



EUROSITE

Spoonbill network

Newsletter



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Editorial

This third edition of our Newsletter corresponds with an increase in the number of papers, an increase in the number of people involved in the network. Furthermore, this newsletter is in French and in English, for the first time. In the same time, thanks to Eurosite, we try to apply an action plan project so that we insure that the best actions will be defined for the next five years. Therefore there is a hard work to do for everybody. A new meeting of the network will be held in September in Hungary, organized in cooperation with the Hortobagy National Park. And we obtained some money for helping some networkers without enough means for coming. So, this year is a good one for the network. It seems that it is not the same for the Spanish birds and it will be very interesting to detail the breeding season in all the countries in the issue 4th of the Newsletter, in October 2005.

Otto Overdijk and Patrick Triplet

European Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) during Spring migration in the Seine Estuary

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Migration phenology

Spring migration differs between 2003 and 2004 (Fig. 1). In 2003, the main peak of migration occurs during the seventh five-days period (beginning of March). Then, numbers decline. Another passage occurs during the second half period of April, with relatively high numbers. In May, observations deal only with few birds (Fig. 1). April numbers were more important than usual and the mid-April peak has never been observed before. In 2004, the main peak occurs during the first half part of February. The second wave of migration occurs just after the first one during the three first weeks of March. After that, numbers decline sharply and concern only few birds after mid-April

Number of staging birds

In 2003, we estimate at 768 the number of different staging birds in the estuary between mid-February and the end of May. This evaluation is equivalent to this calculated in 2001, but higher to 2002's one. It does not reach the highest numbers of 1996 and

1999 (1125 Spoonbills). In 2004, Spoonbill number is similar with 708 birds.

Duration of a stay

In 2003, a mean stay is 3,83 days. It decreases to 2,82 days if we exclude an immature bird with a long stay of 72 days. This value corresponds with the observed mean between 1983 and 2000 (MOREL, 2002). However, in 2004, the mean duration is only 3,02 days.

Bird origin

Spoonbills in migration in the Seine estuary come from to main sites of first importance for the species in Western Europe Terschelling et Vlieland. If we compare the origin of the birds in 2003 with those from the period 1994 - 1999 (PHILIPPE et AULERT, 2000), we observe a switch in the percentages between Terschelling and Vlieland. In 2004, there is another switch with more birds from Terschelling (Fig. 2).

Sex ratio

In 2003, males are more numerous than females while in 2004 females were slightly more present than males (Fig. 3). But in 2003, a lot of birds were

not identified according to their sex, and that can explain this difference between the two years and the high difference in 2003.

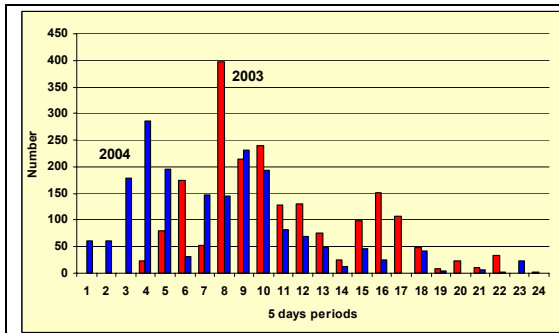


Figure 1 : Spoonbill Spring migration phenology 2003 and 2004

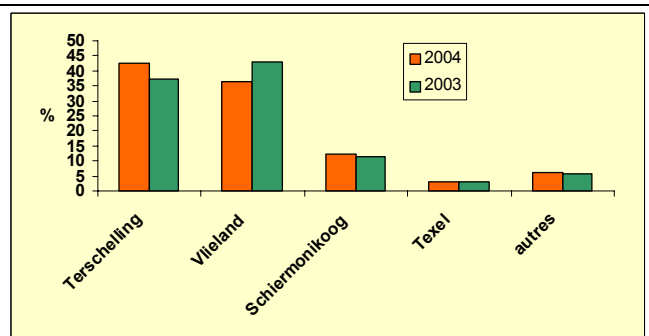


Figure 2 : Origin of staging Spoonbills in the Seine Estuary during Spring migration (data Workinggroup Spoonbill International)

