

# **NATIONAL REPORT DUCK COUNTS SURINAME**

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## **Introduction**

This year we had enough money only for one survey, which was executed on 29 and 30 January 2007 as suggested by Montse. We surveyed only the two most important wetlands: Pralala Pan and Blijdslust using the criterium that only wetlands with a peak higher than 1000 Blue Wings should be monitored. For a description of the two wetlands see the report of 2006

## **PARTICIPANTS**

The survey on 29 January to Blijdslust has been executed by Kris Mohadin, Adjai and a new participant mrs Coupain. She became very airsick and will not continue to participate. I (Otte) returned from Holland on 28 January, therefore Kris had organized the surveys. The participants on 30 January to the Pralala Pan were Kris Mohadin, Rawien Jairam, Adjai, and Otte Ottema. Kris produced the field sheets like usual and assisted in the preparation of the National Report.

## **RESULTS**

We were able to execute 1 survey in the two most important wetlands, Pralala Pan and Blijdslust.

The results of the Blue Wing counts were disappointing again. The numbers were extraordinary low, such as last year. In the Pralala Pan we counted 130 Blue Wings while 900 have been counted in Blijdslust. Although these two years can not be compared with each other, as we only had 1 survey this year, we may expect that the numbers will be higher in the beginning of March and that it is expected that the number of Blue Wings of this year will almost be the same as the year before. Therefore the decline proved to be structural. For discussion on this decline see the 2006 report.

## **ENCOUNTERED PROBLEMS**

We still have not been able to estimate the amount of open water and floating and emergent vegetation in the wetlands. There are simply too many lagoons and the areas

are too large and too different in type to accomplish this task. Since the new online database requires to fill out these data, I made the best estimate, using the border of the open water as border of the wetland. I feel that I could estimate the amount of open water reliable. For Blijdslust the amount of floating vegetation was difficult to estimate but the database does not accept question marks. So I tried my best, but I do not consider these estimates very reliable.

I have some problems with filling out the data in the new online database, but I assume that this will be solved.

### **PLANS FOR NEXT SEASON**

Montse has informed us that for Suriname this project will end this year. The reason has not been mentioned, but I guess that this has to do with budgetary matters and the fact that the numbers of Blue Wings are low in this country. Our two most important sites barely meet the criterium of 1000.