

Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative

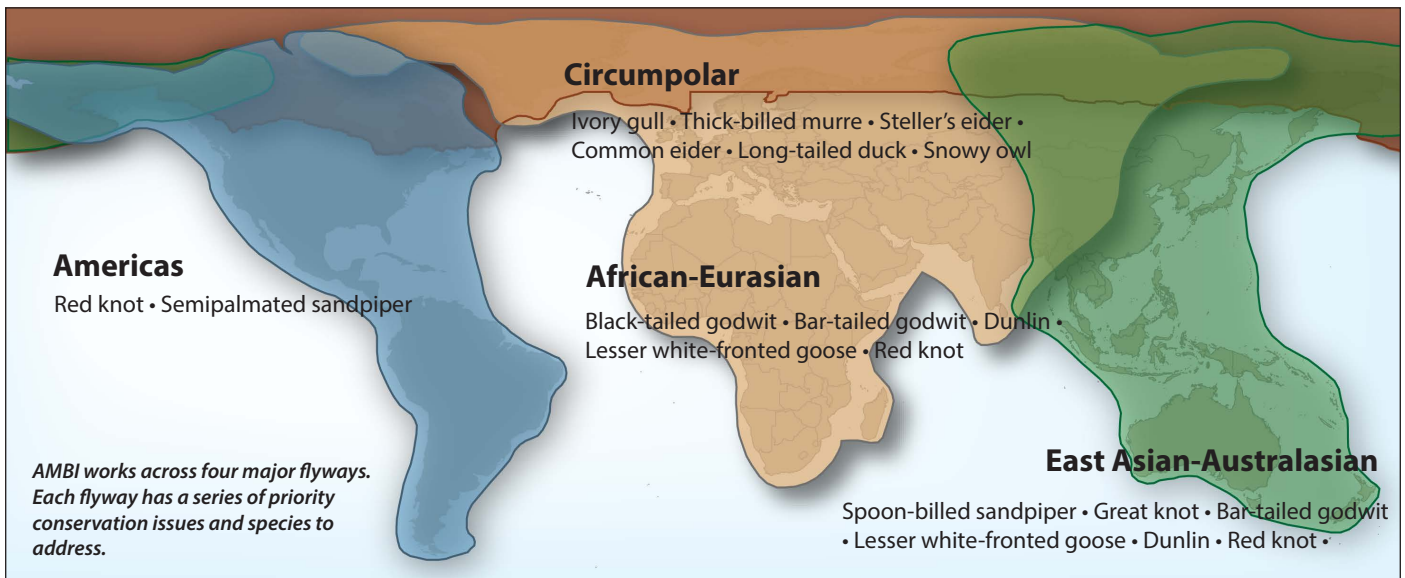


*Red knot, a priority species for AMBI 2015-2019.
Photo: Peter Prokosch/UNEP-GRID Arendal*



Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative

Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI): protecting Arctic lifestyles and peoples through migratory bird conservation is a project designed to improve the status and secure the long-term sustainability of rapidly declining Arctic breeding migratory bird populations. AMBI has developed the [Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative Work Plan 2015-2019](#) to identify priorities and guide actions.



The Arctic Council Ministers welcomed the AMBI Work Plan in the 2015 Arctic Council Iqaluit Declaration.

AMBI implementation will help governments meet commitments under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) at global and hemispheric levels.

AMBI responds to the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment recommendation to protect migratory species range-wide during the whole year.

To conserve declining bird populations AMBI welcomes support and collaboration with Arctic Council Observers, non-Arctic States, and international partners.

Priority AMBI Conservation Actions and Species

East Asian-Australasian

Spoon-billed Sandpiper, a priority species for AMBI 2015-2019. Photo: Jochen Dierschke



Important breeding and staging sites for **Spoon-billed Sandpiper**, **Bar-tailed Godwit** and **Dunlin** need to be identified and protected in **Arctic Alaska** and **Russia**.

Intertidal habitats along the entire flyway, especially along the **Yellow** and **East China Seas of China** and the **Republic of Korea**, and **Southeast Asia** need protection and sustainable management.

Along the entire flyway, but especially in **Southeast Asia** many shorebird species are threatened by **overharvest** including the **Spoon-billed Sandpiper**.

Further research is needed to identify **where and when birds congregate** during their life cycle and how these areas overlap with **industrial activities** such as shipping and fisheries.

Conservation concerns include **habitat degradation**, **overharvest** and seabird **bycatch** in fisheries.

Traditional knowledge is a fundamental element in successful wildlife co-management programs. Arctic countries will engage with indigenous knowledge holders to incorporate **indigenous perspectives** in conservation and research and include **community-based monitoring** as a tool to reach conservation goals.



Common Murre, a priority species for AMBI 2015-2019. Photo: Morten Ekker.

Circumpolar

African-Eurasian



Lesser White-fronted Goose, a priority species for AMBI 2015-2019. Photo: Morten Ekker.

The **Bijagós Archipelago of Guinea-Bissau** is affected by **unsustainable land use**, such as illegal fishing, mangrove cutting, floodplain conversion to agriculture and coastal erosion, which can affect the **Red Knot** and **Bar-tailed Godwit**.

The **lowland habitats of Iceland** are affected by **afforestation** policies, which can affect the breeding grounds of the **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Dunlin** and other waterbirds.

The **Lesser White-fronted Goose** is affected by unsustainable harvest along its migration route from **breeding grounds in Fennoscandia and eastern Siberia** through to **central Asia**.

The **Central and Eastern Canadian Arctic** is affected by **habitat destruction** from overabundant geese and **climate change**. Priority species are the **Red Knot** and **Semipalmated Sandpiper**.

The **northern coast of South America**, and in particular the coastline from eastern Guyana through Suriname and French Guiana to northern Brazil is affected by **coastal development** and **habitat destruction**. Priority species are the **Semipalmated Sandpiper** and **Red Knot**.



Red knot, a priority species for AMBI 2015-2019. Photo: USFWS

Americas