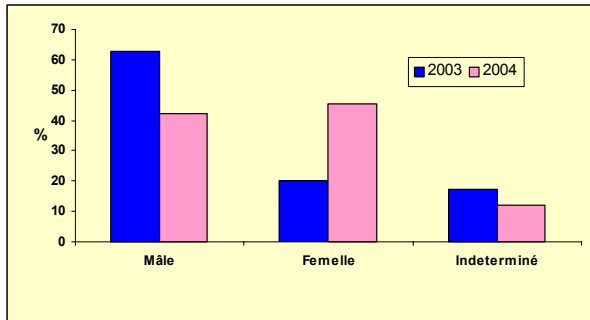


Figure 3 : Sex-ratio of staging Spoonbills in the Seine estuary during Spring migration 2003 et 2004



Location of staging Spoonbills in the Seine Estuary

Space use differs during migration passages in 2001, 2003 and 2004. This is perhaps in relation with prey availability which is dependant of the site hydrology.

Habitat

Spoonbills appreciate in particular ponds with a mean salinity and with a medium coverage of

vegetation. Hydraulic management is an important aspect to take into account for a good use of the site for Spoonbills (LEGAGNEUX, 2001). These new data allow to highlight the increasing interest of the site during Spring migration. It is interesting to improve exchanges of water between the different hydraulic compartments. This could bring and renew the prey during migration.

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Wintering the the estuary of Rivière de Pont l'Abbé

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The estuary of Rivière de Pont l'Abbé, which covers 600 ha, is located on the Atlantic coast on the West side of the migratory route of Spoonbills. The site welcomes an increasing

migratory and wintering population since the beginning of the 80th. (Fig. 1).

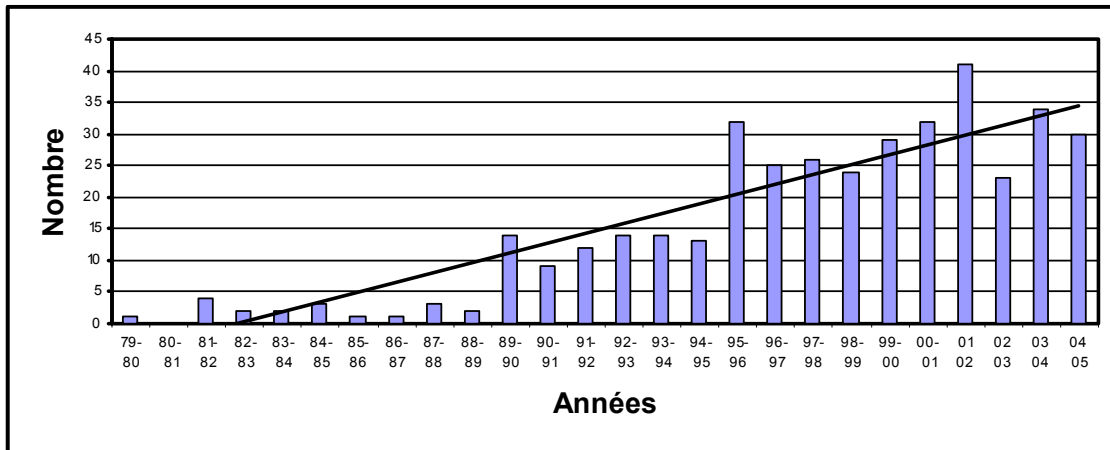


Fig. 1 : Wintering numbers of Spoonbills in the Estuary Rivière de Pont-l'Abbé since 1979

The first birds, generally in a stop over, arrive on the site at the end of August. The first wintering birds are recorded during the second fifteen days period of September. Arrivals spread out until the end of October or the beginning of November. Some birds do only a stop over.

Spring migration starts very early, towards the end of January or at the beginning of February and spread out more or less regularly until the end of May.

Normally, after the end of May, still present birds in the estuary (immature birds) stay the whole Summer and start a second wintering period or leave and go in migration in August.

From 1989 to 1995, the site welcomes more than 80% of juveniles, while this percentage drops below 40 % between 1995 à 2000 et decreases to less than 30% during the period 2000 to 2005.

In the same time, adult percentage increases from 10% during the period 1989 - 1995 to almost 60% from 2000 to 2005 (Fig. 2). The wintering population becomes older and older during this period.

