

# CAMBODIA BIRD NEWS

ព័ត៌មានអំពីសត្វល្អិតសត្វល្អិនសត្វល្អិតសត្វល្អិន

n°6 - Dec 2000 - អង្គការសត្វល្អិតសត្វល្អិនសត្វល្អិតសត្វល្អិន - In English - En français

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# Editorial វិចារណកថា



A captive Buffy Fish Owl  
in Sre Khlong  
wildlife market

## CAMBODIA BIRD NEWS

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Jails are places for criminals.

Zoos in Cambodia are prisons for animals. But what crime did they commit? None, they just had the bad luck of encountering the most dangerous species on earth: Man, who captured them for money.

មោឃកូនទៅស្នាក់សត្វស្រុកខ្មែរ.....សត្វក្នុងគ្រុឌ Who are those unfortunate animals? How many are there? Where are they shown? What is their fate? These are a few questions that CBN attempts to answer on the basis of data collected across the country during fourteen months. The study on captive wildlife clearly demonstrates that, as zoos continue to mushroom, their detrimental impact on Cambodia's threatened wildlife heritage shouldn't be ignored.

Hunted, poached, traded like goods and now also dying in zoos, wildlife continues to suffer from man in Cambodia. Human beings are thinking animals. This gives them an unlimited power over all other living creatures on earth. This also means Man is responsible for his acts and behavior towards all other animals, his brothers and sisters of life.

We have the power, but we decide the use we make of it, between shame and dignity. Exploiting wildlife for profit, imprisoning animals for our pleasure, making animals die in captivity because of our negligence or incompetence deeply dishonours the human race.

It is only in fully respecting others, including other species, that Man deserves dignity. Buddhism advocates for the respect of all forms of life. Doesn't the word respect imply more than just refrain from killing? Shouldn't it also encompass the respect for the integrity and freedom of wild animals? Until that day, as a writer rightly pointed it, our species is the missing link between the ape and a truly human being.

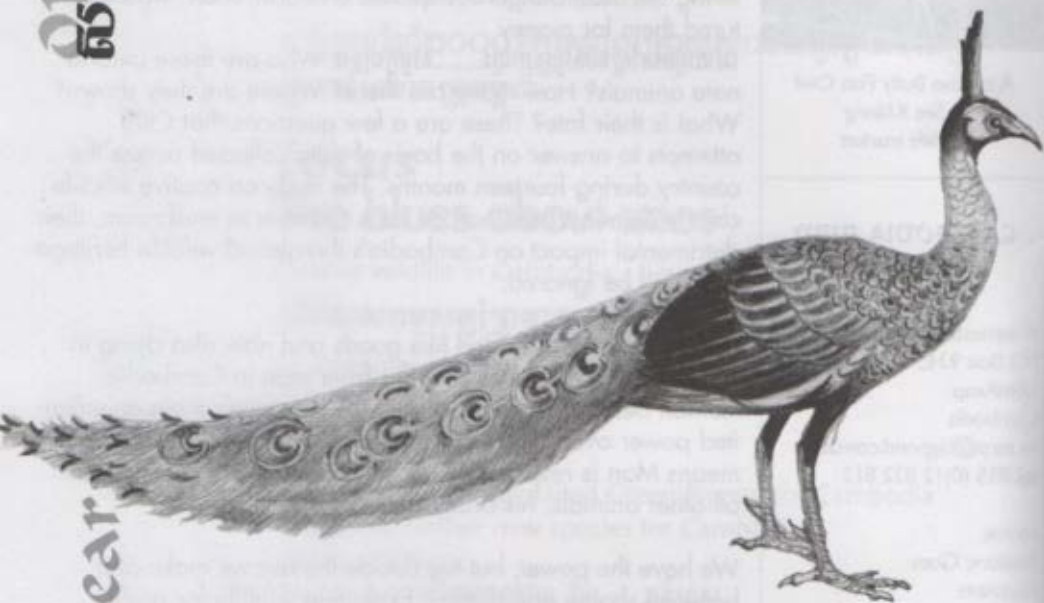
Frederic Goes, Siem Reap - 4 January 2001

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# Cambodia: the last chance for the green peafowl?

BY Tan Setha, Frédéric Goes and Pete Davidson



the birds of the year

**T**HE GREEN PEAFOWL *Pavo muticus* is a bird which has always fascinated man by its beauty and its extraordinary 1000-eyes fanning tail. Unfortunately, its large size combined with its attractive dress are the very reason for its current predicament: hunting for food and for trade of its tail feathers are driving the species to global extinction in the wild. This majestic bird was formerly abundant in Cambodia and ancient Khmer carved it on

the temples of Angkor. Although now extirpated from large parts of the country, important populations discovered this year in Mondolkiri and Preah Vihear confirm that Cambodia is probably the last stronghold for the species in the world. It is to highlight both these recent findings and the importance of Cambodia for the species survival that we chose the Green Peafowl as the bird of the year 2000.

**T**HE GREEN PEAFOWL is a large terrestrial bird with glossy dark green plumage and a tall, erect crest. The male has an extraordinary tail, or train, actually formed by its greatly elongated upper-tail covert feathers, measuring one and half metres - twice as long as his body. Formerly abundant across much of Southeast Asia, occurring from north-east India to Peninsular Malaysia and Indonesia (Java), the Green Peafowl has undergone a widespread and serious decline in the last few decades and is classified as Globally Threatened - Vulnerable (BirdLife International 2000). Information on the current status of Green Peafowl across its historical range is patchy, but a recent review paints a bleak picture (McGowan et al. 1998). It is now considered to be absent from most former sites in the region, with a global population numbering just 5,000-10,000 birds (Birdlife International in prep.).

### **Ecology: habitat use and behavior**

The Cambodian Bird of the Year shows a marked preference for open forest habitat and forest fringes along rivers or near ponds (Brickle *et al.* 1998). It is primarily associated with lowlands although it can be found up to 915 meters in Southeast Asia (Robson 2000). The dry deciduous forests with grassy understoreys found across large areas of northern and eastern Cambodia provide an ideal habitat for the species. The Peafowl is omnivorous, feeding mostly on grains, seeds, shoots, buds, leaves, fruits, insects and even frogs

and lizards. It is often found in small parties, foraging for food in the early morning and late afternoon. It is wary and usually prefers to run away rather than fly to flee an approaching human. It has the habit of roosting on large trees early in the evening and calling just after going to roost and again prior to descending at dawn. This characteristic behaviour renders the species easy to locate and hunt (Birdlife International in prep.).

### **Life history**

From late February until April, the males start to give their loud, unmistakable "kan gnoak" territorial call to attract the females. March, the peak calling season, is the best period to survey this shy and otherwise secretive species. Populations can be estimated by counting the number of calling males. Mating is preceded by the courtship show of the male: drooping his wings and exposing his rufous flight feathers, he displays his magnificent tail and struts around the female. The female usually lays four or five eggs in a simple nest scrape on the ground, either in tall grass or under cover of bushes. The incubation period lasts about 30 days and the chicks leave the nest soon after hatching, thereafter being cared for by the female only (Birdlife International in prep.).

### **A very precarious survival**

Extinct in Malaysia, and almost so in northeast India and Bangladesh, the Green Peafowl is seriously threatened throughout the rest of its range with the largest populations thought to remain in Indochina. In Thailand, it

## Recent records of Green Peafowl in Cambodia

Date	No	Habitat	Location	Source
<b>S o u t h w e s t</b>				
Jan 1998	1 (heard)	Dry dipterocarp	Lower slopes of Kirirom NP	Goes et al 1998
Feb 1998	1 (heard)	Degraded forest	Teuk Chou river, Bokor NP.	Goes et al. 1998
April 1998	2 chicks	Degraded forest mosaic	Svay village, West Bokor NP.	Goes et al. 1998
March 2000	1 F?	Dry dipterocarp	South of Pursat	Daltry & Momberg 2000
22/8/2000	6	Dry dipterocarp	Sre Ambel river, Samling in Koh Kong prov.	B. Stuart and S. Platt verbally
<b>N o r t h e a s t</b>				
[1994??]	2 or 3	Mekong river	Kratie-Stung Treng border	L.Forsythe, in litt.
May 1996	7 of 11 days	Dry dipterocarp?	Northeast Mondolkiri	Desay and Lic Vuthy 1996
Jan 1997	(2)	(Dry dipterocarp)	Lumphat, Ratanakiri prov.	Duckworth and Hedges 1998
5-6/2000	'several'	Mixed deciduous/dry dipterocarp	Phnom Prich northeast MDK	Timmins in prep.
18/3/2000	1 male	Dry dipterocarp	Keo Seima, Southern MDK	Tan and Pich
30/4/2000	1F+2-4 ch	Dry dipterocarp	Keo Seima, southern MDK	Tan and Pich
30/4/2000	1F +1 F	Grassy clearing	Keo.Seima, southern MDK	Tan and Pich
April 2000	(1 adult) (2 chicks)	(Dry dipterocarp)	Keo.Seima, southern MDK	Tan and Pich
2/5/2000	3 F	Edge of SE forest	Snoul WS, Kratie province	Tan and Pich
5/11/2000	6	Dry dipterocarp	Snoul WS, Kratie province	Roubeix in litt.
<b>N o r t h</b>				
May 1999	(1M+ 1F)	(Dry dipterocarp)	From Chum Ksan, Preah Vihear	Goes 1999
May 2000?	1	Dry dipterocarp	Roadside, Svay Leu, Siem Reap	Goes 2000
Dec. 2000	Min. of 11 birds	Mixed deciduous/dry dipterocarp	Chep, Chum Ksan and Kulen districts, Preah Vihear	WCS Surveys

Note: Brackets signal captive birds, the habitat type where they were presumably caught  
MDK = Mondolkiri province / SE forest = Semi-evergreen forest



probably patchily distributed and likely to be highly threatened by human persecution.

**Northeast: a potential world stronghold**

Until this year, there has been limited information on the species status in the northeast. It was frequently recorded during a mammal survey of north-eastern Mondolkiri province in 1996 and captives were seen in a district of Ratanakiri province in 1997. However, no evidence other than local reports of the species was found during a survey of the Sesan and Srepok river valleys in Ratanakiri in May-June 1998 (Timmins and Men Soriyun 1998).

In 2000, local people reported that peafowls are easy to see by vehicle (often in double figures) along the road from the provincial capital to the northern district of Khonyek (Timmins in prep.), and several were seen in a wide-ranging survey of the area. In southern Mondolkiri province and adjacent Snoul Wildlife Sanctuary, Kratie province, a Wildlife Conservation Society bird survey recorded a minimum of nine birds from four encounters between March and early May 2000. In addition, local reports indicate that peafowls are still widespread and locally common in much of the area. The region appears to support

a substantial population of Green Peafowl and could potentially hold the largest remaining contiguous population of the species remaining in the world, when combined with that in Dak Lak province, Vietnam (Tan Setha and Pich Bunnat 2000). A wide-ranging calling count survey and assessment of threats are planned for these areas in February-March 2001, to provide a clearer picture of the species' status and distribution.

**North: an important gap to fill**

The status and significance of the population in the extensive dry forest covering northern Cambodia remains largely unknown. Several captive birds and incidental reports from the Preah Vihear, Siem Reap and Kompong Thom provinces suggested that it may be a stronghold for the species. Several records were obtained during WCS surveys in Preah Vihear in December 2000, further reinforcing this supposition. The area will be a high priority for further surveys in order to complete the current picture of Green Peafowl populations in Cambodia and assess threats to their survival.

## Threats to Green Peafowl

The biggest threats to Green Peafowl in Cambodia are considered to be from direct human exploitation through hunting birds for food and trade. In Mondolkiri, where the species is clearly declining, sets of tail feathers, transportation of live birds, and chicks for sale were witnessed, highlighting high level of persecution (Tan Setha and Pich Bunnat 2000). The population of the northern provinces is also likely to be seriously threatened as an intensive trade of peafowl tails was observed at the Thai border in 1996 (Garvan O'Keeffe, verbally). The apparent preference birds show for lowland riverine forest and adjacent open forest often brings them into direct contact with humans in their favoured habitats. As such, direct exploitation by people is to be regarded as the main reason for the extinction of Green Peafowl from large tracts of remaining suitable habitat (Birdlife International in prep.).

## Give a future to Green Peafowl in Cambodia

Recent data collected this year goes some way to confirming that Cambodia probably still holds the largest and the healthiest populations of Green Peafowl in the world. However, the species is clearly declining everywhere in the country due to human persecution. To save the species from national extinction requires real commitment from all players and decision-makers. Enforcement of hunting bans and wildlife laws, and monitoring of human access and other activities

need to be implemented on-the-ground within key sites such as the Samling's logging concession and Snoul WS. Also, and perhaps as important, is to launch a national awareness campaign through the media to inform Cambodians about their Peafowl heritage and the threats that must be addressed to ensure it has future. Emphasis should be placed on the trade of 'train' feathers. Cambodians should be more aware that his and her natural heritage is also a kind of richness, and that through responsible behaviour, they can help save the threatened wildlife of their country, ensuring that the Peafowl carved on the wall of the Bayon by ancient Khmers continue to be seen alive and free in the forests of Cambodia for the happiness and delight of our children and grand-children.





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# បក្សីប្រចាំឆ្នាំ២០០០ ឱកាសចូលក្រោយសំរាប់

## សត្វក្រោកមាណក្នុងព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា

រៀបរៀងដោយ លោក ពាន់ សេដ្ឋា



សត្វក្រោកជាបក្សីមួយប្រភេទដែលមានរូបរាងល្អ ឆើតដោយសារសម្រស់ និង កន្ទុយរាងដូចដូងដែល មានរាងជាភ្នែកមួយពាន់នៅពិលើខុសធម្មតា ។ ប៉ុន្តែ គួរអោយស្តាយដោយសារសម្រស់របស់វាបាន ធ្វើអោយសត្វប្រភេទនេះទទួលរងនូវការបំផ្លិច បំផ្លាញយ៉ាងធ្ងន់ធ្ងរជាពិសេសការបរាញ់យកធ្វើម្ហូប និង យករោមស្លាបកន្ទុយ និង ការចិញ្ចឹមជូញដូរ សត្វរស់ ។ បញ្ហាទាំងនេះហើយដែលបណ្តាល អោយប្រភេទក្រោកស្ទើរតែផុតពូជទាំងស្រុងពីក្នុង ព្រៃ ។ រហយង់ច្រើនសន្និកសន្ទាប់នៃប្រភេទសត្វ ក្រោកកាលពីអតីតកាលត្រូវបានកត់នៅប្រទេស កម្ពុជា ហើយបុព្វបុរសខ្មែរមួយដើមក៏បានឆ្លាក់រូប ក្រោកលើជញ្ជាំងប្រាសាទអង្គរផងដែរ ។ សូម្បី តែបច្ចុប្បន្នប្រភេទក្រោកត្រូវបានផុតពូជពីតំបន់មួយ ចំនួនធំនៅប្រទេសកម្ពុជា ។ រហយង់ច្រើននៃ ប្រភេទនេះ ត្រូវបានរកឃើញក្នុងឆ្នាំនេះក្នុងខេត្ត មណ្ឌលគីរីដែលបញ្ជាក់អោយឃើញថា ប្រទេសកម្ពុជាអាចជាតំបន់ការពារសត្វចុងក្រោយ ក្នុងពិភពលោក ។ ដោយសារការរកឃើញ និង សារៈសំខាន់យ៉ាងខ្លាំងរបស់វាដែលប្រទេស កម្ពុជាត្រូវធ្វើការស្រាវជ្រាវស្រង់ជីវិតសត្វទាំងនេះឡើង វិញទើបយើងជ្រើសរើសប្រភេទក្រោកនេះជាបក្សី ប្រចាំឆ្នាំ ២០០០ ។

សត្វក្រោកជាប្រភេទបក្សីដែលរកស៊ីលើដី សត្វទាំងពីរភេទមានពណ៌បៃតងរលោង និង មានកំបោងលើក្បាលត្រង់ឆ្អឹងទៅលើ ប៉ុន្តែពេលបន្តពូជសត្វឈ្មោលមានកន្ទុយខុសធម្មតាប្រហែលមួយម៉ែត្រកន្លះវែងជាងដងខ្លួនរបស់វាពីរដង ។ ការឆ្លងកាត់តំបន់ជាច្រើនក្នុងអាស៊ីអាគ្នេយ៍ រួមមានតាំងពីភូមិភាគឦសាននៃប្រទេសឥណ្ឌាទៅដល់ឧបទ្វីបម៉ាឡេស៊ី និង ឥណ្ឌូនេស៊ីកន្លងមកនេះបានធ្វើអោយយើងដឹងថា សត្វក្រោកកំពុងទទួលរងនូវការ តំរាមកំហែងយ៉ាងធ្ងន់ធ្ងរនានាសវត្សរ៍ចុងក្រោយនេះ ហើយនឹងត្រូវចាត់ចូលក្នុងថ្នាក់តំរាមកំហែងពិភពលោកទៀតផង ។ ប្រវត្តិស្តីពីវត្តមានសត្វក្រោក ដែលឆ្លងកាត់ដំនាក់កាលជាបន្តបន្ទាប់កន្លងមក មិនទាន់មានលក្ខណៈច្បាស់លាស់នៅឡើយ ។ បច្ចុប្បន្នចំនួនសត្វក្រោក ដែលនៅសល់ក្រោយពីការបាត់បង់មួយចំនួនធំនៅក្នុងពិភពលោក ហើយកំពុងទទួលរងការតំរាមកំហែងពិភពលោកនោះមានប្រហែលពី ៥ ០០០ ទៅ ១០ ០០០ ក្បាល តែប៉ុណ្ណោះ ។

បរិស្ថានវិទ្យា និង ទីជំរករបស់វា:

សត្វក្រោកចូលចិត្តរស់នៅក្នុងព្រៃបោះ ព្រៃពាក់កណ្តាលស្រោង និង ជាយំព្រៃតាមមាត់ទន្លេ ឬក្បែរបឹងត្រពាំង ។ សត្វក្រោកចូលចិត្តរស់នៅតំបន់វាលទំនាប ហើយក៏អាចមាននៅតំបន់ខ្ពង់រាបផងដែរជូនកាលអាចមានរហូតដល់ រយៈកំពស់ ៩១៥ម៉ែត្រ នៅអាស៊ីអាគ្នេយ៍ ។ តំបន់ព្រៃបោះដែលគ្របដណ្តប់ដោយស្មៅនៅភាគខាងជើង និង

ខាងកើតនៃប្រទេសកម្ពុជា ជាទីជំរកដ៏ល្អសំរាប់សត្វប្រភេទនេះ ។ សត្វក្រោករកស៊ីលើដី ស៊ីគ្រាប់ចេញជាតិ និង សត្វឥតឆ្អឹងកងជាអាហារ វាចូលចិត្ត រស់នៅជាហ្លួងតូចៗ និង ស្វែងរកចំណីនៅពេលព្រលឹមស្រាង ៗ និង ពេលព្រលប់ក្រោកចូល ចិត្តដើរជាងហើរជាពិសេសនៅពេលមានអាសន្ន វាចូលចិត្តរត់ជំនួសអោយការហើរ ។ នៅពេលយប់វាតែងតែទំលើមែកឈើធំ ៗ ហើយខ្ពស់ ។ ជាងនេះទៅទៀតយើងសង្កេតឃើញថា សត្វក្រោក វាតែងបញ្ចេញសំលេងខ្លាំង ៗ ពេលព្រលប់ចូលទ្រង់ និង ស្រែកម្តងទៀតពេលព្រលឹមមុនពេញរកចំណី លក្ខណៈនេះហើយដែលធ្វើអោយក្រោមងាយស្រួល រកឃើញ និង បរាជ័យ ។

