

Country: Suriname

Season/Year: 2002

Coordinator and complete address:

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Date of first count: 29 Jan. 2002

Date of last count: 1 May 2002

Other organizations or people who helped: See list of Participants

I. Comments from Table 1: General conditions of wetlands this season.

In January (short rainy season) the water level was medium high (Prallala Pan) to low and very low in zone 11 and in parts of 10, 8 and 9. Most of the lagoons here were completely dried up. In March the water level was rising until it was very high at the end of April (start of long rainy season)

II. Comments from Table 2a-z:

Only the zones 6, 10, 12, 3b and 4b will be shown in table 2. The other zones had very little ducks.

Site 1: General description, vegetation, precipitation, water level, waterfowl habitats, threats to waterfowl, current situation, etc. Compare with previous years.

The Prallala Pan in zone 6 within the Coppename-monding Nature Reserve, is a large lagoon surrounded by Mangroves *Avicennia spec.* and with patches of Mangroves in the lagoon. It is not deep. Probably not deeper than 1 m. The water is salt or brackish. During dry seasons the water level can be very low, and part of the lagoon may dry up. Only the deep middle part may then have water.

No part of the "Pan", however, dried up this year. As far as we know there is no threat for the waterfowl as we think that the Pan is very difficult to access, and above all, hunting is not allowed in nature reserves. Some illegal hunting, however, still may take place. It is , however, not known whether this is the reason why less Blue Wings and other ducks have been observed here than last year.

Site 2: General description, vegetation, precipitation, water level, waterfowl habitats, threats to waterfowl, current situation, etc. Compare with previous years.

The Bigi Pan is the largest open water lagoon in the country surrounded by mature and dying mangrove forest, and shallow salt to brackish water swamp covered with halophytic herb vegetation, short grasses and ferns.

In between there are several small open waters. It is in these open waters where waterfowl are found. Partially, the Bigi Pan is also surrounded by rice fields. The depth of the water in the Bigi Pan varies from approximately 50 cm in the dry season to approx. 1 meter in the rainy season. Parts of the lagoons surrounding the Pan dry up in the dry season. The Bigi Pan itself never dries up.

The entire area is subjected to tidal action, and is very accessible. The Bigi Pan is connected with the sea by several creeks and with the Nickerie River by the Jamaer Canal

The Bigi Pan is known for its rich fish population and many fishermen use the area for fishing which takes place the whole year round. Several fishermen have their camp in the Pan. The area is also visited by plenty hunters. Lot of hunting takes place here.

Site 3: General description, vegetation, precipitation, water level, waterfowl habitats, threats to waterfowl, current situation, etc. Compare with previous years.

Zone 12. The area consists of shallow brackish to fresh water short grass swamps, and tall grass swamps dominated by *Typha angustifolia*. Also fern swamps and swamp shrubs, and patches of mangrove trees also are found. The depth of the water varies between approx. 30 cm in the dry season to approx. 75 cm in the rainy season. Some waters may dry up in the dry season. The area borders for a great part to rice fields. However, no damage by rice cultivation has been observed so far. The area is less accessible than the Bigi Pan area, but some hunting and fishing may take place here.

Site 4: General description, vegetation, precipitation, water level, waterfowl habitats, threats to waterfowl, current situation, etc. Compare with previous years.

Zone 3b. The area is an abandoned plantation area consisting of several open waters and patches of mangrove trees and short and tall grass swamps. The depth of the water may vary between 30 cm in the dry season and 60-70 cm in the rainy season. Some parts dry up in the dry season. The area is rather accessible and hunting and some fishing may take place there.

Site 5: General description, vegetation, precipitation, water level, waterfowl habitats, threats to waterfowl, current situation, etc. Compare with previous years.

Zone 4b. The area is an abandoned plantation area too, and consists of brackish short grass and fern swamps, and brackish to fresh water short grass swamps. The water depth varies between approx. 30 cm in the dry season to approx. 70 cm in the rainy season. Some parts dry up in the dry season. The area is very well accessible, and is known for its rich fish population and fishing activities. Some fisherman have their overnight camps here. Extensive hunting may occur.

