

# Small Grant Fund for EAAFP Working Groups & Task Forces

## 2025 Application Form

### A. Details of Applicant

**Institution/organisation:** \_\_\_\_\_ Birds Korea \_\_\_\_\_

#### Contact Details

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ MOORES \_\_\_\_\_ Nial \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mr./Ms./Dr.** **Family Name** **Given Name**

**Position:** \_\_\_\_\_ National Director \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ Nial.Moores@birdskorea.org \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Brief Background of the Institution/organisation</b>	<p><i>Please include relevant experience in wetlands and waterbird conservation, local community engagement, etc. Add website and social media links if available.</i></p> <p>Birds Korea is a Korean NGO with about 300 members; an office in Busan; and a local branch in Yeoncheon County. We were founded in 2004 and gained legal status in ~2010. We have worked on multiple projects for waterbird and wetland conservation as part of the EAAFP wider “family”, including conducting research on Scaly-sided Mergansers as part of the Task Force. We have led national surveys of the species in the ROK; conducted repeat surveys in Yeoncheon; and worked with Yeoncheon County to identify and then to designate key stretches of the Imjin River used by the species as the Imjin River Flyway Network Site (EAAF 156, designated in 2024). Several Birds Korea members also coauthored a paper on the species with the Scaly-sided Merganser Task Force Coordinator, Moores et al. (2023) published in Wildfowl in 2023 (at: <a href="https://wildfowl.wwt.org.uk/index.php/wildfowl/article/view/2789">https://wildfowl.wwt.org.uk/index.php/wildfowl/article/view/2789</a>)</p> <p>We are now working with the County to identify areas that could be designated as a Ramsar site.</p> <p>As Birds Korea, we have two decades of experience working with local groups, local communities and local governments for wetland and waterbird conservation. In Yeoncheon, our work has also included training seminars for government officials; birdwatching bioblitzes; seminars for local educators; and participation in several symposia.</p> <p>Some of our activities are highlighted on our blog at: <a href="https://www.birdskoreablog.org/">https://www.birdskoreablog.org/</a> We also have a Facebook page (“Birds Korea”).</p>
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## B. Prior Funding from EAAFP

Please indicate if you have received prior funding from the EAAFP via the Small Grant Fund for Working Groups and Task Forces and/or the World Migratory Bird Day Small Grant Fund. Please include the project title, type of Small Grant, and year of receiving the funding.

Multiple EAAFP grants have been received by Birds Korea and Birds Korea Yeoncheon, since the first in 2014:

1. Birds Korea: Birds Korea Scaly-sided Merganser Survey: January 2014 (Through the Secretariat and Task Force): 950,000 KRW
2. Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* on Yubu Island, Geum Estuary, Republic of Korea (July-August 2017). (Through the Secretariat and Far Eastern Curlew Task Force: 1,200 USD
3. Coordinated Far Eastern Curlew July survey, 2021 (Funded through the Secretariat and Hwaseong City): <https://eaaflyway.net/the-far-eastern-curlew-national-survey-in-ro-korea-2021/>
4. Birds Korea Yeoncheon: 2022-2023 호사비오리 동시 모니터링 및 역량강화. Through the 사업민간단체지원사업최종보고서: 3 million KRW
5. Birds Korea Yeoncheon: 2023-2024, FNS 에서의 호사비오리 동시조사. Through the 민간단체지원사업 최종보고서: 3 million KRW

## C. Applicant's Membership of EAAFP Working Groups and Task Forces

By ticking this box, you confirm your membership of a Working Group and/or Task Force of the EAAFP:

Please list the name/s of the WGs and TFs of which you are a member:

**Scaly-sided Merganser Task Force** \_\_\_\_\_

## D. Relevant EAAFP Working Group or Task Force Chair/Coordinator - Details

Please contact the EAAFP Programme Coordinator at [godwit@eaaflyway.net](mailto:godwit@eaaflyway.net) if additional guidance is needed concerning this section.

