# Directory of Important Bird Areas in China (Mainland):

# **Key Sites for Conservation**

#### **Editors**

SIMBA CHAN (Editor-in-chief)
MIKE CROSBY, SAMSON SO, WANG DEZHI, FION CHEUNG and HUA FANGYUAN

# Principal compilers and data contributors

Prof. Zhang Zhengwang (Beijing Normal University), Prof. Chang Jiachuan (Northeast Forestry University), the late Prof. Zhao Zhengjie (Forestry Institute of Jilin Province), Prof. Xing Lianlian (University of Nei Menggu), Prof. Ma Ming (Ecological and Geographical Institute, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Xinjiang), Prof. Lu Xin (Wuhan University), Prof. Liu Naifa (Lanzhou University), Prof. Yu Zhiwei (China West Normal University), Prof. Yang Lan (Kunming Institute for Zoology), Prof. Wang Qishan (Anhui University), Prof. Ding Changqing (Beijing Forestry University), Prof. Ding Ping (Zhejiang University), the late Prof. Gao Yuren (South China Institute for Endangered Animals), Prof. Zhou Fang (Guangxi University), Prof. Hu Hongxing (Wuhan University), Prof. Chen Shuihua (Zhejiang Natural History Museum), Tsering (Tibet University), Prof. Ma Zhijun (Fudan University), Prof. Guo Yumin (Capital Normal University), Dai Nianhua (Institute of Sciences, Jiangxi), Prof. Han Lianxian (Southwest Forestry University), Yang Xiaojun (Kunming Institute for Zoology), Prof. Wang Zijiang (Kunming Ornithological Association), Prof. Li Zhumei (Institute of Biology, Guizhou), Ma Chaohong (Management Office of Yellow River Wetland National Nature Reserve, Henan), Shen You (Chengdu Bird Watching Society), Wei Qian (Chengdu Bird Watching Society), Zhang Yu (Wild Bird Society of Jiangsu), Kang Hongli (Wild Bird Society of Shanghai).

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Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge, CB3 0NA, United Kingdom

Tel: +44 1223 277318 Fax: +44 1223 277200

Email: birdlife@birdlife.org.uk Internet: www.birdlife.net

BirdLife International Asia Division

TM Suidobashi Bldg., 4F, Misaki-cho 2-14-6, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0061, Japan

Tel: +81 3 5213 0461 Fax: +81 3 5213 0462

Email: info@birdlife-asia.org

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#### IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS IN MACAO

• LAND AREA: 27 km<sup>2</sup>

• HUMAN POPULATION: 441,600 (16,360 per km<sup>2</sup>)

• NUMBER OF IBAS: 1

• TOTAL AREA OF IBAS: 0.8 km<sup>2</sup>

• STATUS OF IBAS: 1 partially protected



Dozens of Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor* winter in the Taipa-Coloane wetland IBA in Macao every year. (PHOTO: LEUNG VA)

#### KEY HABITATS AND BIRDS

• Macao lies on the Pearl River delta, and although the wetlands there are relatively small and are under pressure from development, they support an important wintering population of Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*.

# CONSERVATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM

Two items of legislation are relevant to wildlife conservation in Macao: the Ordinance to Prohibit Hunting (1981) and Article 11 of the Legislation on Protection of Wildlife and its Environment (1991). These are generally enforced by the Police Department. In 2001, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works of the Macao Special Administrative Region Government declared two protected areas with a total area of 55 ha.

#### **OVERVIEW OF THE INVENTORY**

• The Taipa-Coloane wetland IBA is a tidal mudflat which formed after a reclamation project to connect the two offshore islands of Macao (Taipa and Coloane) was completed in 1968. Black-faced Spoonbill was first recorded there in 1990, and now occurs every winter in significant numbers (40-50 birds, roughly 4% of the global population).

# **CONSERVATION ISSUES**

The Taipa-Coloane wetland IBA is threatened by urban development, pollution and disturbance. Although part of it is now a protected area, it is a long strip of coastal wetland between a main road and a busy shipping channel, and it is difficult to prevent disturbance and pollution (including oil leaks from boats).

# SOURCES OF IBA DATA

Information on the Macao IBA was compiled by Mr Leung Va (Country Park Authority of Macao).