

With grateful thanks to all those supporting or funding conservation work on Baer's Pochard, including:



### Priority actions for 2019-2020

1. Locate and protect all locations used by Baer's Pochard throughout their annual cycle, particularly breeding sites
2. Conduct studies of BP ecological requirements
3. Reduce the impact of hunting and egg collection through community education
4. Improve monitoring of population size, distribution and breeding success
5. Raise awareness of BP conservation needs

**This enigmatic species will only survive if people from all corners of the flyway join together to protect it and its freshwater habitats!**

### How you can help

If you are interested in further information, or would like to help, please contact BPTF Chair, Prof. DING Changqing (cqding@bjfu.edu.cn), or BPTF Coordinator, Richard HEARN (Richard.Hearn@wwt.org.uk).

You can also discover more at [www.eaaflyway.net/bptf](http://www.eaaflyway.net/bptf) or follow @Baers\_TaskForce on Twitter or @EAAFPBPTF on Facebook.

### What is EAAFP?

The East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership is an international partnership that aims to conserve migratory waterbirds and the habitats on which they depend throughout the EAA Flyway, and to ensure the sustainable livelihood of those people who live in and around those wetlands.

#### EAAFP Secretariat

[www.eaaflyway.net](http://www.eaaflyway.net)

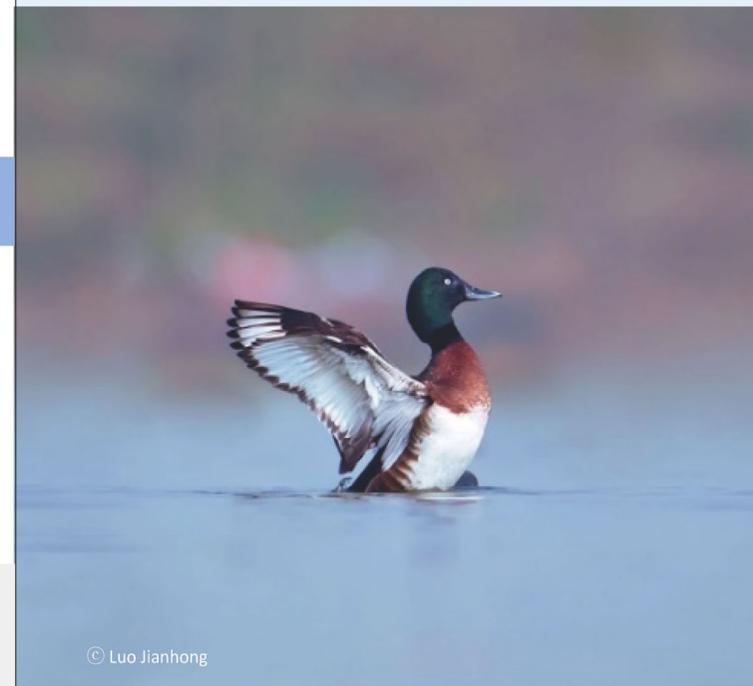
[secretariat@eaaflyway.net](mailto:secretariat@eaaflyway.net)

3F, G-Tower, 175 Art center-daero, Yeons-gu, Incheon 22004 Republic of Korea

Tel: +82 32 458 6502 Fax: +82 32 458 6508



# Saving the Baer's Pochard



© Luo Jianhong

## The conservation needs of Asia's most threatened duck



Baer's Pochard Task Force

## Baer's Pochard is a

critically endangered diving duck found only in the East Asian - Australasian flyway. It breeds in Russia and north China, and migrates to southern Asia (central China south to Bangladesh, Myanmar and Thailand) for winter. Formerly widespread, it has undergone a massive decline and currently there are thought to be 800 - 1,000 birds remaining in the wild population.



© Luo Jianhong

## What are the key threats and barriers to conservation?

1. Habitat loss and degradation;
2. Unsustainable harvesting of birds and eggs from the wild;
3. Lack of knowledge of their distribution and key sites, and ecological requirements;
4. An inadequate network of protected and well managed sites across the flyway;
5. Lack of awareness of Baer's Pochard and its conservation needs, and a lack of appropriate national policy.

## EAAFP's Response

The East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) developed an International Single Species Action Plan (ISSAP) and formed the Baer's Pochard Task Force (BPTF) to coordinate the conservation activities. The BPTF consists of experts from all range states along the flyway and representatives of international conservation organizations and institutes.

## Conservation Activities

### 1. Tracking population status

Recent surveys have provided significant new information on the abundance and distribution of Baer's Pochard, particularly in China and Myanmar. This provides us with valuable knowledge with which to inform other conservation activities, such as site protection.

### 2. Improving habitat management and site use

It is essential that all existing habitat is maintained and disturbance and other impacts are minimized so that the birds can successfully breed, overwinter and migrate. Improvements to management activities are already being implemented at two key sites – Hengshui Lake in China and Pyu Lake in Myanmar.



A family of Baer's Pochard © Luo Jianhong

### 3. Raising awareness of Baer's Pochard

Leaflets, posters, t-shirts and other materials have been distributed to hunters, bird watchers, reserve managers, local communities and decision-makers, among others, on Baer's Pochard status and protection (e.g. by avoiding disturbance to nests). Local communities have also been

directly engaged through school and community outreach programmes. At Pyu Lake, central Myanmar, BANCA and WCS have held meetings with communities living near to the lake to highlight its importance and how to maintain this, and this is already having a positive impact on the wintering waterbirds there.



Villagers at Pyu Lake beside an information board explaining the importance of the lake for Baer's Pochard © BANCA