**Name of Working Group or Task Force:** Scaly-sided Merganser

Title of Chair/ Coordinator:	<u>DR</u>	<u>Solovyeva</u>	<u>Diana</u>
	(Ms, Mr, etc.)	Family Name	Given Name/s

**Email address of Chair/Coordinator:** diana\_solovyova@mail.ru

## E. Project Proposal Details

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

Improving the conservation status of the Scaly-sided Merganser along the Imjin River, Republic of Korea

**Project Duration:** Please provide an approximate duration for your proposed project. This will help us to indicate the approximate reporting schedule.

*Fieldwork: October 2025-April 2026; Reporting by July 2026*

**Project Proposal:**

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

**1. Objectives:** In late 2024, we were asked by Yeoncheon County to help the county with designation of core areas in Yeoncheon County as a Ramsar site, with an additional aspiration to work for accreditation as a Ramsar wetland city.

As part of our work in 2025, we are again conducting repeat surveys of several target species and areas within Yeoncheon County.

The main target species in 2025 are Scaly-sided Merganser, Eastern Taiga Bean Goose, Greater White-fronted Goose, Red-crowned and White-naped Cranes (all of which we know or suspect to occur regularly in Ramsar-defined internationally important concentrations); and of Long-billed Plover, a Nationally Vulnerable species that is the target of several of the conservation proposals we have been making to Yeoncheon County.

Although there are already >5 years of counts of the two crane species, one aim of our work in 2025 is to generate 5 years of count data on the other three internationally important species (Eastern Taiga Bean Goose, Greater White-fronted Goose and Scaly-sided Merganser). This is to fulfil adequately the demands of “regularly-occurring” Ramsar criteria.

Another aim is to establish trends; and to refine understanding of waterbird usage at the site and county level, including foraging, roosting and nesting (latter in the case of the Long-billed Plover).

Based on these data, as before, we will continue to make a series of proposals to the county which aim to help reduce disturbance to waterbirds; improve conservation tourism and support from local communities; and in multiple areas, help build support for wetland restoration projects that will improve the ecological health of target areas and the conservation value of the FNS and the Biosphere Reserve.

This is a long-term commitment, and has already resulted in increased awareness and support for wetland conservation and restoration in the County.

The main research areas in 2025 lie within and adjacent to the CCZ within Yeoncheon County; and the lengths of the three main rivers in the County (Imjin, Hantan and Chatancheon). It therefore includes all of the Yeoncheon Imjin River FNS.

Although Yeoncheon County is providing welcome funding support for counts of cranes, geese and for Long-billed Plover surveys, there is insufficient budget to also fund repeat counts of Scaly-sided Merganser by the count team in Yeoncheon.

As outlined in Moores et al (2023), data suggest that there is very rapid turnover of Scaly-sided Merganser through both migration periods in Yeoncheon County. This greatly complicates understanding of total numbers of Scaly-sided Merganser that depend on the Yeoncheon Imjin River FNS, and the confident identification of a population trend. To improve understanding, counts are needed at least once every three days from late February to mid-April, and again from October to mid-December, supported by

identification of males, females and immatures. This research method was conducted in 2023 and 2024, facilitated with EAAFP small grants.

Funding is being requested to support this high frequency of survey between southward migration in 2025 and for northward migration in 2026.

**2. Background:**

Much of Yeoncheon County was designated as a Biosphere Reserve in 2019. In order to refine the mapping of Core, Buffer and Transition areas, in late 2021 Yeoncheon County requested Birds Korea to conduct a rapid assessment of avian biodiversity. This initial research identified the Imjin River as internationally important for the Scaly-sided Merganser.

Weather allowing, supported by the EAAFP Small Grant the aim is to conduct 35-40 counts of Scaly-sided Merganser along the key stretches of the Imjin River FNS (one count every three days during both the southward migration (October-December) in 2025 and the northward migration (late February-mid-April) in 2026.