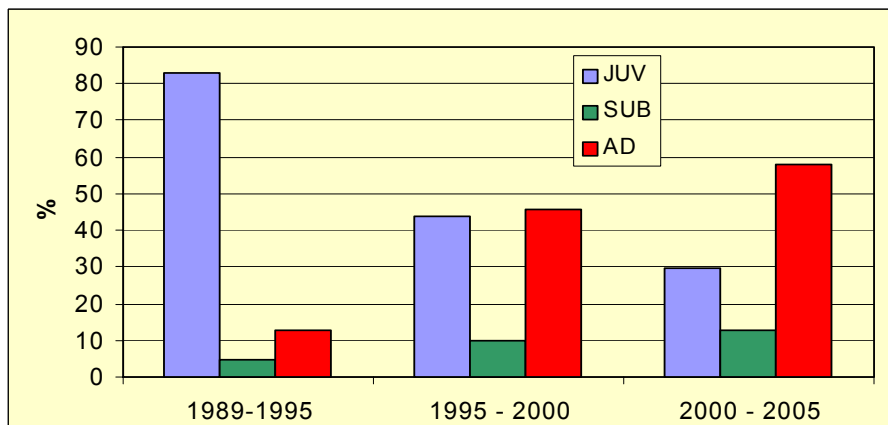


Fig. 2 : changes in the distribution of age classes of wintering Spoonbills in the Estuary Rivière de Pont-l'Abbé since 1989

Wintering in the Ornithological Park of Marquenterre (Somme Estuary, France) during the winter 2004-2005

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Eleven spoonbills wintered in the Ornithological Park of Marquenterre during the winter 2004-2005. Twelve birds were present during a moment, with a very tired juvenile from November 13th to December 5th. Birds roosted and preened during the daylight period on the Park. Roosting place changed according to wind intensity. Birds took cover behind a reedbed during high wind speed days and roosted on a brackish pond during smooth weather days. In the evening, just before nightfall (between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m., according to months), spoonbills went and fed in the Somme Estuary or in hunting ponds in the bottom of the estuary. They did not seem to do

long distance movements (towards Authie Estuary for example) as they did in Summer. Birds have not appreciated the cold spell at the end of February and at the beginning of March with snow and ice (lower temperature -7°C). the 28th February, the group counted only 8 birds including the faithful and famous "BC" borned in Terschelling, shot 3 years ago, treated in the Park before being released. The 12th December, one of the birds showed extensive spots of blood on its back (don't forget that 3 birds were killed and 3 injured in September due to poaching) Hard to winter in one of the Northern wintering site of Europe.

Wintering in the Somme estuary

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Wintering became regular since the beginning of the 90th, and reached its peak number in January 2002 with 16 birds (Fig. 1). Spring

migration starts in the last ten days of February (Fig. 2).

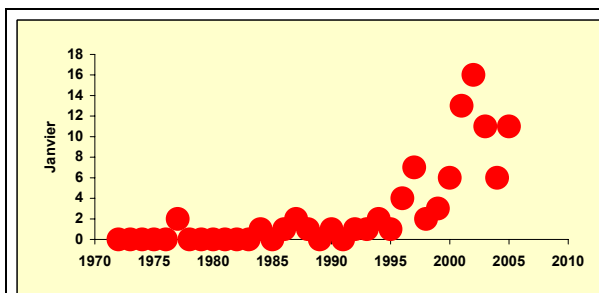


Fig. 1 : Change in numbers in January according years

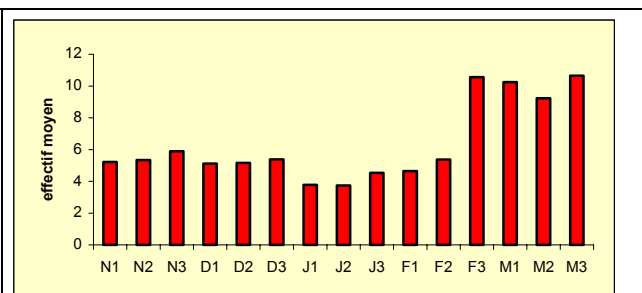


Fig. 2 : Mean changes in numbers within the winter

European Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* in the National Park des Oiseaux du Djoudj, March to May 2004 period

Idrissa Ndiaye et Indega Binda, Parc National des Oiseaux du Djoudj

Introduction

This note deals with the monitoring of summering European Spoonbills in National Park des oiseaux du Djoudj, for the second consecutive year. We would like to thank Captain Sidibé, manager of the Park and his assistant Mamadou Dia, and Patrick Triplet and Vincent Schricke who encourage us to do this monitoring.

