
Anet

Newsletter

from the *Anatidae Site Network*
in the *East Asian Flyway*

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Conservation of Swan Goose and Baikal Teal

The two species are among globally threatened Anatidae in the flyway (IUCN 2000). In the **Action Plan for the Conservation of Anatidae in the East Asian Flyway: 2001-2005**, the Action 5 identified them as the first two species to enhance the conservation with development of single species action plans.

In August 2002, a meeting was held in Beijing, China, where relevant experts and government officers gathered from countries in the range of these two species -- Russia, Mongolia, China, Korea, R., and Japan. They discussed and agreed establishment of Task Forces for two species with membership from each country for the development and implementation of action plans. The membership has been nominated or in the process of nomination



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from each country in and after the meeting. The coordination of each Task Force is led by Dr. Nikolay POYARKOV for Swan Goose and Dr. Hansoo LEE for Baikal Teal, respectively. The activities on these two species will be reported in our website.

The Baikal Teal Task Force produced an awareness sticker in 4 languages in the region – in Russian, Korean, Chinese and Japanese. English edition is only an image file on the website. Task Force members are the contacts for the use of the stickers in their own countries. The sticker for Swan Goose currently has only Russian edition but will be produced in other languages in future.

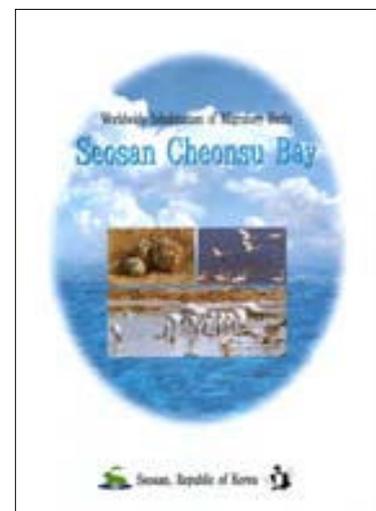
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Baikal Teal Symposium, Seosan City, Republic of Korea

Cheonsu Bay in Chungcheongnam-do is one of the largest wintering sites of Baikal Teal in Korea. The area has been nominated to the *Anatidae Site Network* at its launch with participation of local authorities of Chungcheongnam-do Provincial Government and Seosan City Government. The City Government will hold a symposium in early November 2002 to provide an opportunity for researches, non-governmental organisation members and environment administrators relevant to the species and their wetland habitats to get together and share valuable information for enhancement of the conservation of them. Task Force members from the range countries are to join there.

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*Awareness brochure of Cheonsu Bay,
published in Korean and in English
©2001 Seosan City Government.*



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SCALY-SIDED, CHINESE, MERGANSER: SENSITIVE SPOTS ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECT

Dr. Diana SOLOVIEVA, Lena-Delta Reserve, and
Valery SHOKHRIN, Lazo Reserve

The Scaly-sided, or Chinese, Merganser *Mergus squamatus* is among rarest seaducks of Asia. The species is considered as "vulnerable" under the IUCN legislation. The estimation of world population varies from pessimistic 2,000 to the optimistic 10,000 birds, which are both based on the indirect data. Population trend is uncertain with expressed decline during decades of 60-80th. Most of the breeding area is situated in the South of Russian Far East and the North of China. Present project have been started in 2000 and aims to investigate factors, affecting Scaly-sided Merganser population in Russia, in order to improve conservation efforts. Project team worked on the both slopes of Sikhote-Alin Range, Primorye, Russia. Forty nine of artificial nest boxes were placed on the banks of following rivers, Avvakumovka, Kievka, Krasnaya, Iman (Bol'shaya Ussurka), Lazovka, Margaritovka, and Mineral'naya. Artificial nests program aims to investigate the influence of rivers' deforestation on breeding density and distribution of this rare duck.

The results of the survey seemingly indicated an increasing of Scaly-sided Merganser population. Maximum breeding pair densities were 0,3 -- 0,4 pairs/km of river, with more than twenty rivers have been surveyed. For some rivers the breeding density of Scaly-sided Merganser was 3 -- 4 times higher, than in 1980s. Disturbance by human was found to affect the time budget of breeding pairs of Scaly-sided Merganser, what was resulted in extra flights and alerting. The best method to catch breeding Scaly-sided Merganser is seemingly the mist net trapping in twilights. A pair was ringed for the first time in the world. Project was sponsored by Lundi Co, Verl, Germany and WWT, Slimbridge, UK.



