



Please save
the Black-faced Spoonbills

from recreational fishing debris



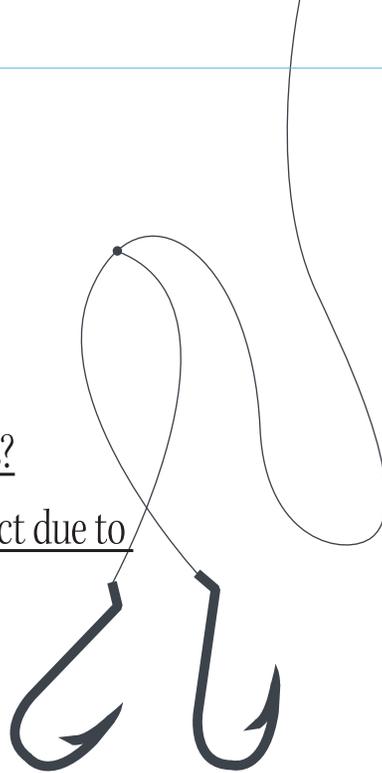
Waterbird Network Korea
<http://cafe.daum.net/WNKorea>



Our Sea of East Asia Network
www.ocean.net



What is it for?
Is it a tool to kill other lives?
There are animals becoming extinct due to
your carelessness



The people who made it:

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The Korean peninsula is an internationally crucial place where millions of water birds migrate to and reside in winter. However, the Crested Ibis, Red-crowned crane, Black-faced Spoonbill, and Oriental Stork which are familiar to Korea, have disappeared like the extinct species the Crested Shelduck. Human activities such as reclamation of tidal flat or discharge of various pollutants have caused the damage. Our concerns and efforts can save this species. Waterbird Network Korea is a non-profit organization who save endangered water birds through a network of people. We pray for your participation to 'Save the wildlife' together.

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Our Sea of East Asia Network is a non-profit organization in South Korea, dedicated to research, investigation, education, policy development, and international cooperation to protect the marine environment from marine debris. OSEAN is a network hub for cooperation of scientists, governments, citizens and the private sector. We welcome you, too.

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Do you really have to push us to death?

October 2013, on the west coast of Korea, a Black-faced Spoonbill was spotted behaving oddly.

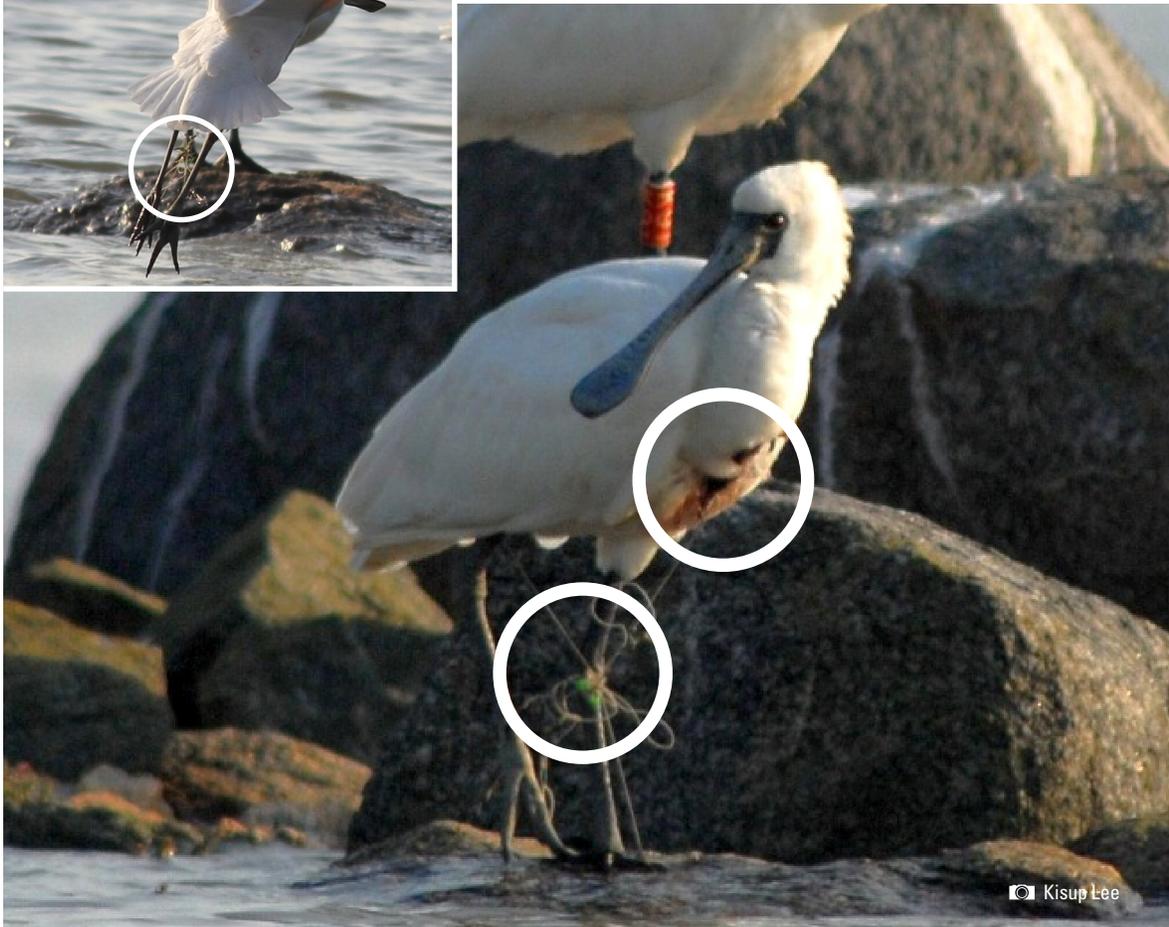
With a closer look, we could see its stomach was pierced with a fish hook and a fishing line was tangled in its legs.

