

## 2022 EAAFP Small Grant Fund Application Form

### Part A.

#### A. Personal Details of Applicant

Title: Ms Yang Ziyou  
(Mr, Ms etc) Family name Given Name/s

Institution: Spoon-billed Sandpiper in China  
Institutional address: Room 303, Zhengfang Block B, Building 8, 658 Jinzhong Road  
Street address or GPO Box

Degree type: Changning District, Shanghai China 200335  
Suburb or town State or country Postcode

(021)80158804 +86 15874963366  
Primary contact number Mobile phone number

Email address: ziyou.yang@sbsinchina.com

#### B. Relevant Working Group or Task Force Chair/Coordinator - DETAILS

Please contact the EAAFP Programme Officer if additional guidance is needed in relation to this section  
(programme@eaaflyway.net)

Name of Working Group or Task Force: \_Shorebird Working Group\_

Title of Chair/Coordinator: Dr. Lanctot Richard  
(Mr, Ms etc) Family name Given Name/s

Email address: richard\_lanctot@fws.gov

#### C. Eligibility of Projects

Please select "Yes" or "No" for each of the following questions:

- The focus of the project is migratory waterbirds and their habitats? **Yes** No
- The project will improve the understanding of factors important for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF? **Yes** No
- The applicant agrees to provide a final report within 3 months of the completion of the project? **Yes** No
- The applicant agrees to submit 1-2-page article and photographs for inclusion on EAAFP's website and/or write a brief article for the EAAFP's newsletter. Photographers will be acknowledged? **Yes** No

- The applicant will acknowledge the support of the EAAFP in any publications, **Yes** No presentations and reports arising from this work?

## D. Project Details

**Project Title:** Please provide a concise and informative title of your entire project (not just the component for which funds are sought)

Conserving migratory waterbirds at a critical stopover site in Lianyungang, Jiangsu province of China.

### Project Proposal:

**Details of your entire project (not just the component for which EAAFP funds are sought)** (2.5 page maximum)

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <p><b>1. Objectives:</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To monitor the number and species of waterbirds during southward migration in Lianyungang, with an emphasis on Asian Dowitcher (<i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i>), Nordmann's Greenshank (<i>Tringa guttifer</i>) and Great Knot (<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>).</li> <li>• To monitor waterbirds' habitat-use and local movement patterns in Lianyungang by using flag resighting records, satellite tracking data receivers, and direct observations</li> <li>• To monitor waterbirds' habitat threats throughout the project</li> <li>• To improve public awareness of Lianyungang's migratory waterbirds</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>2. Background:</b></p> | <p>Coastal wetlands of Lianyungang, Jiangsu province are important stopover and wintering sites for migratory waterbirds on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Between 2008 and 2018, 43 shorebird species were recorded along the Lianyungang coast, including 12 globally threatened or Near Threatened species. In terms of the number of shorebird species exceeding 1% of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway population, Lianyungang ranks highest among the &gt;300 shorebird sites in East Asia with 22 species meeting this criterion. Among them are the Endangered Nordmann's Greenshank, Great Knot and Far Eastern Curlew (<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>) (Chan et al. 2019).</p> <p>In particular, in three consecutive years from 2019 to 2021, over 90% of the estimated global population of Asian Dowitcher were recorded at Lianyungang's Linhong and Qingkou estuaries on a single day. The number in southward migration is relatively lower, but the maximum single-day count still represented a considerable proportion of the species' global population (28.4% and 32.4% in 2020 and 2021 respectively). When Asian Dowitchers are highly concentrated at a single site, they become extremely vulnerable to impacts of human activities and/or natural stochastic events. If Lianyungang's coastal wetlands are destroyed or degraded, it will cause devastating impacts on almost the entire global population of Asian Dowitcher.</p> <p>In addition to shorebirds, the Lianyungang coast is also used by threatened waterbirds such as the Endangered Black-faced Spoonbill (<i>Platalea minor</i>), Vulnerable Relict Gull (<i>Larus relictus</i>) and Vulnerable Saunders's Gull (<i>Saundersilarus saundersi</i>). For example, between 2019 and 2020, 10.8% and 3.3% of the estimated global populations of Relict Gull and Saunders's Gull were recorded in Lianyungang on a single survey day.</p> <p>Unfortunately, a construction project is happening right on top of Lianyungang's Linhong estuary, which is an important foraging ground for waterbirds including Asian Dowitcher, Nordmann's Greenshank, Great Knot, Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (<i>Calidris acuminata</i>). The construction project claims to restore the natural environment of a "dirty" wetland, when in fact it converts 15 km<sup>2</sup> of natural muddy tidal flats into sandy beaches and deep water for human recreational activities. The new habitat is completely unsuitable for the Asian Dowitcher and many other species of shorebirds. If this project goes ahead, it will destroy a third of Asian Dowitcher's foraging habitat here.</p> <p>In early 2021, after several rounds of unsuccessful negotiation with the local government departments and the project construction company, we collaborated with <i>Friends of Nature</i> and filed a public interest environmental litigation against the project construction company and the environmental impact assessment company. Currently, the judge is still processing all the evidence.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Linhong and Qingkou estuary tidal flats are also being encroached upon by an invasive species called the Smooth Cordgrass (<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>), so the area and quality of the remaining waterbird habitats are also decreasing.</p> |

