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# East Asian - Australasian Flyway (EAAF) and The Importance of Migratory Birds

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# OUTLINE

- I. Bird Migration
- II. Nine Major Flyways
- III. EAAF
- IV. Threats to Bird Migration
- V. Multi-lateral Agreements
- VI. ERDB Bird Migration Research



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## Why are migratory birds important?

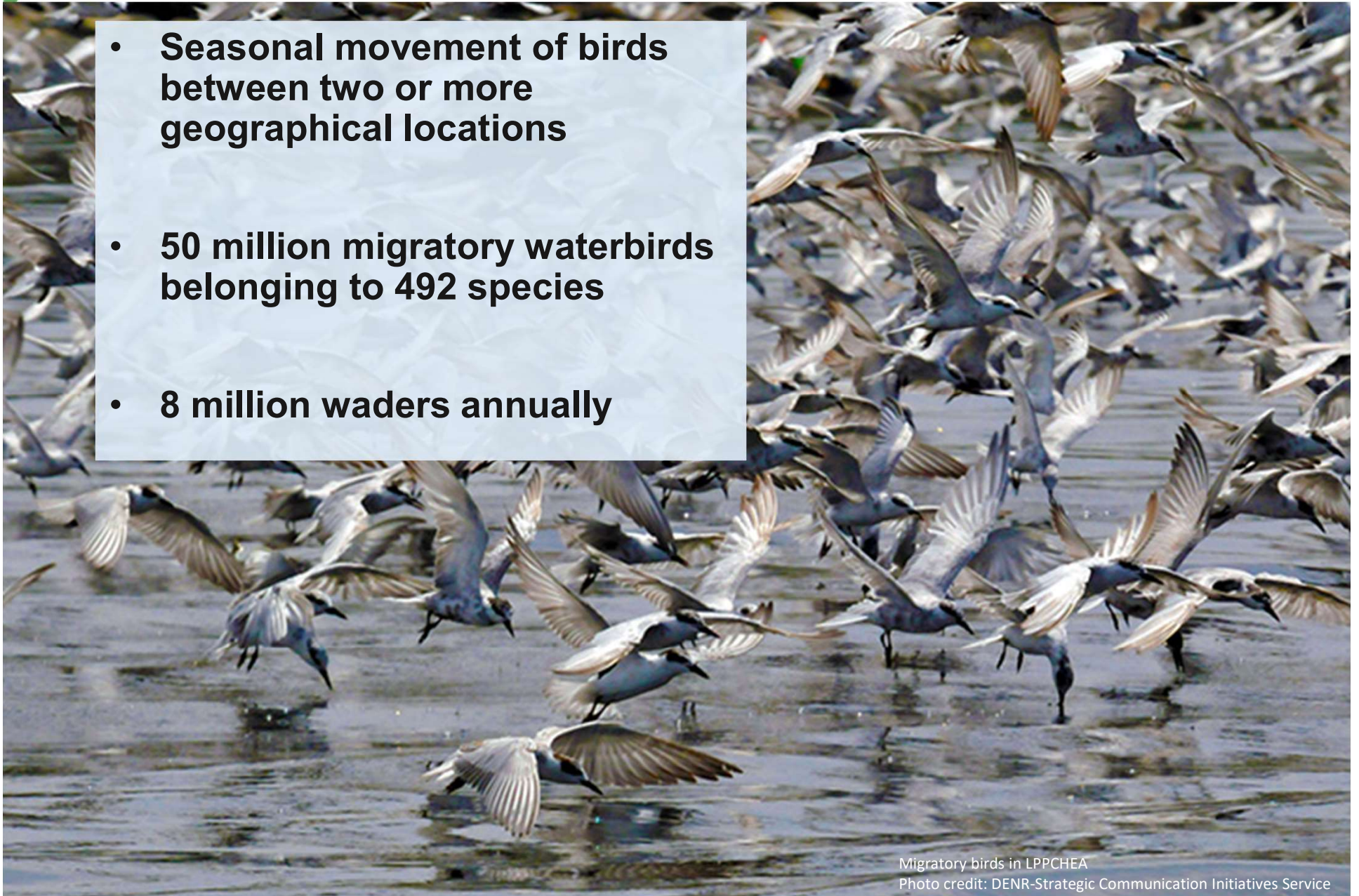


Photo credit: The Wetlands Centre Cockburn



# BIRD MIGRATION

- Seasonal movement of birds between two or more geographical locations
- 50 million migratory waterbirds belonging to 492 species
- 8 million waders annually



