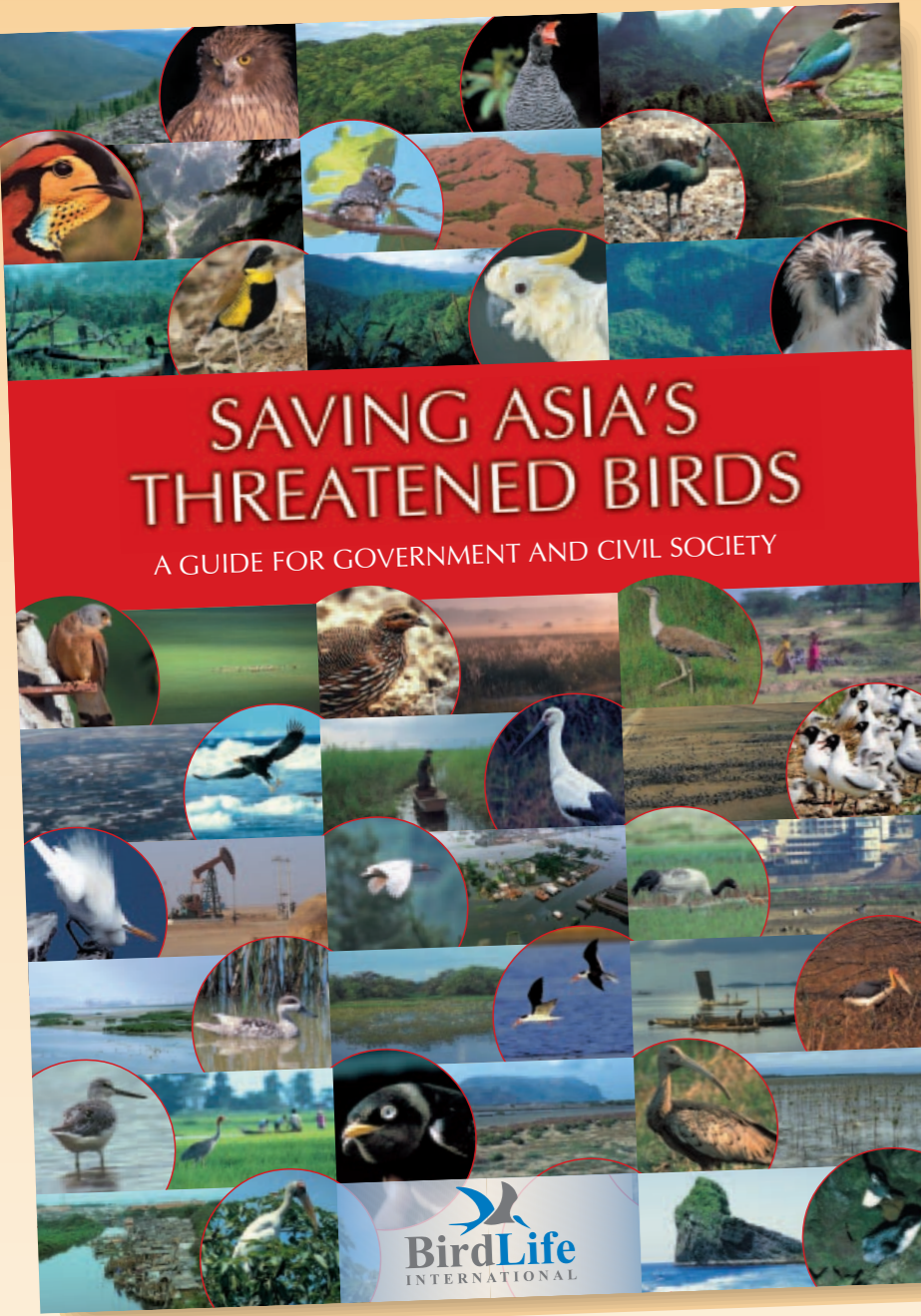


KEY REGIONS FOR CONSERVATION



ASIA: BIRDS, HABITATS AND PEOPLE

Asia has a large and growing human population, and some of the world's most dynamic national economies. As a consequence, the region is experiencing rapid environmental change and many of Asia's diverse habitats and the immensely rich wildlife are under great pressure.

THE ASIA RED DATA BOOK

In 2001, BirdLife International published *Threatened birds of Asia: the BirdLife International Red Data Book*. It contained thousands of recommendations for conservation action for the region's more than 300 threatened bird species. These proposals are further developed in *Saving Asia's threatened birds: a guide for government and civil society*.

ACTION FOR ASIA'S THREATENED BIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS

Saving Asia's threatened birds identifies 33 habitat regions (nine forest, three grassland and 20 wetland, and sites for threatened seabirds) as priority areas for conservation. It documents the groups of threatened bird species in each of these habitat regions, with proposals on how to address habitat loss and degradation, important gaps in national protected areas networks, unsustainable hunting and trapping, and gaps in knowledge of threatened birds.

Threatened Birds of Asia
Threatened birds of Asia: the BirdLife International Red Data Book and *Saving Asia's threatened birds* are both available, at cost price, from:
 NHBS Mailorder Bookstore, 2-3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5AX, UK.
 Tel. +44(0)1803 865913,
 Fax +44(0)1803 865280,
 email sales@nhbs.co.uk
 The full species accounts from *Threatened birds of Asia: the BirdLife International Red Data Book* can also be downloaded from: <http://www.rdb.or.id/>

BirdLife International works in more than 100 countries. BirdLife demonstrates the value of birds and how, through the links between birds, habitats and people, birds can make a difference to the quality of life on earth. By focusing on bird species, and the sites and habitats on which they depend, BirdLife can help to improve the world for biodiversity and people. www.birdlife.org



F04: Floating logs illustrate the scale of clear-felling in south-central China before a recent logging ban. There is now an opportunity to protect and manage remaining forests under the National Forest Protection Program.