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OGII NUUR AND TERHIYN TSAGGAN NUUR IN MONGOLIA RAMSAR SITES AND ANATIDAE NETWORK SITES

Hisashi SHINSHO, Kushiro International Wetland Centre /
Kushiro City Environmental Policy Division, and
Tatsuo SHIBUYA, Kushiro International Wetland Centre /
Akkeshi Waterfowl Observation Centre,
Akkeshi Township Environmental Policy Division.

We had a chance to visit two sites in Mongolia from 22 July to 19 August 2002. It was under the Expert Dispatch Program of Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA). Here we report on our visit and waterbirds in two sites.

Ogii Nuur locates in Ogii Nuur Sum (Village), Arkhangai Aimag (Province), c. 370km west of Ulaanbaatar. The village has an area of 161,780 ha and a population of 3,500 people who are engaged mainly in livestock herding. Ogii Nuur is a mesotrophic, freshwater lake of 3,189 ha and 25.4 km coast line. It has extensive marshes in western and south-western part. Indeed we visited limited area of the lake and marshes, we counted > 1,700 Swan Geese *Anser cygnoides*, > 300 Bar-headed Geese *A. indicus* and > 300 Whooper Swans *Cygnus cygnus*. We found first year birds of all these three species. Based on our observation, it is clear that the lake is of international importance for Anatidae. We also recorded a number of other waterbirds, e.g. *Anthropoides virgo*, *Tadorna ferruginea*, *T. tadorna*, shorebirds, terns, gulls and egrets, and birds of prey.

Local people in this village has traditionally used the closed lake carefully, but recently the circumstance of the lake has been getting worse on various factors. Local people has decided to promote and manage the ecotourism to the lake with enhancing the conservation and wise use of the lake and showing their traditional knowledge.

In January 2002, the governor and a staff of the village, together with staff of the Mongolia Ministry of Nature and Environment, joined in the JICA training programme on ecotourism at Kushiro International Wetland Centre in Hokkaido, Japan. After their training programme, Birdwatching Board was established in the village. Our visit aimed at assisting in the establishment of Ecotourism Council with main contribution from the Birdwatching Board.

Terhiyn Tsaggan Nuur locates in Tariat Sum, Arkhangai Aimag, c. 500 km west of Ulaanbaatar. It is a larger freshwater and oligotrophic lake with 80 km coast line at the height of c. 2,000m above sea level. We counted > 900 Bar-headed Geese and confirmed their breeding. We also found other Anatidae species including Whooper Swans, as well as a large breeding colony of cormorants, terns and gulls on a small island in western part of the lake.

The shorter visit in the Terhiyn Tsaggan Nuur forced us to obtain limited information but it suggested us various conservation needs in this Ramsar Site and through the Anatidae Site Network. The JICA project needs further assistance to the Ogii Nuur. We hope various support and assistance from relevant agencies, organisations and experts in co-operation in the flyway.



Ogii Nuur, by T. Shibuya.



Bar-headed Geese in Terhiyn
Tsaggan Nuur, by T. Shibuya.



Ruddy Shelduck in Terhiyn
Tsaggan Nuur, by T. Shibuya.

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PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND WISE USE OF MIYAJIMANUMA

**Nobutaka HAYASHI, Bibai City Government, Planning & Finance
Division**

Lake Miyajimanuma is a permanent freshwater lake of 41ha in the middle basin of a river Ishikari-gawa, central Hokkaido, Japan (43°20'N, 141°43'E). Every spring and autumn, up to 50,000 White-fronted Geese *Anser albifrons* stay the lake during their migration, and it is 33-50% of its East Asian population, largest in the country. A number of swans and ducks also stay the lake, including 8,600 Bewick's Swan *Cygnus bewickii* (c 20%) and 7,190 Pintail *Anas acuta* (c. 1% of East Asian population, respectively). The lake supports c. 70,000 Anatidae individuals.

