaries, swamps, lakes, and other brackish wetlands (Severinghaus *et al.* 1995, Collar *et al.* 1999, Kennedy *et al.* 2000, BirdLife International 2001). The species is globally threatened, being listed as Endangered, with an estimated total world population of 700-1,000 individuals (Severinghaus *et al.* 1995, Rose and Scott 1997, BirdLife International 2001, S. Chan pers. comm. 2001).

HISTORICAL RECORDS IN THE PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines this species was considered a rare winter visitor to Luzon, with flocks not exceeding six individuals, and there being some doubt as to whether these really referred to Black-faced Spoonbill or Eurasian Spoonbill *P. leucorodia* (Dickinson *et al.* 1991). The last reported sighting was in October 1914 on the

tidal area of Dagupan in Pangasinan province, Luzon, where an immature female was collected (McGregor 1916; Dickinson *et al.* 1991). Previous reports include: six individuals, possibly this species, reportedly shot in January 1905 near Manila (McGregor 1906); a head collected in November 1907 in Dagupan, Pangasinan province (McGregor 1909-1910); and two individuals seen in November 1910 in Baluarte, Obando, Bulacan province, where according to local fishermen the species was well known but uncommon (McGregor 1916).

RECENT SIGHTINGS

We obtained posters produced by the Wild Bird Federation Taiwan and distributed by the Wild Bird Society of Japan as part of the public awareness programme initiated by the Asian partners of BirdLife International on the conservation of this species. These were distributed to the different areas of Batanes Protected Landscape and Seascape in the second week of November 2001. Two weeks later, alerted by the information on the posters, local residents realised that three birds present since late October 2001 matched the description of the spoonbills, and informed the Protected Area Superintendent of the sighting of spoonbills (see photo in *OBC Bull* 35: 53).

The three individuals were observed on a small (<1 ha) freshwater pond, 50 m from the shore near the town of Savidug (20°18'N 121° 53'E) on Sabtang Island, from the last week of October until the second week of December 2001. They were observed feeding together

with egrets *Egretta* spp. At night the spoonbills roosted on a large boulder near the shore. We visited this site in January 2002 after the birds had left, but confirmed their identity from video footage and photographs. Although the species was first noted in October 2001, it may be a regular visitor because the local people did not distinguish spoonbills from egrets until the distribution of posters.

BATANES

Batanes is the northernmost and smallest province of the Philippine archipelago, approximately 850 km north of Manila and about 200 km south of Taiwan, and bounded by the South China Sea in the west and by the Pacific Ocean in the east. It is made up of three major islands, Batan, Sabtang and Itbayat, and several islets. The Batanes Protected Landscape and Seascape covers the whole province, with a total area of 213,578 ha, constituting 20,323 ha of land and 193,255 ha of marine areas.

Batanes is an Important Bird Area (Mallari *et al.* 2001) supporting several threatened and restricted-range species such as Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes*, Elegant Scops Owl *Otus elegans calayensis*, Whistling Green Pigeon *Treron formosae filipina*, Short-crested Monarch *Hypothymis helenae*, and Japanese Yellow Bunting *Emberiza sulphurata*. Other important biodiversity found in Batanes includes: the newly described Jareck's flying lizard *Draco jareckii* and Batan smooth-scaled gecko *Lepidodactylus balioburius*; Batan narrow-disked gecko *Gekko porosus*; threatened marine turtles such as green turtle *Chelonia mydas*, hawksbill turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata*, olive ridley turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea*; the endangered Ryukyu flying fox *Pteropus dasymallu*; Indochinese shrew *Crocidura attenuata* (the only site for this species in the Philippines), and the coconut crab *Birgus latro* (Mallari 2001).

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A first nest record for the Fruithunter *Chlamydochaera jefferyi*

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The Fruithunter *Chlamydochaera jefferyi* is endemic to Borneo where it is a decidedly local montane species (700–3,200 m), occurring in Sabah and Sarawak (Malaysia) along the highland chain from Gunung Kinabalu to Gunung Mulu, and also Gunung Dulit (Smythies and Davison 1999). In Kalimantan (Indonesia) it has been recorded west to Gunung Nyiat (Prieme and Heegaard 1988) and south to Bukit Baka Nature Reserve (Rice 1989). It is an aberrant, strikingly marked, thrush-like bird occupying a monotypic genus

that was once linked with trillers *Lalage* or orioles *Oriolus* (MacKinnon and Phillipps 1993), but is now thought to be associated with thrushes *Turdinae* (Ames 1975, Ahlquist *et al.* 1984), or cochoas *Cochoa* (Olson 1987). Very little is known about its behaviour and its nest has never previously been described.

Sheldon *et al.* (2001) mention two specimens in or near reproductive condition on 21 and 28 March 1983. On Gunung Nyiat a pair was feeding full-grown young between 28 August and 6 September (Prieme and