CONNECTING PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE EAST ASIAN-AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY WITH COORDINATED OUTREACH

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EAAFP Technical Committee and CEPA Working Group

Photo: M. Robards/WCS

PRESENTATION IN MEMORY OF DR. LEW YOUNG

Photo - Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands (SCPW).

Lew Young, Chief of the EAAFP Secretariat with a group of Philippine students and their teacher.

WHAT IS EAAFP?

The East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) works to ensure migratory birds and their habitats are recognized and conserved for the benefit of people and biodiversity.

Made up of partners including Governments, International Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and Inter-Governmental organizations.

Alaskans Leading at EAAFP:

-Pete Probasco, FWS retired, EAAFP Chair

-Rick Lanctot, FWS, Shorebird Working Group Chair

-Robb Kaler, FWS, Seabird Working Group Chair

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Proposed Qupałuk East Asian-Australasian Flyway Site

BLM Alaska / December 2016

Background

The East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) is an informal and voluntary organization focusing on the protection of migratory waterbirds, their habitats and the livelihoods of people dependent upon them. The EAAFP is currently comprised of 31 partners including 17 national governments, five inter-governmental organizations, 10 international non-governmental organizations, and one international private enterprise. One objective of the EAAFP is to develop a network of flyway sites for the conservation of migratory waterbirds. A flyway site is an area recognized by EAAFP that supports internationally important habitat for migratory waterbirds. There are 123 flyway sites designated in 17 countries. Currently, there is only one site located in North America, which is located in the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge in western Alaska.

In October 2014, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) asked BLM to advance the nomination of the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area (TLSA) of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) for inclusion in the EAAFP Flyway Site Network. During summer 2016, BLM presented the concept at five different events – four of which were with Alaska Native-lead organizations around the NPR-A. The feedback received was useful in determining how to proceed with a proposed flyway site.

Proposal

- BLM Alaska is proposing 52,000 acres within the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area in the northeast corner of the NPR-A.
- The proposed site name is Qupałuk East Asian-Australasian Flyway Network Site. Qupałuk (coo-pa-luke) is the Iñupiat word for small shorebird.

Rationale

- The proposed flyway site was chosen to avoid conflict with any other potential land uses.
- In an area already identified as "unavailable to leasing" and "no new non-subsistence infrastructure."
- Avoids subsistence camps and cabins.
- Sites are voluntary and can be removed from the network by the manager at any time.

Management

- Site management is suitable to existing management framework.
- Waterbird values of the site are maintained and enhanced, where possible.
- Subsistence use of the area is encouraged to continue as part of the site management.

Audubon Spring 2017 Newsletter

DIRECTOR'S VIEWPOINT

Qupałuk (coopa-luke)

By Nils Warnock

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Consequently, one of the highlights of my trip was the celebration of the nomination of a second EAAFP flyway site in Alaska – the *Qupałuk EAAF network site*. Thanks to the dedicated efforts by Alaska staff from the Bureau of Land Management and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, an area just north of Teshekpuk Lake in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska was successfully nominated as a network site for breeding Dunlin of the *arcticola* race. This population is on Audubon's Red WatchList because of population declines attributed to habitat loss on its wintering grounds, particularly at the Yellow Sea. Fittingly, the site name, Qupałuk (coopa-luke), stems from the Iñupiat word for small shorebird. The nomination symbolizes to me, as did my trip to far-flung Singapore, just how connected birds are to different parts of the globe and how disparate the challenges are to keeping our bird populations healthy.

WHAT IS CEPA?

CEPA - Communication, Education, Participation, and Awareness

EAAFP CEPA Working Group strives to raise awareness of the Flyway and its importance so that people at local, national, and international levels participate in and support actions that will contribute to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitat.

The EAAFP CEPA Action Plan is targeted at diverse implementers of the EAAFP, such as the Secretariat, Government Focal Point, Inter-governmental Organization, International NGO, Site and Visitor Center Managers, CEPA Working Group, and EAAFP Task Forces.

