

DD.10 Coordination of Colour-marking of Migratory Waterbirds in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership

Prof Nick Davidson
Chair, Technical Sub-committee



WEAVING CONNECTIONS:
Celebrating Migration, Traditional Knowledge,
and Innovation across our Flyway

12th Meeting of Partners of the
East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership



Background - 1

- Studies of colour-marked migratory waterbirds provide vital information about their movements and life-histories along a flyway
 - Provides essential data and information for migratory waterbird site conservation and management
- Coordination of colour-marking schemes along the flyway is essential so as to ensure that each individual migratory waterbird is fitted with a unique combination of readable colour-marks
 - ensuring individual colour-marked waterbirds can be seen and correctly identified at different wetlands along the flyway
- This need for the East Asia – Australasia Flyway has been recognised since before the establishment of the EAAFP
- To date, some coordination has previously been done by various taxonomic Working Groups and Task Forces, and the Secretariat

Background - 2

- A temporary Colour Marking Task Force was established by Partners in 2010 but disbanded in 2013, when coordination was transferred to the then Flyway Science Officer in the Secretariat, but such coordination is no longer active
- The new update of the protocol for national colour-marking schemes for shorebirds (MOP12 DD10 Appendix 1), first issued in 2001 and previously updated in 2007 and 2017, provides a summary of current colour-marking schemes in different countries and parts of the flyway
 - Prepared by members of the EAAFP Shorebird Working Group (SWG) who are to be congratulated for their efforts
- There is a need to re-establish similar coordination mechanisms for colour marking of all migratory waterbird taxa along the EAAF

Shorebird Colour-marking Protocol – 2025 update

- Appendix 1 of MOP12 DD10
- Compiled by members of the EAAFP Shorebird Working Group
 - In consultation with national bird-banding offices and shorebird researchers
- Provides a guide for researchers catching and colour-marking shorebirds
 - **Important:** *before colour-marking any birds the researcher must seek approval from the relevant national bird-banding office*
- Provides a guide for observers for reporting colour-marked waterbird sightings

Key:		
Upper flag	Lower flag	Banding location
Pale blue	Orange	Russia, North-west Chukotka (Chaun Delta)
Pale blue		Russia, Northern Chukotka [using plain flags only]
Lime		Russia, Southern Chukotka
Lime	White	Russia, Southern Chukotka
Black	Yellow	Russia, Kamchatka (various sites)
Yellow	White	Russia, Sakhalin Island [using plain flags only]
Red		Russia, Schaste Bay and Viakhtu Bay [on Nordmann's Greenshank, with colour bands]
Yellow (band)	Green	USA, Northern Alaska (Barrow) [on Dunlin, with colour bands]
Orange (band)	Green	USA, North Western Alaska [on Dunlin, with colour bands]

MOP12 DD10

- *Welcomes* the updated Shorebird Colour-marking Protocol (Appendix 1)
 - compiled by the Shorebird Working Group; endorsed by the Technical Sub-committee
- *Encourages* dissemination and use of the Protocol
 - By Partners, Secretariat and Shorebird Working Group
- *Agrees* to re-establish the “Task Force (TF) on Colour-marking” for all migratory waterbird taxa on the EAAF
 - Supported by Science Unit
 - Bringing together national banding schemes, taxa-related Working Groups and Task Forces and other experts
- *Urges* Secretariat to provide administrative support to the Science Unit
 - facilitating work of Task Force in reviewing past and current waterbird colour-marking
- *Encourages* Partners to liaise with their national bird-banding offices to facilitate international coordination of waterbird colour-marking
- *Requests* Science Unit (SU) to report to MOP13 summarizing all past and current waterbird colour-marking programmes on the EAAF; and
- *Further requests* the TF on Colour-marking, with SU support, to report to MOP13 on
 - Current administration of colour-marking
 - Recommendations on future coordination, and
 - Development of colour-marking protocols for all migratory waterbird taxa