III. Comments from Tables 3a-z: Other species of interest encountered, note unusual observations (birds came too early, only one sex, an eclipse, etc.)

Very interesting was the observation of a Southern Pochard *Netta erythrophthalma* on 30 January 2002 in the Wia wia reserve 54.15 WL just behind the mangroves. This is the second observation in Suriname for this species. Other species of interest were Roseate Spoonbills, Jabiru's, Wood storks, Flamingo's and Scarlet Ibises.

Roseate Spoonbills were seen only between the Suriname river and the Marowijne in much higher numbers than before. Probably they have been coming from elsewhere (Venezuela ?).

Jabiru's and spoonbills are much more common in the seventies (Spaans pers comm.) We only spotted a few Jabiru, near Wia Wia and Bigi Pan.

We saw large numbers, up to 4000, of Wood storks especially in the western part of the coast. Counting was difficult; often they fly as high as we were (approx. 150-200 feet). We have to keep looking down for counting the ducks. There is some danger of a collision. Once the pilot had to dive underneath a flock to avoid a collision.

Flamingo's are seen along the whole coast on the mudflats where they are foraging in groups up to several 100. Often they also are seen in the Prallala pan.

The Scarlet Ibis has been observed breeding in two colonies this year. One about 20 km east of the mouth of the Suriname river and one in the Coppename-monding Nature Reserve not far from the mouth of the Coppename river. Our count in the beginning of April was much higher than our count at the end.. On 15 May poachers were caught with 150 ibises, which had been killed in the colony east of 'Weg naar Zee'. Poaching might be the explanation of the decline.

IV. Conclusions/Suggestions: Reasons for unusual population numbers (migration, hunting, ranching, etc.). Problems encountered.

This was a very unusual year compared to 2000 and 2001. In the sense that we did not see hardly any Blue Wing in the Prallala pan. It appeared to be very good that we explored the area like before instead of restricting ourselves to a fixed route which was my first idea. Thanks to Kris Mohadin we decided to continue in the same way. And so we found many Blue Wing in Zone 12 which had not had any before.

What could have been the reason for this change. The water level in the Prallala pan was much higher than in former years, which might have been the reason. Another possibility would that poachers have found a way to the pan. However the observation of Flamingo's points out that this is not very likely.

The low count in the beginning of March and the much higher count in the end of March concerning the Blue wing can be explained in the following way. Maybe the birds which have been wintering left earlier, while the birds coming from the south were later than usual.

The numbers of Muscovy ducks were even lower than the years before. Two recent interesting observations I received from Harry Hunfeld from the 'Construction Department of STINASU. At 14 June 3 groups of in total 50 Muscovies were flying over Babun Santi near the STINASU lodges in the Galibi Nature Reserve in the Marowijne-river estuary. They came from the direction of the large tidal forested area in French Guiana on the other side of the Marowijne river. I know there are Muscovies breeding there. On 15 June two groups of in total 35 ducks were passing. Both observations were done before 8:00 o'clock in the morning. It is possible that the breeding season which starts in February has ended. It is known that the ducks come to the Mangrove forest along the coast after breeding.

We suggest to continue in the same way with surveys at the end of January, end of February, second and fourth weekend of March and second weekend of April.

Table 1 Wetlands and Coordinators

Sites	Coordinator	Coordinates (GPS y)
Pralala pan (in Zone 6)	Otte Ottema (OO)	5°55'--'' N n 55°54'--'' W
Bigi pan (zone 10)	OO	5°54' N 56°52' - 56°48' W
Zone 9	OO	5.54 N 56.48 – 56.37 W
Zone 8	OO	5.53 N 56.37 - 56.19
Zone 12	OO	5.52 N 56.52 – 56.37 W
Zone 1a	OO	5°50' N n 54°07' - 54°03' W
Zone 1	OO	5.54 - 5.50 N 54.33-54.01 W
Zone 3b	OO	South of 5.58 N 54.51.50 – 51.42
Belgie Pan (in 3b)	OO	54.49.11WL 5.57.30 NB:
Zone 4b	OO	South of 5.58 N 54.62 – 54.51.50 W

