

East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Shorebird Working Group
NORDMANN'S GREENSHANK CONSERVATION SUB-GROUP
Terms of Reference

Endorsed at 1st NGSG meeting on 11 October 2023

1. BACKGROUND

The Nordmann's Greenshank (*Tringa guttifer*), also known as the Spotted Greenshank, is a globally Endangered species classified by the IUCN and BirdLife International. The species is endemic to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway with a relatively small population of 900-1,200 individuals (Wetlands International CSR1 report, Mundkur & Langendoen 2022). Although Cao *et al.* (2023) believe this figure is an underestimate, and that the population could be >1,500 individuals, with information collated mainly from the species' southward migration through southern Jiangsu Province, China in 2020, 2021, and 2023.

Nordmann's Greenshanks are a breeding endemic to the Russian Far East with the core breeding area thought to be at coastal sites around northern Sakhalin Island, where the population has declined sharply and is still subject to various threats (Mundkur & Langendoen 2022), as well as adjacent parts of the Russia mainland (the bays of Schaste, Ulban, Konstantina, Tugur, and Nikolaya). The species spend the non-breeding period in Southern China and Southeast Asia, primarily Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Myanmar, as well as a few in Bangladesh and eastern India. Few birds have turned up in north Western Australia and a single bird in north eastern Australia over the years (Maleko, Pronkevich, and Maslovsky 2021). The species stages and stops over in the Yellow Sea, especially in coastal China (especially Tiaozini in Jiangsu Province which may support almost the entire global population during southward migration), Korean Peninsula, as well as in Japan and elsewhere. Southern Jiangsu coast is also a major/critical moulting site for the species during southward migration (Yang 2020).

The species faces various threats along the flyway, such as habitat loss, degradation, nest predation, disturbance on high-tide roost sites, and hunting etc. Although populations at Tiaozini, seem to have stabilized in recent years, this could reflect increased site monitoring or birds moving in from nearby sites in response to disturbance or habitat loss. Additional monitoring is required across their non-breeding range over multiple years to strengthen the trend assessment.

Although the species has been listed as globally Endangered for many years, there is a lack of an overall conservation plan or joint efforts to conserve the species. The EAAFP Shorebird Working Group identified the conservation of the Nordmann's Greenshank as one of the priorities for its work plan 2023-2025, therefore takes a lead to establish a conservation sub-group to address the conservation issues of the Nordmann's Greenshank. The proposal for setting up the "EAAFP SWG Nordmann's Greenshank Conservation Sub-Group" (NGSG) has been endorsed at the SWG meeting on 31 August 2023.

2. OBJECTIVE OF NGSG

- To support and promote coordinated conservation of the Nordmann's Greenshank throughout the EAAF.

3. GROUP SETUP

- Membership of NGSG is open to government, NGOs and individuals who conduct Nordmann's Greenshank conservation, monitoring, research and habitat management.
- The NGSG will report to the EAAFP Shorebird Working Group.
- The NGSG will set up a core team to manage the Group.
- A lead and co-lead from the Core Team will be elected to coordinate the activities with the members and core team.
- Core Team members will work with the lead and co-lead to
 - 1) develop a NGSG Conservation Plan (Single Species Action Plan).
 - 2) lead particular tasks as identified by the NGSG (such as coordinating activities, leading task meetings, collating information where necessary, and reporting to SWG).
- The lead with assistance from the lead and co-lead and members is responsible for scheduling and facilitating meetings for the members, preparing and distributing materials prior to meetings, report on work progress at the meetings and completing appropriate records of meetings.
- The lead, co-lead and Core Team members serve for a two-year term and may be renewed at the discretion of the NGSG members at meeting of members.
- All other interested parties are welcome to participate in the NGSG meetings but will not have voting rights.

4. KEY ACTIVITIES

- To identify important breeding, staging, moulting and non-breeding areas in the EAAF.
- To identify threats to the species at the flyway level, national level, and site level.
- To identify monitoring and conservation measures at the flyway level, national level and site level.
- To develop and implement a species-specific and flyway-wide conservation plan (SSAP).
- To support monitoring efforts for the species and its habitats at the breeding, staging, moulting and non-breeding grounds.

5. MEETINGS

- The NGSG will meet every 6 months or as often as necessary either online or physically to fulfil its objectives and approve the work plan.

- The lead or co-lead in consultation with Core Team members will determine the timing and location of meetings.

6. FINANCING

- Unless there is prior arrangement, NGSF representatives and other attendees are responsible for their own travel and associated expenses.
- Collaborative grant writing and funding of projects is encouraged.

References:

Maleko, P. N., V. V. Pronkevich, and K. S. Maslovsky (2021). Nordmann's Greenshank (*Tringa guttifer*), version 2.0. In *Birds of the World* (S. M. Billerman, P. G. Rodewald, and B. K. Keeney, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.norgre1.02>

Mundkur T. & Langendoen T. 2022. First Conservation Status Review of Migratory Waterbirds for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership. *Wetlands International* <http://wpe.wetlands.org/>.

Ranxing Cao, Waner Liang, Jia Guo, Hongyan Yang, Lili Sun, Qing Chen, Tao Yu, Sicheng Ren, Cai Lu, Guangchun Lei, Yifei Jia. 2023. Global population estimate and conservation gap analysis for the Nordmann's Greenshank (*Tringa guttifer*). *Avian Research* 14 (2023) 100099

Yang, Z., Lagasse, B., Xiao, H., Jackson, M., Chiang, C., Melville, D., Choi, C. (2020). The southern Jiangsu coast is a critical moulting site for Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Calidris pygmaea* and Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa guttifer*. *Bird Conservation International*, 30(4), 649-660. doi:10.1017/S0959270920000210