Although most of the counts will be conducted by one person (Baek Seung-Kwang, former Director of Birds Korea Yeoncheon; now DMZ Biodiversity Expert for national Birds Korea ), this count effort will include opportunities on multiple dates for participation by Birds Korea Yeoncheon and on some dates for Yeoncheon county officials, local citizens and birdwatchers to participate.

The data will be included in a separate report for the EAAFP, and also (in part) be included in our annual report, to be submitted to Yeoncheon County in late 2025.

To support efforts aimed at reducing disturbance to the species, we aim also to draw up two or more designs for signboards which we will provide to Yeoncheon County, in order to encourage progress on taking measures to reduce disturbance to Scaly-sided Mergansers in the Imjin River FNS. These designs will be elicited from our members, and we intend through public participation, elicited through the Yeoncheon county website.

Two signs will be placed in 2025.

**3. Expected Outputs and Outcomes:**

*Please indicate the expected outputs and outcomes of this proposal. Refer to the guidance below:*

*Outputs: Tangible and measurable products or deliverables as a direct result of the project activities such as the number of signages produced, number of consultations/workshops/meetings, reports and materials created, etc.*

1. Two designs for signage that highlight the Scaly-sided Merganser and the Imjin River FNS. These signs will be placed in the CCZ part of Yeoncheon Imjin River FNS within 2025 by Yeoncheon County. The aim is to then encourage Yeoncheon County to place signage along the Imjin River at multiple sites in the FNS in 2026.
2. It is not possible at this time to predict the number of meetings etc connected to Scaly-sided Merganser conservation, and our efforts to raise the conservation profile of the FNS within Yeoncheon County. However, we are confident that there will be multiple meetings of this kind in 2025, as part of existing contracts with Yeoncheon County and based on our experiences there in 2021-2024.
3. We will publish data from the southward migration period in our 2025 annual report to Yeoncheon County; in the end of project EAAFP report and in the 2026 annual report to Yeoncheon County (if funding continues from the county); and we also post our findings prominently on the Birds Korea blog and social media, together with designs for the signboards.

*Outcomes: Long-term impact or benefits of the proposed activities such as up-to-date species population data, improved awareness of waterbird conservation, forged or strengthened relationships with indigenous and local communities, development of conservation actions, etc.*

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We expect that the counts conducted as part of this project will enable us to confirm the “regular” occurrence (in all 5 years of counts) of internationally important concentrations of this species during both the southward and northward migration periods.</li> <li>2. The data will be used to continue raising the profile of the species within Yeoncheon County and nationally through presentation at meetings, in a symposium (planned in Yeoncheon County for October 2025), and influence the boundaries of any proposed Ramsar site.</li> </ol>
<b>4. Project plan, timeline, and methods:</b>	<p><i>Please include the proposed timing of project implementation and completion, as well as the start and completion of fieldwork if applicable. Kindly also comment on the flexibility of the timeline of the project.</i></p> <p>Field work funded by the small grant will be completed by in mid- April 2026; and report-writing can be completed by July 2026 (or earlier if essential),</p>
<b>5. Expected benefit to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitat / or key research outputs:</b>	<p><i>In addressing this question, please also identify which EAAFP Key Result Areas the project will contribute to (see the EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019 – 2028).</i></p> <p>KRA 1.1. Continued survey focus on the Scaly-sided Merganser is essential if additional stretches of the Imjin River are to receive heightened national protections. Current protected areas exist only along the river in the CCZ, with the focus on cranes.</p> <p>KRA 1.3. Additional research and the placement of signage introducing the Scaly-sided Merganser and the FNS will contribute to increasing community recognition and valuing of this species and measures being taken to conserve river health and the species.</p> <p>KRA 1.5 Additional research and signage will help to explain the threat of disturbance to this shy species.</p>
<b>6. Alignment with EAAFP Working Groups and Task Forces priorities:</b>	<p><i>Please indicate which of the EAAFP Working Groups and Task Forces objectives and priorities are addressed in this project.</i></p> <p>The project helps to address Result 7 (“Key knowledge gaps about the species and threats are addressed”) and contributes to Result 8 (“ A network of protected areas, covering all important sites throughout the lifecycle, is designated and maintained and supported by wider policies.”)</p>
<b>7. Explain the part(s) of your project for which you are seeking EAAFP funds in this Application</b> <i>(provide details in the Project Budget section below):</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Once-every-three days counts of Scaly-sided Merganser from mid-October to mid-December (the southward migration period) 2025 and again from late February to Mid-April.</li> <li>2. Two design options for signboards that can help to raise awareness about Scaly-sided Mergansers and the FNS.</li> </ol>
<b>8. Confirm that the part(s) of the project for which EAAFP funds are requested can be undertaken even if no co-funding is available</b>	<p><i>Please indicate YES or NO.</i></p> <p><i>If co-funding has been requested or confirmed from other sources, please state the details here. The actual amount should be reflected in the table below (C. Project Budget).</i></p> <p>Part 1, once every 3 day surveys: NO. Without support, these surveys will be unable to continue with a similarly high frequency.</p> <p>Part 2, Public participation in designs for signboards: NO.</p>
<b>9. Continued project:</b>	<p><i>Please specify whether this proposed project is a continuation of a previous project funded by the EAAFP Small Grant Fund for Working Groups and Task Forces or the World Migratory Bird Day Small Grant Fund. If it is a continuation, identify which effort listed in part “B. Prior funding from the EAAFP” is being carried forward.</i></p>

