

Flock of Endangered Ibis Found in Stung Treng

A flock of one of the world's most endangered wild birds has been discovered in Stung Treng province's protected wetland, a conservationist said Monday. International experts and staff from the Mekong Wetland Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use project surveyed the marshland in November and in March and found the flock of white-shouldered ibis, according to the project's ecologist adviser Kong Kimsreng. He said the first finding was made in November, adding that there are between 20 and 30 birds. Slash and burn farming in the protected wetland could threaten the flock, he warned. "We want the villagers to know the importance of the endangered birds," Kong Kimsreng said, adding the species are also seen in Preah Vihear province's Chom Ksan district. According to BirdLife International, there are only an estimated 250 white-shouldered ibises worldwide, in Cambodia, southern Laos, Vietnam and Indonesia. (*Van Roeun*).

Cambodian Daily, 27 April 2006