The lake is surrounded chiefly by rice fields and the goose flocks use the fields for their food during their stay in the lake. Main food of them are rice grains and leaves of weed plants on the stubble fields but they also takes young shoot of wheat fields in limited period in spring. It has caused conflict with farmers for many years. The local authority, Bibai City has made efforts to harmonise the local people and the conservation of waterbirds and the wetland of international importance. Some non-governmental organisations and scientists has assisted in the efforts.

It is after joining to the *Anatidae Site Network* in 1999 that the City organised a forum where the relevant people have an opportunity to discuss on the harmonisation of people and nature in the city in March 2000. Other *Network Site* also joined and reported its own efforts and experiences to the forum. Some study tours jointly by local farmers, scientists and city officials were organised to learn experiences in other wetlands in the country and in foreign countries such as the Netherlands and Britain. In the fiscal year of 2001, a series of workshops were organised with local people including not only farmers but also tourism groups and educators in the city. They had 5 times of discussions and built a concept towards conservation and wise use of the lake, with assistance from a non-government organisation, research institutions, and a consultant. The City incorporated the concept and proposals from the workshops into the *Bibai City Plan of Conservation and Wise Use of Miyajimanuma*, established in March 2002.

The *Plan* is for the next 10 years of FY2002-2011 with monitoring its achievement and revising within the period. It analysed historical and current situations and identified objectives in the four fields of nature, agriculture, tourism and awareness. The 12 objectives identified were incorporated into 11 operational objectives and 18 actions.

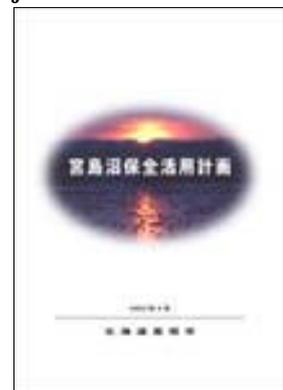
In early October 2002, the Miyajimanuma National Wildlife Protection Area was designated. The nomination to Ramsar List was declared in the national official gazette in middle October. The City organised the second Miyajimanuma Forum in late October to report the nomination to the local communities, as well as to provide an opportunity to learn experiences from other Ramsar Sites and *Network Sites*. The forum built *Miyajimanuma Declaration* for their future efforts with the *Plan*.



©2001 Miyajimanuma-no Kai



The second Miyajimanuma Forum
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Bibai City Plan of Conservation
and Wise Use of Miyajimanuma

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References

ASIA PACIFIC MIGRATORY WATERBIRD CONSERVATION COMMITTEE. 2001. *Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy: 2001-2005*. Wetlands International - Asia Pacific, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 67pp. [on-line] <http://www.ea.gov.au/water/wetlands/mwp/2001-2005/>

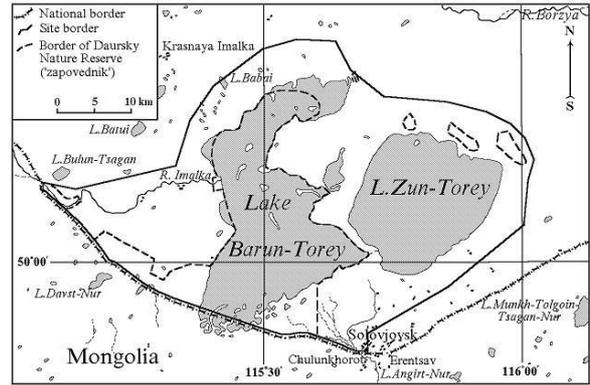
GOROSHKO, O.A. 2001. Swan Goose in the eastern Transbaikalia and Mongolia. *Casarca* 7: 68-98. in Russian with English summary

MIYABAYASHI, Y. & MUNDKUR, T. 1999. *Atlas of Key Sites for Anatidae in the East Asian Flyway*. Wetlands International - Japan, Tokyo, and Wetlands International - Asia Pacific, Kuala Lumpur. 148pp. [on-line] <http://www.jawgp.org/anet/aaa1999/aaaendx.htm>

