

# BAER'S POCHARD

*Aythya baeri*

## IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered

Baer's Pochard is a poorly known migratory diving duck endemic to the East Asian - Australasian Flyway (EAAF). It breeds in southeast **Russia** and north/central **China**, and migrates to southern Asia (central **China** south to **Myanmar**) for the winter. It has undergone a massive decline and the global population is now thought to be as few as 600 - 1,000 birds. Only six breeding sites are currently known, holding c.30-40 pairs, and the majority of birds are concentrated at fewer than five sites during winter, mainly in central **China**. It was uplisted to Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List in 2012. An Action Plan was developed in 2014 and adopted by EAAF Partnership (EAAF) at MOP8 in 2015.

Implementation of this Plan is crucially important if extinction is to be prevented. The key threats are: (i) habitat loss and (ii) unsustainable harvesting. Habitat loss is likely to be the most significant factor affecting Baer's Pochard, particularly at breeding sites, where there has been a huge loss of wetland habitats in recent decades. Unsustainable harvesting - poisoning, trapping, and egg collection - is a major threat facing many Asian waterbirds and may have contributed significantly to more recent declines in the already depleted and fragmented Baer's Pochard population.

Other threats include: (i) inadequate site protection and management, (ii) human disturbance and recreation, (iii) bycatch in fishing nets, (iv) lack of awareness, (v) policy obstacles, (vi) an increased likelihood of hybridisation with Ferruginous Duck, and (vii) excessive use of pesticides and fertilisers.

Since 2015, progress has been made with: (i) the coordination of conservation effort, (ii) understanding status and ecology, (iii) management of the global captive population, (iv) awareness raising, particularly in **China** and **Myanmar**, and (v) policy development.

Priority actions for 2018-19 include: (i) holding an international Action Plan implementation workshop, (ii) surveys to locate unknown sites supporting Baer's Pochard, (iii) research to understand ecology, movements and population dynamics, (iv) an assessment of hunting and egg collection, (v) effective protection and management of Baer's Pochard sites, and (vi) habitat restoration projects at key sites, especially in the breeding range.

Important progress has been made with Baer's Pochard conservation since 2014. However, Baer's Pochard continues to face a serious risk of extinction in the wild and significant new effort is needed from 2018 in order to reduce this risk.



Photo: Zhang Ming

**To find out more about the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of Baer's Pochard and the Baer's Pochard Task Force, please contact the Task Force Chair and/or Coordinator:**

### Chair

Prof. Changqing Ding  
School of Nature Conservation  
Beijing Forestry University  
E: cqding@bjfu.edu.cn

### Global Coordinator

Richard Hearn  
Head of Monitoring  
Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust  
E: Richard.Hearn@wwt.org.uk

**A copy of the Action Plan and other relevant documents can be found at:**

<http://www.eaaflyway.net/our-activities/task-forces/baers-pochard-task-force/>

