

IUCN SSC Duck Specialist Group

2018 Report



Richard Hearn

Chair

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Red List Authority Coordinator

BirdLife International

Location/Affiliation

Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge,
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Number of members

230

Social networks

Website:
www.ducksg.org



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.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we envisage: (1) significant improvements in the implementation of action plans for key threatened taxa (working with partners including the Threatened Waterfowl Specialist Group): Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*), Scaly-sided Merganser (*Mergus squamatus*), Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) and Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*); (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 (*Aythya ferina*), 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.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Research activities: (1) support the development of monitoring in East Asia; (2) support the development of monitoring in Africa; (3) status assessment of migratory ducks in the East Asian-Australasian flyway; (4) status assessment process embedded into the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership; (5) support the development of national duck wing schemes in Europe; (6) support the development of national hunting bag monitoring schemes in Europe; (7) undertake assessment of the status of global duck hunting; (8) support Arctic seaduck monitoring in East Asia.

Plan

Planning: (1) support the implementation of action plans for Baer's Pochard, Scaly-sided Merganser, Long-tailed Duck and Velvet Scoter; (2) develop action plan for Common Pochard with the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA).

Network

Capacity building: develop guidance on the use of telemetry techniques for ducks.



Spectacled Eider (*Somateria fischeri*),
Near Threatened
Photo: John Anderson



Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*),
Vulnerable, Slimbridge
Photo: James S. Lees

Activities and results 2018

Assess

Research activities

i. Data management and trend analysis training is ongoing in the Yangtze floodplain, China (a key wintering region for migratory ducks), with the next coordinated survey planned for January 2020; Baer's Pochard Task Force is supporting surveys for Baer's Pochard which also supports baseline monitoring of all water-birds. (KSR #12)

ii. The status assessment of migratory ducks in the East Asian-Australasian flyway was completed as a paper for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) 10th Meeting of Partners (MOP10) in December 2018, in collaboration with Wetlands International, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and WWF China. The paper supported the establishment of a formal status assessment process for all EAAF migratory waterbird populations under EAAFP, which will begin at MOP11. (KSR #12)

iii. A new duck wing scheme has been initiated in the UK by the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) in 2018/19, and translation of the Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (ONCFS) wing guide into Italian and Finnish is underway. (KSR #33)

iv. Work is ongoing to develop advanced statistical methods, establish national schemes in UK and France, and work with AEWA to prioritise huntable duck species for flyway-scale harvest management. (KSR #33)

v. Planning is underway for an assessment of the status of duck hunting in the East Asian-Australasian flyway. (KSR #33)

Plan

Planning

i. Action Plans for Baer's Pochard and Scaly-sided Merganser: good progress with a number of actions, as well as the first international workshop on Baer's Pochard held in China in March 2018 and third international Scaly-sided Merganser workshop held in China in December 2018. Action Plans for Long-tailed Duck and Velvet Scoter: Velvet Scoter action plan adopted by AEWA Parties in 2018 and the first European Seaduck International Working Group meeting will be held in Germany in March 2020. (KSR #31)

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

Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 2/5

Assess	5	
Plan	1	

Main KSRs addressed: 12, 31, 33

KSR: Key Species Result