Migratory birds in LPPCHEA  
Photo credit: DENR-Strategic Communication Initiatives Service

## Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)

Made a non-stop flight of over 11,000 kilometers from Alaska to New Zealand in eight days, **without a single stopover!**







Greater Sandplover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*)  
Photo credit: BirdLife International



Tufted Ducks (*Aythya fuligula*)  
Photo credit: Alain Pascua



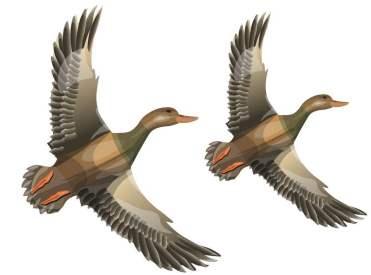
Whimbrel (*Numenius tahitiensis*)  
Photo credit: Jono Hordovilla

# BIRD MIGRATION PATTERN

**August to September**  
before winter in the North



**September to November**  
Birds fly South to warmer countries



**November to March**  
Birds live in warmer countries



**March to April**  
Northward migration

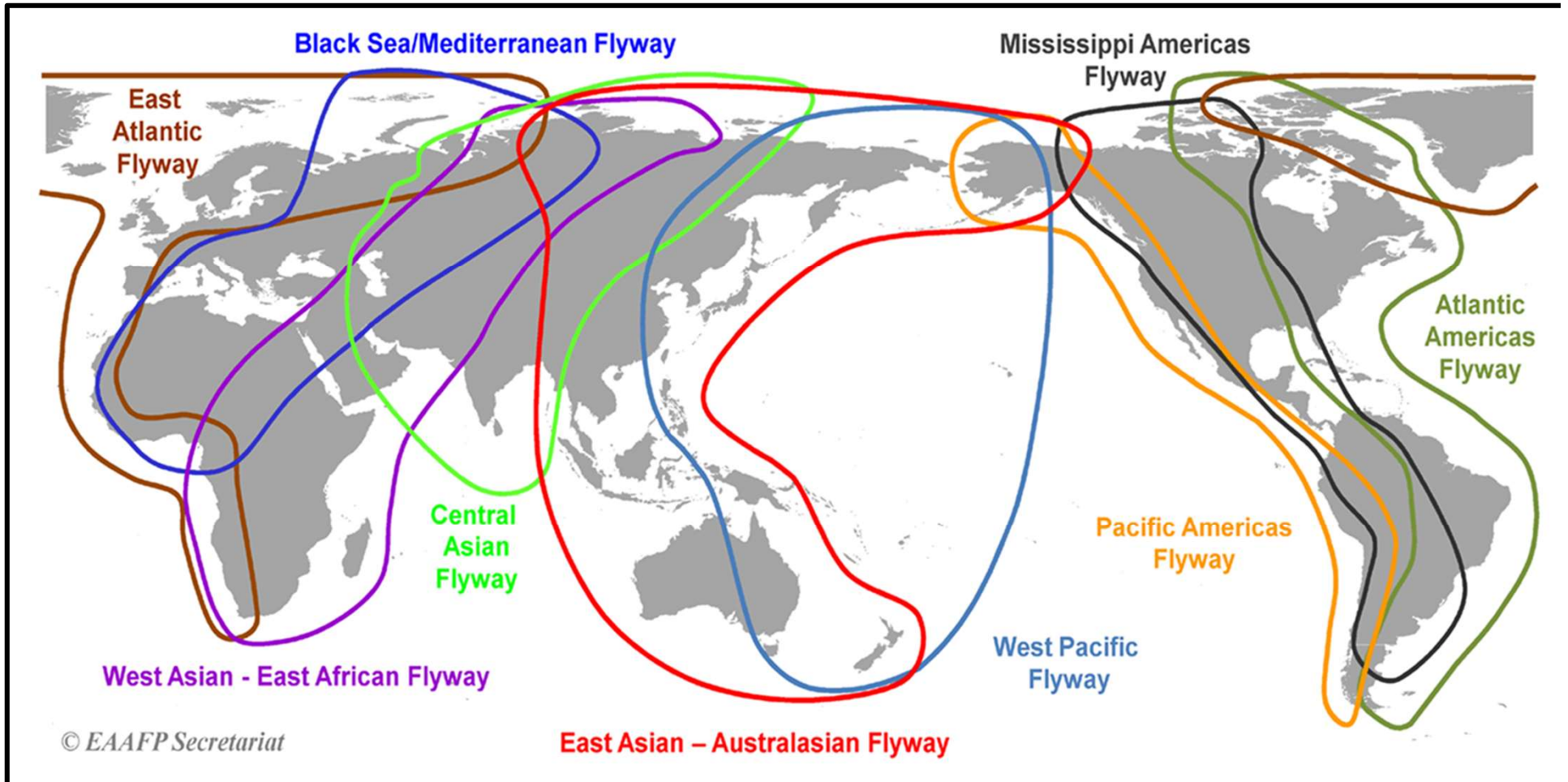


**May to June**  
Ready for breeding



**June to July**  
Nesting in North Arctic

# Nine Major Flyways

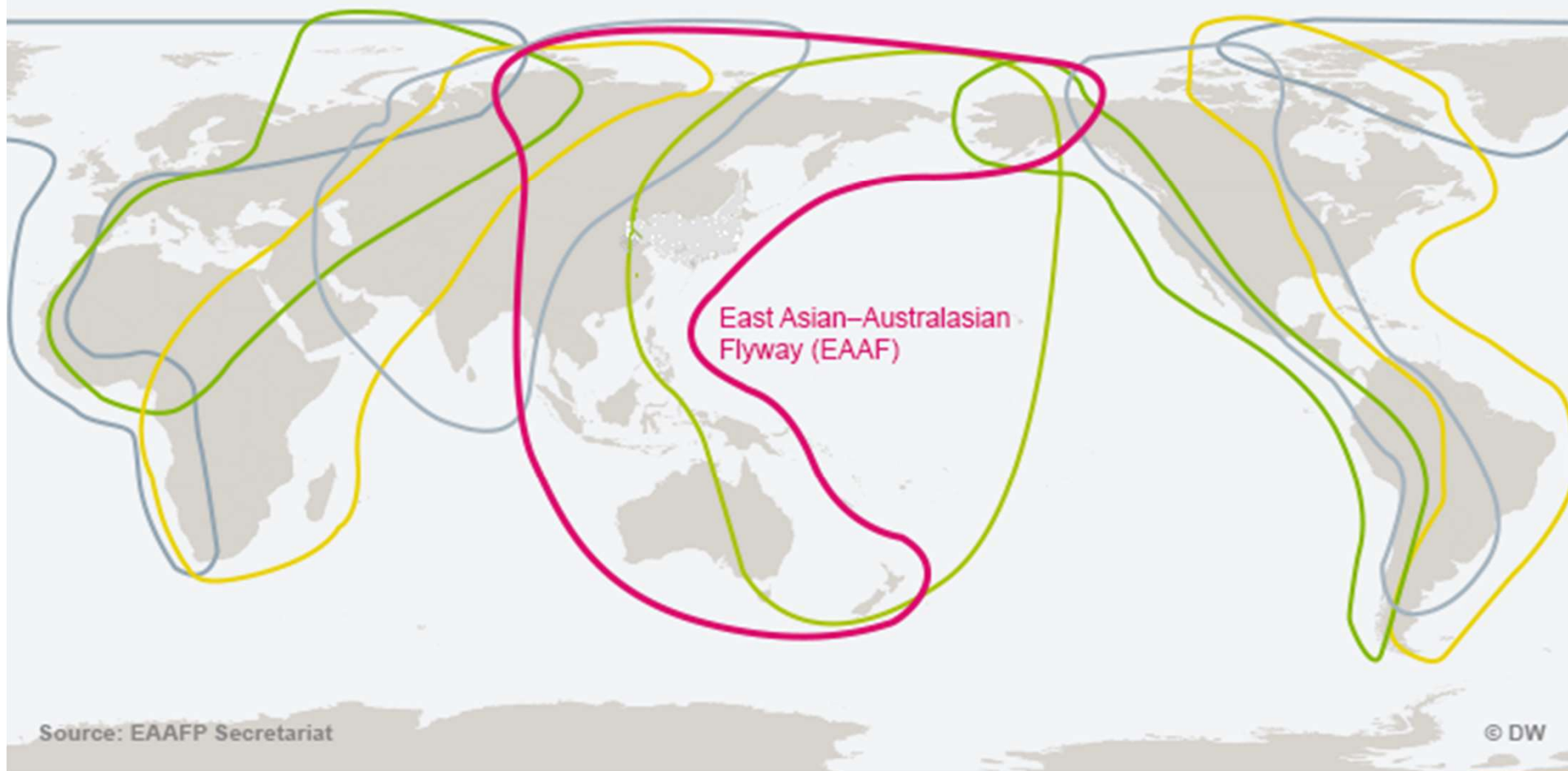


