

DD.19 Establishment of an ad hoc committee to discuss the inclusion of migratory land birds into the scope of the EAAFP

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

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



Proposal Background

From all recent reports of bird monitoring programmes, land bird species, particularly species of open-habitat (farmland, grassland and arid land) is the species-group suffered the most severe global decline in the last few decades, while waterbirds species are generally stable or recovering, due to enhanced protection.

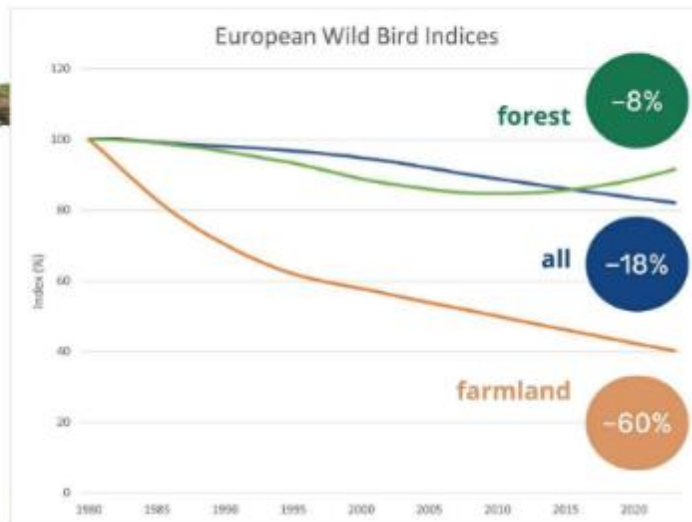


168 species
30 countries
44 years
(1980–2023)

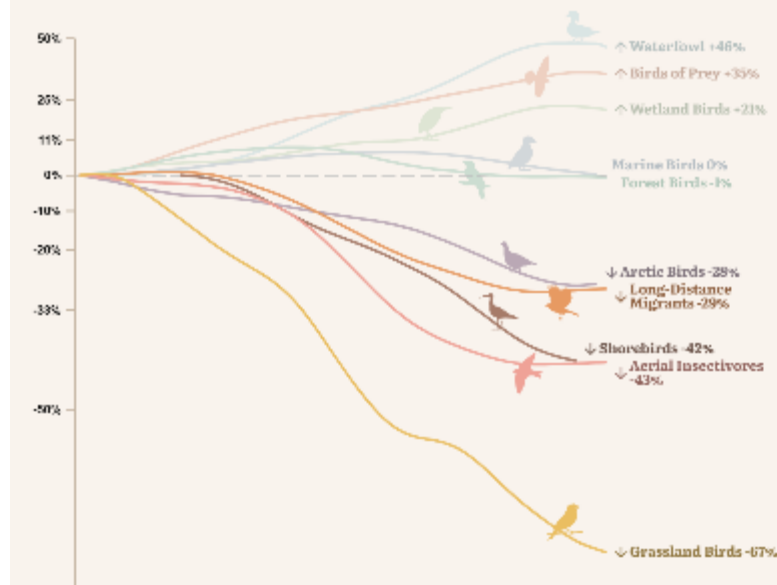


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2024 UPDATE



Population change since 1970



In decline

Birds in these five groups are in trouble. Grassland birds have declined so severely that several are at risk of disappearing from Canada. Arctic birds, long-distance migrants, shorebirds, and aerial insectivores are also showing marked declines. We must work together to halt and reverse these trends, and ensure these groups recover.



MOP12

Proposal Background

- In most Asian countries, because of lack of regional monitoring data on land birds, many species are likely to be declined to a globally threatened level without being noticed.
- Partner countries of the East Asian Australasian Flyway, namely the Russian Union , USA , PR China, RO Korea, Japan and Australia have bilateral agreements or similar mechanisms on conservation of all migratory birds, and special meetings had been held on land birds since 2014. However, similar bilateral or multilateral mechanism does not exist in South East Asian (ASEAN) countries, Mongolia and DPR Korea.

