

Spoonbills Speak

echoes across the Pacific



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NEXT STOP, KOREA

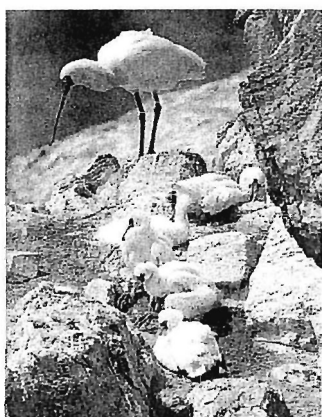


Adult spoonbill and chick at Korean breeding grounds

In September SAVE International's spoonbill expert, Malcolm Coulter, traveled to South Korea to participate in an international conference on the future of the black-faced spoonbill in Korea. This marks an important starting point for SAVE's expanded mission to take on the entire flyway. Coulter and representatives from Japan, Hong Kong, and Taiwan met with Korean researchers,

conservationists and government officials to share information and work on habitat protection strategies.

Since the low numbers of the early 1980s the spoonbill count in Korea has been increasing. Some believe this may be the effect of a slow recovery after the end of the Korean War. However, development and politics are exerting pressure on the black-faced spoonbill, which counts on Korea for breeding grounds and migration stops. Some of the most important habitat areas are in or near the Demilitarized Zone, which consists of an expansive but fragile system of mudflats and sensitive islands where the birds breed. Major land reclamation work and the new Incheon airport could pose major threats to the spoonbill in Korea. Much like its past work in Taiwan, SAVE hopes to work together with our new conservation contacts to target specific threats and offer a sustainable alternative in Korea.



Spoonbill family in Korea

CONGRATULATIONS MAGISTRATE SU

Under the watchful eyes of black-faced spoonbill lovers everywhere, legislator Su Huan-chih has won the election for Tainan County Magistrate. In the December 1st election, Su was the only one of three candidates to oppose the Binnan Industrial Complex, which would have devastating impacts on the habitat of the endangered black-faced spoonbill. In stark contrast, Su proposed a national scenic area for the site. The election brought the on-going debate to the forefront once again and the result may be a significant indication of current local opinion on Binnan.

In a hard-fought election due to an openly estranged relationship with predecessor Tainan County Magistrate Mark Chen, Su got the final victory. Between the 30 rural administrative divisions, Su won 23, including the focal point of the Binnan project—Chiku. In the final tally, Su came out 30,000 votes ahead of his major competitor.

After the election, Su announced that he will advance his alternative plan to turn the industrial complex site into a national scenic area which will also provide 30,000 jobs. The election result is inspiring news to SAVE members, who would like to extend a hearty congratulations to Magistrate Su!

SPOONBILLS RETURN TO BERKELEY

On October 9th the campus community welcomed the return of over 150 black-faced spoonbills in their fifth annual migration to Berkeley as part of ED-1: Introduction to Environmental Design taught by Kari Holmgren. Over 150 birds, of all sizes and shapes, colors and combinations adorned the lawn in front of Kroeber Hall. Some familiar creations were seen — spoonbills made out of white plastic spoons, birds made out of chicken wire, and abstract creations that caught so beautifully the grace and personality of our favorite bird. The fall appearance at Berkeley, as part of ED-1, coincides



Students and spectators watch the awards ceremony

with the bird's actual migration back to its wintering grounds in Chiku lagoon in Taiwan. The event is a celebration and reminds us all of the beauty of this species, the fragility of its existence and the continuing vigil we all need to make to ensure its future.

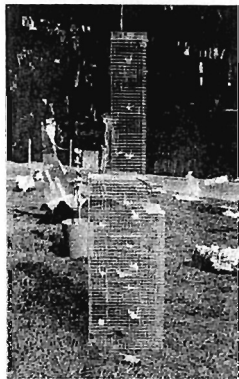
The bird sculptures were juried by a panel of experts and awards made in a variety of categories including the bird with the clearest view of the future city, the most politically powerful bird, the funniest bird, and the bird with the most accurate and expressive spoonbill gesture. There was also a People's Choice Award which received a lot of votes from students and spectators—this year two birds tied for first place.

SAVE was present for the entire day selling cookies and t-shirts to raise money and distributing information to interested passersby. About 20 of the spoonbills were donated by the students and will be auctioned off at the spring SAVE Auction—details to be announced in a future newsletter.

SAVE : IT'S A "GOOD THING"

SAVE International has received the first-ever "Little Engine That Could" award from GoodThings, Inc. Chosen as one of 25 honorees in "Favorite GoodThings of 2001," SAVE was honored for its work to protect the black-faced spoonbill. Selections resulted from reader nominations submitted to www.goodthings.com, an online newsletter that focuses on positive and creative ideas. In its recognition the magazine said "SAVE confirms late anthropologist Margaret Mead's prescient words: 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.'"

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A crowd favorite

SAVE UPDATE

Spoonbills to Travel the World

According to a source with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the black-faced spoonbill will become the main figure on the new version of the Taiwanese Passport. There will be 44 different photos of black-faced spoonbills as the background for each passport page. The photos will be donated by a local eco-photographer from Chiku.

Don't Forget to Vote!

SAVE International has endorsed Prop 40, The California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act. The latest in a long line of California park bond acts dating back to the 1920s, this \$2.6 billion will be used to improve habitat for wildlife, including shorebirds, waterfowl, and the endangered California clapper rail and salt marsh harvest mouse. If you live in California, don't forget to vote "yes" on March 5th!

HELLO FROM CHI-CHAO THE SPOONBILL



Hi guys!

Wow, Chiku is really hoppin' this year. People have been coming from all over to see us . . . kind of makes me feel important!

On my trip back here this fall I stopped by where some of your new friends are working. It's great to have friends all over the flyway because it's a long trip and a bird's gotta rest, you know? Maybe I'll see you in Korea on the way back north . . . you never know. Take care.

Love, Your Friend, Chi-chao.