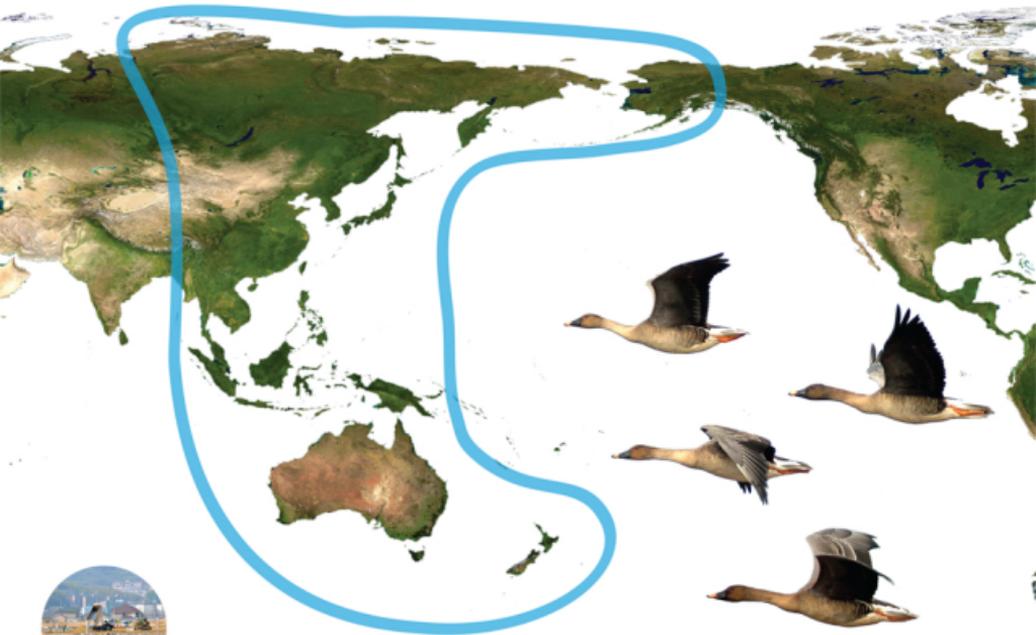




East Asian – Australasian Flyway

Threats to migratory waterbirds



No place to land: Loss of natural habitats threatens migratory waterbirds

As the number of humans in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway approaches half of the global total, migratory waterbirds that use the same landscapes face escalating, overwhelming threats. Routine destruction of inter-tidal habitats at massive scale and disturbance at key sites are lowering populations of coastal waterbirds, pushing some to threatened status and others to near extinction. Less well known but equally concerning are the changes to freshwater habitats from intensification of agriculture, dams and diversion of water from wetlands to expanding irrigation and urban areas.

The East Asian – Australasian Flyway is one of the nine global waterbird migration systems that directly link sites and ecosystems encompassing 22 countries. It is home to over 50 million migratory waterbirds - including shorebirds, Anatidae (ducks, geese and swans), cranes, and seabirds from over 250 different populations. The Partnership for East Asian – Australasian Flyway was launched in 2006 as an informal and voluntary initiative, aimed at protecting migratory waterbirds, their habitat and the livelihoods of people dependent upon them.