POYARKOV, N.D. & KURECHI, M. 2001. Russian - Japanese swan goose conservation programme. *TWSG News* No.13: 74-76. [on-line] <http://www.wwt.org.uk/threatsp/twsg/bulletins/13/f19.htm>

IMPORTANCE OF TOREY LAKES FOR SWAN GOOSE

Torey Lakes provides a representative example of natural wetlands of the Mongol-Manzurian steppe with the largest enclosed soda lakes in the Trans-Baikal area of Chita Oblast' in Russia, near the border with Mongolia. It



from Ramsar Information Sheet

consists of two large lakes of Barun-Torey and Zoon-Torey, and terrestrial steppe ecosystems. It has been designated as Ramsar site since 1994 (172,500 ha, 49 55' - 50 14'N, 115 05' - 115 58'E), as well as UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve (1997), Crane Network Site (1997) and Anatidae Network Site (1999). It is important for staging Anatidae during their migration including c. 2,500 geese, 5,000 shelducks, 20,000 ducks, and Swan Goose and Baer's Pochard in breeding and moulting, as well as other waterbird species such as coots, cranes and gulls.

The steppe consists of *Festuca*, *Koeleria*, *Stipa* vegetations; lakes are dominated by *Potamogeton* and other water plants, with freshwater wetlands with *Phragmites* etc. It also includes pine forest and rangelands. The site has been monitored as Terrestrial Ecosystem Monitoring Sites of FAO since 1997. The Daursky Zapovednik (44,752 ha) has been established around Lake Barun-Torey since 1987, and it composes the Dauria International Protected Area with the Mongol-Daguur Zapovednik (Mongolia) and the Dally-Nor Nature Reserve (China).

The Daursky Zapovednik has joined in the Swan Goose survey under the international cooperation of Russia and Japan since 2001 (Poyarkov & Kurechi 2001, Goroshko 2001). In 2001, 500-700 individuals including c.100 pairs were counted in breeding season in the Torey Lakes, and 1,840 birds gathered in autumn before their southward migration in second half of September. In early September of 2002, 2,369 individuals were counted (Goroshko, pers. comm. 2002). Part of large flock in 2002 autumn was likely to have moved from breeding area in north-eastern Mongolia. It suggests the international importance of the Torey Lakes for the Swan Goose with supporting 4.7-7.9% of the population proposed in the 1999 *Anatidae Atlas* (Miyabayashi & Mundkur 1999).

The conservation efforts of this globally threatened species has been initiated under the *Anatidae Action Plan: 2001-2005* (Asia Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee 2001). Mr. Oleg Goroshko in the Zapovednik was nominated to a member of the Swan Goose Task Force. It is anticipated that the Zapovednik contributes to this international initiative.



Survey 2002, Daursky Zapovednik

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Utonai-ko, the 27th Anatidae Network Site

A Ramsar Site in Hokkaido (northern island) of Japan joined our *Anatidae Site Network*, with the participation of its local government of Tomakomai City as a management authority, as of 18 April 2002. It regularly supports over 20,000 migratory Anatidae populations and more than 1% of the East Asian population of Bewick's Swan *Cygnus bewickii*, Taiga Bean



Goose *Anser fabalis middendorfi* and White-fronted Goose *A. albifrons* during their migration. It is famous with the first "Sanctuary" of the Wild Bird Society of Japan in the country, established in 1979. The Ministry of the Environment built a wildlife centre beside the lake. It is managed by Tomakomai City. A ceremony was held in late July 2002 with celebrating the opening of the wildlife centre, as well as 10th anniversary of Ramsar site designation of the lake and joining *Anatidae Site Network*. The Chair of Anatidae Working Group presented its Certificate of *Anatidae Site Network* to the Mayor of the City in the ceremony. It is anticipated that the co-operation of these two facilities and relevant organisations will enhance the conservation activities in and around the site, and will contribute to the development of activities in the flyway in the *Anatidae Site Network*.