ANNEX 1: TABLES OF NUMBER OF BIRDS PER WETLAND

Wetland: PRALALA PAN

Site 1: Pralala pan 5°55' --" N 55°54' --" W	Date: 29/01/02	Date: 7/3/02
	Count type: (aerial/) Plane: Cessna 6-seater Company: Gum Air Pilot name: Philip	Count type: Plane: Company: Pilot name: Harold
	Time: 7:34 am- 11:05 am	Time: 7:35 – 10:46
	Climatic Conditions: clear/Cloudy	clear
	Observer: Kris/Otte / and oth	Observer: Kris/Otte / and oth
<i>Anas discors</i>	1500	50
<i>Dendro autumnn</i>	1500	-
<i>Anas bahamen</i>	1500	100/200
<i>Dendro bicolor</i>	-	-

Site 1: Pralala pan 5°55' --" N 55°54' --" W	Date: 26/3/02	Date: 11/4/02
	Count type: (aerial/) Plane: Cessna 6-seater Company: Gum Air Pilot name: harold	Count type: Plane: Company: Pilot name: Harold
	Time: 7:15 am- 10:55 am	Time: 7:24 – 10:54
	Climatic Conditions: clear/	Clear
	Observer: Kris/Otte / and oth	Observer: Kris/Otte / and oth
<i>Anas discors</i>	-	-
<i>Dendro autumnn</i>	-	-
<i>Anas bahamen</i>	100/200/200	200/7/35
<i>Dendro bicolor</i>	20	50/1/25

Site 1: Pralala pan 5°55' --" N 55°54' --" W	Date: 30/4/02	Date:
	Count type: (aerial/) Plane: Cessna 6-seater Company: Gum Air Pilot name: Philip	Count type: Plane: Company: Pilot name:
	Time: 7:05 am- 10:16 am	Time:
	Climatic Conditions: /Cloudy	
	Observer: Kris/Otte / and oth	Observer:
<i>Anas discors</i>	No ducks	
<i>Dendro autumnn</i>		
<i>Anas bahamen</i>		

Wetland: BIGI PAN

Site 2: Bigi Pan Zone 10 5°54' N 56°52' - 56°48 W	Date: 29/01/02	Date: 7/3/02
	Count type: (aerial/) Plane: Cessna 6-seater Company: Gum Air Pilot name: Philip	Count type: Plane: Company: Pilot name: Harold
	Time: 7:34 am- 11:05 am	Time: 7:35 - 10:45
	Climatic Conditions: clear/	Climate conditions: clear
	Observer: Kris/Otte / and oth	Observer: Kris/Otte / and oth
<i>Anas discors</i>	-	800
<i>Dendro bicolor</i>	40	-
<i>Dendro autumn</i>	400	2500

Site 2: Bigi Pan Zone 10 5°54' N 56°52' - 56°48 W	Date: 26/3/02	Date: 11/04/02
	Count type: (aerial/) Plane: Cessna 6-seater Company: Gum Air Pilot name: Harrold	Count type: Plane: Company: Pilot name: Harrold
	Time: 7:15 am- 10:55 am	Time: 7:24 – 10:54
	Climatic Conditions: clear/	Climate conditions: clear
	Observer: Kris/Otte / and oth	Observer: Kris/Otte / and oth
<i>Anas discors</i>	2/20	3
<i>Dendro bicolor</i>		
<i>Anas bahamen</i>	60	4/2/2/8
<i>Dendro autumn</i>		500
<i>Cair. moshata</i>		2

Site 2: Bigi Pan Zone 10 5°54' N 56°52' - 56°48 W	Date: 30/4/02	Date:
	Count type: (aerial/) Plane: Cessna 6-seater Company: Gum Air Pilot name: Harrold	Count type: Plane: Company: Pilot name:
	Time: 7:15 am- 10:55 am	Time:
	Climatic Conditions: not clear/rain	Climate conditions:
	Observer: Kris/Otte / and oth	Observer: Kris/Otte / and oth
<i>Anas discors</i>	-	
<i>Dendro bicolor</i>	8/4/10/20	
<i>Anas bahamen</i>	2	
<i>Dendro autumn</i>	1/2/2/4	
<i>Cair. moshata</i>	1	

