

Table 14. Summary of bird counts for selected species at freshwater wetlands (sites G-P) in Cambodia (22-31 March 1994)

Site numbers as in text. G - Kin Kleang Marsh, H - Boeng Kak, I - Beong Snav, J - Kein Tsay Marsh, K - Sri Ambil Lake, L - Basset Marsh, M - Phum Au Krang Ambel, N - Wetland on Route 1 to Neak Leung, O - Beong Khsach Sa, P - West Baray Lake.

Sites	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
Little Grebe	3		40			22	6			11
Little Cormorant	2		2		8	3				
cormorant sp.					26					
Oriental Darter					2					
Grey Heron									1	
Purple Heron	1				1	3			1	
Little Heron									5	
Chinese Pond Heron							1	12	10	
Javan Pond Heron								3		
Pond Heron sp.	40					11	1	32	3	4
Cattle Egret						0		1	200	5
Great Egret	1					0	1	3	5	9
Plumed Egret						1				
Little Egret					1	4	1	3	1	15
white egrets					25				540	
Yellow Bittern	3					1	1			
Cinnamon Bittern	1						1			
Painted Stork									8	
Lesser Treeduck			4	6	56	129	24		1,028	500
Spot-billed Duck									4	
Garganey									3,400	
Cotton Pygmy Goose	5		50	8	6	72				
Common Moorhen	3					10				
Purple Swampphen						2				
Pheasant-tailed Jacana			12			25	4			
Bronze-winged Jacana	3		4	2		2	11			
Red-wattled Lapwing							1			
Small Pratincole									4	

Summary: The site seems to be important for waterbirds. It was one of the few wetlands where Oriental Darter was observed.

Recommendations: Additional surveys are recommended for this site as it is likely that large waterbirds, mainly storks and pelican, occur here at other times of the year.

Site L. Basset Marsh

Date: 23 March 1994 *Surveyors:* TM, SH, HS

Location and Description: An extensive area of marshes and lakes a few kilometres north-west of Phnom Penh city, 11°38'N 104°50'E, off Route 5 (Figure 5). The marshes receive most of their water from the Tonle Sap River. The water level of a large part of the marsh is controlled by a gate system. At the time of the visit, the water level was low and some sections of the marshes were covered almost completely with floating and emergent vegetation. Only a small section of the area was surveyed. A section of this area is to be developed as a natural recreation site by the Phnom Penh authorities in consultation with the Forestry Department.

Human Activities: Several fishermen were present, and domestic ducks were reared.

Avifauna: There were a large number and diversity of waterbirds (Table 14). Of interest was the high number of Cotton Pygmy-Geese and Pheasant-tailed Jacanas. Spot-billed Pelicans were reported to visit the area at other times of the year. Oriental Pratincole were probably breeding in the area.

Summary: The marsh was important for marsh-dwelling waterbird species. Surveys are recommended at other times of the year. It is possible that disturbance levels by people and fishermen may prevent its use by large numbers of storks etc.

Site M. Phum Au Krang Ambel

Date: 25 March 1994 *Surveyors:* TM, HS, NBT

Location and Description: Located on the south-west of Phnom Penh city, along Route 4 to Sihanoukville, about 7km before Kampong Speu town, 11°29'N 104°40'E, (Figure 5). The wetland is divided by the road with the major portion to the north, but the deeper section on the south. The water level was controlled by three gates and an overflow weir. The south side was covered almost completely by lotus although the deepest section was free of any vegetation. On the north side, the wetland was surrounded by cultivation. At the time of the visit, the water level was very low and cultivation appeared to extend into the wetland. The wetland was fed by a small river entering the wetland from the north.

Human Activities: There were a few fishermen present, and a few army personnel shooting fish with their guns. Cattle were being grazed along the shores of the northern side.

Avifauna: A few Bronze-winged Jacana, including some recently fledged individuals, were present on the south side (Table 14).

Summary: The wetland appeared to be good for waterbirds even though the road ran through it. During higher water, the birds feeding at the edges of the wetland would be quite a distance from possible disturbance and it is probable that storks visit the area.