CEPA ACTION PLAN

TARGETS, ACTIONS & INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

TARGET LEVELS & DETAILS	PREFERRED STATUS TO BE ACHIEVED	CEPA ACTIONS AND KEY IMPLEMENTERS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVING THE PREFERRED STATUS	KEY INDICATORS OF SUCCESS
1. FOCAL POINT (FP) (includes ALL FPs, - Government, IGOs, INGOs and Corporate Sectors)	FPs understand the benefits of joining the EAAFP & Flyway Site Network (FSN) and are actively engaged in their respective roles in promoting and implementing the EAAFP & its objectives (conservation of migratory waterbirds, and their habitats).	• Secretariat sends welcome letters to new FPs to introduce their role and to update them on the current implementation of the Partnership in their country. • Secretariat provides information, materials, and training to FPs to support implementation. • Secretariat creates a calendar of EAAFP related events including those at Flyway Network Sites (FNSs) as a way of sharing events and encouraging all FPs within countries to run awareness-raising events. • FPs develop effective information distribution systems for their country/network. • FPs identify a CEPA point of contact for each country in the flyway.	Percentage of actively engaged FPs. Number of national newsletter, mailing list communication, flyer etc. developed.
2. GOVERNMENT (a) Partner Government (Gov) FP	Gov FPs play a coordination role in national CEPA activities by: • promoting National Partnerships to raise awareness and achieve participation of relevant agencies and migratory	• Secretariat encourages Gov FPs to develop National Partnerships. • Gov FPs build National Partnerships and encourage participation of migratory waterbird experts to share their knowledge on migratory waterbirds and their management. • Gov FPs provide access to seed funds as an incentive	Number of active and effective National Partnerships. Number of Sister Site agreements

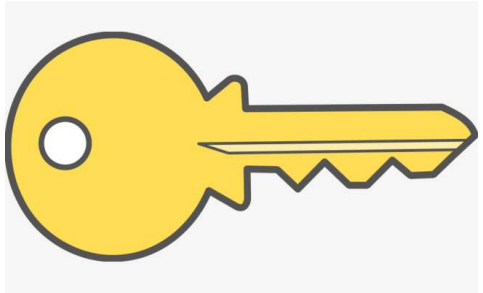
Workshop Goal: Share experiences and case studies so that we can learn from each other and discuss opportunities for working closer together in the future.

CEPA WORKSHOP

Representatives from South Korea, Russia, Japan, Philippines, Myanmar, North Korea, China, Singapore, New Zealand, Australia, USA, EAAFP Secretariat, and National Geographic

The CEPA Working Group Delegation. Photo - SCPW

KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL CEPA ACTIONS



* Strong commitment/support from the community – Australia
* Working closely with local communities to find a joint solution for protection of the birds – Russia
* Having a champion to push the activity along – USA
* Flexibility and persistence in approach – USA
* Successful engagement with key government decision makers – Myanmar
* Collaboration with a range of partners – Hong Kong
* Keep it simple – so that language and having many partners are not barriers – Hong Kong
* Longevity and continuity for sustainability – Singapore
* Needs to benefit people as well as birds – Russia
* Local economic incentive – Philippines

HONG KONG CHINA AND OTHERS – JOURNEY OF THE SPOONBILL SANDPIPER

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INu1Z5xHeWQ

500 children

12 locations in 8 countries

Each child colored one picture, which were digitally stitched together into an animation and shared back with the schools

Available in English and Mandarin Chinese

NEW ZEALAND – THE FLOCK

Pūkorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre

Designed to raise awareness of bar-tailed godwit and red knot

Volunteers cut wooden templates and children colored them, then they planted the flock in public places

Targeted children initially, but attracted many adults

Flocks may migrate

Easily replicated in other countries

NORTH KOREA

Accepted as the 18th country in EAAFP Dec 2018

Sent two participants to the Workshop

Presented on conservation issues and outreach opportunities

Many overlapping issues with the rest of the flyway

Interested in spoonbill sandpiper monitoring collaboration

PHILIPPINES

Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands trains famers to manage cropland for birds and lead bird tours.

Only 90 minutes north of Manila, this area has great potential to attract wildlife watchers while maintaining agricultural production.

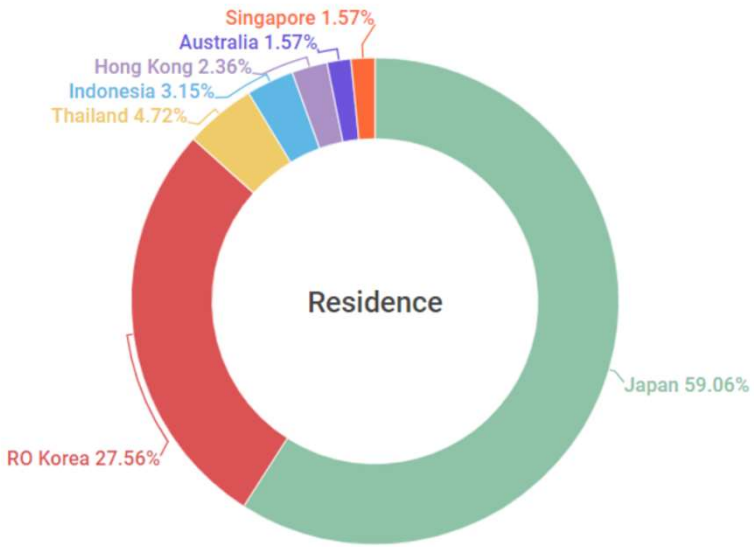
Economic benefits should encourage bird conservation.

