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**BREEDING COLONIES OF MILKY STORK IN SOUTH SUMATRA**

by

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Tiga kelompok biakkan dari *Mycteria cinerea* telah terilput melalui pengamatan udara pada tahun 1988 di pantai Sumatera Selatan dengan jumlah sarang masing-masing 300-400, 300 dan 280.

On 1-2 September 1988 during aerial surveys of the coastal region of South Sumatra Province using a twin-engined Piper Aztec aircraft, three colonies of Milky Stork *Mycteria cinerea* were discovered. Previously only one other breeding colony of the species was known (see Danielsen & Skov 1987). A recent review of the status of the species in Indonesia is given in Silvius & Verheugt (1989).

The numbers of nests and birds are based on average counts of several observers carried out while circling with the aircraft above the colonies. To avoid future disturbance, only approximate locations are given below.

TanjungKoyan(3°00'S. 106°00'E)

300-400 nests were estimated in this colony. A total of 500 Milky Storks was observed, including at least 50 juveniles. In addition, 60 Great Egret *Egretta alba* and 30 Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus* were seen.

The colony was located in mangrove back swamps some 2km from the coastline in dense vegetation of *Acrostichum* ferns. The nests were built in 3-4 m high bushes surrounding a 30 m x 30 m lake. The area is classified as Protection Forest, however parts of the area have been identified as suitable for agricultural settlement. If the protected status of the mangroves is observed, the breeding site should not be affected.

Tanjung Selokan (2°30'S, 105°40'E).

300 nests were estimated in this colony. A total of 150 Milky Storks was seen, including several juveniles. In addition, 400 Great Egret, 30 Lesser Adjutant, 4 Javan Pond Heron *Ardeola speciosa* and 1 Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* were observed.

The colony was located in open mangrove back swamps some 1-2 km from the coast in 10-12 dead trees in the middle of an inundated area of about 15 ha with many dead or dying trees. The tree species could not be identified from the air. The nests were built at 5-15 m height. The area has been proposed for fishpond development. However, because of the location of this colony and because of the importance of the area for migratory waders, it has been proposed to establish a Nature Reserve covering ca. 10,000 ha (Danielsen and Verheugt 1990).

Banyuasin Peninsula (2°20'S, 105°00'E)

co. 280 nests were observed. 250 adult Milky Storks and 100 juveniles were observed. In addition, 250 Great Egret and 50 Black-headed Ibis *Threskiomis melanocephalus* were seen. The egrets were standing at nests built on the ground. The ibises were apparently not breeding.

The colony was located in mangrove back swamps some 3-4 km inland in 10-15 small bushes near a 50 m x 50 m lake in dense vegetation of *Acrostichum* ferns. The nests of the Milky Storks were built at 2-6 m height. A number of the storks stood on the mud-flats on the fringe of the lake.

The area has been designated for fish-pond development even though it has mainly potential acid sulphate soils, and has the status of protection forest. However, the area is also part of the 387,500 ha proposed Sembilang Wildlife Reserve. This area includes spawning and nursery areas for fish and shrimps, providing a basis for more than 70% of the coastal fisheries production in the province (Danielsen & Verheugt 1990). In addition, it supports 35 globally endangered wildlife species, and functions as one of the most important stop-over sites and wintering areas for migratory waders and terns in the Indo-Malayan region.

### Acknowledgements

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## BREEDING COLONIES OF WATERBIRDS ALONG THE COAST OF JAMBI PROVINCE, SUMATRA, AUGUST 1989

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## Ringkasan

Pada bulan Agustus 1989 telah dilaksanakan suatu kunjungan ke tempat kelompok biakan *Mycteria cinerea* dan *Ardea cinerea*, yang juga telah terpantau pada bulan Juli-Agustus 1985. Diberikan pembahasan mengenai menyusutnya jumlah kelompok biakan *Ardea cinerea* (dari tujuh menjadi empat) serta hilangnya kelompok biakan *Mycteria cinerea*. Juga diberikan beberapa saran menyangkut kemungkinan penyebabnya.

During 15-18 August 1989, as part of a survey for a film on mangrove ecology, the sites of waterbird colonies which were discovered in 1985 during a survey along the north coast of Jambi Province (Danielsen & Skov, 1987), were revisited to check on the present situation.