Wetland 3

Site 3: Zone 12 5.52 N 56.52 – 56.37 W	Date: 7/3/02	Date: 26/3/02
	Count type: (aerial/ Plane: Cessna 6-seater Company: Gum Air Pilot name: harrold	Count type: Plane: Company: Pilot name:
	Time: 7:35 - !0:45	Time: 7:15 - 10:55
	Climate conditions: clear	Climate conditions: clear
	Observer: Kris/Otte / and oth	Observer: Kris/Otte / and oth
<i>Anas discors</i>		2000/80/500
<i>Dendro bicolor</i>		
<i>Anas bahamen</i>	30	175
<i>Dendro autumn</i>		1000/1500/500
<i>Cair. moshata</i>		

	Date: 11-4-02	Date: 30/4/02
	Count type: (aerial/ Plane: Cessna 6-seater Company: Gum Air Pilot name: Harold	Count type: Plane: Company: Pilot name:
	Time: 7:24 am- 10:54 am	Time: 7:05 - 10:16
	Climatic Conditions: clear/	Climate conditions:
	Observer: Kris/Otte / and oth	Observer: Kris/Otte / and oth
<i>Anas discors</i>		
<i>Dendro bicolor</i>		
...		
<i>Dendro autumn</i>		10/8/2/1/2/
<i>Cair. moshata</i>	1	

Wetland 4

Site 4: Zone 3b South of 5.58 N 54.51.50 – 51.42 W	Date: 30/01/02	Date: 8/3
	Count type: (aerial/ Plane: Cessna 6-seater Company: Gum Air Pilot name: Harrold	Count type: Plane: Company: Pilot name: Harrold
	Time: 7:30 am- 9:20 am	Time: 7:40 – 9:35
	Climatic Conditions: /Cloudy	Climate conditions: Cloudy/rain
	Observer: Kris/Otte / and oth	Observer: idem
<i>Anas discors</i>	1300 (Belgie pan)	40
<i>Dendro bicolor</i>		
<i>Anas bahamen</i>	1400 (Belgie Pan)	400
<i>Dendro autumn</i>		25
<i>Cair. moshata</i>		3

Site 4:	Date: 27/03/02	Date:
	Count type: (aerial/ Plane: Cessna 6-seater Company: Gum Air Pilot name: Harrold	Count type: Plane: Company: Pilot name:
	Time: 7:20 am- 9:22 am	Time:
	Climatic Conditions: clear/	Climate conditions:
	Observer: Kris/Otte / and oth	Observer: JG
<i>Anas discors</i>	3000 {Belgie pan) 500	
<i>Dendro bicolor</i>		
<i>Anas bahamen</i>	...	
<i>Dendro autumn</i>		
<i>Cair. moshata</i>		

Wetland 5

Site 5: Zone 4b South of 5.58 N 54.62 – 54.51.50 W	Date: 8/03/02	Date: 27/03/02
	Count type: (aerial/ Plane: Cessna 6-seater Company: Gum Air Pilot name: Harrold	Count type: Plane: Company: Pilot name:
	Time: 7:40 am- 9:35 a	Time: 7:20 – 9:22
	Climatic Conditions: /Cloudy/rain	Climate conditions: clear
	Observer: Kris/Otte / and oth	Observer: idem
<i>Anas discors</i>	6	500/200/50/80/40/40/30/150/100/6
<i>Dendro bicolor</i>		
<i>Anas bahamen</i>	5/4	7/20
<i>Dendro autumn</i>	10	20
<i>Cair. moshata</i>	1/2/2/1/2/	2/2/2

Site 5: Zone 4b South of 5.58 N 54.62 – 54.51.50 W	Date: 12/4/02	Date:
	Count type: (aerial/ Plane: Cessna 6-seater Company: Gum Air Pilot name: Philip	Count type: Plane: Company: Pilot name:
	Time: 7:18 am- 9:28 am	Time:
	Climatic Conditions: clear/	Climate conditions:
	Observer: Kris/Otte / and oth	Observer:
<i>Anas discors</i>	50	
<i>Dendro bicolor</i>	-	
<i>Anas bahamen</i>	20/75/25	
<i>Dendro autumn</i>	-	
<i>Cair. moshata</i>	-	