“Flyway”- routes that migratory waterbirds traverse on an annual basis



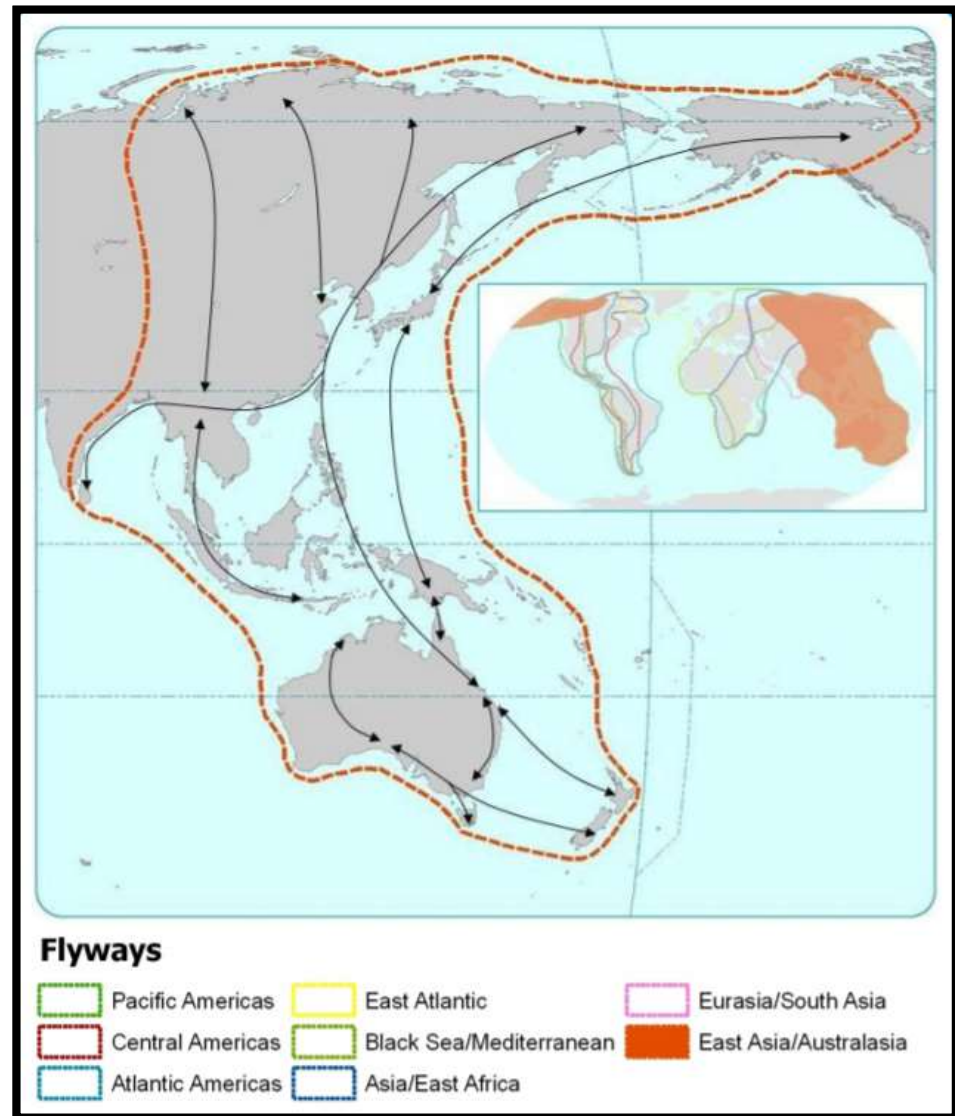
# East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF)

Migratory birds and their flyways



# East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF)

- extends from Arctic Russia and North America to the southern limits of Australia and New Zealand
- Home to over 50 million migratory waterbirds from over 250 different populations, including 33 globally threatened species
- EAAF has the most proportion of threatened species



