



Far Eastern Curlew

Largest shorebird species with distinctive long decurved bill



Photo by Jan van de Kam

Far Eastern Curlew is the largest migratory shorebird in the world. Its long, curved bill enables the bird to detect and locate crabs in the mud of intertidal areas. The population is estimated at less than 38,000 birds and is rapidly declining, due mainly to habitat loss and deterioration.

The Far Eastern Curlew breeds from eastern Russia through to north-eastern Mongolia, and then migrates to its non-breeding areas in Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand. Migration occurs through the Yellow Sea of Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Republic of Korea and China, where important stopover sites are located. The species is listed as globally Endangered on the IUCN Red List. In Australia, this species has declined by 81.4% over the past 30 years. In May 2015, the Australian Government listed Far Eastern Curlew as Critically Endangered under its national environmental law.



East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, as a regional initiative, promotes governments, inter-governmental organisations, non-governmental organisations and private sectors to protect migratory waterbirds, their habitats, and the livelihoods of people dependent upon them in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.



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