ANNEX 2: TABLES OF NUMBER OF BIRDS PER SPECIES

SPECIES: *Anas discors*

Species: <i>Anas discors</i>	Date: 29/1/02	Date: 7/3/02
Site: 1 Pralala pan	1500	50
Site: zone 7	-	25
Site: zone 8	-	200
Site:		
Site: 2 Bigi pan	-	800
Site:		

Species: <i>Anas discors</i>	Date: 30/1/02	Date: 8/3/02
Site: 4 Belgie pan (3b)	1300	-
Site: 4 zone 3b	-	40
Site: 5 zone 4b	-	6
Site:		
Site:		
Site:		

Species: <i>Anas discors</i>	Date: 26/3/02	Date: 11/4/02
Site: 1 Pralala pan	-	-
Site: zone 7	50	-
Site: zone 8	-	-
Site:		
Site: 2 Bigi pan	2/20	3
Site: 3 zone 12	2000/80/500	-

Species: <i>Anas discors</i>	Date: 27/3/02	Date: 12/4/02
Site: 4 Belgie pan	3000	-
Site: 4 zone 3b	3000/500	12/30/25
Site: 5 zone 4b	-	50
Site: zone 1a	80	-
Site: zone 4a	-	50/25
Site:		

SPECIES: *Dendrocygna bicolor*

Species: <i>Dendro. Bicol.</i>	Date: 29/1/02	Date: 7/3/02
Site: 1 Pralala pan	-	-
Site: zone 7	-	4
Site: zone 8	-	70/40/200
Site: zone 9	1	40/120
Site: 2 Bigi pan	40	-
Site: 3 zone 12	-	-

Species: <i>Dendro. Bicol.</i>	Date: 26/3/02	Date: 11/4/02
Site: 1 Pralala pan	20	50/1/25
Site: zone 7	-	25
Site: zone 8	-	15/8
Site: zone 11	-	250
Site: 2 Bigi pan	-	-
Site: 3 zone 12	-	-

Species: <i>Dendro. Bicol.</i>	Date: 12/4/02	Date:
Site: zone 4a	10	
Site:		
Site:		
Site:		
Site:		

Species: <i>Dendro. Bicol.</i>	Date: 30/4/02	Date:
Site: 1 Pralala pan	-	
Site: zone 7	-	
Site: zone 8	-	
Site: zone 9	2/15	
Site: 2 Bigi pan	8/4/10/20	
Site: 3 zone 12	-	

SPECIES: *Dendrocygna autumnalis*

Species: <i>Dendro. Aut.</i>	Date: 29/1/02	Date: 7/3/02
Site: 1 Pralala pan	1500	-
Site: zone 7	-	30
Site: zone 8	-	-
Site: zone 9	10/1000/25	-
Site: 2 Bigi pan	400	2500
Site: 3 zone 12	-	-

Species: <i>Dendro. Aut.</i>	Date: 8/3/02	Date: 27/3/02
Site: Zone 1	15	-
Site: 4 zone 3b	25	-
Site: 5 zone 4b	10	20
Site:		-
Site:		

Species: <i>Dendro. Aut.</i>	Date: 26/3/02	Date: 11/4/02
Site: 1 Pralala pan	-	-
Site: zone 7	-	-
Site: zone 8	-	-
Site: zone 9	-	-
Site: 2 Bigi pan	-	500
Site: 3 zone 12	1000/1500/500	-

Species: <i>Dendro. Aut.</i>	Date: 30/4/02	Date:
Site: 1 Pralala pan	-	
Site: zone 7	-	
Site: zone 8	-	
Site: zone 9	10	
Site: 2 Bigi pan	1/2/2/4	
Site: 3 zone 12	10/8/2/1/2	

Species: <i>Dendro. Aut.</i>	Date: 1/5/02	Date:
Site: Zone 1	2/15/10/1	-

SPECIES: *Anas bahamensis*

Species: <i>Anas baham.</i>	Date: 29/1/02	Date: 7/3/02
Site: zone 5	25	10/15/20/25
Site: 1 Pralala pan	1500	3/15/100/200
Site: zone 7	20	200/130
Site: zone 8	400	50/10/50/10/30/5
Site: zone 9	90/80	100/20
Site: zone 11	1200/300/10	-
Site: 3 zone 12	-	30

