

## The conservation of the Black-faced Spoonbill

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### History

The first meeting for the conservation of Black-faced Spoonbills *Platalea minor* was held at Rosenheim, Germany during the 21st BirdLife World Conference in August 1994. Participants were from mainland China, North Korea, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Vietnam. It was agreed to develop a conservation action plan to protect this globally threatened species as a project of BirdLife Asia Council. Dr. Liu Severinghaus of the Chinese Wild Bird Federation agreed to take the initiative to develop the conservation action plan of this species and organised a workshop in Taipei in January 1995. The result of the discussion was published in September 1995 as 'Action Plan for the Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*' (Severinghaus *et al.* 1995) and it became a guideline for the protection of this species.

To follow up the Taipei Workshop, the Wild Bird Society of Japan (WBSJ) and the China Ornithological Society held a 'Black-faced Spoonbill Conservation Workshop' on 6-7 May 1996 in Beijing, China. Nineteen scientists from eight countries or areas attended the workshop and detailed actions were discussed and agreed to start. These meetings were the real start of the international action for the conservation of this species. A follow-up workshop in June 1997 was held at WING of the WBSJ in Tokyo.

It was fortunate that we received kind financial support from the Japan Fund for Global Environment (Tokyo) and from the Council of Agriculture (Taiwan).

### Result of Beijing Workshop and its Progress

The agenda discussed at the Beijing Workshop and the actions taken since then are as follows:

#### A) Establishment of a Conservation Network

A conservation network for the Black-faced Spoonbill was established among organizations of the range countries or areas and the WBSJ was nominated as the secretariat.

The members of the network are as follows;

North Korea	Center for Nature Conservation
South Korea	Forestry Institute
	The Ornithological Society of Korea
China Mainland	China Ornithological Society
Hong Kong	Ecosystems Ltd.
Taiwan	Chinese Wild Bird Federation
Vietnam	BirdLife International Vietnam Programme
Japan	Wild Bird Society of Japan

**B) Questionnaire**

To get information on breeding and wintering sites, questionnaires for students, hunters, fishermen and scientists were made in each local language by the WBSJ Research Center and distributed to North and South Korea, China and Russia through the network (Fig. 1). This survey and its results are described by Chong & Pak (1999; pp. 5-9 of these Proceedings).

**C) Breeding Ground Study**

To find new breeding sites, a breeding ground survey was proposed for China and North Korea. Dr. Pak U-Il of the Center for Nature Conservation conducted this survey on islands off the west coast of the Korean Peninsula in 1997 and 1998 and found several new breeding sites. The details are given in Chong & Pak (1999; pp. 5-9 of these Proceedings).

**D) Satellite-tracking of Migration Routes**

Three sites were suggested as being suitable for catching the birds in winter so that they could then be tracked by satellite: the Tseng-Wen River of Taiwan, Maipo Marsh in Hong Kong and the Red River Delta in Vietnam. The study was also started at Maipo and Tseng-Wen River in the winter of 97/98 and 98/99 by the co-operation between WBSJ Research Center, Chinese Wild Bird Federation, WWF Hong Kong and the Yamashina Institute for Ornithology. The various parts of this study are shown in Asia Council, BirdLife International (1999; pp. 39-42 of these Proceedings) and Melville *et al.* (1999; pp. 19-26 of these Proceedings).

**E) Inventory of Important Sites**

To compile a brief inventory of the sites important for the conservation of this species, the WBSJ contacted member organizations to collect information, but the inventory has not been published.

**F) International Census**

To monitor the population trend, it was agreed to hold an annual international census and Ecosystems Ltd. of Hong Kong was nominated as the secretariat. The first census was conducted in January 1997 and the total number of Black-faced Spoonbills was estimated at 530-590. The second census was done in January 1998 and the number was 613. The third one was in January 1999 and the results are now being compiled.

**G) Public Education**

The importance of public education for protecting this species was emphasized and the Chinese Wild Bird Federation published a poster and leaflet in each local language. These were distributed to the public through the network. This work is explained by Severinghaus (1999; pp. 43-46 of these Proceedings).

**H) Promotion of Conservation**

Using the scientific data collected by the above studies or activities, all the member organizations of the network are expected to work for the promotion of the conservation of this species and its habitat.

### 您看过这种鸟没有？



黑脸琵鹭是一种典型的鸟，现在已知的数量不过250只。因此各方面都尽力性保护活动，可是我们对它们的活动的了解不多，也不知道它们的繁殖地、迁徙路线。因此每年，请便留意观察它们，请您通知我们。

### Видели ли вы когда-нибудь эту птицу?



Чернышья кайла относится к оному из самых редких, исчезающих видов птиц нашей страны. В настоящее время их численность составляет всего лишь 250 особей. Сейчас проводится большая работа по их охране, однако существенно не хватает информации о местах обитания, размножения, миграции и зимовки этого вида птиц. Нам необходимо узнать результаты ваших наблюдений. Пожалуйста как можно подробнее расскажите нам любые сведения о ней.

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#### 제어새와 희로병의 차이점

제어새는 희로병과 매우 닮고 있을지라도 다음과 같이 구별됩니다.



제어새  
검은 얼굴과 긴 부리



희로병  
단색 얼굴과 긴 부리



희로병  
목에는 긴 부리를 움직여 넣고 하부는 지어지는데 굵다. 제어새는 부리는 움직이지 않고 부리를 고정해 놓는다.



제어새  
목은 희로병과 비슷



희로병  
목은 두꺼운

#### 제어새는 쉽게 표시하거나, 밑에서 정보를 기입하여 수집시오.

#### 관찰한 희수미 지점

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#### 발견구역명

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어느 정도의 희수미 관찰 되었습니까?  
여섯, 칠, 여덟, 아홉, 열, 열하나

언제 관찰 되었습니까 (월일)?  
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12월

몇 마리가 관찰 되었습니까?  
1마리, 2마리, 3, 4, 5마리, 수십마리, 백여마리

그외 특기할 사항은 어떻게 있습니까?

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성명: \_\_\_\_\_  
 주소: \_\_\_\_\_  
 전화: \_\_\_\_\_  
 팩스: \_\_\_\_\_

Fig. 1. Questionnaire to find breeding and wintering sites of Black-faced Spoonbills.

### Future Actions

The International Census is very important, not only to monitor the population trend but also to raise the interest of the researchers and the general public in the conservation of this species. It is very much expected that this programme will continue in the future. By satellite-tracking, the important areas for stopover and for breeding will become known, and all of these can be expected to be well protected by the respective local governments. Naturally the network will work to encourage and support these governments for this purpose. Although there are many problems remaining for the protection of this species at its wintering sites in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Vietnam, the main wintering sites are basically protected as nature reserves or by other systems. For the stopover points and breeding sites, and in particular for the breeding sites, once we find new sites, we should work for protecting them. As was done for cranes, an international network of the important sites for the conservation of this species will be needed. The Northeast Asia Crane Site Network would be a good model.

The details will be discussed again at a future meeting of the members of the network.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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