ប្រវត្តិវិទ្យាសត្វក្រោក

រៀបរយរាល់ឆ្នាំក្នុងកំឡុងពេលចុងខែកុម្ភៈ និង ខែមិនា ជាពេលដែលសត្វក្រោកឈ្មោលចាប់ផ្តើមទាក់ទាញសត្វក្រោកញី ដោយបញ្ចេញសំលេងលឺយ៉ាងខ្លាំង និង បើមិនច្រលំទេលើស្តារដូចជា "ខាន់ហ្គុក" នេះជាពេលដ៏ល្អសំរាប់សិក្សាស្រាវជ្រាវប្រភេទនេះ ព្រោះថាវាជាប្រភេទដែលចូលចិត្តលាក់មុខពីមនុស្សយ៉ាងខ្លាំង ។ យើងអាចបានប្រមាណរបាយរបស់វាបានតាមរយៈនៃការរាប់សំលេងរបស់វា ។ នៅពេលសត្វញីដើរមកជិត នោះជាពេលដែលសត្វឈ្មោលត្រូវបង្ហាញចំណង់ទាក់ទងរបស់វា សត្វឈ្មោលទំលាក់ស្នាបចុះក្រោមបង្ហាញអោយឃើញនូវស្នាបហើរពណ៌ក្រមៅ និង លាតត្រដាងនូវកន្ទុយដ៏ល្អ

ឆើតរបស់វាទៅឱ្យសត្វក្លឹតយតន់ ។ ប៉ុន្មានថ្ងៃ  
ក្រោយពីដោយញីឈ្មោលរួចមកសត្វក្លឹតទំលាក់ពងពី  
៤ ទៅ ៥ រូចវាក្រាបពងនៅលើដី ក្នុងស្មៅ ឬ  
ព្រៃទាប ។ បន្ទាប់ពីក្រាបពងរយៈពេល ៣០  
ថ្ងៃក្រោយមក ពងក្រោកក៏ចាប់ផ្តើមញាស់ ។  
កូនសត្វក្រោកចាក ចេញពីសំបុករូចដើរតាមមេរបស់  
ពួកវា ។

ការប្រែប្រួលយ៉ាងខ្លាំងក្នុងជីវិតរបស់វា  
សត្វក្រោក

សត្វក្រោកត្រូវបានផុតពូជនៅប្រទេសម៉ាឡេស៊ី  
ប្រទេសឥណ្ឌា និង ប្រទេសបង់ក្លាដេសក៏ជិតផុត  
ពូជដែរមានន័យថា ការគំរាមគំហែងយ៉ាងធ្ងន់  
ធ្ងរជាបន្តបន្ទាប់លើរាងកាយមួយចំនួនចំឡើង នោះគឺនៅ  
ឥណ្ឌូ ចិន នេះតែម្តង ។ នៅប្រទេស  
ថៃសត្វក្រោកមានតែនៅក្នុងតំបន់ការពារដីធំមួយ  
ដែលមានចំនួនប្រមាណ ៣០០ក្បាលប៉ុណ្ណោះ ។ ថ្វី  
បើមានការរកឃើញថ្មីបន្ថែមទៀតចំនួន ៨០ ក្បាល  
នៅភាគខាងជើងនៃប្រទេសថៃក៏ដោយ ។ នៅ  
សម័យចាស់អ្នកសិក្សាសត្វព្រៃបានកត់សំគាល់  
ឃើញថា របាយសត្វក្រោកពិមុនសំបូរច្រើននៅ  
ក្នុងតំបន់ឥណ្ឌូចិន ប៉ុន្តែឥឡូវនេះស្ទើរតែជិតផុត  
ពូជនៅក្នុងប្រទេសឡាវ និង ប្រទេសវៀតណាម ។  
នៅប្រទេសវៀតណាមសត្វក្រោកមាននៅក្នុងខេត្ត  
ដាឡាត់ដែលនៅជាប់ និង ខេត្តមណូលតីរី ។ តំបន់  
ភាគខាងកើតនៃប្រទេសកម្ពុជាត្រូវបានកត់សំគាល់ថា  
ជាកន្លែងអាចមានរបាយសត្វក្រោកច្រើនជាង

គេបំផុតនៅក្នុងពិភពលោក ប៉ុន្តែកង្វះខាតនូវទិន្ន-  
ន័យថ្មី ៗ បានធ្វើអោយរារាំងនូវការគិតទុកនោះ ។

ស្ថានភាព និង របាយសត្វក្រោកនៅប្រទេស កម្ពុជា  
របាយសត្វក្រោកច្រើនមាននៅក្នុងព្រៃ តំបន់ទំនាប  
និង តំបន់ខ្ពង់រាបក្នុងប្រទេសកម្ពុជា ប៉ុន្តែចំនួននេះ  
ត្រូវបានថយចុះយ៉ាងឆាប់រហ័សចាប់តាំងពីពាក់  
កណ្តាលសតវត្សរ៍ទី១២ ។ រូបចំណាក់សត្វក្រោកត្រូវ  
បានឆ្លាក់នៅតាមជញ្ជាំងប្រាសាទបាយ័នដ៏ល្បីល្បាញ  
(ចុងសតវត្សរ៍ទី១២) និង មានវត្តមាននៅក្នុង  
ព្រៃប្រាសាទអង្គរវត្តរហូតដល់ទសវត្សរ៍ទី៦០ ប៉ុន្តែ  
វាត្រូវបានផុតពូជក្នុងកំឡុងពេលបន្ទាប់មក ។ នៅ  
ពេលនោះដែរវា ក៏ត្រូវបានផុតពូជពីតំបន់កណ្តាល មួយ  
ចំនួន នៃប្រទេសកម្ពុជា និង ប្រហែលមាននៅ ស្គល់  
ច្រើននៅភាគខាងជើង និង ភាគឦសាន ប៉ុណ្ណោះ ។

ភាគទិសដី: មានចំនួនតិចតួច ការបាត់បង់មាន  
កំរិតខ្ពស់

សត្វក្រោកមួយក្បាល ត្រូវបានកត់ត្រានៅក្នុងឧទ្យាន  
ជាតិគិរីរម្យ និង មួយក្បាលនៅឧទ្យានជាតិបូកគោ  
នាឆ្នាំ ១៩៩៨ ប៉ុន្តែចាប់តាំងពីពេលនោះមកមិនមាន  
ការកត់ត្រាបន្ថែមទៀតឡើយ ទោះបីការចុះសិក្សា  
ស្រាវជ្រាវនៅឆ្នាំនេះ ក៏ពុំឃើញមានវត្តមាន  
សត្វក្រោកដែរ ។ យើងគិតថាវាស្ទើរតែផុតពូជ  
ពីក្នុងតំបន់ទាំងនេះទៅហើយ ។ ទោះបីយ៉ាង  
ណាក៏ដោយ យើងមានសញ្ញាពីរផ្សេងទៀតនា ឆ្នាំនេះ  
មួយនៅខេត្តពោធិ៍សាត់ និង មួយទៀត  
នៅស្រែអំបិលតាមដងស្ទឹងក្នុងខេត្តកោះកុង ។

តាមសេចក្តីរាយការណ៍របស់អ្នកប្រមាញ់ក្នុង វិទ្យាសាស្ត្រសាមញ្ញភ្នំខេត្តកោះកុងបាន អោយដឹងថា ភាគីបានបញ្ជូនសំណប់សត្វក្រោក មួយ ក្បាលនាពេលថ្មី ១ នេះ និង គ្មានព័ត៌មាន ផ្សេង ទៀតក្រៅពីនេះទេ ។ ដោយសារតែតំបន់ នេះគ្មានទីជីវករណ៍សំរាប់សត្វប្រភេទនេះរស់នៅ ពី ព្រោះតំបន់នេះជាតំបន់ខ្ពស់(ភ្នំក្រវាញ) និង ព្រៃពាក់ កណ្តាលស្រោងចំនួនក្រោកនៅសេសសល់មិនមាន ចំនួនស្មើគ្នាទេ និង ទទួលរងនូវការបរបាញ់យ៉ាងធ្ងន់ ធ្ងរពីមនុស្សទៀតផង។

**ភូមិភាគឦសានៈ សក្តានុពលតំបន់ការពារ សត្វក្រោកលើពិភពលោក**

រហូតមកដល់ឆ្នាំនេះ ព័ត៌មានអំពីរបាយប្រភេទ សត្វក្រោកនៅភាគឦសានៈនៅមានកំណត់ពី ខេត្តរតនគិរី និង មណ្ឌលគិរី ដោយឡែកយើងបាន ទទួលព័ត៌មានតិចតួចក្នុងពេលថ្មី ១ នេះ ។ ក្នុងឆ្នាំ ២០០០ ប្រជាជននៅតាមតំបន់បានរាយការណ៍ថា សត្វក្រោកងាយបានជួបប្រទះតាមដងផ្លូវពេលធ្វើ ដំណើរដោយយានជំនិះពីទីរួមខេត្ត ទៅដល់ ភាគខាងជើងនៃស្រុកកោះព្រៃក ភាគខាងត្បូងខេត្ត មណ្ឌលគិរី និង ឧទ្យានជាតិស្នួល(ខេត្តក្រចេះ) ។ ក្រុមសិក្សាស្រាវជ្រាវសត្វស្នាប (WCS) បានកត់ ត្រានូវសត្វក្រោកចំនួន ៩ ក្បាល ដោយការរាប់ចំនួន បួនដងចន្លោះខែមិនា និង ដើមខែឧសភា ឆ្នាំ២០០០ ។ ប្រជាជនតាមមូលដ្ឋានបាន រាយការណ៍បន្ថែមទៀតថាសត្វក្រោកមានចំនួនច្រើន

ទៀត ដែលសំបូរនៅកន្លែងផ្សេង ១ ក្នុងខេត្តនេះ ។ តាមការប៉ាន់ស្មានចំនួនសត្វក្រោក ដែលមាននៅ សេសសល់ក្នុងតំបន់ភាគខាងកើតនៃប្រទេសកម្ពុជា អាចមានរបាយច្រើនជាងគេតែមួយគត់នៅក្នុង ពិភព លោក។

ផែនការចុះស្រាវជ្រាវរាប់ចំនួន និង វាយតម្លៃច្បាស់ លាស់លើប្រភេទក្រោកនេះត្រូវបានរៀបចំ និង អនុវត្តនៅខែ កុម្ភៈ និង ខែ មិនា ឆ្នាំ២០០១ ដើម្បី បញ្ជាក់អោយបានច្បាស់ពីស្ថានភាព និង របាយ នៃប្រភេទសត្វក្រោក ។

**ភាគខាងជើងជាតំបន់សំខាន់សំរាប់សិក្សាស្រាវ ជ្រាវសត្វក្រោកបន្ទាប់**

ស្ថានភាព និង សារៈសំខាន់នៃរបាយសត្វក្រោក ក្នុងវិទ្យាសាស្ត្រនៅតាមប៉ែកខាងជើង នៃប្រទេស កម្ពុជាមិនទាន់ដឹងច្បាស់លាស់នៅឡើយ ។ តាម ការជួបប្រទះសត្វនេះមួយចំនួន និង របាយការណ៍ បន្ទាប់បន្សំធ្វើអោយយើងអាចទាយទុកជាមុនថា ប្រហែលជាមានសត្វក្រោកច្រើននៅក្នុងខេត្តមួយ ចំនួនទៀតរួមមាន ខេត្តព្រះវិហារ ខេត្តសៀមរាប និង ខេត្តកំពង់ធំ ។ តំបន់នោះត្រូវតែមានអាទិភាព ខ្ពស់ សំរាប់ការចុះស្រាវជ្រាវបន្ថែម ដើម្បីបញ្ជាក់ នូវចំនួនសត្វក្រោកក្នុងប្រទេសកម្ពុជា និង សំរាប់ ធ្វើការវាយតម្លៃលើឱកាសរស់នៅរបស់សត្វទាំង នោះ ។

**ការកំរាមកំហែងលើសត្វក្រោក**

ការបរបាញ់សត្វបក្សីសំរាប់ធ្វើអាហារ និង ជួញដូរបាន

ចោទជាបញ្ហាគំរាមកំហែងយ៉ាងធ្ងន់ធ្ងរ ទៅលើសត្វ  
 ក្រោក ។ ក្នុងខេត្តមណ្ឌលគិរី ការប្រមូល ស្លាបកន្ទុយ  
 ការដឹកជញ្ជូនក្រោករស់ និង កូនរបស់វាសំរាប់លក់  
 ត្រូវបានគេជួបប្រទះជាញឹកញាប់ ។ ទាំងនេះបញ្ជាក់  
 អោយឃើញនូវកិរិយាខុសនៃការបំផ្លិចបំផ្លាញ ដែល  
 ជាហេតុធ្វើអោយចំនួនក្រោកនៅទីនោះធ្លាក់ចុះ ។  
 យើងឃើញថាបក្សីចូលចិត្តរស់នៅតាមព្រៃរេបោះ  
 តំបន់ទំនាបក្បែរមាត់ទឹក ជួនកាលប្រភេទទីជម្រក  
 ទាំងនេះត្រូវបាន កាប់បំផ្លាញ ដោយស្នាដៃមនុស្ស-  
 ដែលជាមូលហេតុដ៏ធំសំរាប់ការជិតផុតពូជរបស់  
 សត្វក្រោកទៅថ្ងៃអនាគត ។

អនាគតសំរាប់សត្វក្រោកនៅប្រទេសកម្ពុជា

តាមការប្រមូលទិន្នន័យពីភាគឦសាន នៃប្រទេស  
 បានអះអាងថាប្រទេសកម្ពុជាទៅតែជាភ្នំសង្ឃឹម  
 សំរាប់ការជួយសង្គ្រោះសត្វក្រោកដែលនៅសល់ក្នុង  
 ព្រៃពីភាពផុតពូជ ។ ប៉ុន្តែដើម្បីអោយភ្នំសង្ឃឹម  
 ក្លាយជាការពិតនោះ យើងជាជនកម្ពុជាត្រូវរួមគ្នា  
 ធ្វើការអភិរក្សជាបន្ទាន់ដោយមិនត្រូវបង្ហែរបង្កង់

ទេ ។ ហាមឃាត់ការទាក់ទាញ និង បរិច្ចាគតាម  
 ក្រឹត្យច្បាប់លេខ ៣៥ ព្រមទាំងធ្វើការត្រួតពិនិត្យ  
 យ៉ាងតឹងរឹងលើរាល់សកម្មភាពបទល្មើសទាំងឡាយ  
 របស់មនុស្ស ដូចជានៅព្រៃសម្បទានសាមលីញ និង  
 ឧទ្យានជាតិស្នួលជាដើម ។ បន្ថែមពីលើនេះទៀត  
 កត្តាមួយដែលសំខាន់ គឺធ្វើការអប់រំផ្សព្វផ្សាយដល់  
 ប្រជាជនពីសារៈសំខាន់នៃសត្វក្រោក ដែលជាកេរ្តិ៍  
 ដំណែលចុងក្រោយសំរាប់ពិភពលោកយើងនេះ ។  
 ការទិញជាដើមហេតុបង្កអោយមាន ការបរិច្ចាគ និង  
 ការជួញដូរ ។ ប្រជាជនកម្ពុជា ទាំងអស់គ្នា  
 តែងបន្ថែមទៀត អំពីសត្វក្រោក ដែលជាសម្បត្តិ  
 ទ្រព្យដ៏មានតំលៃ ដើម្បីអោយបានចូលរួមក្នុងកិច្ច  
 ការពារ និង ជួយសង្គ្រោះសត្វព្រៃ ដែលទទួលរងនូវ  
 ការគំរាមកំហែង ក្នុងប្រទេសរបស់ខ្លួន ។ ធ្វើដូច្នោះ  
 ទើបរូបចំណាក់សត្វក្រោកដែលដួនតា ខ្មែរបានធ្លាក់នៅ  
 តាមជញ្ជាំងប្រាសាទបាយ័ន មានសភាពរស់រវើក  
 សំរាប់អោយកូន ចៅ ចៅទួតរបស់ យើងបានទស្សនា  
 ថែមទៀតទៅលើសត្វពិត ៗ ដែលមានក្នុងព្រៃ ។

The Green Peafowl  
 on the Bayon  
 Bas-Reliefs

ក្រោកបៃតង  
 នៅលើជញ្ជាំង  
 បាយ័ន



# THE BLUES



Two Grey-headed Fish-Eagles in  
poor health

អ្នកត្រីពីរនៅក្នុងរូបភាពអាត្រាក់

# About ZOOS



OVER A YEAR AGO, CBN launched a nation-wide inventory of captive wildlife in the country. Data from zoos and private collections were compiled from September 1999 to November 2000 and are reviewed below from a species conservation perspective. The aim of the survey was to inventory species targeted by the live animal trade and the turnover of key species in zoos. From a total of 128 vertebrate species recorded, 47 (37 percent) figure on the IUCN Red Data Book of threatened species. Of a total of almost 1500 vertebrates recorded, 301 or 21 percent of the individuals disappeared over the survey period. The overwhelming majority of those vanished animals we assumed died during the survey period. This result was expected considering the total lack of skills to tend captive wildlife in Cambodia but it is for the first time quantified here. Zoos, constantly looking to re-supply their stock, drive the live animal market and therefore contribute indirectly to the decline of species already threatened with extinction due to hunting and habitat loss. As private zoos continue to spring up totally unchecked in the country, it was felt important to unveil and document their detrimental impact on Cambodia's natural heritage. It is hoped that this article will raise awareness amongst Cambodian authorities and initiate a progressive debate on this sensitive issue. Private zoos, as they are now in Cambodia, are not "animal raising centers" as often claimed by their promoters: they are "animal killing centers" and a terminus of wildlife exploitation.



# Captive wildlife in Cambodia

## Figures and facts

Since Cambodia Bird News was launched, we kept receiving reports of rare birds and mammals for sale or in captivity. Even species never before recorded in the country, such as Rufous-bellied Eagle and Mountain Hawk-Eagle, appeared in private zoos which started mushrooming in the country. This prompted me to launch a nation-wide survey on all vertebrates held in zoos and private places. It took place from September 1999 to November 2000 with the help of the many collaborators who answered our plea in CBN-2 and sent us data from all corners of the country.

