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[Wildlife Conservation] New Year Birds Survey: Longluan Lake Has the Highest Species Number in Kenting. National Park

[Wildlife Conservation] New Year Birds Survey: Longluan Lake Has the Highest Species Number in Kenting National Park (<u>Chinese Version</u>)

CNA News (2010/12/22) The New Year Bird Survey in Kenting National Park, appointed by the Headquarters and conducted by bird societies, released the report of the initial survey on December 22, indicating that 129 species of new year birds (winter birds) stay in Kenting National Park, and Longluan Lake remains the area that has the highest number of winter birds species in the park.

According to the Headquarters, since 1984 the New Year Birds Survey has been conducted annually. A great human resources were invested in the event annually during the past years. In order to make the data more complete and avoid missing the existing species, Headquarters choose winter to conduct the survey, for in this season the number of birds species which reside in the park is highest and steadiest. The annual survey has been executed for almost forty years, indicated the Headquarters, and this may be the longest continuous bird survey in Taiwan, which covers a complete data during a period extending ten years more earlier before the establishment of the national park and reaching up the present days when the park has been established for 28 years.

The initial result of the survey shows 129 species of wild birds has been recorded this year, including the alien species Acridotheres javanicus and Aplonis panayensia. The number falls above the average of the past records (between 110 species and 130 species).

The Headquarters points out, the survey shows Longluan Lake is still the area that has the highest species number in the national park. The largest species in the lake is Aythya fuligula (Tufted Duck), having a population of over one thousand. Rare species such as Anser albifrons (White-fronted Goose) and Anser fabalis (Bean Goose) are also observed. The former was a new record in the park in 2009; the latter has maintained their visiting for three years.

The Headquarters says, anser is the second largest in size in the anatidae family, and birds belonging to this genus are rarely observed in Taiwan.

The Headquarters also points out, Longluan Lake has replaced Chengcing Lake in Kaohsiung and become the major wintering habitat of the diving ducks (mainly tufted duck) in South Taiwan for a long time, and up till now the number of the recorded birds species in Longluan Lake has been reaching 270.

Further Information: CNA 2010/12/22 (Chinese)

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