Methods

Monitoring was done by car with guided tourists in the Park or on foot, in most of the cases between 8 a.m. and 12 a.m.. Months between March and May are those during which the most important number of Spoonbills can be observed. The day of the monthly count was determined according to the presence of an ornithologist with a car.

Site

Created in 1971, Djoudj National Park covers an area of 16 000 ha. It includes lakes, large ponds and backwaters with fresh or brackish water. European Spoonbill is one of the numerous regular migratory species there. Birds gather when surrounding wetlands dry up and become unwelcome.

Results

National Park of Djoudj is now a regular and important site for Spoonbills. Their abundance seems in relation with hydraulic conditions. Numbers are 214 in March, 429 in April and 1324 in May when almost all the Spoonbills of the delta are in the Park. The two main sub groups use the

Great Lake and Gainth Backwater. Birds are immatures for most of them. Nine coloured ringed birds give eight Spanish and one French birds. Among the eight Spanish birds, 3 birds were ringed in 2004, one in 2001 and the last one in 1996. Three rings are not completely read for knowing the year of ringing. It is the same for the French Bird

limits

The lack of possibility of moving regularly is a problem. We take advantage of visits with tourists for counting birds. Add to this the fact that we are able to census birds only in one site of the delta and so we have not an enough good view on bird numbers and movements between the different sites.

Conclusion and recommendations

The distribution of the European Spoonbill is not limited to the Senegal river delta, but covers a lot of other wetlands in Senegal and in other countries in West Africa. A program intituled « Spoonbills without boundaries » could allow the monitoring of the species in all the wetlands in Senegal and surrounding countries. This project could have an objective of collecting scientific data on distribution and abundance of birds and on the different habitats used by birds. This project could include a pedagogical sub project by teaching to children what is migration, and in particular, spoonbill migration. Twinning between breeding sites and wintering sites could be done too.

New study to population dynamics of the Mauritanian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia balsaci*

Otto Overdijk

The Banc d'Arguin National Park (PNBA, surface area : 1.200.000 hectares) in Mauritania welcomes a subspecies of the Eurasian Spoonbill (what a name?). This endemic subspecies (*P.l.balsaci*) is probably resident in the park. Nowhere else in the entire world this subspecies can be found as a breeder. Mauritania has a great responsibility for this subspecies.

During the non-breeding period (Nov-Feb) of the
Western European population

Spoonbills(nominates), around 70-80% of these birds stay shorter or longer in the PNBA. The juveniles and sub-adults of this population stay in the PNBA until their maturity in their forth year.

Background

In the years 1997-2001 the population size was estimated every winter. The size of the whole population is about 6-7 000 individuals. The birds

were counted in age-classes, adults (older than 4 y.), sub-adults (1-4 y.) and juveniles (<1 y.) apart. It was found that the juveniles age-class was poorly represented, some years with a maximum of 7% juveniles but most years less than 5% juveniles. This percentage is very low in respect to other colonial breeding waterbirds. In 2000 and 2001 a mass-mortality of waterbirds (including Spoonbills) was observed in the PNBA. The cause of this mass-mortality is unknown until now. During counts of the nests in the colonies in the non-breeding period, it was found that many nest flooded by seawater and mass-movements of colonies was observed too. In 2001 during the breeding season a desertion of a whole colony was observed. In this colony (approx. 110 breeding

pairs) there were already hatched chicks (some days old) and ten days later the colony was deserted totally. Eggs were predated, chicks disappeared and adults left the breeding area.

Proposed study (2005-2007)

We propose to study the population dynamics in order to detect the bottleneck(s) of the changes. Besides monitoring the population (number of breeding pairs, breeding characteristics and distribution) also aspects of survival rate of the juveniles, the winter distribution, food availability and other aspects will be studied. Colour ringing and biometric measurements of juveniles will be included in the study.

