

Geolocating of Scaly-sided Merganser in Bishui Nature Reserve,  
China



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Small isolated population of Scaly-sided Merganser still exists on several rivers of Chinese Lesser Xingan. Bishui Nature Reserve was especially designated to protect remaining several breeding pairs. In 2013 our team located one unknown nest of the species and captured a female for recording its winter grounds by geolocator (see cover picture). So she is now carrying leg ring D1. Wish her a safe and nice trip to the south and back next year. I believe so: such a smart bird!

There are 19 cavities of trees along the Yongcui River, some of which were pruned in the past to be suitable for the Scaly-sided Merganser. We checked all the cavities. The forest is very dense due to no logging during last decades. We manage to locate two nests of Scaly-sided Merganser and several nests of other birds (Table 1).

Table 1 The results of wild cavities check in Bishui.

<b>Cavity No.</b>	<b>Status</b>
1	Never be used
2	Never be used
3	Used in 2011
4	fallen
5	fallen
6	Never be used
7	Not be used
<b>8</b>	<b>SSM nest</b>
9	Used in 2012; we found an owl
10	Not be used
<b>11</b>	<b>SSM nest: used for over 3 years</b>
12	Never be used
13	Never be used
14	fallen
15	Never be used
16	Used by SSM during last year; we found a Mandarin Duck nest
17	An owl nest last year
18	Never be used
19	Not be used
20	Not be used

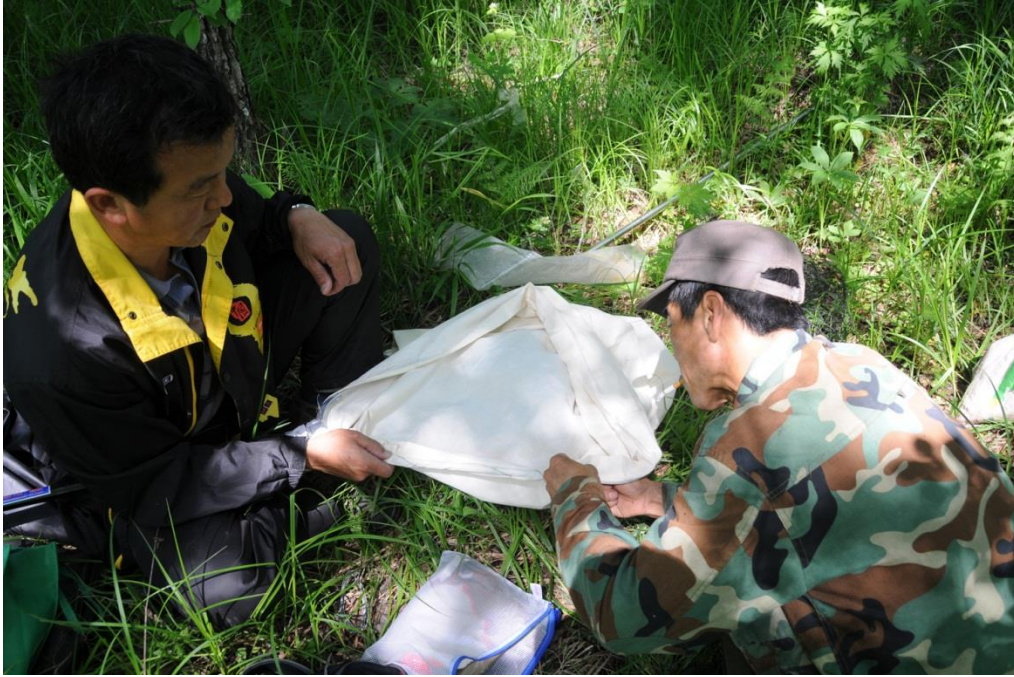


We caught a Mandarin Duck in Nest 16



The nest SSM female used in 2013





The SSM female was quite vigilant and would fly out away when we just got closed to the tree. So we improved the net and decided to catch at night in the end.