

World Migratory Bird Day: Stories from China

The migration of Bird species is strongly based on the nesting and wintering sites, the resource availability of the wintering sites plays a large role in the birds stopping over in the region to refuel and rest before continuing their journey. For migratory birds to fly thousands of kilometers across several continents and oceans, it is very important for them to stopover and restore enough energy needed to continue their journey.

China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF) is an independent organization approved by the State Council and registered in the Ministry of Civil Affairs. The non-profit organisation was founded in 1985 through the reintroduction of Milu deer, from the U.K back to China by the Duke of Bedford. The non-profit organisation is dedicated to biodiversity conservation, environmental protection, green and sustainable development and eco-civilization promotion.

The CBCGDF has taken innovative and active actions in order to mainstream biological diversity in China. For example, in April 2016 we have put forward a concept of “Community Conservation Area” (CCAfa), which aims to organize and convene all forces from all walks of life to take targeted and prompt actions to protect endangered species, historic sites, cultural relics and so on.

With the conservation of migratory species being one of the main priorities of the CBCGDF, a partnership agreement was signed with Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) to encourage and promote the conservation of migratory species.

By May 2017, 57 CCAfa(s) have been established around the country. Compared with the complicated and time-consuming procedures for the approval of a national natural reserve, the CCAfa set up by the CBCGDF can ensure prompt actions to help prevent against potential dangers faced with wildlife and their surroundings. More than a dozen of these conservation areas are centered towards the conservation of migratory birds. Apart from that there have also been several events to promote the conservation of migratory birds hence marking the World migratory bird day.

Several bird watching events has been organized by the CBCGDF which welcomed participant from all around the world these events were help in Dalian and Tianjin China.



Opening ceremony of 2017 Binhai International Birding Competition on Mar. 25 (Tianjin, China)

The Community Conservation Area for Pallas's Cats at Hulunbuir is supporting a bird-loving photography exhibition starting May 10th. The theme of the exhibition is "To Protect Migratory Birds, Abiding Law, and to Safeguard Our Green Home". (pictures below)





Photo by Shuanglong, director of the CCAfa for Pallas's Cats at Hulunbuir, 2017.5.10

Another bird art exhibition was organized by CBCGDF in collaboration with Poly Cultural Group. The exhibition with an astonishing collection of 800+ paintings of 416 China's birds lasted from Mar. 30th – Apr. 13th which covers the annual Beijing Bird-loving Week, with the aim to promote public awareness on bird and biodiversity conservation.

The exhibition covered various types of paintings exquisite art work thought to be drawn by French missionaries, including Pierre Marie Heude, discovered by the China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF). The paintings are dated back to late 19th century during the Qing Dynasty. Thousands of people visited the exhibition.



Photo by Linda Wong, 2017.3.30

Explaining the merits of the exhibition Dr. Zhou Jinfeng, secretary general of China

Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation said "This exhibition has high scientific and artistic value. It not only gives the viscid descriptions of the birds but also provides lots of relevant information, which allows us to compare the current distribution of birds with that a century ago."

On April 9, the CBCGDF and the Poly co-hosted an environmental class lectured by Terry Townshend, educating kids how Beijing's birds are helping to reverse the trend of biodiversity loss.



Picture by Linda Wong, of the CBCGDF, 2017.4.9

6 babies of Common Kestrels after a huge wind destroyed their nest were sent to CBCGDF's CCAfa for waterfowls at Tangshan on a rescue process on the 9th of May. Mr. Tian Zhiwei, an experienced conservationist and the director of the CCAfa is going to be responsible for taking care of these baby Common Kestrels until they are recovered and ready to go back to their mother nature.



Picture by Tian Zhiwei, director of the CCAfa for Waterfowls at Tangshan, 2017.5.9

Also a Red Crowned Crane with a broken wing and fractured left leg was saved by CCAfa for Waterfowl at Tangshan on 7th May 2017. This migratory bird is under the care of Mr Tian Zhiwei the director of the CCAfa until it is fully recovered and ready to be in the wild.





The Wounded Red Crown Crane, picture by Tian Zhiwei, director of a CCAfa, 2017.5.9

On March 27th 2017, a rescued Red Crowned Crane also taken care by Mr Tian Zhiwei was sent back to the wild after it fully recovered.



Rescued Red Crown crane, picture by Tian Zhiwei, director of a CCAfa, 2017.3

In April, BAOBAO the Great Bustard rescued by the CCAfa volunteer Wei, was on back-to-wild training. Experts gave different suggestions on its training course. E.g. some suggested Wei to wait a little bit until its beard-like feathers fully-fledged; some designed a man-made device to improve its wilderness survival skills.



On Apr.13, a wounded Great Bustard was spotted in Xingtai, Hebei Province. SONG Keming, the head of CCAfa for Great Bustard at Changyuan, sent a volunteer to help rescuing. At the same time, the CBCGDF sent an urgent official letter to Xingtai Forestry Bureau of Hebei province, cc-ed to the local Wildlife Rescue Station, to protect the bird and it's flock there.



As migratory birds, they travel across different migratory route, hence it is quite significant to ensure they are protected during their journey. As we celebrate the international migratory bird day 2017, let's not forget that it's not only about a day, its all about a continuous practice to do something better towards making migratory birds safe.