An action Plan for Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* in Spain

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The Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* is considered as a priority species by the Andalusian Government of Spain, which is ensuring the conservation and monitoring of colonies since a decade. The actual Management Plan of the Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*), is carried out mainly in the andalusian wetlands where most of the population concentrates, but also extends to other regions of the migratory flyway in order to ensure the conservation of the species. Spoonbill censuses are carried out every month, colonies are visited several times throughout the breeding season. Nests are counted and chicks are ringed, using a common methodology in all colonies. All data are gathered in a common database, including historical data and cartography. There are now more than 20-year data of spoonbill ringing and monitoring gathered in collaboration with the Doñana Biological Station. One of the aim of the project is to analyse the long-term trends in the population. Conservation techniques have been applied in several colonies, including nest protection against tides, nest support, islands creation, gravel restoration and reintroduction of spoonbills reared in captivity. A field techniques manual is currently being compiled. Spoonbill mortality and diseases are investigated. An good overview of the population and management techniques has been now achieved and spoonbill protection can be improved in Spain.

However, survival of this migratory species is linked to the protection of the migratory flyway and the wintering areas. Collaboration with the managers of wetlands from sub-saharian countries is of vital importance, especially because birds spend their first three or four years in those countries. In winter, most of the West Atlantic population (9 000–10.000 individuals) rely on Mauritania and Senegal's wetlands. Through this program, the Consejería of Medio Ambiente considers as a priority to reinforce contacts along the Atlantic flyway and especially with African countries.

Call for four coordinated censuses

One way to gain knowledge about winter population, reproduction and migration is to achieve coordinated international censuses. Many observers already carry out counts periodically. In some cases, data are available on websites. The International counting of Aquatic Birds, organized by Wetlands International in mid-January, allows to estimate the total effectives, based on the assumption that birds in winter do not move. However, at this time spoonbills that breed in Spain are already nesting (reproduction starts normally at the end of december) or coming back from Africa, thus suggesting that mid-december would be a more appropriate date to census wintering birds.

We call for your participation to count spoonbills four times a year: in mid-March, (the peak of breeding season in Spain and the peak of migration for Dutch birds), mid-June (end of breeding season in Spain) mid-septembre (post-nuptial migration)

and mid-december (wintering), with a special effort to identify age classes and as much as rings as possible. Data will be gathered and published in the Spoonbill newsletter.

Spoonbill Mortality in South Spain in the pre-breeding season

Claudine de le Court & Rubén Rodríguez Olivares

In South Spain, between mid-February and mid-March 2005, many adult spoonbills were found dead or in poor condition. This mortality coincided with very cold days and the absence of rainfall. Although other species were also affected, among the aquatic birds, spoonbills were the most sensitive. Most spoonbills captured in poor conditions had full nuptial plumage, were not able

to fly and weighed less than 1kg. First results indicated that starvation was the cause of mortality. At the same time, the start of breeding has been delayed at least two months in andalusian colonies due to adverse climatologic conditions. In this abnormal situation we may expect part of the spoonbill population to disperse elsewhere or not breed at all.

Important areas at the Atlantic coast of the Iberian Peninsula for the wintering of spoonbills

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Waterfowl January censuses performed during the 1990-2003 period in Spain (MMA, 2004) showed the regular presence of spoonbills on several localities: O Grove inlet, Santoña saltmarshes, Ebro delta, Cadiz bay and the saltmarshes of Guadalquivir, Odiel and Ayamonte. COSTA *et al.* (2003) concluded that Castro Marim saltmarshes, Ria Formosa, Salgados lagoon and Tejo Estuary are the most important localities in Portugal for the wintering of this species. In recent years wintering of spoonbills has increased in Europe (see POORTER, 1999). The Atlantic coast of the Iberian Peninsula has followed this trend and some localities such as O Grove inlet became an important site for wintering spoonbills (LORENZO, 1998; LORENZO & RODRÍGUEZ, 1999).

Updated information with regard to the presence of wintering spoonbills in wetlands from Galicia (Spain) and Portugal, both in the Atlantic coast of the Iberian Peninsula, is supplied. The wetlands located in the south-west of Spain where important breeding colonies occur and up to 400 wintering individuals (De le COURT *et al.*, 2004) are

excluded from this study. This is due to their particular dynamic which includes a not well known number of autochthonous individuals during winter. The following information is, therefore, based in counts performed on the main wetland areas sited on the Galician and Portuguese coasts during the first ten-days in December. This is the time when wintering spoonbills are well settled (pers. observations at O Grove inlet), and also it removes the bias produced in the January counts due to the early arrival of individuals to the breeding grounds in south-western Spain (De le COURT & AGUILERA, 1997).

