

ELEVENTH MEETING OF PARTNERS TO THE PARTNERSHIP FOR EAST ASIAN – AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY
 Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, 12-17 March 2023



Shorebird Working Group meeting agenda

(notes from meeting follow agenda)

12 March 2023, 9:00 to 12:30

*Meeting location: Royal on the Park Hotel and Suites
 Catalina Room
 Address 152 Alice Street Brisbane, QLD 4000, Australia
 Tel.: +61 7 3221 3411 Brisbane, Australia*

| Time | Programme |
|-------------|--|
| 9:00-9:15 | Welcome Rick Lanctot, Chair, USA David Li, Monitoring Coordinator, Singapore Phil Straw, CEPA coordinator, Avifauna Research & Services Introduction of Participants (name, affiliation) – all Why we are here – Rick Lanctot Adoption of agenda – Rick Lanctot |
| 9:15-9:20 | Report of Shorebird Working Group to EAAF Partnership, 2019-2023 period – Rick Lanctot |
| 9:20-9:30 | Training materials for conservation – Phil Straw |
| 9:30-11:00 | Summary of Actions taken since MoP10 1. Update on SBS task force – Qing Chen 2. SBS survey and conservation in Russia in 2019-2022– Elena Lappo 3. Dunlin Conservation – Minoru Kashiwagi 4. Shorebird stopover ecology, W. Kamchatka – Dmitry Dorofeev 5. Shorebird Hunting, northern EAAF – Konstantin Klokov 6. Waterbird bycatch on the China coast – Ziyu Yang 7. Nordmann’s Greenshank – Philipp Maleko 8. Update on World Heritage nominations for Yellow Sea – Yifei Jia 9. Others – limited to 3 minutes |
| 11:00-11:15 | Tea break |
| 11:15-12:00 | Future issues – Rick Lanctot and David Li 1. Nordmann’s Greenshank conservation plan 2. Coordination of Shorebird Colour flagging and banding 3. Organize regularly online public talks by SWG members 4. Organization of next shorebird science meeting |
| 12:00-12:10 | 2023 – 2025 SWG work plan – Rick Lanctot, David Li and Phil Straw (postponed as running short of time) |

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| 12:10-12:20 | Effectiveness and Structure of SWG – Rick Lanctot and David Li 1. Current Terms of Reference and positions 2. Possible new structure |
| 12:20-12:30 | Nomination and Election of Officers |
| 12:30 | End |

For participation and further information, kindly contact Richard_lanctot@fws.gov or davidlizuowei@gmail.com

Notes on spontaneous presentations:

Julia Welch, Barbara Pitkin, US Department of Interior – International Technical Assistant Program

- Working with Asian Development Bank/BirdLife/EAAFP to implement then new Regional Flyway Initiative
- Goal is to work with sites in Southeast Asia to provide training and technical expertise
- Develop these sites as exemplars of best practice management
- Keen to network with people this week

Taej Mundkhur, Wetlands International

- Thanks to those who provided comments on Waterbird Population Conservation Status Review. All info is on website, presentation made on shorebirds of the CSR at least year, see Taej if you would like a copy – includes latest status and trends of each population (including 1% thresholds) + gaps. Nick Davidson reiterated this was an enormous body of work and that previous population estimates were outdated. Technical Subcommittee released the report immediately due to its importance and relevance to management, but anticipated . discussions on updates this week

Rick Lanctot, Shorebird Chair

- Noted that obtaining reliable population estimates are extremely challenging. In North America, Canadian monitoring has led to population sizes that are often many times larger, but population trends are still showing declines. These large population sizes could mean important bird sites based on historic 1% sizes no longer should be considered an important bird area.

Notes on led discussion topics:

Normann's Greenshank

- Alongside Far Eastern Curlew and Spoon-billed Sandpiper this species is attracting significant attention
- Invites discussion on establishment of a focused group on this species but perhaps not a Task Force at this stage?
- Mr Choo Eng Tan (Seberang Perai City Council) – noted that important areas for this bird in Malaysia were not highlighted in Philipp Maleko's presentation. Thus, a group may be particularly useful for this species and so areas are not missed
- Jia Yifei (Beijing Forestry Institute) – agrees this group would be useful
- Lili Sun (Chair of Spoon-billed Sandpiper task force [TF]) – supports the idea of a Nordmann's Greenshank group; SBS TF works on issues more widely than one species, would welcome collaborations on this species
- Another member indicated that issues/habitats may be different than other species so may not fit into a single TF
- Jonathan Slaght (Wildlife Conservation Society) – not sure of formal process of setting up a TF but doesn't see any downsides to having one