As it tried harder to escape from them, the lines would tangle up even more, and the stomach would turn red with blood.

Since it's impossible to walk, the bird tries to fly. However it's very hard to land back on the ground.

It's a young female...

All other friends have returned to the wintering grounds, but it is assumed that this particular bird has died.





Homeland of death...

Where can we live?

In May 2010, a dead body of a Black-faced Spoonbill was found on the west coast .
It was a male that had returned to Korea every year.

In its homeland, a fish hook had pierced the bird's throat and
a fishing line had peeled its neck skin.

For the spoonbill... the homeland was a place of death.



Please
don't hurt us

August 2010, this spoonbill was spotted with a lead sinker stuck on its neck. On closer examination, two fish hooks were also found. Its neck skin was torn apart due to the heavy sinker. People found the bird and operated, sending it back into the wilderness after a month and a half. However, it could not make it to its wintering grounds.



© Young Jun Kim



The picture shows an x-ray prior to surgery, and the fish hook removed from the bird's body. Used when fishing mudskippers, the hook and lead sinker falls apart easily from the rod. It is because of reel fishing, where the rod is thrown a long distance. Fish hooks, lead sinkers, and fishing lines hidden in the wetlands act as a mine.



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Please don't hurt

March 2011, in Okinawa Japan, a spoonbill, born in June 2010 on the Korean west coast, was found with its beak tangled up in fishing lines.

Among the entangled lines, there was a fish hook clinging to the bird's body. People removed the hook and lines then set it free. It returned back to Korea in June 2013. We hope for the very best.



The Black-faced Spoonbills'

