

## 11) Sandpiper survey in southern Vietnam

Between November 29th and December 24th 2011 the first Spoon-billed Sandpiper (SBS) survey in southern Vietnam was conducted by Birds Russia and University of Sciences, National University of Ho Chi Minh City according with Agreement between Birds Russia and Indochina Programme of BirdLife International funded by Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). Before survey we have received from ArcCona and Gill Bunting the general map of the Mekong Delta and adjoining territories and satellite images on which sites recommended visiting were marked because those sites should be potentially suitable for wintering SBS. SBS was recorded in one of those sites (Can Gio area, Long Hoa District) on April 3, 2011 by Nguyen Hoai Bao and in November 2011 by Jonathan Ch. Eames.

Our team consisted of 3 Russian and one Vietnamese ornithologist. For the first 3 weeks, one Vietnamese student accompanied us as well. He learnt to identify and count shorebirds taking into account possible future monitoring into areas important for waders and SBS. We surveyed outer parts of Saigon River Delta and Thanh An island (Ho Chi Minh Province, Long Hoa District), several outer parts of Mekong River Delta situated in Tieng Giang, Ben Tre and Tra Vinh Provinces and the most western Vietnamese sea coast at the Mu Ca Mau National Park and Dat Mui settlement vicinity (Ca Mau Province).

After 18 days of unsuccessful searches we did record SBS finally. They were found on two sites within one area that is situated at both sides of one of the main branches of the Mekong River Delta. At least 5 Spoon-billed Sandpiper were recorded on December 17, on the outland mudflat located at the main branch of Mekong near from Tan Thanh village and small town Go Gong (Tieng Giang Province) and 3 we found out on December, 20 on mudflat of the offshore Ngang island at the contrary side same Mekong's branch situated in Tieng Giang Province as well. Co-ordinates of the first record are 10°16'10,8" N, and 106°46'16,2" E, the second ones are 10°13'27" N and 106°46'54" E. The distance between these two places is about 6 km.

We consider that it was two different groups of SBS because species compositions and numbers of waders of the both sites were different to each other but the same for each site according double (twice) checking in different dates.

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