

Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative



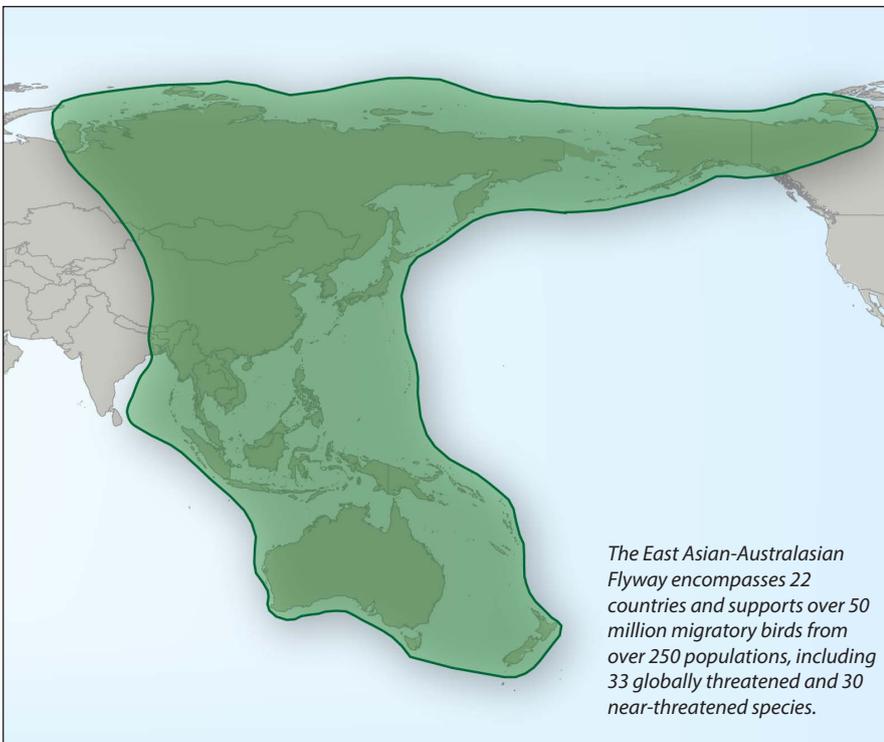
Spoon-billed Sandpiper, a priority species for AMBI 2015-2019.
Photo: Jochen Dierschke



Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative

East Asian-Australasian

Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI): protecting Arctic lifestyles and peoples through migratory bird conservation is a project designed to improve the status and secure the long-term sustainability of declining Arctic breeding migratory bird populations. AMBI has developed the [Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative Work Plan 2015-2019](#) to identify priorities and guide actions.



The East Asian-Australasian Flyway encompasses 22 countries and supports over 50 million migratory birds from over 250 populations, including 33 globally threatened and 30 near-threatened species.

Flyway Issues

Important breeding and staging sites for **Spoon-billed Sandpiper**, **Bar-tailed Godwit** and **Dunlin** need to be identified and protected in **Arctic Alaska** and **Russia**.

Intertidal habitats along the entire flyway, especially along the **Yellow** and **East China Seas of China**, **Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea** and the **Republic of Korea**, and **Southeast Asia** need protection and sustainable management.

Along the entire flyway, but especially in **Southeast Asia** many shorebird species are threatened by **overharvest** including the **Spoon-billed Sandpiper**.

Priority Species

Spoon-billed Sandpiper
Red Knot
Dunlin
Bar-tailed Godwit
Great Knot
Lesser White-fronted Goose

Relevant Regional Initiatives

The [East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership](#) including the [Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force](#), the [Shorebird Working Group](#), the [Yellow Sea Ecoregion Task Force](#) and the [Anatidae Working Group](#).

Priority Conservation Actions

Secure important breeding and staging habitats of key AMBI East Asian-Australian Flyway (EAAF) migratory bird species in Arctic Russia and Alaska, with a focus on Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit and Dunlin

- Improve conservation work on Spoon-billed Sandpiper in the breeding grounds.
- Document existence of important staging areas in coastal areas of Russia for priority species, and where possible encourage and assist their nomination as EAAF Partnership Network Sites with follow-up conservation actions.
- Encourage and assist in the nomination of important breeding and staging areas used by priority species in Alaska as part of the EAAF Partnership Flyway Site Network.
- Share experience and methodologies for surveying shorebird distribution, monitoring population size and trends, conducting demographic studies, and managing habitats of priority species and other migratory birds.

Secure intertidal and associated habitat for Arctic waders at key staging and wintering sites in the EAAF

- Ensure protection of northwest Sakhalin and West Kamchatka coast, notably intertidal areas.
- Gather better information on spring and fall staging sites and requirements of Dunlin and Bar-tailed Godwits along western Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, coastal Bristol Bay, and northern side of Alaska Peninsula.
- Ensure protection of Jiangsu Coast ecosystem, especially Rudong and Dongtai areas (including Tiaozini), for Spoon-billed Sandpiper and other Arctic shorebirds.
- Ensure protection of Luannan Coast especially Nanbao, Tangshan for Red Knot and other Arctic shorebirds
- Ensure protection at Yalu Jiang, Liaoning for Bar-tailed Godwit, Dunlin, Great Knot and other Arctic shorebirds
- Support conservation of the intertidal areas on the west coast of the Republic of Korea for the Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Great Knot, and Dunlin.
- Coordinate the implementation of actions related to the conservation of intertidal habitats in the EAAF and support to secure more resources for the operation of the EAAFP Secretariat based in Republic of Korea.



*Dunlin, a priority species for AMBI 2015-2019.
Photo: Richard Chandler*

Prevent illegal harvest and regulate unsustainable legal harvest of Arctic migratory birds, with a focus on Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Lesser White-fronted Goose, Bar-tailed Godwit, and other priority species

- Support development and implementation of national and regional strategies and action plans for elimination of illegal harvest of birds in Russia.
- Conduct outreach; assess the magnitude and impacts of legal subsistence harvest on priority birds in Alaska, with a focus on Bar-tailed Godwits.
- Support development and implementation of national and regional strategies and action plans for elimination of illegal harvest of birds in China.
- Support Singapore in its aim to help develop capacity for management of wetland and migratory birds in the region.
- Cooperate with Singapore on the development of wide-scale International dialog focused on the conservation of Arctic migratory birds in South-East Asia.
- Initiate a dialog with Japan to promote cooperation on the conservation of Arctic migratory birds with focus on conservation of Spoon-billed Sandpiper in the Flyway, and building on existing bilateral migratory bird agreements.
- Initiate a dialog with India as Arctic Council observer with an aim to plan and implement actions to mitigate, reduce or eliminate illegal harvest of Arctic-migratory birds in India.
- To ensure implementation of actions on illegal killing and unsustainable harvest, raise funds to hire a full-time coordinator in the Singapore office of BirdLife-Asia
- Support cooperation of Secretariats of the EAAFP and African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreements (see AMBI African-Eurasian work plan for further details) to coordinate the work on Lesser White-fronted Goose conservation on East Asian Flyway via EAAFP Anatidae Working Group.

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