## Methodology

### Scope and approach

The goal of building a comprehensive picture of captive wildlife in Cambodia is daunting. In fact, it looks like an impossible task considering the highly dynamic wildlife trade sector. Similarly, obtaining a snapshot of all wildlife kept in the country at a given time would have been equally difficult as it would have required a coordinated effort from surveyors in all cities and provinces. Therefore, we elected to develop a sensible but hybrid approach, combining systematic data collection for one year, and regular

visits to major zoos to assess the turnover of wildlife. The totals therefore give a national picture of animals held or missing lumped in a period of 14 months while figures for each place recover variable periods (determined by interval between first and last visit).

### Data gathering

A captive wildlife form was distributed or sent to every person expressing interest in the inventory. The following information was requested:

- compiler, date and place;
- a table for entries of species, number, sex and age, origin, history and captive conditions.

However, most of the data was received as a simple species list just mentioning the number of individuals of each species. The complete form was mainly used by myself and collaborators in Siem Reap province. It is recognised here that collecting data on origin and history is time-consuming and not always easy to obtain. Persons who tend the zoos are often unaware of, or reluctant to communicate the provenance of their animals. In view of the above, data analysis was limited to the species occurrence and numbers, the common denominator of most of the compiled data.

## How private zoos are further depleting Cambodian threatened wildlife

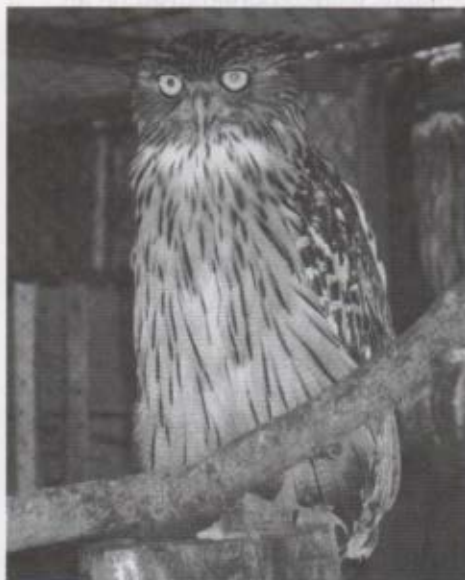
Vertebrate species were identified with the Khmer-language *Mammals of Cambodia* (Men Soriyun et al. 2000) and *Birds of Cambodia* (Sun Hean et al. 1998), and the English-language *A guide to the Birds of Thailand* (Lekagul and Round 1991), *A Field Guide to the Birds of South-East Asia* (Robson 2000) and *A Photographic Guide to Snakes and other Reptiles of Thailand and Southeast Asia* (Cox et al. 1998).

Only native species were included in the inventory (exotic species are rare in Cambodian zoos). Crocodiles raised in large numbers in farms or floating villages' families on the Tonle Sap lake were not included in the survey.

### **Data treatment – animals held/missing (turnover)**

For major zoos, data on numbers of animals held and missing was derived from counts of animals on several visits. "Animals held" consists of the numbers of animals recorded at the last visit; "animals missing" is the sum of all animals disappeared between two visits during the period.

Practically, this means that the study quantifies only the disappearance of individuals, but not the acquisition of new animals. For example, if a zoo had successively four, zero and two



Leopard Cats, the number of animals held/missing will be 2/4. If it had zero, four and then six, they will be 6/0. The second figure represents a measure of the turnover. For information, the total number of animals acquired by zoos during the study period was found to be very close to the number of animals which disappeared from zoos.

### **Animal missing, animals dead**

The study relies on the fundamental assumption that all animals not noted again at later time were considered dead. Although this may in principle have led to an overestimation, it is

believed a reasonably reliable measure of dead animals for two reasons:

- firstly, zoos are usually at the end of the road for living wildlife;
  - secondly, when the information was provided by the zoo keepers, missing animals were reported dead on an overwhelming majority of the cases.
- When it was clear that the assumption could not be applied, the data was excluded from the turnover analysis.

## Results

### The mushrooming of private zoos

Seven sizeable zoos open to the public were identified during the survey. Their location is represented on the map on the central page. The Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Center is the only official, government-run zoo in the country. It has been in operation since at least 1994, and most animals

in the collections originate from individuals saved from the trade. Other zoos are all privately owned and usually managed through the selling of entrance tickets.

The year of the survey coincidentally fell during an apparent boom in zoos across the country. The fashion spread amongst rich personalities to set up private zoos. In 1999, Member of Parliament Nhim Vanda, owner of a zoo in his native province of Prey Veng, opened a new zoo near Kampot. In Chong Khneas floating village near Siem Reap, a second family undertook to display captive animals and their number of large waterbirds dramatically increased over the study period (see also next article). The most recent place opened in Angkor in June 2000 prior to any consultation with the APSARA authority in charge of managing Angkor World Heritage Site.

It is however difficult to distinguish

Table 1 - Figures and facts about wildlife kept in major zoos and in private houses

Zoo name (province)	No species	Held / Missing	Study period
Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Center (Takeo)	58 species	257 / 31 (11%)*	Unknown
Teuk Chou Zoo (Kampot)	75 species	192 / 46 (19%)	11 months
Bayab Zoo (Prey Veng)	39 species	45 / 50 (53%)**	10 months
Peak Casino Zoo (Sihanoukville)	32 species	89 / 18 (17%)	11 months
Angkor Wild Zoo or Prey Angkor Forest (Siem Reap)	56 species	115 / 38 (25%)	3 months
Crocodile Farm (Siem Reap)	25 species	16 / 48 (75%)	14 months
Chong Khneas (Siem Reap)	16 species	60 / 11 (15%)	14 months
Forestry Department (Siem Reap)	18 species	21 / 17 (45%)	12 months
Other zoos (Imprevu, Mekong Island)	16 species	43 / 8 (16%)	Variable!
Private houses	60 species	268 / 84 (24%)	Variable!
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>128 species</b>	<b>1158 / 301 (21%)**</b>	<b>14 months</b>

\* Data on missing animals received for mammals only: 109/31 (28%).

\*\* Bayab Zoo data excluded from calculations (see rationale in text).

# ការគិតសំគាល់អំពីការដែលចាប់សត្វទៅជាក្នុងសួនសត្វឬផ្ទះឯកជនសរុប មានចំនួន១៤៥៩ ក្នុងចំណោមនេះមាន៣០០ក្រុមស្លាប់ក្នុងអំឡុងពេល១ឆ្នាំ

whether these ventures are primarily motivated by an interest in wildlife or for other reasons. Although setting up a zoo doesn't always appear now to be a profitable investment in Cambodia, all newly established animal parks are located near popular tourist places, clearly hoping to benefit from the surge of the national and international tourism. Animal welfare is obviously little understood and leads to disastrous captive conditions and negligent care.

## Key figures and facts about major zoos

A total of 128 species of vertebrates were recorded during the study period i.e. 43 species of mammals, 71 species of birds and 14 species of reptiles.

The table 1 summarises the survey findings in the major zoos of the country and gives the general results for wildlife kept as pets in houses.

The largest zoo in terms of species array is Teuk Chou Zoo near Kampot (75 species) while the largest number of animals (257 individuals) is found in Phnom Tamao. In less than six months, the Angkor Wild Zoo has built a collection of 115 animals and 56 species, making it the third largest zoo of the country.

## Zoo by zoo scores

The Crocodile Farm in Siem Reap has the sad privilege of having lost the

highest proportion of its animals: three quarters of its boarders vanished in a year, all reported dead. There were only 16 live animals left in the farm at the time of preparation of this paper. The only other zoo with more missing animals than held animals is Bayab Zoo but this is clearly linked to the transfer of many animals to Nhim Vanda's other zoo in Kampot. In July, there were only 20 species left at Bayab Zoo. The data for that zoo was therefore excluded from the total calculations in Table 1 or had to be adjusted species by species for Table 2. More worrying is the situation at the Angkor Wild Zoo, where a quarter of the animals has died in only three months (confirmed by keepers' report). If we extrapolate, this means it may lose the equivalent of all its captive guests within a year!

## General "death rate" and class comparison

Altogether, a total of 1459 animals (50% birds - 40% mammals - 10% reptiles) have been recorded. Of those, 301 animals (21 percent) disappeared, indicating that a fifth of all animals may have died during the survey period. Although this assumes that all missing individuals died, I believe it can in fact be an underestimate because many deaths may have gone unnoticed (dead animal replaced by newly bought individuals in between two visits).

Disappearance rate appears significantly lower for birds (18%) than for mammals and reptiles (both 27%). Bias in the data partly explains this difference, as no turnout information was available for birds at Phnom Tamao zoo. When subtracting the 148 birds held in Phnom Tamao, the bird missing rate from private zoos and houses reaches 22 percent, not significantly different than the other classes. It is more surprising however that reptiles have a "death proportion" as high as mammals, as one may expect them to be the most tolerant group to captive conditions. A possible explanation is that, apart from the ones in zoos, the latter are mainly kept as future meals or, in case of pythons, for their skins. This is corroborated by the fact that a majority of missing reptiles originated from private houses: 70% of the privately held individuals were gone against only 15% of the ones in zoos.

### Targetting threatened species

Among the 128 species inventoried here, 47 are listed by IUCN as threatened with extinction on a global scale (based on Hilton-Taylor 2000; Men Soriyon *et al.* 2000 for Mammals). This clearly highlights the potential threat zoos may cause to the survival of endangered species if not properly monitored. Throughout the survey, aside from reported births from Phnom Tamao, I am aware of only a single birth in captivity (a baby Sambar Deer). Apart from parts of the collection of Teuk Chou zoo which are bought from overseas, all the animals of other private zoos appear to originate from the wild in Cambodia. This

doesn't go without side effects such as killing other family members (usually the parents of gibbons, bears, cats), permanent mutilation or death from wounds, ensuing from the capture or from stressful transportation, lack of food, etc. Who can assess how many animals died before reaching the zoo for one that finally arrives alive?

### The conservation side

The 31 species noted during the survey fall into the Globally Threatened with extinction or Data Deficient category. Those consist of 15 species of mammals, nine species of birds and nine species of reptiles.



## BIRDS

**Threatened birds. 160 individuals (146/14)**

Three species stand out as making the bulk of the threatened bird species (123/7 between them): Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus*, Spot-billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis* and Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilus javanicus*. They are all classified as Vulnerable and, for the two former species, Cambodia is regarded as their last stronghold in Southeast Asia. The magnificent Green Peafowl is a favourite as pet and for wildlife parks. Eggs (incubated by hen) and chicks are collected

Species	Threat category	Number held/missing			
		Tamao	Zoos	Houses	Total
Green Peafowl	Vulnerable	7/?	16/2	8/1	31/3
Sarus Crane	Vulnerable	3/?	5/2	-	8/2
White-rumped Vulture	Critical	2/?	6/0	-	8/0
Long-billed Vulture	Critical	-	0/1	-	0/1
White-shouldered Ibis	Critical	-	-	0/2	0/2
Spot-billed Pelican	Vulnerable	11/?	17/2	6/?	34/2
Milky Stork	Vulnerable	1/?	-	-	1/0
Lesser Adjutant	Vulnerable	9/?	29/8	20/2	58/2
Greater Adjutant	Endangered	2/?	1/2	3/0	6/2

and then young are easily raised as domestic fowls. There are currently no population estimates for the country, but 31 birds may easily represent several percent of the remaining wild population. The captive population of the *P.m. imperator* subspecies which occurs in Indochina was formerly estimated to be only 10 birds against at least 600 of the other subspecies (Birdlife International in prep.) If the species prove to reproduce well in captivity, reintroduction programs may be a feasible option for the future. With regard to Spot-billed Pelican, possibly one percent of its regional population is held in captivity (34 birds), mainly in Phnom Tamao and Chong Khneas floating zoos. I am not aware of any successful breeding. Lesser Adjutants are spread out in various zoos and houses, and the total is not far from the largest single flock recorded in the country! The Chong Khneas floating zoos should be strongly condemned as they hold 12 Spot-billed pelicans and 14 Lesser Adjutants, all collected as chick from the last viable colonies remaining in Southeast Asia. The owners bank on the international tourism market and their very existence is an incentive for local people to pursue further collection at the nests.

To be mentioned as well are the eight Greater Adjutants *L. dubius* censused –

another large waterbird for which Cambodia is a world stronghold. Two of the birds died during the course of the year while three juveniles, apparently unable to fly, were recently captured at the Crane Sanctuary in Banteay Meanchey province. As for the Sarus Crane *Grus antigone*, at least eight birds are still held captive across the country, but every wet season brings more juveniles into the pet and zoo trade. Breeding on the ground in wet clearings of open forests, the species is an easy target and, with the Peafowl, the most monetary valuable birds for the live animal trade.

White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*, Long-billed Vulture *G. indicus*, White-shouldered Ibis *Pseudibis davisoni*, three species recently upgraded to Critically Endangered status, were found during the inventory but their presence is not more than marginal. They are not specifically targeted for the captive wildlife market. The White-shouldered Ibis record consists of two chicks incidentally found in Stung Treng province in March 2000. They were the first evidence of breeding in Cambodia (Goes 2000). Although in the near-threatened category, the record of nine Black-necked Storks *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* is of high regional conservation significance, being the rarest stork in Asia (less than 400 birds sensu Rose and Scott

Species	Threat category	Number held/missing			
		Tamao	Zoos	Houses	Total
Pig-tailed Macaque	Vulnerable?	-	12/2	-	12/2
Stump-tailed Macaque	Vulnerable	-	5/0	-	5/0
Pileated Gibbon	Vulnerable	5/4	11/8	17/5	33/17
Yellow-cheeked Gibbon	Vulnerable	1/0	2/0	0/2	3/2
Dhole	Vulnerable	7/1	0/1	-	7/2
Asiatic Black Bear	Vulnerable	3/2	2/6	-	5/8
Sunbear	Data Deficient	13/2	9/6	35/18	57/26
Smooth-coated Otter	Vulnerable	1/1	1/1	2/0?	4/2
Clouded Leopard	Vulnerable	1/0	2/3	-	3/3
Tiger	Endangered	9/1	8/1	3/0	20/2
Asian Elephant	Endangered	2/0	5/0	1/0	8/0
Eld's Deer	Vulnerable	1/0	1/0	-	2/0
Banteng	Endangered	2/0	2/1	-	4/1
Southern Serow	Vulnerable	2/0	1/0	0/1	3/1
East Asian Porcupine	Vulnerable	3/0	17/9	4/1	24/10

## MAMMALS

### Threatened Mammals: 266 individuals (190/76)

One out of three of the recorded mammal species is considered Globally Threatened the Data Deficient Sun Bear *Ursus malayanus*. The latter together with the Pileated Gibbons *Hylobates pileatus* make up for half of the total numbers of threatened mammals (133 individuals). Moreover, they pay the largest tribute to captivity as 43 of them disappeared during the survey period. The large number of Sun Bears found in private places is worrying as it suggests there are many more individuals in the country the inventory had overlooked (Dave Ware, pers. comm.). There is apparently a significant pet market for that species in Cambodia. The situation is similar for Pileated Gibbon although with a less marked trend to keep this species as pet. This is however only the tip of the iceberg concerning the detrimental impact of zoos on wild stocks of these two threatened species. Sun Bears



and Gibbons are usually captured as babies, which invariably leads to the killing or capture of the parents by poachers. For every young animal sold to a zoo – and the same is true for other mammal groups such as Felidae – many mature adults are slaughtered or caught. We should mention here the fate of the endangered Tiger *Panthera tigris*. There are now more individuals in Cambodian zoos than documented records from the wild over the last decade. As the species is heading towards national extinction due to poaching for the Chinese medicinal trade, the importance of a healthy captive population may unfortunately be the last resort to ensure a future of tigers.

# REPTILES

## Threatened reptiles: 60 individuals (38/22)

Strikingly, two out of three of the captive reptile species recorded – and virtually all eight turtles – are Globally Threatened (against 35 and 13 percent of the mammal and bird species respectively). This reflects elevated conservation concerns for most turtles species of the region, currently facing eradication from widespread harvest for the insatiable Chinese food market. However, the numbers appear small (60 individuals) compared to the huge quantities exported from the region (Dijk *et al.* 2000) and zoos absorb just a few of the thousands of turtles harvested in the country. The most significant finding in terms of conservation is the rediscovery of the Critically Endangered Mangrove



Terrapin *Batagur baska*, in Teuk Chou zoo. The adult specimen was positively identified on 30 September 2000 and reportedly originated from Sre Ambel, Koh Kong province. The species was feared extinct in Cambodia and it is the first record in the country since 1881 (Steve Platt pers. comm.).

Of conservation interest as well is the relatively high number of Green Turtles *Chelonia mydas*, with all 14 specimens logically found in the coastal zoos of Kampot and Sihanoukville. There is a virtual vacuum of data on sea-turtles in Cambodia: those captive individuals should prompt surveys for their potential nesting beaches and be associated with strict conservation measures.

Conversely, no information on wild populations should be derived from the presence of the Critically Endangered Siamese Crocodile *Crocodylus siamensis* in zoos as crocodiles are widely raised in family or commercial farms throughout the country. As far as those are not genetically contaminated, they constitute a good stock for possible reintroduction in the future.

## REPTILES 60 ind. [38 / 22] (Sequence and nomenclature follow Cox *et al.* 1998)

Species	Threat category	Number held/missing			
		Tamao	Zoos	Houses	Total
Siamese Crocodile	Critical	-	11/0	-	11/0
Yellow-headed Temple Turtle	Endangered	-	6/3	1/3	7/6
Asian Giant Terrapin	Vulnerable	-	-	0/2	0/2
Mangrove Terrapin	Critical	-	1/0	-	1/0
Asian Box Turtle	Vulnerable	-	-	0/1	0/1
Ricefield Terrapin	Vulnerable	-	-	0/7	0/7
Elongated Tortoise	Endangered	-	1/0	-	1/0
SEAsian Soft-shelled Turtle	Vulnerable	-	5/5	-	5/5
Green Turtle	Endangered	-	9/0	4/1	13/1



## Phnom Tamao versus private zoos

From a conservation point of view, it is important to distinguish the government-run Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Center from all other – privately owned – zoos. The name of the former reflects its true nature and purpose: people try hard to manage it as an animal rehabilitation center. The need to develop such place arose from the regular seizure of animals from traders which, for various reasons, cannot be returned in the wild. It rarely takes bought animals. The center is assisted by animal welfare organisations such as *Free the Bears*, *Sangkroun Satprey* and *Care for the Wild* and benefits from the expertise of experienced persons. This has resulted in much improved captive conditions and care. The rationale for including Phnom Tamao in the study was more of obtaining as comprehensive as possible inventory of captive wildlife in the country than of lumping its praiseworthy efforts with the detrimental practices of private zoos.

## Discussion

### Private zoos: neither legal nor illegal!

One may wonder what is the legal basis for private zoos sprouting in the country. According to the current wildlife law, their status is all but clear. The present law prohibits hunting, poaching and selling of wildlife but doesn't say a word about buying or keeping wild animals (Dave Ware verbally). With such legal shortcomings, there is apparently nothing illegal about establishing zoos on a private initiative although they are obviously relying on animals harvested from the wild for their supply, and thus poached and sold for them in direct violation of the law. Leaving aside the debate on whether zoos are legal activities or not, Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Center is the only officially registered zoo in the country. There has also been some pressure on MP Nhim Vanda to submit approval for his zoos. A long overdue sensible

wildlife law is under preparation and the highest government officials appear committed to pass it quickly through the Assembly. Once that is done, another daunting task is to enforce it. So, for now, let's wait and see...