- FOREST REGIONS**
 Figures are number of threatened bird species (number unique to the region)
- F01 Boreal and northern temperate forests 6 (4)
 - F02 Japanese forests 11 (10)
 - F03 South-east Chinese forests 12 (10)
 - F04 Sino-Himalayan mountain forests 28 (28)
 - F05 Indian peninsula and Sri Lankan forests 14 (12)
 - F06 Indo-Burmese forests 24 (18)
 - F07 Sundaland forests 47 (38)
 - F08 Wallacea 51 (39)
 - F09 Philippine forests 58 (54)

F05: Forest Owlet was rediscovered in central India in 1997, after a gap of over 100 years, but all four known sites are unprotected and under pressure.

F06: Several forest birds like the Green Peafowl (pictured) were formerly widespread in South-East Asia, but are now rare because of deforestation, hunting and other threats.

F07: Some of the most biologically diverse tropical forests on earth in Sundaland are being rapidly cleared for timber, to make paper, and to make way for oil palm plantations (pictured) and agriculture.

F08: Unustainable exploitation for the wild bird trade has caused the decline of Red-and-blue Lory and several other parrot species in Wallacea.

F09: Negros Bleeding-heart, like many forest birds in the Philippines and Wallacea, is now confined to a handful of forest fragments.

F02: Endemic birds of the Nansei Shoto islands, Japan, like the Okinawa Rail (pictured) and Ryukyu Woodcock are declining because of predation by introduced mongooses and weasels.



F01: Logging and development increasingly threaten the boreal forests of north-east Asia, particularly the riverine habitat of Blakiston's Fish-owl (pictured) and Scaly-sided Merganser.



G03: Numbers of three vulture species in South Asia have recently crashed, and intensive research is underway to find out why.



G02: Grasslands in northern India and southern Nepal need careful management to provide a sustainable supply of grassland products for local communities and to maintain suitable habitat for threatened wildlife.



G01: Several proposed industrial and infrastructural development projects could have a major impact on Mongolia's grasslands, particularly in the east of the country.



- GRASSLAND REGIONS**
 Figures are number of threatened bird species (number unique to the region)
- G01 Eurasian steppes and desert 5 (1)
 - G02 Indo-Gangetic grasslands 11 (9)
 - G03 South Asian arid habitats 12 (10)

G03: The Great Indian Bustard's arid habitats are under intense pressure from large-scale irrigation projects and conversion to agriculture, but are currently considered a low conservation priority in India.



W08: Almost the entire global population of Siberian Crane winters at Poyang Hu lake in the lower Yangtze basin, China, where they could be severely affected once the Three Gorges Dam is in operation.



W12: Sarus Cranes in the Gangetic plains of northern India are affected by the loss of natural wetlands, changing agricultural practices, and changes to water supply caused by dams and irrigation projects.



W18: The plains of the lower Mekong basin retain areas of near-primary habitat, and host the world population of Giant Ibis and most of the world's White-shouldered Ibis.



W20: The world's largest Milky Stork colonies in coastal Sumatra are in mangrove forests that are threatened by logging, and the inter-tidal mudflats where they feed are being converted to shrimp- and fish-ponds.



W04: Protection and supplementary feeding means that high numbers of Hooded Cranes winter at Izumi, Japan. However, this unnaturally large concentration of birds puts them at risk from disease or other catastrophe.



W02: Overharvesting of salmon in parts of eastern Russia during the 1990s could soon lead to the collapse of some Steller's Sea-eagle populations.



- WETLAND REGIONS**
 Figures are number of threatened bird species (number unique to the region)
- W01 Arctic tundra 4 (2)
 - W02 Sea of Okhotsk and Sea of Japan coasts 15 (2)
 - W03 Amur, Ussuri and Sungari river basins 13 (1)
 - W04 Japanese wetlands 16
 - W05 Steppe wetlands 12 (1)
 - W06 Yellow Sea coast 21 (2)
 - W07 Central Chinese wetlands 10 (1)
 - W08 Lower Yangtze basin 11
 - W09 Tibetan plateau 2 (1)
 - W10 China Sea coast 15
 - W11 Indus basin 5
 - W12 North Indian wetlands 8
 - W13 South Indian and Sri Lankan wetlands 3
 - W14 Assam and Sylhet plains 8
 - W15 Bay of Bengal coast 5
 - W16 Myanmar plains 8
 - W17 Thailand wetlands 8 (1)
 - W18 Lower Mekong basin 9 (1)
 - W19 Philippine wetlands 5 (1)
 - W20 Sundaland wetlands 7 (1)
 - S01 Seabirds 7 (3)

Forest regions photographs: Michael Poulsen (main), Yasuyuki Makino (F01), Takumi Hanashiro (F02), Mike Crosby/BirdLife (F04), Farah Ishtiaq (F05), Smith Sutbur (F06), Marco Lambertini/BirdLife (F07), A. Compost/BirdLife (F08), Eberhard Curio/PESCP (F09). Grassland regions photographs: Uta Brähler (main, G01), Otto Pfister (G02), Asad Rahmani (G03). Wetland regions photographs: Ray Tipper (main), BirdLife (W02), Jon Hornbuckle (W03, W20), John Holmes (W06), Ron Saldino (W08), Tim Loseby (W12), Eleanor Briggs (W18), Koji Ono (S01).

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