

FIRST RECORD OF COLONIAL BREEDING OF THE CATTLE EGRET (*BUBULCUS IBIS*) IN THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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This study provides new information on the first colonial breeding of an alien species, the Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) in Mangyongdae-dong, Mangyongdae district, Pyongyang, DPR Korea. Mangyongdae forest with a total vegetation area of 112 hectares has been used as a breeding habitat for ardeid species (Black-crowned Night-heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*, Great Egret *Ardea modesta*, Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*, Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, and Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*) since the 1990s. In 2024, we first found the breeding population of Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* in a subplot of the forest in Mangyongdae. Reproductive behavior was observed from mid-May to mid-September. Nests were found in 101 trees of 16 different species. The average height of nesting trees was 11.1 ± 2.9 m. The total number of active nests was 907 and the density of nests per tree was 8.98 nests tree⁻¹. Mean clutch size was 2.89 ± 0.94 eggs per nest ($n=84$), and the most common clutch size was three (50%). Mean hatch success was 2.77 ± 0.81 hatched eggs per nest ($n=52$). This finding suggests a possibility of expansion of Cattle Egrets' breeding area in the future in DPR Korea therefore a potential habitat management strategy should be developed.

Keywords: Cattle Egret; alien species; *Bubulcus ibis*; breeding site; DPR Korea

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