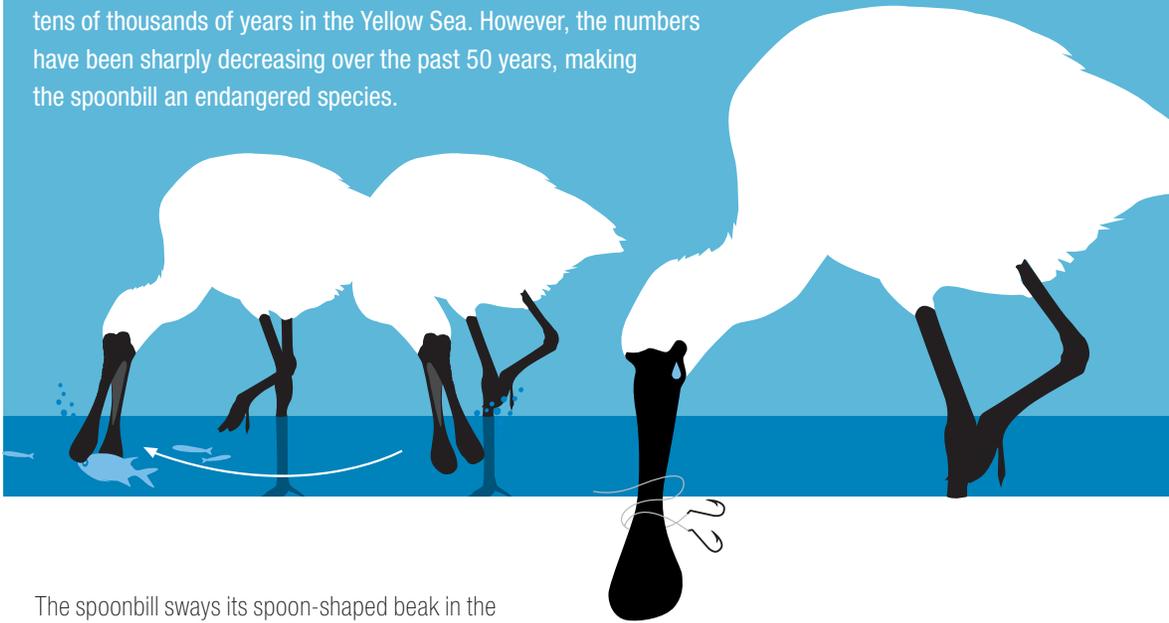
homeland is

Korea

The wetlands of the west shore in Korea are shallow enough for the spoonbill to find food with its beak.

During the spring, this food source increases rapidly, providing the best environment to raise its young.

Thus, most of the Black-faced Spoonbills are born and raised in Korea. It is estimated that the Black-faced Spoonbills have been thriving for tens of thousands of years in the Yellow Sea. However, the numbers have been sharply decreasing over the past 50 years, making the spoonbill an endangered species.



The spoonbill sways its spoon-shaped beak in the wetlands to catch food. It swings its beak 16 times per 10 seconds, while walking 4 meters (Swennen & Yu, 2005). It is an expert on catching hidden fish among the wetlands and shallow waters. The bird uses the beak's sense of touch to find food during the night. It explains why the beak evolved to look like a spoon, and why the rim of the beak is sensitive like our lips. Unlike other birds who pick their food with a sharp beak, spoonbills sway their beak in waters and afloat

