

SEASONAL CHANGES IN ABUNDANCE AND POND PREFERENCES OF WATERBIRDS AT MOITAKA SEWERAGE WORKS, PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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Data are given on abundance of the more common waterbirds at Moitaka sewerage works, Port Moresby. Egrets and Pied Herons showed few seasonal fluctuations whereas Australasian Grebes, Black-winged Stilts and Masked Lapwings increased after the breeding-season. Terns were annual passage migrants. Jacanas occurred only when the south-east trade winds accumulated scum into firm mats. Species favouring anaerobic ponds were: terns and Pied Herons, because dead fish and cockroaches were present; Jacanas, which walked on the floating faeces; and Masked Lapwings, which foraged along the shallow shore-lines. Grebes only frequented aerobic ponds, and Stilts preferred them where the shoreline was sufficiently shallow. Egrets showed no preferences.