Source: BirdLife International



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EAAF

# East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership

- Adopted in the list of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) as a Type II initiative – an informal and voluntary initiative, was launched on 6 November 2006,
- Aims to protect migratory waterbirds, their habitat and the livelihoods of people dependent upon them
- Partners include governments, inter-governmental agencies international non-government organizations and international business sector



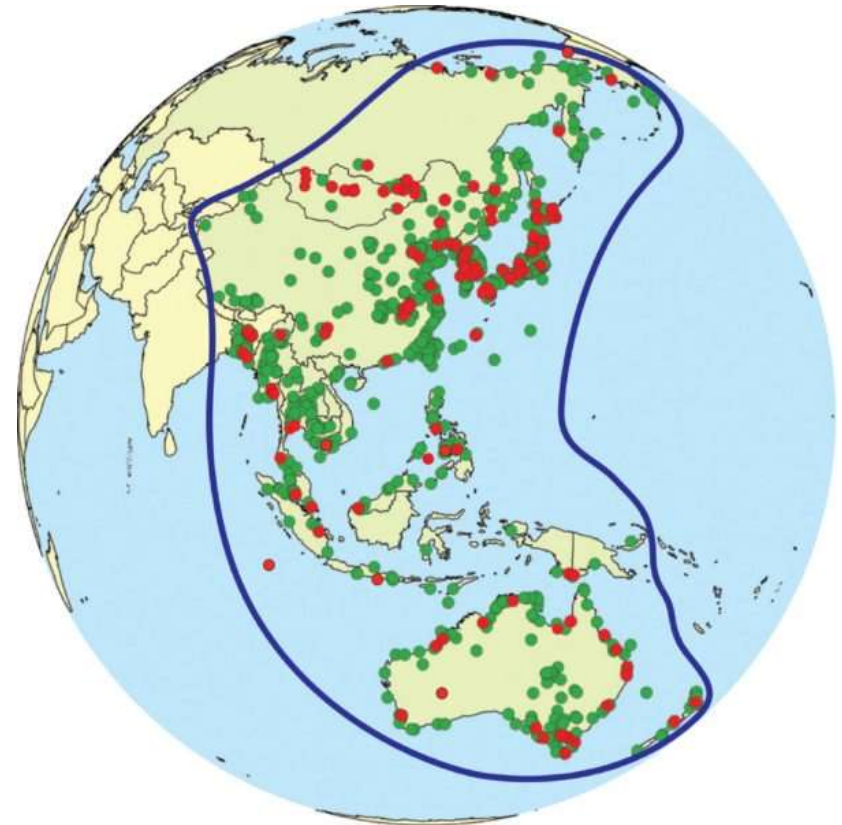
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EAAF

## FLYWAY SITE NETWORK

- ensure that a network of internationally important sites are sustainably managed to support the long-term survival of migratory waterbirds within the EAAF
- 144 flyway site networks



Green dots indicate important sites for migratory waterbirds and red dots indicate sites in the Flyway Site Network.

Source: [www.eaaflyway.net](http://www.eaaflyway.net)



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# THREATS

**Climate Change**



**Pollution and IAS**



**Illegal hunting**



**Habitat degradation and fragmentation**



**Emerging diseases**





# Rapid Urbanization and Land Reclamation

## Tokyo Bay

1945



2018





# Rapid Urbanization and Land Reclamation

## Lantau Island



Photo from Google Images

Rapid Urbanization and Land Reclamation

## Bohai Bay at Yellow Sea



Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*) Vulnerable to ENDANGERED

Photos from Google Images

# Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs)



Convention on Migratory  
Species of Animals (CMS)



Ramsar Convention  
(Convention on Wetlands)



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

Convention on Biodiversity (CBD)



# ERDB Bird Migration Research

- ERDB funded R & D Project Titled “Surveillance of Migratory Waterbirds in Urban and Peri-Urban wetlands in relation to climate change”
- ERDB held the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Congress: R and D on Wetlands and Migratory Water Birds Conservation in 2014
- 2nd R&D Congress on EAAF for Wetlands and Migratory Waterbirds in the Course of Climate Change in October 2019



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**Take part in the protection  
and conservation of  
wetlands and migratory  
birds!**





# Thank you!



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