### Unregulated zoos: a growing threat to Cambodian wildlife

As the country moves steadily into an era of peace and economic development, the pressure on wildlife from subsistence hunting should start to slowly decrease. Lots of soldiers and families previously roaming in the forests of the country are now coming out and looking for land to settle and become farmers, reducing their contact with wildlife. The new demand for live animals created by the development of private zoos will negate this expected positive effect. From the data above, it is clear that zoos across

the country need to buy hundreds of vertebrates to re-supply their stock (the "turnin" was 334 animals). The figure of more than 300 missing animals can be regarded as a conservative minimum of the numbers actually dying in captivity during a year and an even-tinier fraction of what has died for the sake of supplying zoos. If left without control, zoos in Cambodia are likely to continue to grow in size and numbers in the coming few years, and this can be heavily detrimental to wildlife conservation. The fact that the live animal trade is driven by cash profit – which is a much stronger incentive than food for subsistence – and that it targets threatened species, could quickly make of zoos indirect but significant contributors to the unabated decline of Cambodian threatened wildlife.

### **Careless zoos: unintentional wildlife killing centers**

Despite the defended image of raising wildlife, zoos can end up at the oppo-

site extreme of their publicised - though probably sincere - intentions. Animals are dying in Cambodian zoos because of inappropriate care and lack of competence. As long as formal training or assignment of skilled zoo tenders and veterinarians are not required to run zoos, they will continue to be wildlife killing centers by negligence. It would amount to a lot of work, monitoring, external support and commitment to transform the present-days zoos into real wildlife rescue and breeding centers.

Although passing the purpose of this paper, a critical question should be asked here: what place and role does Cambodia want to give to zoos in the future? Just exhibition places of depressed animals in cramped cages or active educational and rehabilitation centers aimed to promote progressive ideas of wildlife conservation and of respect towards all living creatures? Anyway, it's still a long road before those appalling wildlife detention and slow death centers will become



## **Conclusion**

As surrounding countries have lost most of their natural habitat and have extirpated or brought close to extinction many of their large birds, mammals and reptiles, the importance of Cambodia for wildlife conservation has become paramount in a regional context. Already under heavy pressure from habitat loss, hunting and other human persecution, globally threatened species surviving in Cambodia may now increasingly suffer from a new peril caused by the

demand of live animals for zoos. The numbers obtained from the survey definitely are just the tiny tip of the iceberg of the live animal trade in Cambodia.

As we enter a new century, I wish that every Cambodian would become fully conscious of his/her personal role and impact when buying a ticket to visit a private zoo. Fully aware that by this simple act, he or she promotes further depletion of his/her threatened wildlife heritage and, whether he/she intends to or not, becomes an accomplice of the thriving wildlife trade and of the large numbers of animal deaths resulting from the carelessness of zoos.

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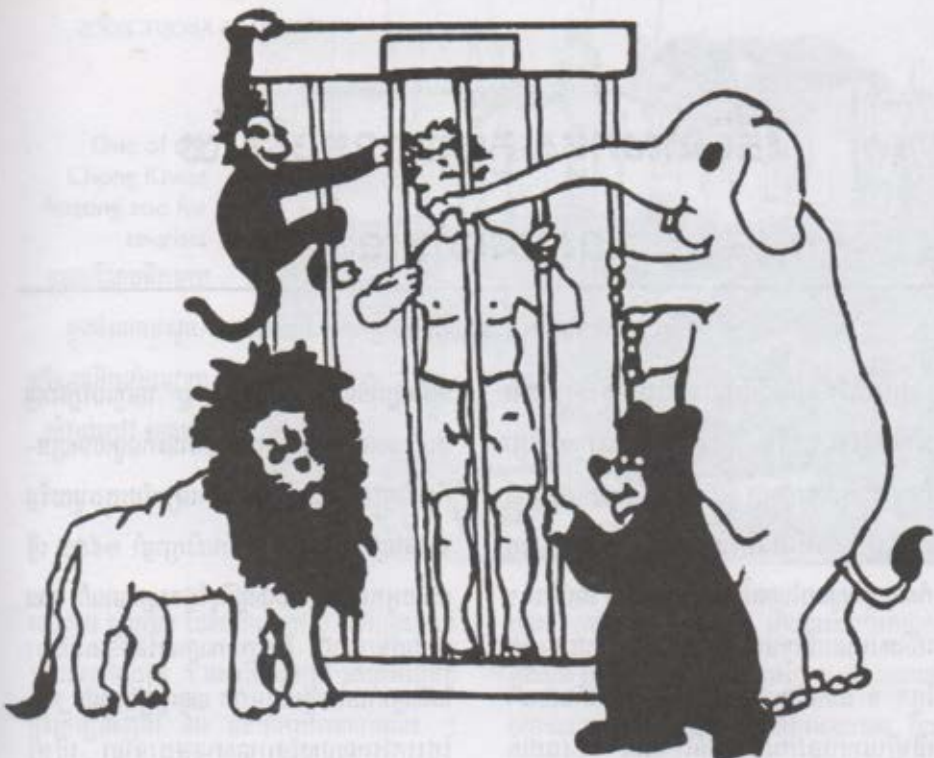
This study was initiated in close collaboration with the late Sam Veasna who remains alive in my soul and heart.

Last but not least, I am most grateful to Dave Ware who compiled and communicated all the mammal data and without whom this paper would never have been written. I thank also Colin Poole for having reviewed and commented on this paper in record time!

តំបន់ដែលត្រូវបានដកចេញពី  
ហើយទៅក្រោមសម្ពាធដ៏ធ្ងន់  
ដូរពីការប្រមាញ់ និងធ្វើជាបតី  
មនុស្សដ៏នៃការគំរាមកំហែង  
ពាសពេញពិភពលោកថា  
ពិសេសក្នុងប្រទេសកម្ពុជា  
គំនូរនេះមានការកើនឡើង  
មកពីគ្រោះថ្នាក់ខ្លីមួយដោយ  
សារការធានាខ្លីវិសេស  
សំរាប់រស់នៅក្នុងស្ថានភាព។

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**ទើបតែង**

**ការវិនិច្ឆ័យរបស់សត្វលោកយើង**

ថ្ងៃមួយមួយ និងកូនខ្លាឃ្មុំកំពុងដេកក្នុងនោះ ពេលដែលយើងធ្វើ ដំណើរ ក្នុងព្រៃយើងត្រូវ  
 ការប្រមុះ ដើម្បីហិតក្លិនរកទឹកឃ្មុំ ធ្វើចំណីអាហារ ។ កូនខ្លាឃ្មុំបាននិយាយថា យល់ត្រម ។ រំលងពីរ ឬ  
 បីនាទីក្រោយមកកូនខ្លាឃ្មុំបានសួរទៀតថា ម៉ែ! ហេតុអ្វីបានជាខ្ញុំមានក្រចកជើងវែង ៗ ដូច្នេះ?  
 ម្តាយក៏និយាយថា ក្រចកជើងវែង ៗ សំរាប់កាយដី ឬ ដើមឈើយកឃ្មុំដែលនៅក្នុងនោះ  
 ដើម្បីធ្វើអាហារណាកូន ។ កូនខ្លាឃ្មុំក៏ឆ្លើយតប អរគុណច្រើនម្តាយម៉ែ ។ ក្នុងនោះពេលដ៏ខ្លីក្រោយមក  
 កូនខ្លាឃ្មុំក៏បានសួរម្តាយទៀត ( ម៉ែ ! ហេតុអ្វីបានជាខ្ញុំមានបាតជើងធំទាំងនេះដូច្នេះ? )  
 ម្តាយអត់ទ្រាំនឹងសំណួរមិនក៏ឆ្លើយថា បាតជើងធំទាំងនេះសំរាប់ជួយអោយ យើងដើរលើដី និងឡើង  
 ដើមឈើដើម្បីយកចំណី ។ អស្ចារ្យណាស់ម៉ែ ! ដូច្នេះយើងមានប្រមុះធំសំរាប់ហិតក្លិន ក្រចកជើងវែង ៗ  
 សំរាប់កាយដី និងបាតជើងធំ ៗ សំរាប់ឡើងដើមឈើ។  
 ប៉ុន្តែម៉ែ? ចាស់កូន? ចុះហេតុអ្វីបានជាយើងមកនៅក្នុងសួនសត្វអង្គរទេវវិញ?

# គេវិនិច្ឆ័យកម្មសត្វព្រៃមានក្នុងចិត្តយ

## ទេសចរណ៍បួន?

ប្រែសម្រួលដោយលោក ពាន់ សេដ្ឋា និង អ្នកស្រី ខេង ចំរើន

នៅកំពង់ផែកប៉ាល់ទឹកទន្លេសាបខេត្តសៀមរាប មានឈូកជាច្រើន ប្រមូលទិញពពួកសត្វព្រៃ ដែលត្រូវការពារដូចជា ទុង ក្រសារ ត្រដក់ ពស់ថ្លាន់ ...ដើម្បីដាក់តាំងទាក់ទាញភ្ញៀវទេសចរ មក កំសាន្តក្នុងសួនបណ្តែតទឹករបស់ពួកគេ ។ ជារឿយ ៗ យើងសង្កេតឃើញមានបរិមាណ និង ប្រភេទសត្វ ប្លែក ៗ ដាក់តាំងនៅក្នុងសួនបណ្តែតទឹកទាំងនោះ។ ដើម្បីបញ្ឈប់នូវការអនុវត្តន៍បែបនេះ អាវុធជាក់ ស្លែងដែលត្រូវប្រើមានតែមួយទេនោះ គឺការបំបាត់ អោយអស់ជាស្ថាពរ ។ ហេតុនេះយើងត្រូវតែណែនាំ អប់រំអោយទេសចរបានយល់ច្បាស់ អំពីបញ្ហានិរន្តរ កម្មសត្វព្រៃ ។ ក្នុងពេលរង់ចាំដោយអត់ធ្មត់សូម អាជ្ញាធរមានសមត្ថកិច្ច ពិសេសក្រសួងកសិកម្ម ចេញច្បាប់ ស្តីពីកិច្ចការពារពពួកសត្វព្រៃ អោយបាន ឆាប់រហ័ស ហើយជាចាំបាច់ធ្វើអោយមានការ អនុវត្តន៍ជាក់ស្តែងលើច្បាប់នេះ ។ នរណាម្នាក់ ដែលបានទស្សនាខេត្តសៀមរាប ពិតជាបានស្គាល់ សួនបណ្តែតទឹកចុងឃ្លៀស ដែលជាកំពង់ផែកប៉ាល់ ទឹក និង ទូកស្នាក់នៅចំងាយប្រហែល ១០ គីឡូម៉ែត្រ ពីក្រុងទេសចរណ៍ ។ វាមិនគ្រាន់តែជាកន្លែង

ទទួលអ្នកដំណើរមកពីភ្នំពេញ ឬ ចេញទៅភ្នំពេញ ប៉ុណ្ណោះទេ តែតាមពិតទៅភូមិនេះក៏ទទួលទស្សន- កិច្ចពីភ្ញៀវទេសចររាប់រយនាក់ទៀតដែរក្នុងមួយថ្ងៃ ៗ នៅរដូវទេសចរណ៍ ។ ការសិក្សាឆ្នាំ ១៩៩៨ ធ្វើ ដោយអ្នកបច្ចេកទេសសេដ្ឋកិច្ចផ្នែកទេសចរណ៍ បាន បញ្ជាក់ច្បាស់ថា ជិតពាក់កណ្តាលនៃចំនួនទេសចរ ដែលស្នាក់នៅខេត្តសៀមរាប បានត្រៀមពេល កន្លះ ថ្ងៃក្រៅពេលទស្សនាប្រាសាទអង្គរវត្ត ដើម្បី ទៅបានឃើញយល់ពីជីវិតពិតរបស់អ្នកនេសាទ លើបឹងទន្លេសាប នៅតំបន់ផ្ទះសួនបណ្តែតទឹកនេះ ទៅពេលនោះក្រុមគ្រួសារអ្នកចុងឃ្លៀស បាន អភិវឌ្ឍរបៀបទាក់ទាញភ្ញៀវទេសចរ ដោយធ្វើផ្ទះ បណ្តែតទឹករបស់ពួកគេ អោយក្លាយទៅជាសួន បណ្តែតទឹកដ៏ល្អស្រស់។ កាលពីឆ្នាំមុន ៗ ផ្ទះបែបនេះមានតែមួយទេតែ ឥឡូវ នេះ ផ្ទះបែបនេះមានពីរកន្លែងហើយដែល កំពុង ប្រជែងគ្នាដំណើរភ្ញៀវតាមទំលាប់អ្នករកស៊ី សូម្បី តែគេជាអ្នកជិតខាងគ្នាក៏ដោយ ។ ក្នុងដំណើរ កំសាន្តតាមទូក ទេសចរត្រូវតែនាំតាមប្រព័ន្ធខ្នង កាត់ពីមុខកន្លែងនោះដែលមានសត្វទុង សត្វត្រដក់

One of the  
Chong Kneas  
floating zoo for  
tourists

សួនបណ្តែតទឹកមួយ  
ក្នុងចំណោមសួន-  
បណ្តែតទឹកទាំងឡាយ  
សំរាប់ភ្ញៀវ ទេសចរ



ពស់ផ្ទាំង ស្វាគ្រិស ដែលគេចងទុក ឬ ដាក់ទ្រុងក្នុងទី  
មួយដ៏តូចចង្អៀត ។ ទស្សនិកជនត្រូវបានគេអញ្ជើញ  
ចុះដើម្បីទស្សនា និង ថតយករូបភាពទាំងនេះ ។  
ថ្វីត្បិតតែទស្សនកិច្ចមិនចាំបាច់បង្កប្រាក់មែន តែ  
ជំនួញភេសជ្ជៈ និង វត្ថុអនុស្សាវរីយ៍ទាំងនោះ  
ក៏អាចធ្វើអោយម្ចាស់សួនរកកំរៃបានយ៉ាងស្រួល  
ដែរ ។ ប្រទេសកម្ពុជាពិតមែនតែមិនទាន់មានច្បាប់  
ស្តីពី ការការពារសត្វព្រៃច្បាស់ណាស់ទៅឡើយ ប៉ុន្តែ  
ប្រទេសកម្ពុជាក៏មានអនុក្រឹតលេខ ៣៥ ស្តីពីការ-  
ការពារសត្វព្រៃជាប្រាកដណាស់ ។  
អនុក្រឹតលេខ ៣៥ ក៏មានចែងផងដែរអំពីប្រភេទ  
សត្វព្រៃដែលត្រូវការការពារ ដោយមិនអនុញ្ញាត  
អោយចាប់ ឬ សំលាប់ទេ ។ ម៉្យាងទៀត ការជួញដូរ  
និង ឃុំឃាំងសត្វព្រៃ ក៏ច្បាប់ហាមឃាត់ដាច់ខាត  
ដែរ ។ ប៉ុន្តែតាមការមើលឃើញស្ថានភាពពិក្រៅ  
ហាក់ដូចជា មិនមានការហាមឃាត់ដល់ការប្រមូល

កូនសត្វត្រដក់ ឬ ទូងតូច ៗ ទាំងនេះយកមកដាក់  
ក្នុងសួន ឬ ទិញមកក្នុងគ្រួសារនោះទេ ។ នេះជាពេល  
សំខាន់ណាស់ដែលត្រូវតែអប់រំបំបាត់អោយបាន និង  
ត្រូវតែមានវិធានការណ៍តំបាត់ ដើម្បីបញ្ឈប់នូវការ  
ជួញដូរខុសច្បាប់បែបនេះ ។  
ស្ថានភាពអនាធិបតេយ្យខាងលើនេះមិនមែនមាន  
ករណីតែមួយទេ ពីរឆ្នាំកន្លងមកហើយដែលឃើញ  
មានសួនបែបនេះកាន់តែកើនចំនួនឡើងទាំងលើទឹក  
និង លើដីនៅក្នុងប្រទេស ។ កង្វះខាតរបស់អ្នក  
ទិញមីបែបនេះ ដែលខ្លះទាំងសមត្ថភាពចំណេះដឹង  
ទាំងថវិការ ទាំងមធ្យោបាយ រៀបចំលំនៅដ្ឋាន  
អោយសត្វនេះ គឺបានបង្កនូវការស្លាប់បាត់បង់ជីវិត  
សត្វជាបន្តបន្ទាប់យ៉ាងច្រើនដែលចាប់យកមក ដូច្នេះ  
ត្រូវតែមានការផ្សព្វផ្សាយអប់រំជាប្រចាំដល់  
សាធារណជនអោយបោះបង់គំនិតជំនួញបែបនេះ  
ដែលជាសកម្មភាពគំរាមតំហែងដ៏ធ្ងន់ធ្ងរ ចំពោះការ

រួចរស់ឡើងវិញ នៃពួកសត្វដែលកំពុងស្ថិតនៅ  
ក្នុងសភាពគ្រោះថ្នាក់ដ៏ធំ ដោយការចុះថយនៃ  
ជីវកព្វកវា ដោយការបរាជ័យ និង ដោយការជួញ  
ដូរខុសច្បាប់បែបអន្តរជាតិ ។

ត្រូវតែរាំងឃាត់អោយបានយ៉ាងតឹងរឹងជាបន្ទាន់  
និង លប់បំបាត់ជាចុងក្រោយនូវការបង្កើតសួនសត្វ  
បែបនេះតាមផ្លូវច្បាប់ ។ ខ្ញុំសង្ឃឹមថាក្នុងពេល

ឆាប់ ៗ នេះ ខ្ញុំប្រាកដជាបានដំណើរការសាបសូន្យនៃ  
សួនខាងលើ និង ពីស្ថានភាពសត្វព្រៃដែលបានល្អប្រសើរ  
និង រីកចម្រើនដោយស្មារតីសមត្ថកិច្ចនៃក្រសួងពាក់ព័ន្ធ ។

(អគ្គបទរបស់លោក ហ្វេដេរិច ហ្គោស អ្នកសកុណា-  
វិទ្យា អង្គការសមាគមអភិរក្សសត្វព្រៃនៅ កម្ពុជា) ។

Lesser Adjutant chicks collected from the Tonle Sap nesting colonies in March 2000.  
កូនត្រដក់ជាច្រើនត្រូវបានប្រជាជនចាប់ពីបឹងទន្លេសាបកាលពីខែមីនាឆ្នាំ២០០០



et snacks permet au propriétaire de s'y retrouver financièrement, et au conducteur de bateau d'avoir sa commission.

A deux encablures, on peut voir le centre GECKO inauguré l'an dernier et consacré à l'éducation à l'environnement des communautés locales. Contradiction? Impuissance? Ou état de fait? Il semble que ce soit pour l'instant la dernière philosophie qui prévale. Bien qu'inadaptée et en cours de révision, une loi de protection des espèces animales existe bel et bien au Cambodge. Interrogé sur la question, Mr Hong Chamnan, un officiel du Bureau de la Faune à Phnom Penh indiquait que les espèces protégées ne pouvaient pas être capturées, tuées ou vendues mais que les acheter ou les détenir n'était en rien reprehensible selon la loi. Un hic de taille pour empêcher le commerce d'espèces sauvages dans le royaume.