Touring rice fields with local farmers.
Photo - SCPW

Local farmers, who now also operate as tour guides.
Photo - SCPW

Birds of the Philippines (from top left, clockwise): common kingfisher, long-tailed shrike, purple heron, chestnut munia, white-collared kingfisher, black-winged stilt. Photos - BLM

KNOT DRAWING CONTEST



Red knots and great knots

Open to all countries in EAAF for 4 months in 2018

Outreach in 4 languages

Three groups (children, teenagers, adults)

149 pictures submitted

Judged on message: intent, clarity, uniqueness, attractiveness, craftsmanship, and complexity

A lonely knot (Jio Lee, South Korea)

Hoping for Harmonious Home (Ho Wan Ching, Hong Kong)

Harmonic Living with Red Knots (Ratih Dewanti, Indonesia)

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MIGRATORY BIRD YOUTH SEMINAR

National Geographic-sponsored seminar for ~150 high school students from the metro Manila area.

Students were eager to learn, and have not had much exposure to natural habitats and migratory birds.

Presentations focused on birds, habitat, and various research and monitoring activities from throughout the flyway.

Field trip to one of the only patches of natural habitat in the Manila area.

Bird watching with a group of Philippine students at the NatGeo Migratory Bird Youth Seminar. Photo - SCPW

BLM STORY

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Tundra to the Tropics

Alaska's Migratory Birds Bring People Together

Casey and New Zealand delegate with local farmers, who now also operate as tour guides.

With the tropical sun beating down, I peer through my binoculars and scan a rice field where the seasonal monsoon flood is finally receding. Sweat beads up, making it difficult to focus through the lenses. There are so many birds here, including species that are completely new to me. The purple herons, whiskered terns, little and great egrets, greenshanks, and long-tailed shrikes are exciting to see, but they aren't the reason I'm here. Then I see it! A medium-sized shorebird, heavily streaked with a bright white belly. This is a pectoral sandpiper, a bird that may have nested on the arctic tundra, then traveled halfway around the world, and is now here, like me, in the Philippines.

Although not obvious at first, the connections between our very different countries became very apparent to me during my week in the Philippines. We share a number of migratory birds, primarily shorebirds and a few songbirds. Our countries provide different components of what these migratory birds need to survive during ...

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Despite many differences, collaborating on migratory bird conservation can bring people and countries closer together, and can be a model for other international issues.

Photo - SCPW

POTENTIAL COLLABORATION TOPICS

Bar-tailed godwit

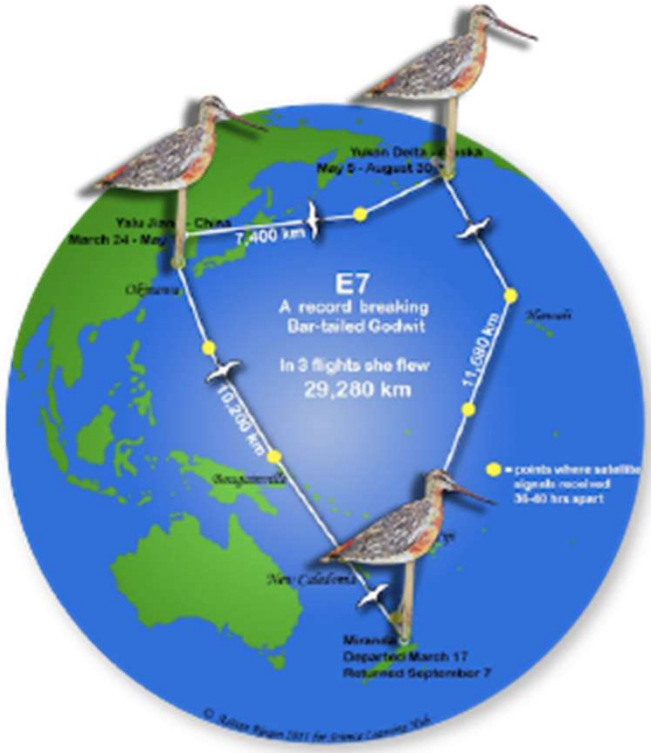
Red knot

Pacific golden plover

Plastic garbage

Festival support and coordination

Other flyways



EXCHANGES

Biologists and managers visit offices and field sites in partner countries to learn about research, management, outreach, and build relationships.

MY COMMITMENT

To share CEPA ideas and inspiration in Alaska, get more Alaskans involved, and increase collaboration.

WHAT ARE YOUR IDEAS?

Can I help you connect with our partners?

Photo: M. Robards/WCS

CEPA – NOT JUST FOR THE PUBLIC!

Engage decision makers.

THANK YOU!

Casey Burns

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