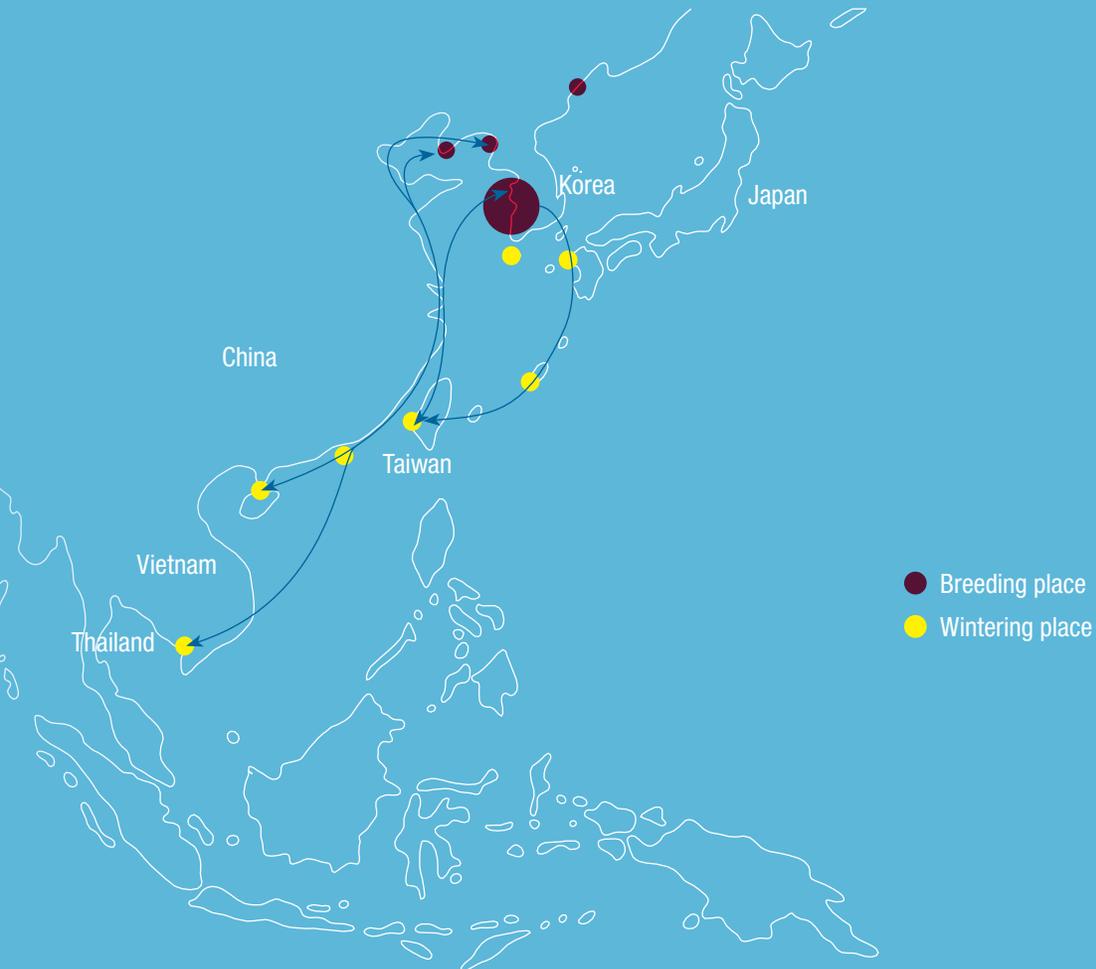
the abundant supply of food (fish, shrimps etc.) on the bottom (Hoyo et al., 1992). Sometimes white herons and gray herons stick behind the spoonbill to find food readily.

But the spoonbill's way of catching food can be deadly, since it can easily get caught in fishing lines or hooks.

A homeland should be a decent place to live

There are currently about 2000 Black-faced Spoonbills around the world, and most mate in Korea. They lay and raise their young here, then move to Japan, Taiwan, South China, Vietnam, and Thailand for winter.

There aren't many left. If we do not make efforts to protect it, it may become an animal of the past. Please help so the spoonbill can come back to its homeland next year to lay eggs.



Other friends are dying too

RECREATIONAL FISHING DEBRIS IS DEADLY TO OTHER MARINE ANIMALS TOO.

According to a survey conducted from March 2010 to March 2012, 45 cases (21 species) of wildlife suffering due to marine debris were found. Among the cases, 42 of them were of birds and 33 were due to fishing debris. Swallowing fish hooks or getting caught in them were the most frequent cases, followed by lead poisoning because of swallowing lead sinkers. (Hong et al., 2013; Jang et al., 2012)