Ainsi, bien qu'illégale, la collectes aux nids sur le Grand Lac se poursuit impunément, poussée par ce nouveau débouché plus lucratif que le commerce pour la chair. Cinq marabouts encore duveteux sont apparus à Chong Khneas en début d'année, suivis de huit autres juvéniles au mois de

juin. Tous provenaient des dernières grandes colonies de cigognes et pélicans survivant à ce jour en Asie du Sud-Est, concentrées sur la portion nord-ouest du Tonlé Sap au sud de Prek Toal. Il est donc temps de réagir et de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour arrêter ce trafic mettant en péril la survie d'espèces rares. Une action possible serait de convaincre le Comité Environnement du village de placer un panneau au débarcadère informant les touristes et les enjoignant à ne pas cautionner ces zoos. Mais, visiblement, certains intérêts financiers priment sur la sauvegarde du patrimoine naturel et compromettent toute action locale.

La situation présentée ci-dessus n'est pas un cas isolé. Depuis deux ans, on voit ce genre de zoos privés se multiplier dans le pays. Par manque de compétences, de moyens, de soins, ces endroits subissent une mortalité importante de leur animaux captifs. Ainsi, ils sont constamment en demande de nouveaux individus pour renouveler leur effectifs et constituent par là même une menace grandissante pour la survie de nombreuses espèces déjà sérieusement mises en péril par la dégradation de leur habitat, la chasse et le trafic international.



Il est donc crucial et urgent de dénoncer fermement les pratiques de ces zoos, de questionner leur existence même et, dans un premier temps, d'appeler toute personne concernée par la protection du patrimoine cambodgien à boycotter ces endroits douteux. Chaque visiteur devrait comprendre que par son simple comporte-

ment, il peut faire oeuvre éducative et apporter sa modeste contribution personnelle à un futur plus respectueux de la vie.

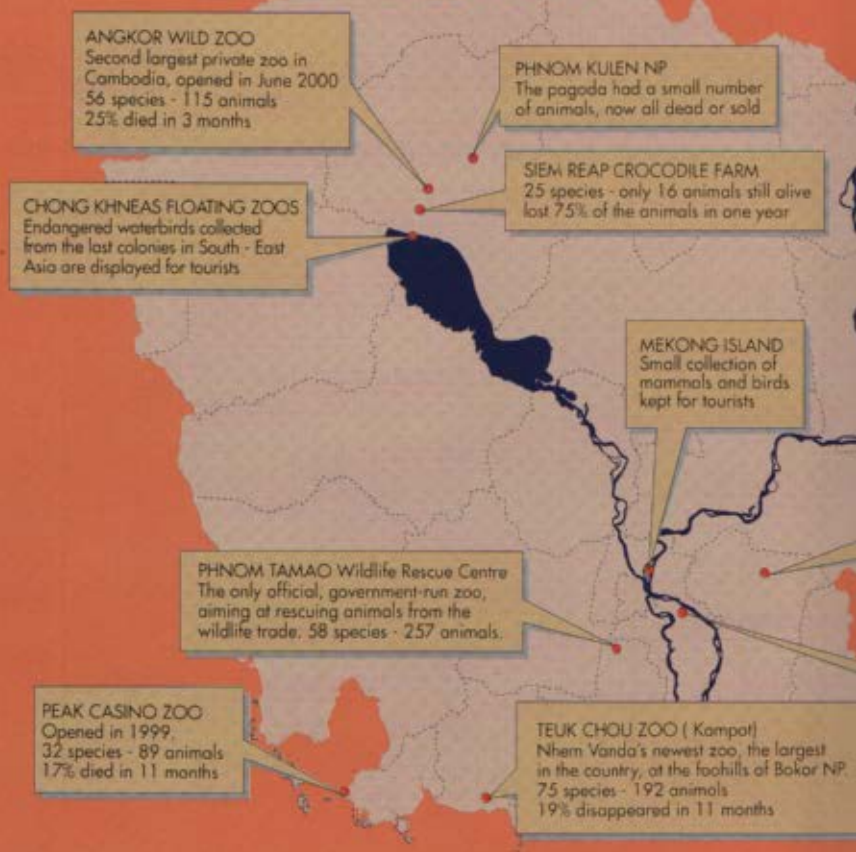
Paru dans *Cambodge Soir*  
du 7 juin 2000.  
Adapté pour CBN



The same Lesser Adjutants, fully fledged but clipped wings forbid them freedom.

កូនត្រីដក់ដំដល់រយៈពេលពីរខែក្រោយមក  
មានការលូតលាស់ធំពេញវ័យប៉ុន្តែត្រូវតែកាត់ស្លាប់មិន  
ឱ្យមានសេរីភាពក្នុងការហោះហើរ

# Zoos in Cambodia "at a glance



កង្កាយ  
Soft-shell Turtle



ខ្លាម្លូតុត  
Sun Bear

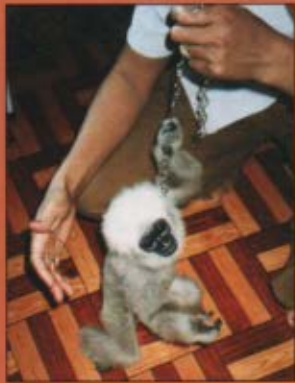


ឆ្កែព័ទ្ធ  
Leopard Cat



BAYAB ZOO  
MP Nhem Vanda's first zoo.  
Many animals transferred to  
Teuk Chau zoo, Kampot.  
Only 20 species left.

L'IMPREVU  
Small collection.  
Recently closed



**ទោមម្ពង់**  
**Pileated Gibbon**



**គីម្ពុត ឬក្បាលម៉ែកុះចំលើរឿង**  
**Thick-billed Green Pigeon**



**សេតសត**  
**Red-breasted Parakeet**



**អក្ស័រ្យាទ្រូងត្នោត**  
**Rufous-bellied Eagle**

## The first record for Cambodia of Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron sphenura*

BY DOUGLAS JUDELL

ពពួលប្រភេទថ្មីត្រូវដោយលោក ឌីកុន គីម  
ឧទ្យានក្សនៃឧទ្យានជាតិគីរីរម្យនៅខែ តុលា ឆ្នាំ ២០០០



ON 5 OCTOBER 2000, in Kirirom NP, I briefly saw a green pigeon looking almost straight up at it and thought it was a Wedge-tailed Pigeon from size and shape as I've seen that species many times in Thailand and Malaysia.

After realizing that the species was not on the Cambodian list, I went back to the area, about 500 meters from the park headquarter, at an altitude of about 700 meters. That afternoon, several green pigeons flew into a fruiting tree near the roadside at the level of the large pond. I got a clear look at a male from circa 30 meters with Leica 10x42 binoculars. It had maroon shoulder patches, clearly separated by a green back, a green breast, a bright, light blue bill with no other colour on the crown or breast. I was then stumped because it didn't really

fit anything in Birds of Thailand guidebook.

On 6 and 7 October, in the morning and late afternoon there were up to 15 birds in the fruiting tree. I saw at least three different males, the shoulder patches are about as illustrated for White-bellied Pigeon in Birds of Thailand. I think of Thick-billed as kind of a stubby pigeon, Pompadour is listed as the same size and none of the 15 birds had a hint of a pin tail, so by process of elimination Wedge-tailed still seemed like the only possibility.

Males and females had yellow green underparts, barred from the legs back. The undertail coverts did seem long but I never saw any cinnamon buff (male) or creamy buff (female) as described in Birds of Thailand.

On getting back to Phnom Penh, I looked in Robson (2000) and read about delacouri subspecies of Wedge-tailed Pigeon: no colour on the crown

or breast with limited maroon shoulder patches. I am now convinced the birds were that subspecies, known from Annam and historically from central Laos. The record is slightly lower than the minimal altitude of 770 meters given by Robson (2000). It appears however that finding that species in south-west Cambodia was relatively unexpected as the nominal subspecies is found in the neighbouring south-east Thailand mountains to which the Kirirom hills are connected through the Cardamom range.

## References

- Lekagul, B. and Round, P. (1991) - A guide to the Birds of Thailand. Saha Karn Bhaet, Bangkok.  
Robson (2000) - A Field Guide to the Birds of South-East Asia. New Holland Publishers (UK) Ltd.

The new species of Green Pigeon, drawn by Mr OK Kim, Kirirom Park Ranger, is the first official field identification sketch made in Cambodia.

## Twenty six further new species for Cambodia

COMPILED BY PETE DAVIDSON

**T**HIS ARTICLE details 23 confirmed and three provisional additions to the Cambodian list made during the numerous field surveys that have been conducted during the dry season of year 2000 and not covered in CBN No4. The survey of the Cardamom Mountains in February and March produced the majority of new country records, with a further suite of species new to Cambodia being recorded during surveys in Mondolkiri. It is important to note that the FFI report from the Cardamoms survey (Daltry and Momberg 2000) contains numerous errors. The only records from the survey that are included here are those made by Jonathan Eames, Frank Steinheimer and Ros Bansok. Clarification for species previously on the Cambodian list on dubious grounds or confirmation of occurrence for provisional records mentioned in previous CBN's New

Species column are also presented here.

Status and distribution in neighbouring countries are taken from *A guide to the Birds of Thailand* (Lekagul and Round 1991) and *A Field Guide to the Birds of South-East Asia* (Robson 2000). Nomenclature and species limits follow the latter reference.

### Bar-backed Partridge

*Arborophila brunneopectus*

A single and a pair were recorded in December 1999 and February 2000 by camera traps placed at two localities in Virachey National Park, Ratanakiri province at 400m and 520m in bamboo dominated forest (WWF data). At least two birds have subsequently been seen in the field on the northern part of the Sen Monorom plateau in Mondolkiri at 700 m on 17th June (RTm). Based on the species distribution in neighbouring countries, it is expected to occur in the northeastern provinces and may also be found in the north.

### White-browed Piculet

*Sasia ochracea*

Several were recorded in evergreen

forest between 1,200 and 1,600 m on Phnom Tumpor within Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary between 27th February and 7th March (JE,FS,RB). The closest population is resident in parts of eastern Thailand, but the species is not known in adjacent south-east Thailand.

### Black-backed Kingfisher

*Ceyx erithacus*

One along a stream flanked by logged semi-evergreen forest in Snoul Wildlife Sanctuary, on 4th May, and one in Samling logging concession in nearby southern Mondolkiri, in secondary semi-evergreen forest away from any running water, on 15th May (PD,TS). These are the first confirmed sight records from Cambodia, the only previous report being an unsubstantiated sighting from the Stung Chinit in Kompong Thom Province in either April or August 1997 (see CBN No1). Considering its status in neighbouring areas of Vietnam and Laos, it is likely to be a resident and/or passage migrant in this part of Cambodia.

### Javan Frogmouth

*Batrachostomus javensis*

One heard on the lower slopes (200-

ព័ត៌មានសង្ខេប

# New species

Bar-backed Partridge



Rat-ciet-tailed Treepie



Dark-sided Thrush



300 m) of Phnom Khmaoch in Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary, between 13th and 20th March (JE). It is presumably a resident, based on its status in neighbouring regions of Southeast Asia. This confirms the species occurrence in the country, following the provisional record in Bokor National Park in January (see CBN No4).

### Ratchet-tailed Treepie

*Temnurus temnurus*

At least two birds were recorded in a mixed species flock in fragmented forest on the northern part of the Sen Monorom plateau in Mondolkiri in May-June (RTm). The species is known from neighbouring parts of Vietnam.

### Grey-chinned Minivet

*Pericrocotus solaris*

The species was recorded in lower montane evergreen forest on Phnom Tumpor in Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary, between 27th February and 7th March (JE,FS,RB). Following the mention of the species by Goes (CBN No4: p 2-8), and the confusion over whether the species had ever been recorded in the country at all, this proves the species is indeed a resident of the mountains of the south-west

although not known from adjacent south-east Thailand.

### Dark-sided Thrush

*Zoothera marginata*

Recorded in lower montane evergreen forest on Phnom Tumpor in Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary, between 27th February and 7th March (JE,FS,RB). In June (date unspecified), one individual was caught in a small mammal trap and collected on the plateau in Bokor NP (CP verbally). It is presumably a resident in the area, based on its status in neighbouring regions of Southeast Asia.

### Slaty-backed Flycatcher

*Ficedula hodgsonii*

One male in lower montane evergreen forest on Phnom Tumpor in Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary, between 27th February and 7th March (JE,FS,RB). This bird will undoubtedly have been a winter visitor, based on its status in neighbouring regions of Southeast Asia. There can be very few records from so far south, and it was only recently recorded for the first time in central Laos. It is scarce in north-east Thailand, and perhaps surprisingly, there appears to be no records from Vietnam.

## Recent sightings – Brief news

Little pied Flycatcher



Green Cochoa



Grey-bellied Tesia



## **Snowy-browed Flycatcher**

*Ficedula hyperythra*

Found to be a common resident of lower montane evergreen forest on Phnom Tumpor and Phnom Khmaoch in Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary, between 27th February and 20th March (JE,FS,RB). It is known from mountains in north-east Thailand and also mountain areas of south Annam in Vietnam.

## **Little Pied Flycatcher**

*Ficedula westermanni*

Recorded in lower montane evergreen forest on Phnom Tumpor in Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary between 27th February and 7th March (JE,FS,RB). It is presumably a resident, based on its status in neighbouring regions of Southeast Asia.

## **Fujian Niltava**

*Niltava davidi*

Two birds seen in lower montane evergreen forest on Phnom Tumpor in Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary between 27th February and 7th March (JE). This chunky, iridescent flycatcher is considered a vagrant to neighbouring south-east Thailand, and a scarce winter visitor to south Laos, central Vietnam, making these two records particularly interesting.

## **Blue-throated Flycatcher**

*Cyornis rubeculoides*

Found to be a locally common species in Samling's logging concession in southern Mondolkiri, inhabiting semi-evergreen forest on hill slopes

between ca. 250 and 430 m in April and May (PD,TS). All records were of the resident race *C. r. klossi*, a sub-species endemic to southern Indochina.

## **Green Cochoa**

*Cochoa viridis*

This attractive frugivore's distinctive song, a long, pure, single-tone whistle, was heard and tape-recorded on Mount Tumpor in Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary between 27th February and 7th March (JE). This uncommon species is a logical addition to the Cambodian list, being known from the adjacent mountains of south-east Thailand, where it is a resident.

## **Mountain Bulbul**

*Hypsipetes mcclllandii*

Common in lower montane evergreen forest on Phnom Tumpor and Phnom Khmaoch in Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary, between 27th February and 20th March (JE,FS,RB). A resident above 800 m in south-east Asia, it was a less predictable addition to the Cambodian list as in Thailand it does not occur in the south-east. The closest population is found in mountainous north-east Thailand.

## **Grey-bellied Tesia**

*Tesia cyaniventer*

Recorded in lower montane evergreen forest on Phnom Tumpor and Phnom Khmaoch in Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary, between 27th February and 20th March (JE,FS,RB). This species



has an interesting, very patchy distribution in adjacent south-east Asian countries, being known from just a few isolated locations in north-west Thailand, north and south Laos, west Tonkin and south Annam. It is perhaps one of the more surprising additions to the Cambodian list made during the Cardamom survey.

## **White-tailed Leaf Warbler**

*Phylloscopus davisoni*

Found to be an abundant resident of lower montane evergreen forest between 1,200 and 1,600 m on Phnom Tumpor and Phnom Khmaoch in Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary, between 27th February and 20th March (JE,FS,RB). This confirms the species occurrence in Cambodia, which was suspected following recent records of unidentified *Phylloscopus* warblers (either Blyth's or White-tailed) from Bokor in 1998. In late March, the species occurrence in Bokor National Park was confirmed, when it was found to be a common breeding bird in evergreen forest around 1,000 m, on the plateau and upper slopes of the escarpment around the old colonial hill station (PD). It should be noted that Blyth's Leaf Warbler *P. reguloides* is also likely to occur in Cambodia as a winter visitor, so keep a sharp eye out for *Phylloscopus* warblers with wing bars and crown stripes when in the mountains.

## **Chestnut-crowned Warbler**

*Seicercus castaneiceps* ILL 663

Recorded in lower montane evergreen forest on Phnom Tumpor in Phnom

Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary between 27th February and 7th March (JE,FS,RB). It is not recorded from south-east Thailand, the nearest known populations of the species being resident on mountains in eastern south Laos and south Annam.

## **Yellow-bellied Warbler**

*Abrosopus superciliaris*

A locally common species in Samling's logging concession in southern Mondolkiri in April-May, found in bamboo within the semi-evergreen forest mosaic between 150 and 320 m (PD,TS). It is a resident in neighbouring parts of Southeast Asia, and as such a predictable addition to the Cambodian list.

## **[ Spot-throated Babbler**

*Pellorneum albiventris* ]

Although there have been no sight records of this very skulking babbler, song assumed to be of the species was heard at two sites in the lowlands of Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary in the Cardamoms in February and March (JE), and also in undergrowth within evergreen forest in Samling's logging concession, southern Mondolkiri in April and May (PD). These records are best regarded as provisional until the species has been seen and/or trapped. Being resident in Laos, central and south Annam, it should logically occur in north-east Cambodia while an isolated population in the south-west would be more surprising.

## Pygmy Wren Babbler

*Pnoepyga pusilla*

Recorded in lower montane evergreen forest on Phnom Tumpor and Phnom Khmaoch in Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary, between 27th February and 20th March (JE,FS,RB). The species was unexpected as the nearest known populations of the species are resident on mountains in eastern south Laos and south Annam, Vietnam.

## [ Rufous-capped Babbler

*Stachyris ruficeps* ]

Several birds thought to be this species were seen in a mixed species flock on the northern part of the Sen Monorom Plateau in Mondolkiri on 17th June (RTm). Although observed characteristics and behaviour strongly suggest they were this species rather than Rufous-fronted *S. rufifrons*, these records should be regarded as provisional. The species is certainly likely to occur in north-east Cambodia, being a resident in neighbouring eastern south Laos and Vietnam.

## Rufous-throated Fulvetta

*Alcippe rufogularis*

This attractive little babbler has been on the Cambodian list before, but as described by Goes (CBN-4, p2-8), erro-

neously. It has not taken long, however, for it to re-instate itself. The species was recorded in lowland evergreen forest on 9th March during the survey of the Cardamom Mountains (JE). It was however expected to be found in south-west Cambodia as it is a resident in adjacent south-east Thailand from the plains to 900 m.

## [ Mountain Fulvetta

*Alcippe peracensis* ]

Several birds showing the characters of this species were seen in a mixed species flock on the northern part of the Sen Monorom Plateau on 17th June. Distinguishing features observed were the clear grey face extending to the end of the black supercilium/lateral crown stripe and large whitish eyerings. However in other birds these features were not subdued, although no birds had strongly *grotei*-like characteristics (RTm). In January 1997, Duckworth and Hedges recorded a fulvetta *Alcippe* species commonly at Dak Dam border post, in Mondolkiri, between 900 and 950 m, which apparently showed a mix of plumage characters of Mountain Fulvetta *A. p. annamensis* and Black-browed Fulvetta *A. grotei* (formerly

# ព័ត៌មានសង្ខេប

Chestnut-Crowned  
Warbler



Rufous-throated  
Fulvetta



# New species

considered conspecific with *A. peracensis*). It would seem likely that these were also Mountain Fulvettas, being probably at a similar elevation to Rob Timmins observations.