	Funding for research is a continuation and expansion of previous funding from EAAFP small grants. The design for signboards component is novel.
<b>10. Scientific references cited in the Application:</b>	Moore, N., Solovyeva, D., Baek S-K., Lee S-Y. 2023. Conservation status of the endangered Scaly-sided Merganser <i>Mergus squamatus</i> on the Korean Peninsula. <i>Wildfowl</i> [S.L.], p. 146-166, Dec. 2023. ISSN 2052-6458.

### F. Experience of Applicant Relevant to the Proposed Project

*0.5 page maximum*

Mr Baek Seung-Kwang has more than 20 years' experience of conducting counts of cranes in Yeoncheon County, on behalf of the Korean Crane Network; and has conducted multiple counts of Scaly-sided Merganser along the Imjin River since 2022 as part of Birds Korea's work, including high frequency counts in 2023 and 2024, as part of simultaneous surveys part-funded by EAAFP small grants. Mr Baek also participated in surveys of Scaly-sided Mergansers along several additional rivers as part of a Birds Korea national survey effort.

Dr Nial Moore has 35 years' experience of conducting research to improve conservation opportunities for waterbirds in East Asia (in Japan, from 1990 to 1998; and in the Republic of Korea since 1998). He has played an active role in the Scaly-sided Merganser Task Force in the ROK, and to a lesser extent regionally (conducting a mid-winter survey along some rivers in the DPRK; and attending workshops in the Russian Federation and in PR China.

Please also include a recent maximum 2-page CV or list non-academic research experience and experience with migratory waterbird and wetland conservation e.g. work experience, volunteer experience, bird banding, birdwatching.

CV of Nial Moore attached

### G. Project Budget

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

Item (Please list)	Total Project Budget (USD) In 2025	Co-funding confirmed from sources other than EAAFP (source and amount in USD) In 2025	Co-funding applied for from sources other than EAAFP (source and amount in USD)	Funding requested from EAAFP (USD)
	Approx. 20,766  For range of survey activities and report writing	15,766 (before tax) through contracts with Yeoncheon County	x	5,000
Travel and accommodation  For Nial Moore, to participate on some dates of survey and in meetings related to this project				420
Consumable items: (details) Gas for vehicle Food: 3 USD/ survey date				260 + 120 = 380
Computing & clerical: (details)				500

Data organisation, analysis and report writing				
Per diem for research work (details) / 40 dates  75 USD/ da x 40 dates, for Mr Baek Seung-Kwang and other participants				3,000
Costs toward two designs for signboards				700
<b>Total amount requested from EAAP Small Grants Fund:</b> (in USD)				5,000