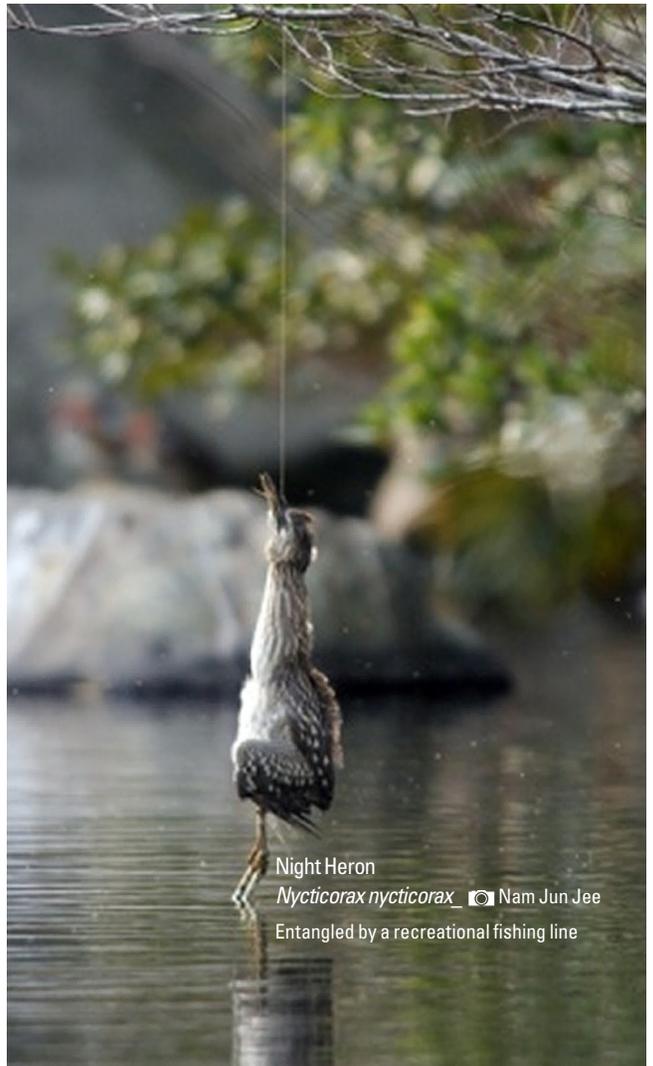


Above. Natural Monument, Whooper Swan
Cygnus cygnus 📷 Young Jun Kim

Died due to lead poisoning by swallowing a lead weight and metallic gears from sports fishing

Below. Black-tailed Gull.
Larus crassirostris 📷 Gwang Yeong Yeo

It swallowed a hook and was caught by a hook in the wing



Night Heron
Nycticorax nycticorax 📷 Nam Jun Jee
Entangled by a recreational fishing line

What the government can do?

1. Conduct close investigation on the damages of marine debris on spoonbills

The kinds of trash, how it kills the birds, along with how many of them are suffering, must be figured out. Measures to protect them should follow.

2. Educate on reducing fishing debris/Publicizing the problem among recreational fishers

Let more people know of the environmental damages of fishing debris, and educate recreational fishers to participate in protecting the environment.

3. Designate restricted areas near major breeding grounds of wildlife.

Article 6 of The law of management and promotion of recreational fishing regulates the local government to set restricted areas for fishing to protect the marine environment.

4. Develop measures on preventing fishing gear loss

Analysis of the reasons why fishing gears fall apart, inventing alternative fishing gears, and planning campaigns to build a healthy fishing culture is needed. (Article 43 of The law of management and promotion of recreational fishing)

5. Reinforce regulations of throwing away trash

The honorary observer system should be used to enforce the law and enlighten people. (Article 46 of The law of management and promotion of recreational fishing)





What citizens can do?

1. Please avoid fishing near places with a lot of wild birds

Fishing near natural habitats of migratory birds and other wild animals can cause fatal damage to their lives.

2. Please avoid fishing in an area where complicated structures are on the bottom.

The lead sinkers, fishing lines can fall apart easily and can cause serious damage to the wild animals.

3. Please take back the fishing gear and leftover trash

Wild animals may get caught on fish hooks with bait or other fish on it. Throwing away fishing gear is forbidden by law, with 300,000 Won (300 US\$) penalty.

4. Please use eco-friendly sinkers instead of those made of lead

Lead sinkers kill swans and other natural monuments with lead poisoning. Please use alternative sinkers that do not pollute the environment. Use of lead sinkers are forbidden by law.

5. Please participate in beach clean ups

There are many events such as Ocean's day in May, Environment day in June, and International Coastal Cleanup day in September. You can start a cleanup with your fishing club. OSEAN (www.osean.net) can help your planning.

6. Please support and participate in saving wildlife

There are ways to support without spending money. Try Naver Happy Bean (happylog.naver.com/osean.do).

not for sale



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