

# Threats to migratory birds

## Overhunting

Many birds are hunted for food, pet trade or mercy release. In many cases, these practices are illegal. Good legislation and enforcement are required in each country in order to reduce poaching.



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## Habitat destruction

Wetlands and grassland habitats are diminishing because of development and conversion into farmlands. Protected areas should be designated at suitable habitats. Climate change will also result in environmental changes.



## Agrochemicals

Excessive use of agrochemicals can reduce the number of insects that birds feed on. The accumulation of agrochemicals in the body will also affect the survival of the birds. Awareness raising on the appropriate use of such chemicals is important especially in the Southeast Asian countries.



## Safeguarding nature with community

The above threats cannot all be solved just by the law enforcement of government agencies. Education and raising awareness in the local community is also essential. The more people understand the issues, the easier is to change public attitude towards wildlife.



## Join the Bird Monitoring Team Monitoring Sites 1000 Land Bird Survey

This monitoring scheme is a program of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan. It is managed jointly by the Wild Bird Society of Japan and the Japan Bird Research Association. Surveyors are always welcome. If you are in Japan and interested to participate, please contact:

Monitoring Sites 1000 Office  
Nature Conservation Division,  
Wild Bird Society of Japan  
Tel: 03-5436-2633 Fax: 03-5436-2635  
e-mail: [moni@wbsj.org](mailto:moni@wbsj.org)

## Learn more about the East Asia Land Bird Monitoring Scheme

The coordinator of the scheme is based at the BirdLife International Tokyo Office.

Contact:  
BirdLife International Tokyo  
Tel: 03-6204-2941 Fax: 03-6204-2942  
e-mail: [simba.chan@birdlife.org](mailto:simba.chan@birdlife.org)

## Supporting Organizations



◆ You can download this leaflet from the websites below.



Wild Bird Society of Japan  
<https://www.wbsj.org/activity/conservation/research-study/monitoring1000/>



Japan Bird Research Association  
[https://www.bird-research.jp/1\\_katsudo/forest/moni.html](https://www.bird-research.jp/1_katsudo/forest/moni.html)

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# Let's study and record birds of Asia

~ Monitoring and conservation of land birds in Asia ~



In Asia, we know some land birds are suffering great decline. Our familiar species may also be disappearing gradually. We need a scientific and international scheme to understand the situation and revert the decline.

< In this leaflet, the term 'land birds' refers to migratory birds that live in forest and grassland. >



# Are migratory land birds decreasing?

Some species of land birds in Asia, such as the Yellow-breasted Bunting and the Rustic Bunting, are known to be declining in numbers.

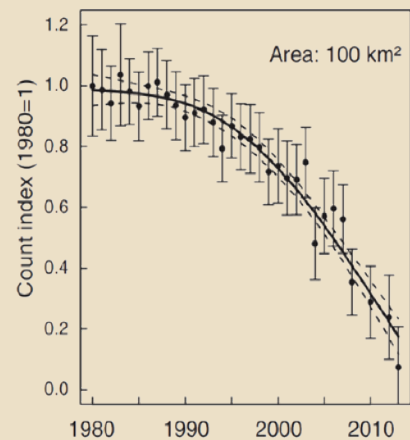


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The Yellow-breasted Bunting has suffered a drastic decline in recent decades. In 2002 it was still ranked as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List, but in 2017, after the decline was found to be over 80% globally within three generations, it was uplisted as Critically Endangered.



Deduction of population trend of the Yellow-breasted Bunting from monitoring results of nine sites over Eurasia. In 2013 the population was 84.3 - 94.7% diminished when compared with that of 1980 (Kamp et al. 2015)

Not only the two species mentioned above, other land birds using the same migratory routes are also likely to be affected by poaching, agrochemicals and climate change. However, we do not know the precise trends of population and distribution changes of most species. To understand the status of migratory land birds and to promote conservation of important habitats, we need a long-term monitoring system covering locations along the flyway.

## Land bird monitoring in Asia

The publication of 'Silent Spring' in 1962 triggered a growing concern on environmental issues in western countries. Since the 1970s, more than 20 European countries started their land bird monitoring scheme with good progress in citizen science.

On the other hand, in Asia we still lack a joint system of monitoring. We almost have no information on population status of many species.



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Since 2003

### Monitoring Sites 1000

The Ministry of the Environment of Japan designated monitoring sites all over Japan for long-term collection of fundamental environmental information in order to understand the changes in quality and quantity of environmental factors at earlier stages.

The land bird monitoring under this program is the only nationwide well-covered scheme in Asia. Over 400 monitoring sites in Japan with about 600 surveyors participated. For long-term continuation of data supply, we need more people to join this monitoring scheme.

<http://www.biodic.go.jp/moni1000/index.html>

## The start of international cooperation of land bird monitoring in East Asia

Japan, P.R.China, Republic of Korea, and Russia launched the East Asia Land Bird Monitoring Scheme in March 2015, under the bilateral convention and agreements on the conservation of migratory birds, because all four countries showed the common concern on decline of migratory land birds in Asia in the meetings.

In the meetings in 2018, the four countries decided to compile information of bunting species based on banding results. The Monitoring Sites 1000 Scheme of Japan could serve as a model for developing monitoring schemes in other Asian countries too.