**Budget justification:** Please provide a 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 words maximum):

1. Cost of train fare (return c. 100USD) and accommodation (40 USD / night) at 3 return journeys and 6 nights' accommodation = 540USD
  2. 21 km of river surveyed up to 40 times. Including driving from home to the river and along the river. Each survey requires c. 70km of driving., or a total of ~ 2800km or 215 litres of gas at an average of 13km / litre, at cost of 1.2 USD/ litre = Minimum of 250 USD.
  3. Food at 3 USD (c. 5,000 KRW) for food x 40 = 120USD
  4. Five days of work for report writing and administrative issues before tax at 100USD/ day = 500USD
  5. Per diem for research work by Mr Baek Seung-Kwang and/ or other participants at 75USD / day = 3000 USD
  6. Cost toward designs for signboards estimated in verbal communications (in March 2025) at c. 1 million won, including payment for the initial design; and re-crafting by professional sign-makers
- \*This total does not include tax, which will likely represent 15% or so of the budget,

## H. Application Checklist

- All relevant sections of this Application have been completed. Yes  No
- Full payment details have been provided in Section I Payment Details. Yes  No
- The Application is being submitted electronically as one single document. Yes  No
- The Application is being submitted in MS Word format. Yes  No

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

## I. Payment Details

To ensure prompt payment of successful applications please complete the following details:

## J. Grand conditions

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

1. Funds are to be strictly used for the purposes of implementation of the project as per the application form and budget provided.
2. Grants are awarded on the strict understanding that funds will be exempt from institutional administration charges unless a Partner government law so requires.
3. Lead investigators are responsible for obtaining all necessary permits from government authorities, indigenous communities, ethics committees etc., to undertake approved research or monitoring studies.

4. You are able to undertake and complete the project, with the funds received from the SGF. This should be possible even if you do not receive co-funding from other sources that you propose/may have applied for from other sources, as mentioned in Section F. budget table in the application.
5. Project completion is required within 18 months of the close of the application period, which would be 19 September 2026.
6. You are required to submit to the EAAFP Secretariat at [secretariat@eaaflyway.net](mailto:secretariat@eaaflyway.net) and copy the Programme Coordinator at [godwit@eaaflyway.net](mailto:godwit@eaaflyway.net) and the Relevant Working Group or Task Force Chairs/Coordinators with the following:
  - a final report within 3 months of the completion of the project;
  - a short write-up with photos for the EAAFP newsletter and website as well as a report to the relevant Working Group or Task Force within 3 months of the completion of the project; and
  - a copy of any publications that result from your grant.
7. You are required to acknowledge the EAAFP and the Small Grant Fund in any presentations, publications, reports or promotional material arising from this work.
8. You are required to include a logo of the EAAFP on any display material you will be preparing. Please email the EAAFP Secretariat at [secretariat@eaaflyway.net](mailto:secretariat@eaaflyway.net) and copy the Programme Coordinator at [godwit@eaaflyway.net](mailto:godwit@eaaflyway.net) to obtain an electronic copy of the EAAFP logo.

## K. Declaration

*Applicant's Full Name:* Nial Christopher MOORES

I have discussed the contents of this Application with the relevant Chair/s and Coordinator/s of the Working Group and/or Task Force and they have been carbon copied (cc) to this application submission as evidence that they have seen and supported this application.

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 statements:

## L. Application submission

Please email your application as a single document to the respective Working Group or Task Force Chair/Coordinator and **copy** the EAAFP Secretariat at [secretariat@eaaflyway.net](mailto:secretariat@eaaflyway.net) and the Programme Coordinator at [godwit@eaaflyway.net](mailto:godwit@eaaflyway.net).

The EAAFP Secretariat will acknowledge the receipt of your application.

Applications close at 5:00 pm (KST) on 19 March 2025

Results will be announced by 22 May 2025 on the EAAFP webpage and communicated via email