- David Li (Singapore) – also encountered large counts of Nordmann's Greenshank in Malaysia (a different region than the one mentioned by Choo Eng Tan). Proposes an initial workshop where Nordmann's Greenshank researchers come together to identify issues and consider how governments can be engaged in areas of conservation threats. If anyone is willing to work together further on this, they should connect with David Li or Philipp Maleko.
- Rick Lanctot – suggests people take leadership and start the conversation both here and beyond (virtual session?) as a first step
- Alison Russel French (Australia Wader Study Group) – can establish intersessionally encourages people to push ahead if there is interest

Colour flagging Coordination

- Rick Lanctot – not going to have this conversation now since relevant people not present. Brief summary of the issue: not everyone is aware that there is a protocol in place that specifies which colour flag should be used where. Concern is that we keep getting requests from different parts of the flyway to start new flagging projects but it has become difficult to assign new colours as most combinations are already allocated. Also need to consider national banding authorities in countries that have them while other countries don't have national banding authorities. There needs to be a larger group discussion to carefully consider this issue. This may need to occur virtually so all interested parties can participate.

Establishment of Virtual Monthly public talks

- David Li (Singapore) – proposes a monthly public talk involving Shorebird Working Group (topics could be research, site management, monitoring, threats). We need to determine who will support – using which Zoom account, who will do first talk etc.
- Richard Fuller (University of Queensland) – coordinate with other groups (e.g. AFCOW, Shorebird Tracking) running seminars but this is a great idea. Can have at time zones that work for this flyway. Good way to keep the conversation going between meetings.
- David Li (Singapore) - AFCOW also running talks on scientific topics on all migratory species focused on Asian flyway. This could be complimentary to that. Shorebird WG could also have scientific talks but this group could be broader. Ginny Chan also running talks on tracking projects. We should compliment these. We shouldn't wait 4.5 years to talk.
- Micha Jackson (University of Queensland) – suggestion for structuring these sessions to partly be talks/presentations but also have a component where there is a working discussion so that we advance initiatives between MOPs. Utilise the opportunity of getting people together to keep things moving forward for the Shorebird WG.

Structure of Shorebird WG

- Rick Lanctot - currently have a Chair, CEPA Coordinator and Monitoring Coordinator. In the past also had reps in the group from each of the EAAFP partners. Also had an advisory group. Despite this the group hasn't achieved as much as has been aspired to.

Next Shorebird Science Meeting

- Rick Lanctot – held the first SSM two years ago virtually and supported by National Institute of Ecology in Republic of Korea. Suggestion is to hold this meeting intersessionally (i.e. in between MOP years). Intended to be a science meeting, not a policy meeting. Do people want to do this? What institution can support it?
- Alison Russell-French – at the latest virtual Australasian Shorebird Conference there were more attendees than usual and presentations from unexpected regions, etc. Supports the idea of another virtual conference for the next shorebird science meeting. Run through the Secretariat?
- David Li – language and cost issues are a huge barrier for people from many regions.

- Rick Lanctot – had 300+ attendees at the virtual meeting which couldn't happen in face-to-face meetings but the latter has other benefits.
- Taej – doesn't necessarily have to be one or the other...look for in-face meetings happening already where Shorebird WG reps are present; they lead a hybrid meeting on the side.

Structure of Shorebird WG

- Refer to David Li powerpoint presentation for proposal of revised/renewed Shorebird WG structure
- Phil Straw – suggests expanding core team beyond the 3 current co-chairs as suggested to share the load
- Members – reps from each EAAFP partner + invited experts from throughout the flyway
- Core team – could be up to 6-8 people that drive the group to better contribute to shorebird conservation. This group would meet regularly (in addition to the monthly talks, etc)
- Phil Straw – looking for a Steering Committee for development of a training program/manual for site managers
- David Li – asking for feedback from this group on the proposed structure and current leaders will move forward to implement it
- Alison Russell-French – supports this idea as a starting point. Would like to take the proposal to the AWSG committee and suggest a nominee and alternate.
- Nick Davidson – science unit is the scientific part of the EAAFP secretariat, useful for the Shorebird WG to identify what support from the Secretariat is needed for the WG, and consider is this possible across the ~15 WGs and TFs
- Rick Lanctot – David Li has nominated as the next chair of the Shorebird WG. Any other nominations? Terms of Reference will need to be modified to reflect the new concept of a core team rather than chair + two coordinators.
- Group voted strongly in favour of David Li becoming the next Shorebird WG chair. David Li will advance the proposal for the new Shorebird WG structure.