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The Nature Reserve locates in a low lying alluvial floodplain of Sanjiang. It is important for Anatidae species in their breeding season and during their migration. The Nature Reserve was designated as the Wetlands of International Importance to the Ramsar List, among 14 new Ramsar Site from the country in celebration of World Wetlands Day, February 2002. It further joined in the Crane Site Network in June 2002. The conservation activities in the Nature Reserve has been enhanced in the joint project of GEF, UNDP and State Forestry Administration "Wetland Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in China" (<http://www.wetland-gef-cpr98.org>).

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Waterfowl Population Estimates, 3rd edition

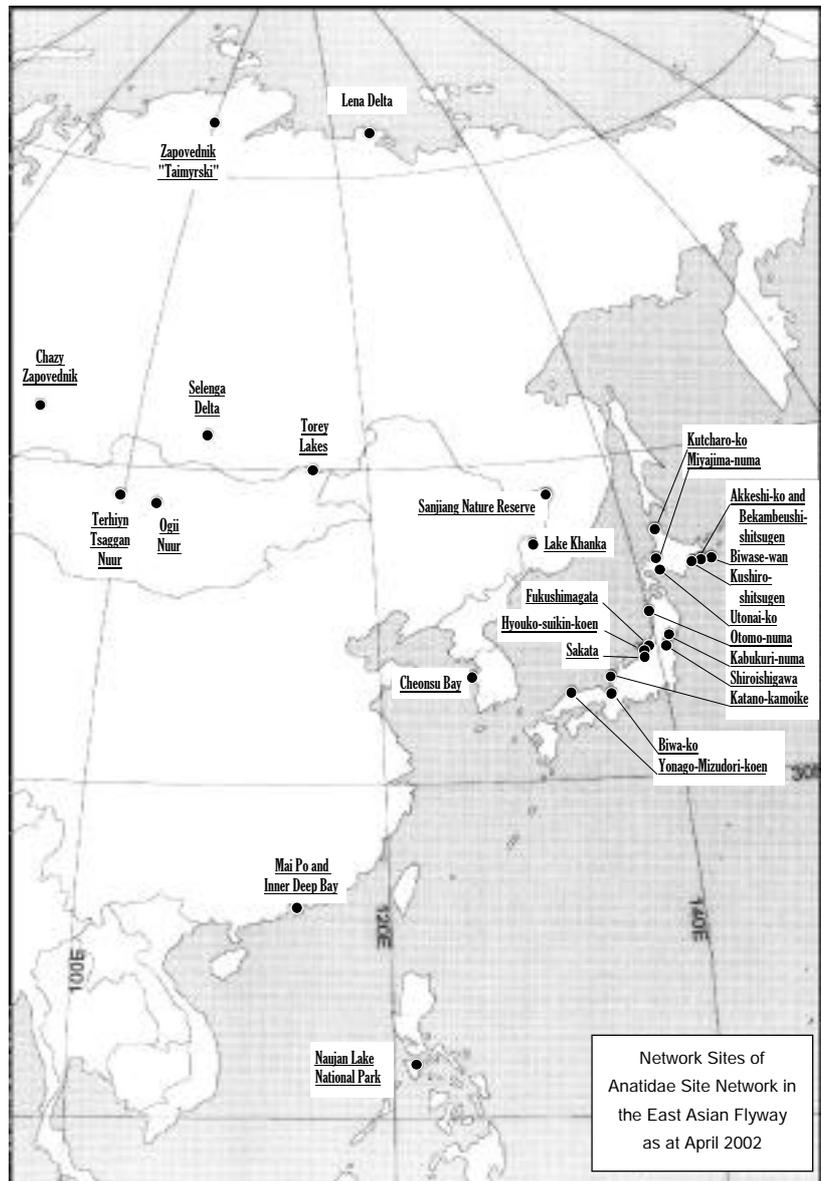
Wetlands International has supported the compilation of population estimates of all waterbird species for the implementation of Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, 1971), Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn, 1979) and other international initiatives. The 3rd edition will be published in the Ramsar CoP8, November 2002. The criteria for our *Network Site* is also based on the population estimates, and will be revised following the 3rd edition.

**Updated contacts of
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since *Anet Newsletter No.2*

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Annotated list of Network Sites with updated contacts is available on the official website or by post from Anatidae Working Group upon request.



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