### **Black-browed Fulvetta**

*Alcippe grotei*

This species is locally common in the Samling logging concession, southern Mondolkiri, where it was recorded in evergreen forest up to at least 460 m in April-May (PD). Where this and the former species occur together in south Laos, Black-browed occurs up to 840 m, and Mountain above 920 m (PD per. obs.), but Robson (2000) gives the upper altitudinal limit of Black-browed Fulvetta as 1,000 m. (See also Mountain Fulvetta above.)

### **Pin-tailed Parrotfinch**

*Erythrura prasina*

A group of three birds (including one male) flying along a logging track within semi-evergreen forest at c.380 m in Samling's logging concession in southern Mondolkiri on 16th May (PD). Although this colourful little finch is a resident in south-east Asia, within this range it is semi-nomadic and prone to irruptive movements in response to food availability, primarily

seeding bamboo, one of its primary food sources. A substantial proportion of the bamboos were seeding during the survey, and presumably these birds' presence in the area was at least partly attributable to this. It may only occur in the area periodically.

### **Streaked Spiderhunter**

*Arachnothera magna*

The species is widespread and locally abundant in the semi-evergreen forest mosaic in Samling's logging concession, southern Mondolkiri in April-May. It was recorded down to 170 m (PD,TS). It is presumably a resident, as elsewhere in its Southeast Asian range.

### **CONTRIBUTORS**

Colin Poole (CP), Pete Davidson (PD), Frank Steinheimer (FS), Jonathan Eames (JE), Ros Bansok (RB), Rob Timmins (RTm), Tan Setha (TS).

## **Recent sightings      Brief news**



Pin-tailed Parrotfinch



Streaked Spiderhunter



## May to December 2000

COMPILED BY FRÉDÉRIC GOES

**A** REVIEW of records of interest communicated to the journal is presented here.

Common names follow a Field Guide to the Birds of South-East Asia (Robson, 2000).

### PHNOM PENH & SURROUNDINGS Phnom Penh

Three **Pied Kingfishers** were seen at Boeng Pompeay, Toul Kork area on 5 August (CP,MH). One juvenile **Shikra** was perched on the ledge of the National Museum roof, trying in vain to snatch some of the bats bursting out of the building at dusk on 9 September. Just before, a screaming **Alexandrine Parakeet** flew out of a coconut tree in the Museum garden. Its wings and tail feathers were badly damaged: it was obviously an individual escaped from captivity or released at the riverfront buddhist bird market (FG). Another likely escape was a **Striated Grassbird** seen on the lawn between the King's Palace and the river on 30 November (PD, BS).

### Basset marshes

Record counts of 130 **Cotton Pygmy Geese** (second highest count for the country) and 100 **Little Cormorants** (site highest) were obtained on 27 May; two **Oriental Darters** were also present (CP,PD,MO,RO).

A pair of **Ashy Wood-Swallows**, one male **House Sparrow** amongst a flock of 50 **Plain-backed Sparrows** and a **Asian barred Owllet** nesting in a sugarpalm tree are all additions to the birdlist of the four-arms marsh complex (i.e. Basset, Bassac and Veal Samnap wetlands) made on 5 August (CP,MH).

### Boeng Veal Samnap (all FG,CP,RO)

Great boat-based birdwatching on 9 September: 11 species new for the site and six new for the four-arms marsh complex. The records of two near-threatened species stand out: three **Black-headed Ibises** - the first recent observation outside the Tonle Sap basin - and 118 **Oriental Darters**, equalling the second highest count for the country. Moreover, some birds at nest in a tree with 20 nests is a strong evidence that the species breeds at the

# Recent sightings

# Brief news

site (a single Tonle Sap site currently known). The Darter site was also occupied by a colony of over 200 Flying Foxes.

20 **Spot-billed Pelicans** and 20 **Asian Openbills** are the largest counts for the wetland complex. New species for the wetland complex include **Red-breasted Parakeet** (a single), **Green Pigeon sp.** (three birds) and a **Blue Flycatcher sp.** One **Chesnut-winged Cuckoo** was a first for the site. A pair of **Ashy Wood-Swallows** was perched along the Mekong river.

## T O N L E S A P

### **Prek Toal** (all FG, HC)

A summer survey for **White-winged Duck** failed to find the species but recorded the first **Black-and-Red Broadbill** for the Tonle Sap flooded forest on 26 July. The species is threatened in Thailand due to lowland forest destruction.

The poorly known **Chesnut-winged Cuckoo**, a new species for the site, was found common at that time of year. On 25 July, there were five sightings of that species in a single hour, more than during the last hundred years in Cambodia. Two more singles were also encountered during the next two days. Other records of interest included one **Mangrove Whistler** on 26 July and more than 30 **Lesser Adjutants** on 27 July. The latter were perched in the area where the largest breeding colony of waterbirds was found this year. The secretive **Masked Finfoot** was heard twice, on 25 and 26

July but could not be viewed.

### **Siem Reap**

One **Barn Owl** was observed before dusk at the limit of Fishing Lots 1 and 2, near Anlong Sandan village on 23 October (ED). There was no previous documented record of the species presence on the Tonle Sap lake.

## N O R T H W E S T

### **Battambang**

A **Barn Owl** was spotted in Battambang city at 9.00 PM on 8 September. It was probably the same bird found in the morning of 4 November, victim of human cruelty and superstition: the bird was hanging from a tree and already dead but still beaten with wood sticks by a group of people. Two **Black Kites** were seen at Kamping Pouy on 14 November (all FR). One **Greater Spotted Eagle** circling low over Battambang town on 6 December and three **Asian Openbills** over Kamping Pouy lake, on 11 December (RZ).

### **Oddar Meanchey** (all records GOK)

A small flock of **Great Tits** and a male **Asian Golden Weaver** were seen in dry forest, south of Anlong Veng on 10 May. The species was previously thought to be restricted to the eastern bank of the Mekong, with a few records in Ratanakiri and Mondolkiri. This record, 250 km further west, indicates that the species is most likely to be distributed across the whole northern plain (see more under section Northeast). People there had a captive juvenile **Grey-headed Parakeet**.



Oriental Darter  
ស្បែកក្រចក

Chesnut-winged Cuckoo



Black-and-red Broadbill



**Black-and-Buff Woodpecker** was recorded at Tropeang Prasat on 12 May and an unspecified number of **Asian Golden Weavers** were noted in swampy areas inside forest in Banteay Ampil district in late May.

### Tropeang Thmor reservoir

(*Sarus Crane Reserve*)

(*Observers: May-June: PD,HC / July: FG,GOK,CB,EOS / August: HC / October: HC,DS,JMC / November: HC,DS / December: FG,HC,GA*)

Although just falling prior to the review period, we mention the record of Zebra Dove, heard at northern edge of the reservoir on 30 April, a new species for the site and third country record (GOK).

12 to 18 **Sarus Cranes** were present from 29 May to 1st June while one straggler was still there on 1st July. The first returnees were noted in early November with a maximum of 11 birds on 5 November.

The most exciting findings were definitely one **Pallas's Fish-Eagle** (globally threatened) - the first record since 1961 - seen on the ground and in flight and one provisional **Red-headed Vulture** (near-threatened) in overhead flight, both species on 1 June. There are no vulture populations thought to survive outside the north-eastern provinces and this is the se-

cond recent vulture record outside that area. One male **Bengal Florican** was seen on 1 June.

Over 1000 **Asian Openbills** were regulars at each visit between late May and early October, feeding at the northern edge of the reservoir. They were accompanied more than 400 **Black-headed Ibises** (highest count for Cambodia) on 1 June, whose numbers apparently fell to about 200 birds on 1 July. Of importance is the confirmation of the regular visit of the globally threatened **Milky Stork** - a single on 1 June and 6 October, and a single adult seen along the track towards Route 6 on 7 and 8 December. Other important regular visitors are the **Greater Adjutant** - one bird on 8 October and two birds on 6 November, and the **Black-necked Stork** - a single on 31 May and on 6 November. There was a sighting of 17 **Lesser Adjutants** on 1 August. A single **Woolly-necked Stork**, a regionally threatened species, flying over the area on 5 November is a new species for the site. Great views of a pair of **Greater Spotted Eagles** on 7 and 8 December.

**Australasian Bushlark** was confirmed present with five birds seen on 1 June, a species not recorded with certainty in Cambodia since the late twenties

Barn Owl  
 ក្បាលស្លឹកឈើ



Great Tit  
 ក្បាលស្លឹកឈើ



Pallas's Fish Eagle  
 ក្បាលស្លឹកឈើ



(!), presumably because of identification difficulties. Other new records for the site were **Grey-headed Parakeet**, **Green-eared Barbet** and **Arctic Warbler** between 29 May to 1 June; a single **Peregrine Falcon**, one probable **Common Buzzard** and a flock of **Chesnut-tailed Starlings** feeding on dry dipterocarp pink flowers on 7 December.

About 80 **Cotton Pygmy Geese** and over 450 **Purple Swamphens** (second highest count for the country) standing on a flooded grassland bed on 8 December.

## Angkor

*N.B. For those who want to keep their CBN-5 Angkor Park list updated, note that **Arctic Warbler** was omitted from the species list: it was recorded at Angkor Wat on 4 February 2000 (PA).*

Three **White-breasted Waterhens** were seen in Angkor Wat moat on 22 October, apparently the first record at Angkor (DS).

One **Drongo Cuckoo** plus a party of a dozen **Chesnut-tailed Starlings** were observed near Taney temple on 23 November. The latter showed the peculiar habit of walking on branches (FG,CP). One **Wood-shrike sp.** - same place and date - is new for Angkor as is the **Purple Sunbird** seen on the same day at Spien Angkor (FG). Two

other additions to the site bird list are **Purple Swamphen** seen around 25 December (place unspecified) (DJ) and one **Hoopoe** on the road to Bantey Srey on the last day of the year (FG). Expected confirmations for Angkor area are **Brown Shrike** and **Plain-backed Sparrow**, found in paddies near Prasat Ba Chum on 23 September (FG,DS).

## Kompong Thom

Several teams of birdwatchers visited Krous Kraom, the Bengal Florican site in Stung Sen district from May to August. A group of 84 **Greater Adjutants** seen on 28 June constitutes one of the world's largest flocks for the species. The birds were outrageously decimated by hunting that night (more in Brief News). A pair of **Black-necked Storks**, two **Woolly-necked Storks** and 5 **Comb Ducks** were seen on 28 June (all PD,HC). A minimum of 200 (probably over 400) **Asian Openbills** flew across the area on 11 and 12 July (FG,HC).

A wet season survey elucidated for the first time whereabouts of the **Bengal Florican** during the wet season. One male was flushed east of Phnom Santuk on 28 November. Other exciting records on the same day were two **Eurasian Thick-knees** - the second record of the

Peregrine Falcon



ក្បាលដំក្បាលក្បាល

Hoopoe



ដាក់

Eurasian Thick-knees



decade only, at the same site, and at least 46 **Sarus Cranes** to the west, coming into flooded rice fields near Toul Kompong Rolin. Four and one **Grey-headed Lapwings** near Roluos village on 26 and 29 November respectively; one **Peregrine Falcon** on 29 November. At least five **Woolly-necked Storks** circling above Route 6 between Kompong Thom and Stoung and finally, quite unexpected, one **Mugimaki Flycatcher** at Stoung district town Forestry Office on 27 November (all PD,HC,TS).

Flocks totalling over 5,000 **Yellow-breasted Buntings** in ricefields were seen at Veal Bak Rotes, and at least three **Spotted Owlets** in the area east of Phnom Santuk on 11 December (PD,HC,TS,RTz).

**Preah Vihear**

A foot survey for large mammals in Chep district, near the Lao border, produced a great finding: three **Giant Ibis** near seasonal ponds at Tropeang Thom on 7 December. The birds were heard giving series of "aolak" notes before dawn on the day of the observation. Two **Green Peafowls** were heard in the same area and two **Pompadour Green Pigeons** (first for northwest) were seen in a fruiting tree

(JW).

**S O U T H W E S T  
Sihanoukville**

A hundred **Lesser Frigatebirds** were frenetically feeding upon dead fish leftover by grenade fishing soldiers between Pula Wae island and a reef south of the island on 15 November. Two groups totalling 170 birds were seen near Koh Tang on 22 December. They are the largest number of Frigatebirds recorded in Cambodia waters (IR, ER).

**Ream NP**

New records for the park are two **Slaty-breasted Rails**, one **Ruddy-breasted Crane**, **Bright-capped Cisticola** and **Baya Weaver** in a swampy area near the Navy Base on 1 May. The same observers listed also two other additions for the park on the same day: **Mangrove Whistler** and **Chesnut Munia**, but confirmation is pending on further details (LB, BB, TS, FS).

**Bokor NP**

Asian Pied Starling and Australasian Bushlark (the latter however would need detailed description to be valid), both new to Bokor, were reported at the entrance of the park on 29 April



Giant Ibis  
ក្របីស្រូវ

Rufous-bellied Eagle



Slaty-backed Forktail



(BB, LB, FS, TS). One **Rufous-bellied Eagle** was seen along the access road and one **Common Buzzard** on the plateau on 19 November (CP).

**Cardamoms** (all JE unless stated) Apart from the impressive list of new species for the country mentioned elsewhere, and though outside the review period, we owe our readers some other key findings of FFI surveys conducted from 27 February to 20 March. These include the first post-war records of **Grey Nightjar** and **Large Niltava**, as well as the proposed endemic **Cambodian Laughingthrush** - all found in lower montane evergreen forest above 1250 m in Phnom Tampur and Phnom Kmaoch within Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary. The endemic **Chesnut-headed Partridge** was common at all mountain sites while one female **Green Peafowl** was seen in the dry dipterocarp forest south of Pursat on 24-26 February. The latter habitat provided also the first record of **Yellow-footed Green Pigeon** for the southwest. The scarce **Slaty-backed Forktail** was spotted for the third time in the country. Surprising was the absence of **Mountain Tailorbird**, still unrecorded in Cambodia since a year 1943 record

made precisely in higher altitudes of the Cardamoms mountains. During a WCS summer expedition up the Sre Ambel river, Koh Kong, 6 **Green Peafowls** were seen perched on the river bank about 20 km up the river mouth on 22 August (SP).

## N O R T H E A S T

### **Ratanakiri** (all WWF data)

Some interesting camera-trap records not included in the previous review are presented here. One **Germain's Peacock Pheasant** in bamboo at 420 m at Veal Hatieng in Virachey NP, close to the Lao border in March, represents a significant westward extension of the species restricted range. As **Grey Peacock Pheasant** was also photographed at that location, it may be the first time that both species have been recorded sympatrically. In the same area, one **Blue-rumped Pitta** was photographed at 400 m in semi-evergreen forest with bamboo in January-February; it is the first record since 1927 and a first for the northeast. **Stung Treng** (all sightings FG) A boat journey on the Mekong river from Stung Treng to the Lao border produced a post-breeding flock of 17 **River Terns** (apparently all adults)

Blue-rumped Pitta  
ស្ពីតប្រៃស្រីប្រៃស្រី



Eurasian Jay



Siamese Fireback  
ស្ពីតប្រៃស្រី



about half-way up-river and large flocks of **White-shouldered Starlings** in flooded forest habitat closer to the border on 18 May.

Small parties of **Asian Golden Weavers** were seen in three wet meadows in dry forest in the northern part of the road heading towards the Lao border on 20 May. Two single **Rufous-winged Buzzards** and two single **Eurasian Jays** were observed in the area, travelling south from O Svay to Stung Treng, plus one **White-bellied Woodpecker** about 10 km north of Stung Treng on the same day. **Great Tits** (first records for Stung Treng) were found surprisingly common west of the Mekong: a pair was present in each of the three birdwaves encountered in dry forest of Thala Bariwatt district, along the road towards Preah Vihear.

**Mondolkiri and Kratie**

A WCS wildlife survey took place in Samling's logging concession (Mondolkiri) and adjacent Snoul Wildlife Sanctuary (Kratie) near the Vietnamese border, chiefly in lowland and foothill semi-evergreen forest habitats, but also in lowland dry dipterocarp forest, from mid-March to mid-May. Of course, it produced a plethora of exciting new information,

too much to review extensively here. Here is a subjective selection of the most significant or interesting records. Both areas supported populations of **Siamese Firebacks** (uncommon), **Germain Peacock's Pheasant** (first confirmed records in the wild) and potentially one of the most significant populations of **Green Peafowl** left in the world with five contacts totalling 11 birds. Firsts for the northeast were one **Jerdon's Baza**, a juvenile **Mountain Hawk-Eagle** (first confirmed from the wild), **Rufous-bellied Eagle**, several **Violet Cuckoos** in semi-evergreen forest (second definite record, first since 1960) and **Blue-eared Kingfishers** along forested streams. Several **Malayan Night-Herons** heard and one seen constitute the first records of the species in the wild in Cambodia. Given the level of territorial calling, it would appear to be a prospective breeder in the area. One **Blue-rumped Pitta** was heard and seen. In contrast to the forest birds, there was a dearth of large waterbirds with only three **Grey-headed Fish-Eagles**, one **Red-headed Vulture** in Samling, and a total of nine **Lesser Adjutants** and ten **Woolly-necked Storks** in both Snoul WS and the Samling concession combined.

Violet Cuckoo



Long-billed Vulture



គ្មានស្មាត

Spot-bellied Eagle Owl

Eagle Owl

ដំបូលស្មាត



Pairs of **Great Hornbills** were a daily sight while **Wreathed Hornbill** was uncommon. Other conservation-related findings were that **Bar-bellied Pitta** was frequently detected and **Grey-faced Tit-Babbler** common and widespread. One captive **Pompadour Green Pigeon** in the market of La Pakhe is a third country record.

**Golden-crested Myna** was commonly found there. **White-bellied Woodpecker** was present albeit at low density. Of note are two provisional records of **Black-throated Laughingthrush**, a species known so far from a single record from Ratanakiri (all PD,TS,PB).

Five **Green Peafowls** and two **Wolly-necked Storks** were observed in a clearing on the roadside in Snoul WS on 5 November (IR).

One **Giant Ibis** and a **Sarus Crane** are the best large waterbirds from a WWF survey undertaken from 9 May to 14 June mostly in dry dipterocarp forest of northeast Mondolkiri. Singles of **Lesser Adjutants** were regular, **Woolly-necked Stork** was present; one **Grey-headed Fish-Eagle** spotted. Several encounters with **Green Peafowl** in Koh Nhek district and up to 31 **Vultures**, with **Long-billed** being clearly the rarest of the three species. Crippling views of a **Spot-bellied**

**Eagle Owl** is the first record since 1948 and the record of **Oriental Scops-Owl** is the first since last century's record of Mouhot. **Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker** was for the first time recorded from the northeast, and **Rufous-bellied Woodpecker** was a third record for the country. The near-threatened **White-rumped Falcon** was frequent; **Streak-throated Woodpecker**, **Yellow-footed Green Pigeon** were common. Other species of note are **Great Tit**, **Alexandrine Parakeet** and **Rufous-winged Buzzard** and small number of **Great Hornbills** in the denser forest patches (all RTm).