The results are presented below (tab. I). At O Grove inlet and Tejo estuary wintering spoonbills were monitored during six consecutive years (1999-2004), whereas at the studied localities from Algarve bird counts were performed during years 2000, 2003 and 2004. In addition, data for other localities from Portugal and Galicia (see Table) and those obtained by other observers at the Ria de O Burgo (J.A. de Souza and A. Sandoval, pers. comm.) are also included.

| Tab. I :December first ten-days spoonbill counts | | | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
| Ría de Ribadeo | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 1 |
| Ría de Ortigueira | 0 | 0 | 2 | - | 0 | 1 |
| Ría de O Burgo | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| O Grove inlet | 83 | 86 | 83 | 85 | 105 | 107 |
| Lérez estuary | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Miño estuary | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Mondego estuary | - | - | - | - | 2 | - |
| Tejo estuary | 74 | 103 | 130 | 145 | 174 | 207 |
| Arade estuary | - | - | - | - | 17 | 11 |
| Salgados lagoon | - | - | - | - | 13 | 11 |
| Ría Formosa | - | 25 | - | - | 29 | 21 |
| Castro Marim | - | 33 | - | - | 42 | 83 |

(-: no data)

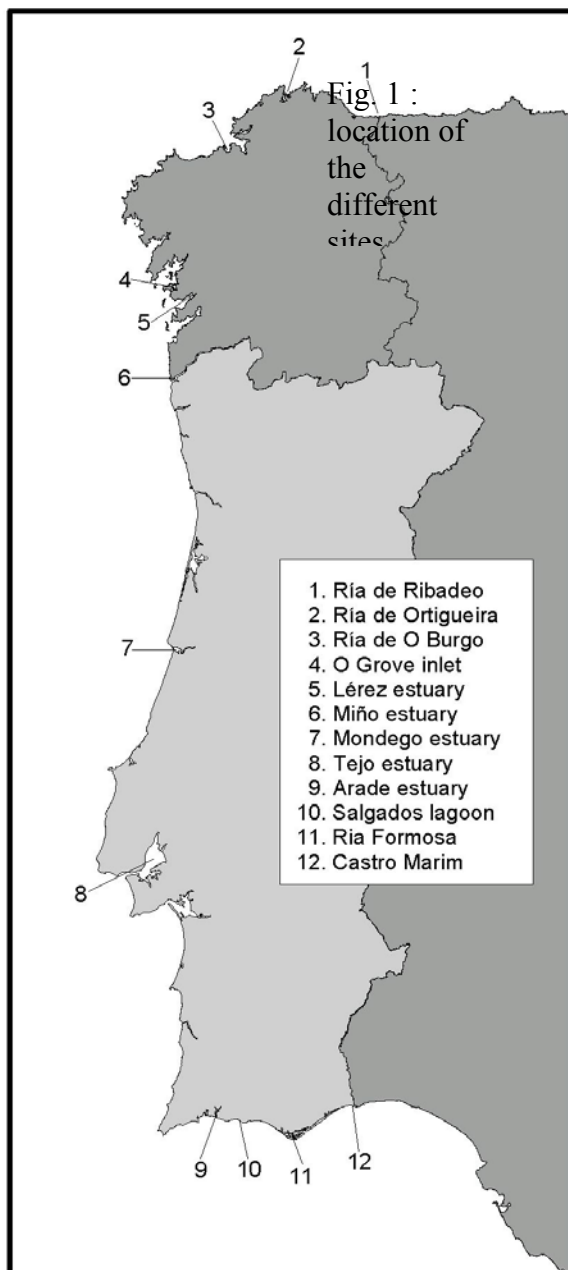
From Table I, it can be seen that O Grove inlet and Tejo estuary are the main wintering areas for this species, gathering between 83 -107 and 74-207 individuals, respectively. Both localities showed a positive trend in the number of wintering individuals along years, also in agreement with previous observations at O Grove by LORENZO & RODRÍGUEZ (1999)., It can be compared too with the low numbers (47 individuals) recorded at Tejo estuary in previous years (COSTA & RUFINO, 1997). Furthermore, information derived from banded individuals suggest that the wintering population at O Grove inlet is originated from The Netherlands, whereas that of Tejo estuary includes both Dutch and French birds (O. Overdijk, pers. comm.).