In the proposed project, we will continue to conduct year-round waterbird and habitat threat monitoring surveys in Lianyungang. In doing so, we will not only obtain first-hand data on the number, population trend and local movement patterns of over 50 waterbird species in Lianyungang, but also document how waterbirds respond to the construction project. The data may also serve as valuable evidence for the public interest environmental litigation case. All survey results collected throughout the project will be shared with administrative units and other key stakeholders, along with a list of conservation management recommendations.

Besides the top-down approach of sharing survey results and management recommendations to governments and other key stakeholders, we will also adopt a bottom-up approach, where we promote waterbird conservation through community capacity building and public outreach activities. In the proposed project, we will organize school talks and a photo exhibition in Lianyungang, and make information leaflets about Lianyungang's charismatic waterbirds and their habitats.

**3. Project plan, timeline and methods:**

*Please include the proposed timing of project commencement, start and completion of fieldwork (if applicable), project completion. Please also comment on the flexibility of the timeline of the project.*

March 01, 2022 – November 30, 2022. The project timeframe covers shorebirds' northward and southward migration periods in Lianyungang, so it is not very flexible to change.

Bimonthly (twice a month) waterbird and threat monitoring surveys will be carried out during peak migration periods (March – May, August - October). Based on our experience in the past three years, the number of Asian Dowitcher in Lianyungang is the highest in early May (for northward migration) and early August (for southward migration), so we will increase the surveying efforts (i.e. number of surveyors, duration of survey) in these two periods. An additional survey will be conducted in late July and early November to record any early arriving (e.g. failed breeders) or late departing (e.g. juveniles) individuals.

The waterbird survey method used in this project is similar to that stated in Yang et al (2021). During high tide when shorebirds congregate in high-tide roosts, surveyors use spotting scopes to record the number and species of all waterbirds in the roosts near Linhong and Qingkou estuaries. Once the tide recedes and tidal flats emerge from water, surveyors proceed to the tidal flats to record waterbirds that were not observed in the high-tide roosts, or those numbering higher on the tidal flats than they did in the high-tide roosts.

To understand Nordmann's Greenshank's population size in Lianyungang and the wider area, we will organize a simultaneous count along the west Yellow Sea coast in September 2022. The count will not only involve Lianyungang, but also cover Jiaozhou Bay to the north and Tiaozini and Rudong to the south, where Tiaozini and Rudong are probably the most important stopover and moulting sites for Nordmann's Greenshank (Yang et al. 2020).

To understand waterbirds' local movement and habitat-use patterns, surveyors will take note of marked waterbirds (i.e. individuals wearing color rings, leg flags, or satellite tags). In summer 2021, 10 Nordmann's Greenshanks were equipped with a Nano GPS satellite tracking device in Russia (Pronkevich et al. 2021). However, the tracking data cannot be downloaded unless observers hold a Bluetooth receiver within 1 km radius of the tracked birds. In August 2021, we managed to find one tracked Nordmann's Greenshanks in Lianyungang. In summer 2022, researchers are looking to deploy a few more tracking devices on Nordmann's Greenshank and Asian Dowitcher. Therefore, we will try to look for the satellite tagged birds and download their tracking data again this year.

