

## News and Notes

### **Evaluation of habitat for Crested Ibis *Nipponia nippon* using GIS**

A recent study found that Crested Ibis *Nipponia nippon* were almost always located in areas of highest habitat quality, as determined through a geographical information system (GIS) based on topography, vegetation, and the location of rivers, roads and villages. This suggests that important habitat features to Crested Ibis could be identified using GIS. However, several sites of high quality remained unoccupied, suggesting that some additional factors were involved in determining distribution. An analysis of data covering a 20-year period revealed that Crested Ibis have become more tolerant of human disturbance and have increasingly been found at lower elevations.

Li, Xinhai, Li, Dianmo, Li, Yiming, Ma, Zhijun and Zhai, Tianqing (2002) Habitat

evaluation for crested ibis: a GIS-based approach. *Ecol. Res.* 17: 565–573.

### **New owl from Sumba placed in genus *Ninox***

A previously undescribed owl has been reported from Sumba, Indonesia, since the late 1980s. Most observers had suggested it belonged in the genus *Otus* (scops-owls) but recent phylogenetic analysis has placed it unequivocally in the genus *Ninox* (hawk-owls). The new species is unlike any other *Ninox* in the region, in both biometrics and calls, and has been given the English name Little Sumba Hawk-owl. It is proposed that the species be regarded as Data Deficient.

Olsen, J., Wink, M., Sauer-Gurth, H. and Trost, S. (2002) A new *Ninox* owl from Sumba, Indonesia *Emu* 102: 223–231.