



**SECOND MEETING OF THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY LANDBIRDS  
WORKING GROUP**

*Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 25-27 November 2015*

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Countries where actions taking place: Russia (eastern), China, and Japan

Title:

Report on the proposed conservation action to the Yellow-breasted Bunting

Yellow-breasted Bunting (hence YBB) was once regarded as one of the most abundant passerines in Eurasia but within three decades its population declined sharply (up to 94.7%) and has been compared to the decline of passenger pigeon in the late 19th century. The main reason is believed to be illegal hunting along its migratory route, especially in China (Kamp et al 2015).

The issue has been raised at the Japan-China bilateral meeting on migratory birds in Deqing, China in November 2014 and again at the Russia-China bilateral meeting on migratory birds in Moscow in March 2015.

In September 2015 we have organized a side-event at the Japan Ornithological Society Meeting in Kobe, Japan. More than 30 ornithologists attended the meeting and revealed the dire situation of the breeding YBB in Japan (only one known breeding site left). A meeting was proposed in Sapporo in late November to discuss actions needed to be done but so far researchers in Japan have not proposed any idea on conservation of the last breeding colony in Japan, as the decline is due to loss of birds during migration.

In late September I travelled to Beijing and discussed with the State Forestry Administration, the National Banding Center and the China Ornithological Society for discussion on potential cooperation with Japan. The Chinese side was quite positive on this. More discussion on what are actions to be done will be discussed at the China Ornithological Society meeting in Hefei China in mid-November.

A toolkit on prevention of illegal hunting in China is now drafted by BirdLife International Asia Division.

Future plan on the conservation of the YBB will include a seminar in southern China to raise the awareness of prevention of illegal hunting and consumption of this species and other small migratory birds. This may be a chance to initiate drafting of an action plan on YBB and other migratory land birds in eastern Asia.

*Action requested:*

- i. The Working Group is requested to take note of this document and provide comments if needed.