Lower numbers were recorded at the wetlands in the Algarve (Castro Marim, Ría Formosa, Salgados lagoon and Arade estuary), although in Castro Marim an increase in number of wintering

individuals was observed in December 2004. These records are, however, slightly lower to those reported in the January census by COSTA *et al.* (2003) for Castro Marim (200-500 individuals) and Ría Formosa (150-350). Re-sightings of banded birds confirm the presence of spoonbills originated from The Netherlands, France and Spain (O. Overdijk, C. de le Court, pers. comm.).

In other areas, such as Mondego estuary, Miño estuary, Lérez estuary, Ría do Burgo, Ría de Ortigueira and Ría de Ribadeo, records of this species are scarce, below 5 individuals, although a regular presence was observed in some sites.

In conclusion, and from the information obtained as a result of the December counts performed in years 2003 and 2004, the total population of wintering spoonbills in the Atlantic coast of the Iberian Peninsula is on average 416 individuals.



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Lagoa dos Salgados, a valuable wetland in the Algarve for breeding Birds and Migrants. A regular winter staging site for Spoonbills *Platalea leucorodia*

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The wetland **Lagoa dos Salgados** has become recently an increasingly important bird area in southern Portugal. Formerly a salt marsh (Pêra marsh), the area has been slowly transformed into a freshwater lagoon. It lies in the centre of the Algarve (37°06'N; 08°20'W) eastward of the large town Armação de Pêra. The lake of about 70 ha is

bordered in the South by a four km long sand dune, facing the Atlantic coast. In the northwest it is surrounded by agricultural and some waste lands, and to the East by a golf course, constructed in 1994.

In addition to the main aquatic vegetation (*Juncus maritimus*, *J. acutus*, *Cotula coronopifolia*), there are some large reed clumps (*Phragmites australis*) growing in the southeastern part, adding to the biodiversity and ecological value of the marsh. Recently, Salgados became an important breeding site for the Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio porphyrio*. Other breeding species such as Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*, Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*, Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*, Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*, Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedipnemos*, Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*, and other ducks, just to name a few bird species to underline the importance of this wetland. In addition the lake is visited in spring and autumn by thousands of migrants. Some of them are considered as rare. In the winter months Salgados is becoming a regular staging site for about 20 Spoonbills *Platalea leucorodia* and at times of over 300 Flamingos *Phoenicopterus ruber*. Both species show an increasing tendency. This unique wetland is seriously threatened by plans to develop the area and to build an additional golf course and to construct large hotels. Other problems are the discharge of insufficiently treated sewage from an outdated treatment plant nearby

and the periodical almost complete drainage of the lake. After times of heavy rains, a ditch is dredged with a bulldozer through the beach towards the Atlantic, whenever the adjacent golf course is threatened of water logging of their greens. This problem could easily be solved by constructing a relatively inexpensive, tightly packed stone dam of about 30 m, to prevent the complete draining of the lake. In order to maintain an adequate water table, a sluice gate should be constructed into the dam. The aim of this article is to draw wider attention to the difficult situation of Salgados, in the hope that this marsh will be granted a Special Protection Area (SPA) which is necessary for the European Union Legislation to declare this unique wetland a reserve. Many European ornithologists, scientists, nature lovers and tourists are visiting the lake for bird watching each year. This concern is demonstrating, that the local officials have, besides their great responsibilities toward preserving their natural heritage, also the tremendous chance to set this area aside for extensive ecotourism and nature education. There is the hope, in case the development cannot be completely averted, that at least ecologists and biologists will get the chance to advise the construction engineers to minimize the damage to the site.