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**A Lesser Adjutant colony totally collected**

The arrival of downy adjutant chicks at Chong Khneas floating village in March 2000 near Siem Reap prompted researchers to find out where the birds originated from. Following reports of local informants, Mr Hong Chamnan, waterbird expert from the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve office, traced a colony a Lesser Adjutant in the flooded forest near Day Roniet village, Pursat province, south of the Prek Toal breeding area. According to villagers, it was the first time they noticed a colony in the area and they discovered it purely incidentally. Virtually all chicks of the 100-strong colony were collected and sold mainly for meat in the village. The only reminder of the birds' presence at the time of visit in early June was of a few birds still kept on the roof of houses, awaiting to become a festive meal...

**White-winged Duck remains elusive on the Tonle Sap**

Two wet season surveys for the endangered White-winged Duck con-

ducted in Prek Toal and Moat Khla / Boeng Chhma, failed to find any evidence of the species. The surveys took place on 24-28 July and 9-12 October respectively, during the species breeding season when it was reported to be more conspicuous. Earlier surveyors had apparently sighted the species in those areas and local reports suggested that the Tonle Sap may hold the world's largest remaining population of this rare duck. Unfortunately, survey results clearly erase such hopes and even cast doubt on the actual presence of the species on the Great Lake. Watch future CBN for a full review of the status of this important species in Cambodia.

**Greater Adjutant decimated by hunting**

The major finding of a flock of 84 Greater Adjutants in Kompong Thom province last June quickly turned to a drama. The very same night after their discovery, the birds remained grounded in an open field by an afternoon rain, prompting nearby villagers to launch their night hunt. Equipped with spotlights and *lop* (long stick

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workshops, trainings, conferences, exhibitions



## bird conservation, ornithology, findings

with a large net at the tip), groups of villagers combed the area and decimated the flock. At least twenty birds were caught that single night, tied on the ground, killed and then sold for meat to middlemen who transported them to the provincial market. A 4 kg adult bird fetches around 10,000 Riels, an attractive sum for poor villagers but a disaster of magnitude for that highly endangered species. There are no more than 700 Greater Adjutants left in the world and Cambodia is the fragile Southeast Asian stronghold for the species with an estimated population of only 150 birds! On 12-13 July, an official emergency rescue mission travelled to Kompong Thom to brief commune and village leaders and request that wildlife laws be enforced immediately and hunting strictly prohibited. This intervention met with success but follow-up activities and long term commitment are required to ensure lasting effects on deeply-rooted hunting practices. Unless those are effectively curtailed, there is no hope to save Greater Adjutant from extinction in Cambodia.

### **Sarus Crane and Greater Adjutant chicks collected**

Every rainy season brings along its reports of juvenile Sarus Cranes captured in northern Cambodia and sold for the live pet trade or even for meat. This year, a captive chick appeared in Preah Vihear province although no information was communicated about the exact collection site. It is time for the authorities to address to this systematic threat in the coming years. The first action should be to exactly locate the provenance of the chicks and, as Cranes are territorial birds, to ensure protection of the site during the following breeding season. At Tropeang Thmor reservoir, Bantey Meanchey province, three reportedly flightless Greater Adjutants were collected on the ground and sent to the Provincial Forestry and Wildlife Department last September. It is hoped they will recover their faculty and freely fly back to the wild soon. This should also prompt further surveys as it suggests the species may breed in the area.

## Galliformes Symposium in Nepal

An International Symposium on Galliformes was held in Kathmandu, Nepal by the World Pheasant Association (WPA) from 24 September to 7 October. Mr Tan Setha, ornithologist from Wildlife Protection Office, Forestry and Wildlife Department was amongst the 109 participants, thanks to the support of WPA and WCS. A paper titled "Recent information on threatened Galliformes in Cambodia" was presented by Mr Tan for the occasion. The workshop ended with a week training on "Ecological techniques for studying partridges and pheasants" at Royal Chitwan National Park. Back from Nepal, Tan Setha is enthusiastic about implementing what he learned to assess the status of the globally threatened Green Peafowl and the endemic Chesnut-headed Partridge in his country.

## Second PASOC Congress in Sri Lanka

Kandy, the city in the hills of central Sri Lanka hosted the 2d Pan-Asian Ornithological Congress from 26 to 29 October. The Field Ornithological Group of Sri Lanka organised the event where yours truly informally represented Cambodia. Birding around the congress venue - with many of the country 26 endemic

species to find - was as tantalizing as the wide array of presentations which covered topics such as bird conservation, migration, field ecology and birds in human environment. It is hoped that Cambodians will be able to participate actively to the next conference, scheduled in Taiwan... in 2004. You have time to be prepared, dear Khmer ornithologists!

## Elephant workshop in Kirirom NP

A WCS-organised workshop on Elephant survey techniques was held in Kirirom National Park last October. Through in-door session and out-door practical exercises, officials from both Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries learned how to assess wild Elephant presence and population. Participants were fortunate enough to find pachyderm tracks and dung in the north-west of the park, confirming they still occur in the area.

## Park rangers' training in Bokor NP

In December, WildAid conducted a specific training for rangers in Bokor National Park aimed at increasing capacity for anti-poaching initiatives. The rangers were taught about patrolling, map reading and routing, and GPS use. It is expected that their



J. Beasley



D. Hendrie

### Saving Mekong River dolphin

The Irrawaddy dolphin is a small cetacean that inhabits coastal waters of Southeast Asia. Freshwater populations can be found in the Mahakam River of Indonesia, the Mekong River of Vietnam, Cambodia and southern Laos and the Ayeyarwady River in Myanmar. All riverine populations are facing severe threats.

Recent research indicates that the total Mekong River population probably numbers fewer than 100 individuals and is facing significant threats to its future survival.

Dolphin-watching tourism can be another threat or if well managed, become an effective tool for conservation activities. A project is planned to develop and manage tourism at Kampi Pool, Kratie, in co-operation with the Mekong Dolphin Conservation Project and the Wildlife Conservation Society - Cambodia Program, sponsored by the British Embassy Small Grants Programme and the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society. If successful, this site could also be used as a model for other communities north of Kampi Pool, to appreciate the benefits of natural resource conservation.

### ការអភិរក្សអណ្តើកសរសៃ

អស់រយៈពេល២ឆ្នាំកន្លងមកហើយដែលអង្គការអភិរក្សសត្វព្រៃបានធ្វើការអភិរក្សអណ្តើកសរសៃ។ ជារៀងរាល់រដូវរង ក្រុមអភិរក្សយើងបានចុះទៅតាមបណ្តាព្រែកដែលមានប្រភេទអណ្តើកនេះដូចជាព្រែកស្រែអំបិល និងព្រែកក្តោង ដើម្បីស្វែងរកសំបុកឯងអណ្តើកសរសៃនៅពេលបានឃើញហើយក៏ធ្វើរនាំងការពារសំបុក និងថែរក្សាទុករហូតទាល់តែឯងទាំងនោះចាប់ផ្តើមញាស់ រីឯកូនដែលទទួលបាននោះយើងបានធ្វើកំនត់សំបុកដោយប្រើឧបករណ៍ Microchip tag ។ មិនតែប៉ុណ្ណោះយើងក៏បានទទួលអណ្តើកសរសៃ ៨ក្បាល មេធំមួយ ឈ្មោះ ធំពីរ និងកូនដំបូង៥ ពីបណ្តាប្រជាជនសាម ហើយក៏បានធ្វើកំនត់សំបុកដូចគ្នាមុន និងប្រលែងចូលទៅក្នុងព្រែកធម្មជាតិវិញ។

ក្នុងឆ្នាំ២០០២ យើងបានទទួលកូនអណ្តើកសរសៃ ៣១ក្បាល ពី៦សំបុក ដែលបានរកឃើញតាមបណ្តោយព្រែកស្ទឹងក្តោង និងឆ្នាំ២០០៣យើងបានទទួល៥៩ក្បាល ពី៧សំបុក។ រាល់កូនទាំងអស់យើងបានធ្វើពីវិធីប្រលែងដោយមានការចូលរួមពីថ្នាក់ដឹកនាំនាយកដ្ឋានជលផល និងអង្គការសមគមអភិរក្សសត្វព្រៃ ព្រមទាំងប្រជាពលរដ្ឋ សិស្សានុសិស្សក្នុងតំបន់។

# Recent sightings      Brief news

workshops, trainings, conferences, exhibitions

presence and active monitoring of the protected area will curtail widespread poaching, an activity that is currently devastating surviving wildlife in the park.

## An exhibition on the Tonle Sap Great Lake in Siem Reap

An exhibition has been inaugurated on 4th January 2001 in the new Krousar Thmey school for blind children on the road to Angkor. The water theme as a source of lives is an original way to embark in the discovery of the country. An historical and cultural approach shows how the Tonle Sap is the heart of Khmer civilization, as testified by the hydrological cities of Angkor, the numerous water creatures reliefs on the Bayon and the importance of fish in the Cambodian diet. Also, nature is omni-present all along the exhibition: pictures, drawings, illustrations and texts in Khmer, English & French show the rich biodiversity and the unique eco-system of the Great Lake. The life of the people in and around the Tonle Sap is a source of surprises. Their connection with the natural resources of the Lake is shown through their activities and way of life. Surely, the liquid world is a world apart. A Cambodia apart.

## ការចាប់កូនត្រី និងត្រីក្របី

ជារៀងរាល់ឆ្នាំ នៅពេលរដូវភ្លៀងចូលមកដល់ យើងតែងទទួលដំណឹងល្អៗស្តីពីការចាប់កូន ត្រីក្របីនៅ ភូមិភាគខាងជើងនៃប្រទេសកម្ពុជា ដើម្បីយកកូនក្នុង គោលបំណងធ្វើជំនួញសត្វចិញ្ចឹម ឬដើម្បីយកសាច់បរិភោគ ។ នាឆ្នាំនេះ ការចាប់ កូនបក្សីប្រភេទនេះ មានការកើនឡើងនៅខេត្ត ព្រះវិហារ ទោះបីជាគ្មាន ព័ត៌មានច្បាស់លាស់ ស្តីពីទីកន្លែងពិតប្រាកដ ដែលគេ ចាប់ក៏ដោយ ។ ឆ្នាំនេះជាពេល ដែលរដ្ឋាភិបាលត្រូវ ប្រឈមទទួលនឹងការគំរាមកំហែងដោយថា ក្រុមទៅលើបក្សី ទាំងនេះហើយ ។ ដំបូងដំបូងត្រូវរកឱ្យឃើញ ច្បាស់លាស់នៅទីកន្លែងដើមនៃកូនសត្វទាំងនេះ ដូចជា អាណាចក្ររបស់សត្វក្រៀល ដោយធ្វើឱ្យ ក្លាយជាតំបន់ ការពារពិតប្រាកដនៃរដូវបន្តផ្តង ។ នៅអង្គត្រពាំងថ្មី នាខេត្តបន្ទាយមានជ័យ យើងបានទទួលសេចក្តីរាយការណ៍ ស្តីពីកូនត្រីដក់ ធំបីក្បាលមីខទាន់ចេះហើរ ដែលត្រូវអ្នកស្រុក ចាប់បានត្រូវគេបញ្ជូនទៅ កាន់ការិយាល័យ រុក្ខា ប្រមាញ់ខេត្ត រួចបញ្ជូនទៅកាន់ការិយាល័យ ការពារសត្វព្រៃនៃនាយកដ្ឋានរុក្ខា ប្រមាញ់ ហើយ កាលពីខែកញ្ញាកន្លងទៅនេះ ។ យើងសង្ឃឹម ថាកូនត្រីដក់ទាំងបីនេះនឹងមានកាយសម្បទា មាំមួនឡើងវិញ ហើយគេនឹងដោះលែងពួកវា ឱ្យទៅរស់នៅក្នុងព្រៃធម្មជាតិវិញនាពេលឆាប់ៗ នេះ ។ ប្រការនេះនាំឱ្យពួកវាអាចបន្តពូជ សាយកូនចៅ នៅក្នុងតំបន់ជៀសផុតពីការវិនាស ផុតពូជ ។



## **Will the Cardamoms treasures escape greedy threats?**

Fauna and Flora International (FFI) which conducted a biodiversity inventory of the central Cardamoms earlier this year, advocates full protection for the area and supports its designation as World Heritage Site. Biological diversity and the presence of a number of key species for conservation, such as tiger, elephants and the Siamese Crocodile plead for protection of one of the largest remaining wilderness in mainland Southeast Asia.

However, this would require subtracting all forest range between Phnom Samkos and Phnom Aural Wildlife Sanctuaries from commercial logging interests. Concession rights for operation in the area have long been leased to five companies. If these concessions are cancelled, Conservation International is offering the Government a five million dollar endowment to protect and manage the area. There is a large consensus amongst conservationists to recognise that logging is the singlemost threat to such areas. Though not necessarily directly detrimental to biodiversity, logging means access to previously untouched areas, opening the forest to unregulated activities particularly hunting and encroachment for slash and burn agriculture.

## **Fisheries back to communities: a Tonle Sap revolution?**

During a flood aid distribution in Siem Reap province on 24 October, Prime Minister Hun Sen decided to open substantial areas of Tonle Sap leased fishing concessions to the local communities. Van Sophanna, deputy director of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in Siem Reap province and project leader of the FAO Natural Resources Participatory Management in the Tonle Sap region is credited to be behind the Prime Minister sudden move by presenting a complete report on this very sensitive subject in an official meeting. Illegal lot extension, total prohibition of access and collusion with fisheries officials (compared to "leeches sucking people's blood" in PM Hun Sen's speech) are the main causes of rising conflict between local communities and the powerful fishing lot owners, leaving the former with virtually no fishing grounds to sustain their livelihood. As the Fisheries Department Director, H.E. Ly Khim Han was reluctant to implement reforms ("Mr Hun Sen thinks about the people but we think about the law"), he was removed from his position on 27 October and replaced by Mr Nao Thouk, deputy director of the department. In the wake of reform, several provincial Fisheries officials in

# Recent sightings **Brief news**

conservation, environment, ecology  
protected areas

Siem Reap and Kompong Chhnang were also removed from office. As much as 69 % of the fishing concession area has been proposed for releasing for family fishing in the province. The situation needs to be followed up closely in those newly opened areas in terms of sustainable management of fisheries, a critical sector of food security in the country.

## Dam rehabilitation in the middle of Kirirom NP

The parliament finally approved the Chinese funded project for rehabilitation of the Kirirom dam for power generation. Of serious concern is that the assembly debates focused on the commercial deal without raising a single question about the environmental impact issues despite the fact that the project will take place in the middle of Kirirom NP. Is there no obvious contradictions between the purpose of a National Park and an industrial power-plant project? The park is a prime recreational site for Phnom Penh dwellers and a key place for environmental education. Environmental awareness? That's maybe what our excellencies need before discussing such project...

## ព្រោះប្រមាញ់បង្ហាញជីវិតសត្វក្នុងតំបន់ ឃ្នាចម្លងចម្លុះ

លទ្ធផលដ៏សំខាន់ក្នុងការស្រាវជ្រាវរកឃើញហ្នូង ត្រដក់ធំធំចំនួន២៤ក្បាល នៅទ្រេតកំពង់ធំ កាលពីថ្ងៃ មិថុនា ឆ្នាំ ២០០០ កន្លងទៅនេះបានក្លាយទៅជា រឿងសោកនាដកម្មយ៉ាងទាន់ហាន់ ។

នៅវេលារសៀលនៃថ្ងៃដែលយើងស្រាវជ្រាវឃើញ នោះមានភ្លើងធ្លាក់មួយមេយ៉ាងធំ ហើយហ្នូងសត្វ ត្រដក់ក៏ចុះរកចំណីនៅក្នុងទីវាលជាហេតុបណ្តាល ឱ្យអ្នកភូមិជិតខាងនោះឃើញក៏គ្រៀមសក្តានុពល ប្រមាញ់នារាត្រីនោះទៅ ។ ក្រុមអ្នកភូមិដែល ប្រដាប់ដោយភ្លើងបញ្ចាំង និង សប់ ( មនម្លាង ប្រកបដោយផលប្រសិទ្ធិ និង ខ្សែទាញ ) បានរករក សត្វទាំងនេះ គ្រប់ទីកន្លែង ហើយវាយសប់ចាប់បាន បក្សីទាំងនេះ ជាង២០ក្បាលនារាត្រីនោះ ។

ពួកគេបានពិរិយាត បក្សីដែលជិតផុតពូជនេះយកសាច់ សក់ឱ្យឈ្មួញកណ្តាល ដែលដឹកជញ្ជូនទៅលក់នៅ ផ្សារកំពង់ធំបន្តទៀត។ ត្រដក់ពេញវ័យមួយក្បាលៗ ដែលមានទំងន់ ៤ គ/ក គេលក់ក្នុងតម្លៃ១០ ០០០ ជាប្រាក់ចំណូលដ៏ខ្ពស់ដែល ខាក់ទាញ អារម្មណ៍ អ្នកស្រុកយ៉ាងខ្លាំង ប៉ុន្តែទំហំនៃ មហន្តរាយទៅលើ ប្រភេទបក្សីដែលទទួលរងនូវការគំរាមកំហែងនេះ មានកំរិតកាន់តែខ្ពស់ណាស់ទៅទៀត ។

នៅលើពិភពលោកយើងនេះមានសត្វត្រដក់ដ៏មិនលើ ពី ៧០០ ក្បាលទេ ។ តាមការប៉ាន់ស្មានមើល ទៅនៅខ្មែរយើងមានបក្សីប្រភេទនេះប្រមាណតែ ១៥០ ប៉ុណ្ណោះ ម្យ៉ាងទៀតយើងជាប្រទេសមួយ ដែលទន់ខ្សោយនៅ អាស៊ីអាគ្នេយ៍ក្នុងតិច្ចការពារ បក្សីដែលទទួលរងការគំរាមកំហែង ។

បេសកកម្មសង្គ្រោះបន្ទាន់របស់មន្ត្រីផ្តែករដ្ឋបាលបានចុះ ទៅកាន់ទ្រេតកំពង់ធំនៅថ្ងៃទី ១២-១៣ មិថុនា ដោយជួបជាមួយផ្នែកដឹកនាំភូមិ... ប៉ុ ហើយធ្វើ

សំណូមពរឱ្យអនុញ្ញាតិច្បាប់ការពារសត្វព្រៃជា  
បន្ទាន់ និងហាមឃាត់ ការបរបាញ់យ៉ាងតឹងរឹង។  
កិច្ចអន្តរាគមន៍នេះបានខ្វល់ខ្វាយដល់យើង ប៉ុន្តែយើង  
ត្រូវឃ្នាំមើលថា តើការប្តេជ្ញាចិត្ត ថាសែង បរបាញ់  
នេះក្លាយជាការពិតទេ បើការបរបាញ់  
បានចាក់ឫសយ៉ាងជ្រៅក្នុងអរម្មណ៍អ្នកស្រុកយ៉ាង  
នេះ? ។ លុះត្រាតែការបរបាញ់នេះថយចុះ ទើប  
យើងមានសង្ឃឹមថាអាចសង្គ្រោះសត្វព្រៃដ៏  
ឱ្យរួចពីការវិនាស ផុតពីផង ។

**Large mammal surveys target northern forests**

With the start of a new dry season, field survey activities are warming up again. WCS teams have launched foot and camera-traps surveys in Kulen-Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary in November-December 2000. The 402,500 ha sanctuary is the largest protected area of the country, spreading across the three northern provinces of Siem Reap, Oddar Meanchey and Preah Vihear. It is expected that populations of very large mammals such as Tiger, Elephant, Gaur and Banteng remain in the area. Truly unsurveyed during last decades and unsecure until last Khmer Rouge defections two years ago, it may also be the last chance to rediscover the mythical Kouprey, the national animal of Cambodia, today feared extinct.