**4. Likely benefit to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitat / or key research outputs:**

*In addressing this question, please also identify which EAAFP Key Result Areas the project will contribute to (see the EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019 – 2028).*

We think the project can cover:

KRA 1.1: Lianyungang is not yet a Flyway Network Site. However, based on the number and species of migratory shorebirds that's been recorded here in the past decade (Chan et al. 2019, Yang et al. 2020), we believe its importance has been overlooked. Our conservation work in Lianyungang may help with EAAFP's future site assessment and contribute to a more comprehensive list of Flyway Network Sites.

KRA 1.5: We are trying to involve different stakeholders in the conservation of Lianyungang's coastal wetlands, by sharing the project results and management recommendations with key stakeholders, and organizing community capacity building and public outreach activities.

<p><b>5. Alignment with EAAFP Working Groups and Task Forces priorities:</b></p>	<p>Please indicate which of the EAAFP Working Groups and Task Forces priorities are addressed in this project.</p> <p>This project will help address the following priorities for the Shorebird Working Group.  Priority 1: Support identification and monitoring of internationally important shorebird sites.  1.1 Provide technical advice and support to ... nongovernmental organizations to conduct shorebird monitoring throughout the EAAF.</p> <p>The key component of our project is to conduct shorebird surveys at an important shorebird stopover site on the EAAF.</p> <p>Priority 2: Support conservation of shorebird species.  2.2. ... work towards developing a task force for Nordmann's Greenshank along the flyway.  2.3 Oversee and lead in red-listing of potentially new globally threatened and near threatened shorebirds in the EAAF, especially when new evidence emerges on shorebird population trends (e.g. ... Nordmann's Greenshank).</p> <p>Our project will collect first-hand data on nearly 40 shorebird species in Lianyungang.</p> <p>Take Asian Dowitcher as an example, when such a high proportion of their population relies on Lianyungang, and 1/3 of their most important foraging habitat is likely to be destroyed, we think Asian Dowitcher may satisfy the criteria for "Vulnerable" or even "Endangered" on the IUCN Red List. We have already established connections with the IUCN Red List Committee in 2021. The data collected in 2022 may help with their future assessment of Asian Dowitchers' population size and conservation status.</p> <p>Nordmann's Greenshank is one of the focal species in the project. We plan to conduct a coastal census along the west Yellow Sea coast to get a better idea of its population size. Therefore, our data on Nordmann's Greenshank will definitely contribute to the achievement of priority 2.</p>
<p><b>6. Explain the part of your project for which you are seeking EAAFP funds in this Application</b>  (provide details in the Project Budget section below):</p>	<p>The monitoring of migratory waterbirds during northward migration will mainly be supported by the Asian Waterbirds Conservation Fund. We seek the EAAFP fund to cover the southward migration period (late June – early November) in 2022.</p> <p>A large portion of the outreach activities will be sponsored by the Disney Conservation Fund.</p> <p>We have applied for matching funds to cover the simultaneous Nordmann's Greenshank count along the west Yellow Sea.</p>
<p><b>7. Scientific References cited in the Application:</b></p>	<p>Chan Y-C, Peng H-B, Han Y, Chung SS-W, Li J, Zhang L, Piersma T. 2019. Conserving unprotected important coastal habitats in the Yellow Sea: shorebird occurrence, distribution and food resources at Lianyungang. <i>Global Ecology and Conservation</i> 20(e00724). <a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1101/570556">http://dx.doi.org/10.1101/570556</a></p> <p>Pronkevich V, Maslovsky K, Maleko P. 2021. Advancing research on Nordmann's Greenshanks and Common Redshanks in Schaste Bay. The East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Website. <a href="https://www.eaaflyway.net/research-on-nordmanns-greenshanks-and-common-redshanks-in-schaste-bay/">https://www.eaaflyway.net/research-on-nordmanns-greenshanks-and-common-redshanks-in-schaste-bay/</a> Accessed on 02/02/2022.</p> <p>Yang Z, Han Y, Li J, Cai S, Guo J, Xiang L, Zhang L, Choi C-Y. 2019. Significant numbers of Asian Dowitchers <i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i> found during waterbird surveys at Lianyungang, Jiangsu Province, China. <i>BirdingASIA</i> 32:58-64.</p> <p>Yang Z, Li J, Han Y, Hassell CJ, Leung K-SK, Melville DS, Yu Y-T, Zhang L, Choi C-Y. 2021. Coastal wetlands in Lianyungang, Jiangsu Province, China: probably the most important site globally for the Asian Dowitcher (<i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i>). <i>Avian Research</i> 12(38). <a href="https://doi.org/10.1186/s40657-021-00272-7">https://doi.org/10.1186/s40657-021-00272-7</a></p> <p>Yang Z, Lagassé BJ, Xiao H, Jackson MV, Chiang C-Y, Melville DS, Leung KS, Li J, Zhang L, Peng H-B, Gan X, Liu W-L, Ma Z, Choi C-Y. 2020. The southern Jiangsu coast is a critical moulting site for Spoon-billed Sandpiper <i>Calidris pygmaea</i> and Nordmann's Greenshank <i>Tringa guttifer</i>. <i>Bird Conservation International</i> 30(4):649-660. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1017/S0959270920000210">https://doi.org/10.1017/S0959270920000210</a></p>
<p><b>8. How will any continuing COVID restrictions be</b></p>	<p>The COVID situation is strictly controlled in China.</p> <p>Based on our experience in 2020 and 2021, even if there is a COVID outbreak during the project, we can still carry out most surveys as long as we can provide negative nucleic acid results.</p>

