

WI-IUCN SSC Duck Specialist Group

2016-2017 Report



Richard Hearn

Chair

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Red List Authority Coordinator

BirdLife International

Location/Affiliation

Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge,
Gloucestershire GL2 7BT, UK

Number of members

217



Mission statement

The Duck Specialist Group (DSG) works to generate and disseminate knowledge and best practice between members and others with an interest in duck conservation and management, and to ensure priority issues for duck conservation are identified and addressed.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Barometer of life

■ Red List

i. Information on the status of Maccoa Duck was gathered and provided to BirdLife International's Globally Threatened Bird Forum. (KSR #4)

Capacity building

■ Technical advice

i. English language version of ONCFS Duck Wings guide was translated and published. Details of how to obtain a hard copy or download are available at <http://www.ducksg.org/projects/duckwings/>. (KSR #27)

Communications

■ Communication

- i. Website maintained and regularly updated <http://www.ducksg.org/>. (KSR #28)
- ii. Email forum maintained and regularly used by members.

Conservation action

■ Research activities

i. Study of sex ratio of Common Pochard in the Western Palearctic. The census was undertaken in January 2016 and the results were published in: Brides, K., K.A. Wood, R.D. Hearn & T.P.M. Fijen. 2017. Changes in the sex ratio of the Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* in Europe and North Africa. *Wildfowl* 67: 100-112. (KSR #12)

ii. Flyway maps for all South American duck populations drafted and submitted to Wetlands International for review.

iii. Flyway maps for all East Asian duck populations drafted and submitted to Wetlands International for review.

■ Synergy

i. African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) European Seaduck International Working Group (ESIWG) established; work on the implementation of action plans for Long-tailed Duck and Velvet Scoter will begin in 2018-19. (KSR #29)

■ Technical advice

i. Through AEWA and the BirdLife International EUROSAP project, a Velvet Scoter Action Planning workshop was held in October 2016 and the draft plan submitted to AEWA and EUROSAP in November 2017. We expect the plan to be adopted by Parties to AEWA in December 2018. (KSR #27)

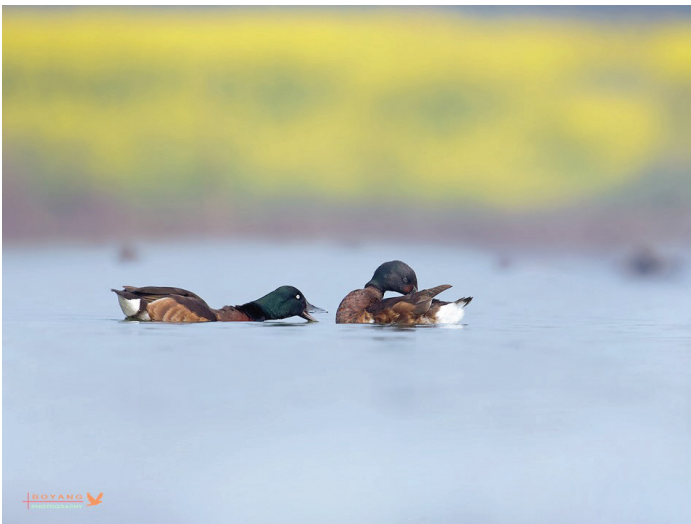
Acknowledgements

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Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*), Vulnerable
Photo: John Anderson



Steller's Eider flock (*Polysticta stelleri*), Vulnerable, Kiberg, Norway
Photo: Biotope



Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*), Critically Endangered
Photo: Luo Jianhong



Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*), Vulnerable
Photo: John Anderson

throughout 2016-17: Matthieu Guillemain (Europe), Doug Harebottle (Africa) and Diana Solovyeva (North Asia).

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Conservation action

Conservation activities: support the implementation of action plans for Baer's Pochard, Scaly-sided Merganser, Long-tailed Duck and Velvet Scoter.

Research activities: (1) support the development of monitoring in East Asia and Africa; (2) status assessment of migratory ducks in East Asian-Australasian flyway; (3) status assessment process embedded into East Asian- Australasian Flyway Partnership; (4) support the development of national duck wing schemes in Europe; (5) support the development of national hunting bag monitoring schemes in Europe; (6) undertake assessment of status of global duck hunting; (7) develop guidance on the use of telemetry techniques for ducks.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

By the end of 2020, we envisage: (1) significant improvements in the implementation of actions plans for key threatened taxa (working with partners including the Threatened Waterfowl SG) - Baer's Pochard, Scaly-sided Merganser, Long-tailed Duck and Velvet Scoter; (2) improved knowledge of the conservation status of ducks in key flyways, particularly the East Asian-Australasian flyway; (3) improvements in sustainable management of huntable ducks in Europe, especially Common Pochard, through collaborative projects with game management organisations and authorities; (4) improved understanding of the scale of duck hunting in other global flyways; (5) development of a more diverse membership, particularly in under-represented regions such as South America and Australasia; (6) maintenance of communication tools; (7) provision of guidance on best practice for fieldwork methods, particularly telemetry techniques.

Falcatid Duck (*Mareca falcata*), Near Threatened
Photo: John Anderson



Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 4/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (40 activities)
- Capacity building (3 activities)
- Communications (7 activities)
- Conservation action (8 activities)

Main KSRs addressed: 4, 12, 27, 28, 29

KSR: Key Species Result