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Results of Eurasian Spoonbill research and color ringing in Serbia in 2004

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1. Research and color ringing

In order to improve the knowledge about the Spoonbill in Serbian breeding sites, the Serbian Spoonbill Study Group continued the research programme started in 2003. The study was helped by European nature heritage fund (EURONATUR) in frame of small project "Eurasian Spoonbill Population Survey and Protection in Serbia". Its basic aims in 2004 were:

- distribution, estimation of the breeding numbers, ecological condition of breeding sites;
- assessment of conservation status and protection needs,
- dialogue with stakeholders on and around colony sites;
- develop arguments to designate Spoonbill colony sites as protected areas.

Detailed project results, with historical Spoonbill population development overview were presented on Kongress of Slovene Ornithologists (Ljubljana, Slovenia, 19 February 2005) and published

(Tucakov, 2004). As part of International Spoonbill Colour Ringing Program, which started in 2003 (Tucakov et al., 2003), ringing was continued in 2004 (Table 1.)

Table 1. Number of Spoonbill chicks colour ringed in Serbia in 2004

| Colony location | 30 May 2004 | 20 June 2004 | Total no.of ringed chicks |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Becej fishpond | 45 | 19 | 64 |
| Jazovo fishpond | 25 | 12 | 37 |
| Total no. of ringed chicks | 70 | 31 | 101 |

Table 2. Number of sightings (until 31 December 2004) of Spoonbills ringed in Serbia in 2004

| Country of recovery | Number of birds | Percent of ringed birds |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Croatia | 21 | 20,8% |
| Hungary | 7 | 6,9% |
| Israel | 2 | 2% |
| Tunisia | 1 | 1% |
| Italy | 1 | 1% |

2. Dialogue with the stakeholders

Important part of our activities was dialogue with managers of fishponds where the two biggest colonies are situated. Becej fishpond is the first one that run specialized fish restaurant and maintain several small ponds for sport fishing. Jazovo fishpond works as a working unit of state-owned company for freshwater fish production. Yet, the company who owe this fishpond has asked for the Serbian national conservation authority to allow large-scale shooting of Cormorants in 2003 and 2004 in this particular fishpond, so there is reasonable fear that this shooting will not be selective. Burning of reed is regular on this fishpond, and company will continue with this practice in future.

3. Conservation efforts

In official letter sent to Dr. Lidija Amidžić, director of the Institute for the Nature Conservation of Serbia on October 11th 2004, we proposed to start of procedure of protection of areas in which three Spoonbill colonies exist, according to the Serbian Law on Nature Conservation. Our main arguments explained to details in the proposal were:

1. All these sites are Important Bird Areas (IBAs). Moreover, Jazovo and Kapetanski fishponds are adjacent to already established nature reserves, and, therefore, borders of these reserves can be extended to include these sites.
2. Jazovo and Becej fishponds satisfy Criterion 6 for designation as Ramsar sites.
3. Spoonbill is endangered SPEC 2 species with small population, and in the focus of conservationist's attention on the global and European levels.

4. Most of its breeding sites in Europe are protected,
5. In Serbia it is very rare breeder with 147 – 182 pairs, which is of European importance.
6. Just one out of four breeding localities is currently protected: 97,9% of pairs in Serbia breed on unprotected areas.
7. Due to sudden and unpredictable changes of management practice on fishponds, and fragmentation of foraging niches, despite the strict measures prescribed in national biodiversity protection legislative, there are no preconditions for stabilization of breeding numbers without protection of its breeding habitats on national and international levels.

Bird Study and protection Society of Vojvodina has not received answer to this letter.

4. Additional results

Three reports in Serbian newspaper have been published on the subject of project implementation, with a brief summary of Spoonbill status in Serbia.

5. Problems in project implementation

1. All (suspected very numerous and fragmented) Spoonbill feeding sites have been rather poorly surveyed. Thus, significance of particular sites has remained unknown.
2. There are no observers of ringed birds in Serbia: it was impossible to ensure the monitoring of local post fledgling movements.

Aknowledgements: Many thanks to Dr. Martin Schneider-Jacoby for his useful comments and professional leadership. International Spoonbill Colour Ringing project, coordinated by Otto Overdijk, motivated us to start the census work.

6. References

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The proceedings of the 1997 workshop are now available on Eurosite web site.



Spoonbill in the snow : Baie de Somme, February 22th, 2005

The Eurosite Spoonbill network newsletter is edited by Eurosite. The present editorial team is composed by Otto OVERDIJK (Natuurmonumentum) and by Patrick TRIPLET (SMACOPI).