Species: <i>Anas baham.</i>	Date: 30/1/02	Date: 8/3/02
Site: zone 1	-	5/2/20/8
Site: zone 1a	-	50
Site: zone 2	-	5/1/2/20/10/4/8/7/6
Site: zone 3a	-	18/4/3/12/4/3/4/
Site: 4 Belgie pan (3b)	1400	-
Site: 4 zone 3b	1400	400
Site: zone 4a	-	-
Site: 5 zone 4b	-	5/4

Species: <i>Anas baham.</i>	Date: 26/3/02	Date: 11/4/02
Site: zone 5	-	8/4
Site: 1 Pralala pan	100/200/200	200/7/35
Site: zone 7	50/20	12
Site: zone 8	20/800	30/20/50
Site: zone 9	350	-
Site: 2 Bigi pan	60	4/2/2/8
Site: 3 zone 12	175	-

Species: <i>Anas baham.</i>	Date: 27/3/02	Date: 12/4/02
Site: zone 1	7/2/2	10/15
Site: zone 1a	150	80
Site: zone 2	20/4/25/12/27/15/3/2/3	3/4/60/3/60
Site: zone 3a	40	50/120/20/200/150/200// 50/250/300/200
Site: 4 zone 3b	-	60/5/5/10
Site: zone 4a	-	100/20/80/200
Site: 5 zone 4b	7/20	20/75/25

Species: <i>Anas baham...</i>	Date: 30/4/02	Date:
Site: 1 Pralala pan	-	
Site: zone 7	50	
Site: zone 8	-	
Site: zone 9	60/1	
Site: 2 Bigi pan	2	
Site: zone 11	8/60/20	

Species: : <i>Anas baham.</i>	Date: 1/5/02	Date:
Site: Zone 2a	66 (photo count)	-

SPECIES: *Cairina moschata*

Species: <i>Cair. moscha.</i>	Date: 30/1/02	Date:
Site: Zone 1	1/2/2/3/2	-

Species: <i>Cair. moscha.</i>	Date:	Date: 7/3/02
Site: 1 Pralala pan		-
Site: zone 7		1
Site: zone 8		2

Species: <i>Cair. Mosch.</i>	Date: 8/3/02	Date: 27/3/02
Site: zone 1	1	1/1/3
Site: zone 1a	-	2
Site: zone 2	2/1	-
Site: zone 3a	-	-
Site: 4 zone 3b	3	-
Site: zone 4a	2	-
Site: 5 zone 4b	1/2/2/1/2	2/2/2

Species: <i>Cair. Mosh</i>	Date: 11/4/02	Date: 30/4/02
Site: zone 5	-	-
Site: 1 Pralala pan	-	-
Site: zone 7	-	-
Site: zone 8	-	-
Site: zone 9	-	1
Site: 2 Bigi pan	2	1
Site: 3 zone 12	1	-
Species: <i>Cair. Mosch.</i>	Date: 12/4/02	Date: 1/5/02
Site: zone 1	1/1	1

ANNEX 3: PARTICIPANTS LIST

Name	E-mail	Wetlands Visited	Responsibilities	Level of Commitment
Otte Ottema	Otteottema@yahoo.com	All	Principal Observer	100% de visits/Counts
Kris Mohadin	kmohadin@cq-link.sr	All	Experienced Obsv.	100%
Rabin Nekrui	birds@stinasu.sr	All	Experienced Obsv.	100%
Shamita (Mieke) Sahdew	iber@cg-link.sr	All	Experienced Obsv.	50%
Arioene Vreedzaam	Arioene_vreedzaam@hotmail.com	All	Experienced Obsv.	25%
Keba Fitzgerald	Keba5@hotmail.com		Experienced Obsv.	Was not available
Foek Chin Joe		All	Beginning Obsv.	50%
Arie Spaans	A.L.Spaans@Alterra.wag-ur.nl	All	Experienced Obsv.	2 counts
Liza Narine		Zone 1 to 4	Beginning Obsv.	1 count
Vayani		Zone 5 to 12	Beginning Obsv.	1 count (will not continue, airsick)