managed for project delivery?:

**Part B. FOR CONFERENCE APPLICANTS ONLY**

(For Task Force or Working Group members delivering their own work as a presentation, paper or poster)

<b>Conference Title:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Presentation Abstract</b> (250 word maximum):		

**Part C. FOR ALL APPLICANTS**

**Experience Relevant to Project (CV attached at the end of the form):**

*0.5 page maximum*

Ziyou Yang is the Operation Director at Spoon-billed Sandpiper in China. Having graduated with a Master's degree from the Conservation Biology programme of the University of Queensland, she joined Spoon-billed Sandpiper in China in 2017.

Ziyou has been taking full charge of Lianyungang's conservation work since May 2019, when an alarming number of 22432 Asian Dowitchers (over 97% of their estimated global population) were recorded there at a single tidal flat. Since the alarming discovery of Asian Dowitcher, Ziyou has taken lead in the organization of local fieldwork and community outreach activities.

Please **also** attach a maximum 2-page CV or list non-academic research experience and experience with migratory waterbirds/conservation e.g. work experience, volunteer experience, bird banding, birdwatching.

**E. Project Budget** (please outline costs of your entire project, not just the component(s) for which funds are being sought from EAAFP)

Item (Please list)	Budget (USD)	Co-funding acquired (source and amount in USD)	Co-funding applied for (source and amount in USD)	Support requested from EAAFP (USD)
Equipment: Spotting scope and a tripod	5938	3594	2344	0
Consumable items Food for all waterbird surveyors during southward migration	600	0	0	600
Consumable items Food for all waterbird surveyors during northward migration	750	750	0	0
Consumable items Food for the simultaneous Nordmann Greenshank's survey outside of Lianyungang	200	25	175	0

Accommodation Accommodation for the 6 surveys during southward migration	820.40	0	0	820.40
Accommodation Accommodation for the 6 surveys during northward migration. More people will participate in the northward migration surveys.	1031.25	1031.25	0	0
Accommodation For the simultaneous Nordmann Greenshank's survey outside of Lianyungang	187.50	187.50	0	0
Travel Car hire in Lianyungang during southward migration  39.07/day/car 13 survey days x at least 2 cars	1015.82	0	0	1015.82
Travel Car hire in Lianyungang during northward migration	1015.82	1015.82	0	0
Travel Car fuel in Lianyungang during southward migration  54.69/survey/car At least 2 cars/survey x 6 surveys	656.28	0	0	656.28
Travel Car fuel in Lianyungang during northward migration	656.28	249.99	0	406.29
Travel Bullet train between Shanghai and Lianyungang during southward migration.  65.63/person/survey	984.45	0	0	984.45
Travel Bullet train between Shanghai and Lianyungang during northward migration. We will also cover the travel expenses of up to 6 surveyors from around China.	1415.63	1415.63	0	0
Travel				