**The mysterious Khting Vor, just a counterfeit animal?**

In December 2000, the results of a group of French specialists having studied horns of *Pseudonovibos spiralis* were released on the net: the last large mammal discovered in the 20th century was a hoax. Originally described from a pair of ringed horns found in Vietnam in 1993, the presumed ox-goat animal was never actually seen although reports from a mysterious creature called "Khting Voar" or "Kting Seepous" have been received from several parts of Cambodia since scientists have been looking for it! The French experts analysed several pairs of horns thought to be genuine and arrived at the conclusion they were skillfully twisted to create the spiral aspect. However, other zoologists argue that the study doesn't prove anything, as experts have long known of the existence of fake Khting Vor horns. They believe the animal may really exist or at least, have existed. Meanwhile, we await the publication of the French team scientific paper.

### Jane Goodall approaches Cambodia

From 28 to 30 November 2000, Jane Goodall, world renowned for her life-long study and protection of chimpanzees in Africa, experienced a first contact with Cambodia. She was received by King Norodom Sihanouk, visited Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Center and lectured enthusiastic students at the University of Phnom Penh on the theme "I care to make a difference". In Siem Reap, she witnessed environmental awareness activities at the GECKO floating environmental center on the Tonle Sap and of course wandered around the magnificent temples of Angkor.

### Munster Zoo, Germany ready to support Angkor Wildlife Rescue Center

On the 30 November, Jorg Adler from the *Allwetter Munster Zoo* arrived in Siem Reap to discuss the launching of the Angkor Wildlife Rescue Center project with conservationists and Van Sophanna, deputy director of Provincial Agriculture Department in Siem Reap. He was shown the proposed site at Spien Angkor and pledged financial support next year. A local partner has to be designated and the project document finalized for approval by both parties. Mr Jorg Adler was particularly touched by the link between the site and Sam Veasna's tragic story. The project was Veasna's idea and it took shape and reality thanks to his efforts to make it progress until he untimely died. Jorg Adler said this personal story must be told abroad to help raising fund for the project on behalf of Sam Veasna's memory.

## International Crane Foundation (ICF) probes involvement at Tropeang Thmor reservoir

George Archibald, the founder and retired director of ICF, was in Cambodia from 3 to 9 December. He was received by HE Chan Sarun, special adviser to Prime Minister Hun Sen on forestry reform, HE Chun Sareth, undersecretary of state of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Mr Ty Sokun, director of the Forestry and Wildlife Department. They requested ICF's help in preparing a management plan for the Sarus Crane Reserve at Tropeang Thmor reservoir. Dr Archibald then travelled to Bantey Meanchey and spent two days at the reservoir. He quickly realised that the site had a great potential as a natural and historical attraction and proposed the building of a visitor's center linked with a Memorial for all people who died during Pol Pot era forced labor at the site. He expressed strong interest for ICF involvement into the management of the Reserve and said it was a top priority project on his list. No Cranes were found at the time of the field trip although they had been seen by villagers a few days ago. It is indeed not before January that Sarus Cranes congregate in numbers to the wetland were they take refuge throughout the dry months.

## សន្និសីទអ្នកសម្ភាសនាសត្វសាស្ត្រសិប្បកម្មនៅប្រទេសនេប៉ាល់

សន្និសីទអន្តរជាតិស្តីពីសកុណាសត្វសាស្ត្រដែលរៀបចំដោយអង្គការសមាគមមាត់ទោរពិភពលោក (World Pheasant Association). បានប្រព្រឹត្តទៅកាលពីថ្ងៃទី២៤ ខែកញ្ញា ដល់ ថ្ងៃទី ០៧ ខែតុលា ឆ្នាំ២០០០ នាទីក្រុងកាត់ម៉ាន់ឌូ (Kathmandu) ប្រទេសនេប៉ាល់ ។ លោក តាន់សេដ្ឋា អ្នកសកុណាវិទ្យានៃការិយាល័យការពារសត្វព្រៃរបស់នាយកដ្ឋានរុក្ខាប្រមាញ់ ចូលរួមក្នុងពិធីនេះក្នុងចំណោមអ្នកចូលរួមទាំង១០៩នាក់ ។ លោកបានថ្លែងអំណរគុណចំពោះការគាំទ្ររបស់អង្គការសមាគមមាត់ទោរពិភពលោក និង អង្គការសមាគមអភិរក្សសត្វព្រៃ (WCS) ។ ក្នុងឱកាសនោះ លោកបានជូនអត្ថបទមួយ ក្រោមចំណងជើងថា(ពត៌មានថ្មីៗ ស្តីពីសកុណាសត្វសាស្ត្រទទួលរងការគំរាមកំហែងនៅកម្ពុជា ដល់អង្គសន្និសីទ ។ ) កិច្ចការនេះ បានបញ្ចប់ដោយកម្មសិក្សារយៈពេលមួយសប្តាហ៍លើប្រធានបទ (បច្ចេកទេសបរិស្ថានដើម្បីសិក្សាពីសត្វទទា និង មាត់ទោ នៅឧទ្យានជាតិភូមិខ្នងឃីត្វីន (Royal Chitwan National Park).

By JOHN MCCARTHY\*

## Ang Tropeang Thmor Sarus Crane Reserve: a feeling of wilderness

**T**he sight of a thousand and more storks taking flight from a rice field gives hope to see humanity and nature co-exist. Hidden from view in tall rice grass, these Asian Open-billed Storks erupt in a shocking burst of white and black feathers from the lime-green expanse, to extend necks and wings in a stupendous swirling mass of birdlife. The storks lift off after the first hours of early feeding. The flap and glide of wings send some soaring and climbing, as others drop back into the grass to disappear from view, while still others back-beat broad wings in whirling motions to alight in the few scattered trees. After a few minutes the main swarm settles into mid-morning positions, while a few continue to capture air and glide. We have ridden motodups 20 minutes from a remote village in the northwest corner of Cambodia, where we arrived after a half day journey from

Siem Reap, the city closest to the temples of Angkor. We are a group of six - five Cambodians and myself as the lone borrang, or foreigner. Instead of fishing, digging, hauling or harvesting like everyone else, we are birding. And we are learning about bird protection.

**W**e are on a four day, field trip at the declared Sarus Crane Conservation Area in Banteay Meanchey Province. In a country racked by decades of war, and trapped by endemic poverty where survival is a daily struggle for many people, it is significant we are not taking some piece of sustenance from this landscape. Our intent is to help find ways for people and birds to co-exist. For all their magnificence, the storks are just a sideline for this huge sprawl of wetlands in rice at the edge of Ang Tropeang Thmor or Rock Reservoir.

The sprawling carpet of tan grasses at the north side of the reservoir is a winter feeding ground for up to 200 Eastern Sarus Cranes. The globally threatened species is holding its own at about 1,200 individuals in Southeast Asia but the loss of any critical links in largely unknown habitats could send them slipping into the abyss. This wetland is one of those critical links.

**H**ong Chamnan, a 33-year-old Russian-educated forester from Phnom Penh, is the able group leader. "We come here to work with the local people, to tell them why we protect the birds and why it is so important," Chamnan explains to me in serviceable English. Chamnan works for the Wildlife Protection Office of the Ministry of Forestry. Two of our group are from the village, working for the district or community governments. The other two trainees are from regional offices.

"The next step is for them to go to the villages and to make an education program for the villagers. It's easy for them to work with everybody here because they live here and they know everybody," Chamnan said.

I am along to join a master birder and to learn about conservation in another land. In our first morning I've already had one of the greatest birding experiences of my life and I've found commonality with my conservation work back in the United States. A couple of years ago in Idaho, Sandhill Cranes were shot for the first time after many years of protection because of deprivations on farmer's wheat fields. Here cranes are under threat of grasses being replaced by rice. And the storks face a direct, mortal threat from insecticides used on rice worms.

These are unfortunate, yet familiar stories -- all over the world.

We might have resisted walking along the road in the midst of the rice fields,

because it begins with a blown-out bridge, one of many sad remnants of the Pol Pot regime and years of fighting. But when the storks flew enmasse from the rice paddies, there was no hesitation to walking through chest deep water.

As we stroll, we familiarize ourselves with more birds. Pure white heads of Great Egrets stand tall above the green grasses. Little Egrets only clear the grasses in flight, where black bills set them apart from larger cousins. Purple Herons, Pond Herons, and Grey Herons all fly out of the grasses and margins. Chamnan infects us with excitement at spotting Painted Storks and Milky Storks.

The cranes however are not present, which was expected in October. The cranes return in large numbers for the dry season, in January, to eat the roots of the Phlong grass. Chamnan is doing training in the rainy season to lay a foundation.

**T**he group learns how to identify all common and key species, in the field or from books. They record bird species and numbers for each field day. They learn about mapping, using Global Positioning System to eventually determine the extent of the rice fields, thought to be about 6,000 hectares within the 12,000 hectare area of wetlands and reservoir. They also learn

how to write reports and how to document illegal wildlife killings. And they talk to local people, the many fishermen in particular, to find what species of birds, turtles, snakes and mammals remain.

**A**nthing that can be eaten by people – from snakes to bugs to leaves to lotus seeds -- becomes part of a meal for someone. People are very poor in economic terms.

So, how can anyone hope to convince these struggling people to resist making the “delicious” Painted Storks the centerpiece for the Khmer New Year feast? Or how can people consider forgoing rice expansion to protect cranes? The greatest hope comes from the Cambodian conservationists' interactions with local people, with help from international wildlife protection organizations.

Successful and sustainable conservation is not determined by budgets, but by commitment, explained Colin Poole, the Wildlife Conservation Society program coordinator for Cambodia.

The international cooperation includes pay for the Cambodian staff, and equipment such as cameras, binoculars, and notebooks. Food and board is also covered for staff during training. “Outside support is not as important as commitment in-country, from local



people," Poole told me in his Phnom Penh office. "With the Crane Reserve the Cambodians want it to succeed -- from guys in the field like Chamnan, all the way to the senior level." The Reserve gained official recognition in 2000, from Prime Minister Hun Sen and the National Assembly, as well as a Royal Decree on behalf of King Norodom Sihanouk, which all adds to its stature.

**N**ow the training and survey sessions build support and understanding at the local level. In a sense the level of poverty has one advantage for wildlife protection. A little bit goes a long way here. And people both welcome help and are willing to make changes. Long-term sustainability is the key, for cranes and the community. "The cranes have been there a long time, we think, although God only knows how long," Poole said. "People have lived here a long time, doing the same things as today -- fishing and farming rice. There's no reason the people and the cranes can't live together." Chamnan says he sees less hunting of birds and other wildlife for food or for market. Protective regulations gain respect because of potential jail time or fines, and support because it could help community sustainability. Schemes to tear out grasses for massive rice expansion could hurt not

only the birds, but also the communities if a distant agri-business operation displaced local people. Maintaining the mix of rice and grass, with room for birdlife, could be a formula for long-term survival for all.

The potential and the reality merged for me when we took small dugout canoes through the grasses and lotus plants to the north side. After two hours of poling, passing bomb craters from American B-52s that remain as circular ponds, we came to clumps of trees and a few storks. A large bird took flight and Chamnan immediately recognized it as a Greater Adjutant, a massive bird in the stork family with bare head and floppy throat pouch. About 600 remain in the wild and my only other experience was with captive birds.

It took another two hours to pole back, in the mid-day sun, which was well worth it to find such a place for birds, with people intent on their protection.

\* John McCarthy did volunteer conservation and health care projects during three months in Cambodia, while on sabbatical as conservation director for the Idaho Conservation League.

From Dr Rob Overtoom, Siem Reap  
Red-breasted Parakeets feeding on ricefield!

A reaction to the article in the last Cambodia Bird News regarding the Red-breasted Parakeets (CBN-5, p58-61). I've been living for seven years in Siem Reap and I have seen these waves of sometimes several hundreds birds flying in the early morning from their roosting places around the temples (and probably also from the Kulen mountains) to the south, and return north in the afternoon, just before sunset. I have the feeling that the numbers of birds joining these daily trips is getting less, but I am not sure about that.

A few years ago, I was coming back to Siem Reap from Pourk along the secondary road that goes through Samraong Yiej village and I saw them feeding on the receding rice that was ready to be harvested. I watched them with my binoculars and saw them gathered in the palm trees around Wat Kok Kpouh. In small groups of three to six, they flew to the ricefield, snatched and broke off with their beak one or a few ears with rice in flight, hovering like a colibri (but not as elegant of course) and fly back to the palm trees to eat the rice. The area was completely flooded this year, but if the villagers plant receding rice, we will probably be able to see them feed the way I just described when the rice is ripe.



កញ្ញា ស្រួច គឹមឡេង  
សូមគោរពលើកចំពោះលោកអេឌីប

ខ្ញុំមានសេចក្តីរីករាយណាស់ដែលបានចូលរួមដំណើរកំសាន្តសិក្សាស្រាវជ្រាវស្តីអំពីសត្វស្នាមនៅកម្ពុជា ហើយក៏មានសេចក្តីអៀនខ្មាស់មិនតិចដែរ ព្រោះខ្ញុំជាកូនខ្មែរបែរជាមិនដឹងថាប្រទេសខ្លួនមានសត្វអ្វីខ្លះៗ តែលោកជាជនបរទេសសុខុសាធ ប៉ុន្តែបែរជាមានការយល់ដឹងសត្វនៅស្រុកខ្មែរបានយ៉ាងច្រើនណាស់ ។ ខ្ញុំចង់ដឹងលោកខ្លាំងណាស់ ប៉ុន្តែខ្ញុំគ្មានសមត្ថភាពទេ ។ ដូចនេះមានតែសូមជូនពរលោក ទទួលបាន នូវការសំរេចការកិច្ចគ្រប់ការងារ និងសុខភាពល្អជាដរាបទៅ ។ សូមអរគុណនូវការណែនាំអោយ បានស្គាល់សត្វព្រៃជាច្រើន ដែលខ្ញុំមិនបានស្គាល់សត្វព្រៃជាច្រើនដែល ខ្ញុំមិនបានស្គាល់ ។ សូមអរគុណអង្គទៀត ។

សត្វថ្ងៃនាងខ្ញុំរស់នៅផ្ទះលេខ ១៤៦ ក្រុមទី១២ ភូមិកម្ពុករ ឃុំស្វាយបៅ ស្រុកបាត់ដំបង ខេត្តបាត់ដំបង។ ជាសិស្សថ្នាក់ទី១២ នៅវិទ្យាល័យនេតយ៉ង់ក្នុងភ្នំសិក្សា ២០០០-២០០១ ។ សូមទោសខ្ញុំភ្លេចឈ្មោះរបស់លោកហើយ ។



# more reading

## Cambodia Daily

- Aug 31 Forgeries alleged in order to log export.  
Sept 1 Weak policy blamed for fisheries conflict.  
Sept 9-10 Government would guarantee [Kirirom] power costs.  
Sept 21 World-Class bear enclosure makes debut  
Oct 20 Sting traps suspected poachers, saves tigers.  
Tiger conservation project brings help to villagers too.  
Oct 23 Suspects snared along with tigers, bears.  
Oct 24 Cardamoms deal angers timber industry.  
People, animals deserve equal compassion.  
Oct 27 Fisheries chief sacked  
Nov 11 Hun Sen urges more fisheries reform.  
Nov 16 Parliament earns money from fishing lots.  
Government removes three more fisheries officials.  
Nov 18-19 Hun Sen's aide criticizes senate fishing lots.  
Nov 21 Dam interest rate blasted [about Kirirom dam project]  
Nov 24 Jane Goodall arrives Sunday as part of Asian tour.  
Dec 1 Wildlife enforcement training to start.  
Dec 2-3 Me, Jane - Legendary chimp champ Jane Goodall was in Cambodia this week, spreading her message of wildlife conservation  
Dec 12 Bank backs dam project.  
Dec 20 Paratroopers get drop on illegal loggers.  
Poachers back at work in Virachey National Park.

## Cambodge Soir

- 1-3 sept Près de 4 tonnes d'escargots attrapés.  
5 sept Samling s'acquitte de royalties pour reprendre ses activités.  
13 sep Global Witness veut l'annulation de la concession de GAT.  
2 nov Vie sauvage [à propos de la préparation de la nouvelle loi]  
8 nov Le décompte des tigres et des éléphants sauvages va reprendre.  
13 nov Pêches: le coup de balai se poursuit.  
17-19 nov Au Phnom Kulen, le commerce de chair d'animaux sauvages fleurit.  
1-3 déc Le débat sur le barrage de Kirirom bloqué.  
18 déc *Pseudonovibos spiralis* ou Khting voar: le boeuf sauvage était un canular.

Phnom Penh Post

- Aug 18-31 Kampong Som fishing villagers embrace the law in bid for survival.
- Sep 15-28 Cardamoms "one of the crown jewels of global natural history".
- Sep 29-Oct 12 Soldiers now ecologist at old battlefield on Kiririrom.
- Oct 27-Nov 9 Senator mired in wildlife trafficking.  
Push for Wolrld Heritage Site.
- Nov 10-23 Phnom Penh bats probed for deadly virus.
- Nov 24-Dec 7 WildAid takes direct action in environment battle.
- Dec 8-21 Wild elephant slaughtered in the Cardamoms.  
Fisheries reform seems all talk, no action.
- Dec 22-Jan 14 Kting Voar debate is mysteriously alive and well.

Times

- Sept 11 The Mountains that Time Forgot [about the Cardamoms]

Oryx No34

First biological assessment of Cardamom Mountains, south-western Cambodia, reveals a wealth of wildlife.

Siksacakr No2 - October 2000

Review of Cambodia Bird News No5 [English and Khmer]

A photographic exhibition by

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Siem Reap,  
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16th January  
16th February  
2001

Exploring the links between  
the Tonle Sap and Angkor,  
natural and cultural heritage of  
Cambodia

Eleanor Briggs



FREDERIC GOES



ឧត្តមប្រជានិរន្តរ៍ ២០០០  
the bird of the year 2000

The Green Peafowl

ក្លោកបៃតង