Migratory bird meeting in
Dongying, China (October 2025)



Proposal Background

- The East Asian Land Bird Monitoring Scheme was launched in 2015 in Jeju, Republic of Korea with Russia, China, RO Korea and Japan as starting countries.
- Since 2016, initiated by the compilation of the International Action Plan for the Critically Endangered Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*), many land bird projects started in Asian countries by government agencies and conservation NGOs.
- At the Asian Ornithological Congress held in Beijing in November 2024, participants from 30 Asian countries proposed that a stronger connection on migratory land bird research and conservation is urgently needed in Asia. The newly formed Asian Ornithological Alliance also expressed concern on land bird as one of the important foci in Asian ornithology.

Yellow-breasted Bunting
And Landbird Workshop
Guangzhou, China
(November 2016)



Proposal Background

- Expansion the species group of the EAAFP to cover migratory land birds will not only provide a regional cooperation framework on the urgently needed land bird conservation framework, it also fills the gap of the Illegal Taking Task Force. And it also fits the theme of the World Migratory Bird Days.
- Therefore, we suggest an ad hoc committee to be established to discuss on the necessity and feasibility of inclusion of migratory land birds into the species scope of the EAAFP at MOP 12. Results of the discussion and recommendation will be reported at MOP 13 for decisions of the Parties.

Asian Ornithological Alliance
Beijing, November 2024



Proposal Background

- Two recent meetings: Landbird Workshop in Bangkok (October 2025) and eBird Asia Meeting in Incheon (November 2025)



Proposal Background

- At the Bangkok Workshop in October 2025, we decided to further develop the bunting count in Asia using eBird as the reporting system, and will organize a joint roost count of the Yellow-breasted Bunting in South East Asia starting from early 2026.



Cornell Lab of Ornithology VBCE SCOPE BIRD COUNT INDIA BCST

WINTER 2025-2026

BUNTING COUNT

SURVEY PERIOD	NOV-2025 TO APR-2026
LOCATIONS	ASIA REGION
SUBMIT DATA	Submit as eBird complete checklists
TARGET SPECIES	All Buntings (Emberizidae)

Go find some Buntings!

POWERED BY eBird

A small yellow-breasted bunting is perched on a thin branch, facing left. The bird has a yellow head and back with brown streaks on its wings and tail. The background is a soft-focus natural setting.

Proposal Background – part of the drafted resolutions from the Bangkok Workshop (14-15 October 2025)

- The resolution was discussed and agreed by 98 workshop participants from Russia, Mongolia, China, RO Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Sweden, UK, Germany, and USA.
- *Recognizing many landbird species are declining in Asia without sufficient recognition, we urge government agencies and institutions to support research and conservation program on landbirds.*
- *Call for the supports from government agencies, institutions, NGOs, and communities to support the development of comprehensive landbird monitoring schemes across Asia.*
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- *Propose of inclusion of landbird working group to the species scope under the East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership.*

MOP12 Draft Decision: Discussion on the inclusion of migratory land birds into the scope of the EAAFP

Submitted by the Wild Bird Society of Japan with input from the East Asia Land Bird Monitoring Scheme

- ***Aware that the land birds, particularly open-habitat species is the species group of migratory birds facing the biggest decline in the past decades globally but not currently covered under a conservation framework along the East Asian Australasian Flyway***
- ***Recognizing international cooperative projects has been initiated since the launch of the East Asia Land Bird Monitoring Scheme in Jeju, Korea (March 2015) and discussion on the CMS Single Species Action Plan on the Yellow-breasted Bunting in Guangzhou, China (November 2016), and these have generated a high regional interest and supports at the Asian Ornithological Conferences (online November 2021, Beijing November 2024)***
- ***Noting the importance of a flyway-wide framework on research and conservation of the migratory land birds in the East Asian Australasian Flyway will enhance regional cooperation in wildlife conservation.***

MOP 12 Draft Decision: Discussion on the inclusion of migratory land birds into the scope of the EAAFP

Understanding the East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership and its precursor, the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy, was focused on conservation of waterbirds (Ramsar definition).

Recognizing the conservation of migratory land birds has become a very high priority in bird conservation, and establishing another regional framework is costly.

Therefore, we recommend establishing a small committee to discuss the feasibility of inclusion of migratory land birds into the EAAFP, with technical suggestions. The committee should include EAAFP country partners and relevant institutions, such as the Asian Ornithological Alliance and the Eurasian Migratory Landbird team under the CMS. Reports and recommendations from the committee will be presented to MOP 13 for decisions of the Partners.