For the simultaneous Nordmann Greenshank's survey outside of Lianyungang	435.95	112.50	323.45	0
Other Subsidies to all waterbird surveyors during southward migration	3750	0	3233.24	516.76
Other Subsidies to all waterbird surveyors during northward migration	4218.75	4218.75	0	0
Other Subsidies to surveyors of the simultaneous Nordmann's Greenshank survey	1500	31.25	1468.75	0
Other Photo exhibition	1719	896	823	0
Other Information leaflet on Lianyungang's waterbirds	937.5	0	937.5	0
<b>Total amount requested from EAAFP Small Grants Fund:</b> (in USD)				<b>5000</b>

**Budget justification:** Please provide brief description and justification of all major budgetary items requested, indicating any that are essential to the project and/or conference for which you are applying (250 word maximum):

The major budgetary items are accommodation, food and travel. These are essential expenses of the waterbird surveys. Although we have been training locals, at this moment, most waterbird surveyors are still based outside of Lianyungang, so we need to allocate a large portion of the budget for travel and accommodation.

We will purchase a new spotting scope, because *Spoon-billed Sandpiper in China* only owns one spotting scope at the moment.

Subsidies also make up a large portion of the overall budget. All the waterbird surveyors that we will recruit for the project are highly experienced. Therefore, subsidies are necessary costs to recognize their professional efforts and keep them motivated. We've applied for matching funds to cover most of the subsidies, and only request 1.86% from the EAAFP.

## F. Declaration

I have discussed the contents of this Application with the relevant Chair/s and Coordinator/s of relevant Working Group and/or Task Forces and I certify that to the best of my knowledge all documentation and information submitted or made available by me is true, accurate and complete.

By ticking the box you are agreeing to the above statement: ✓

## G. Application Checklist

All relevant sections of this Application have been completed.	Yes	No
Full payment details have been provided on the final page.	Yes	No
Application is being submitted electronically as one single document.	Yes	No
Application is being submitted in MS Word format.	Yes	No
Application has been discussed with the relevant Chair/s and Coordinator/s of relevant working Group and/or Task Forces and these have been carbon copied (cc) to this application submission as evidence they have seen and approved this Application.	Yes	No

Applications that do not comply with these guidelines will be returned to the applicant.

## Application Submission

Please email your Application as a single document to:  
[secretariat@eaaflyway.net](mailto:secretariat@eaaflyway.net)

EAAFP will acknowledge the receipt of your Application.

**Applications close at 5pm (Seoul Time) on 6 February 2022**  
**Results will be announced on 7 March 2022 on EAAFP Webpage and via email**

### OFFICE USE ONLY:

Decision: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorised:                    \_\_ / \_\_ / \_\_                    \_\_\_\_\_

Entered:                        \_\_ / \_\_ / \_\_                    \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Lead Investigator Advised:                    \_\_ / \_\_ / \_\_                    \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE COMPLETE PAYMENT DETAILS ON FINAL PAGE**

## PAYMENT DETAILS

To ensure prompt payment of successful applications please complete the following details and submit with your Application.

### PREFERRED PAYMENT METHOD

Electronic funds transfer (EFT)

## GRANT CONDITIONS

**In accordance with the application criteria, the following conditions must be met:**

- Funds are to be strictly exempt from organisational administration charges.
- You are required to submit one copy by email of the final report within 3 months of the completion of the project.
- You are required to acknowledge the EAAFP and the Small Grant Fund in any presentations, publications, reports or promotional material arising from this work. Please email [secretariat@eaaflyway.net](mailto:secretariat@eaaflyway.net) in order to obtain an electronic copy of EAAFP logo for use on any display material you will be preparing.
- You may be requested to write a brief article for the EAAFP newsletter.
- You are required to provide EAAFP with an electronic copy of your final report at the completion of your project, as well as a copy of any publications that result from your grant