

2022 EAAFP Small Grant Fund Application Form

Part A.

A. Personal Details of Applicant

Title:	Dr <small>(Mr, Ms etc)</small>	Moores <small>Family name</small>	Nial <small>Given Name/s</small>
Institution:	Birds Korea (새와 생명의 터)		
Institutional address:	1902-101, Hyundai I Park, 26 Tongmyong Ro, Namgu, Busan, Republic of Korea		
Degree type:	PhD	Busan <small>Suburb or town</small>	Republic of Korea (ROK) <small>State or country</small>
	82-10-9303 1963	82-10-9303 1963 <small>Postcode</small>	
	Primary contact number	Mobile phone number	
	Nial.Moores@birdskorea.org		

Email address: _____

B. Relevant Working Group or Task Force Chair/Coordinator - DETAILS

Please contact the EAAFP Programme Officer if additional guidance is needed in relation to this section (programme@eaaflyway.net)

Name of Task Force: Scaly-sided Merganser __Task Force Coordinator__

Title of Chair/Coordinator:	Dr <small>(Mr, Ms etc)</small>	Solvyeva <small>Family name</small>	Diana <small>Given Name/s</small>
Email address:	diana_solovyova@mail.ru		

C. Eligibility of Projects

Please select "Yes" or "No" for each of the following questions:

- The focus of the project is migratory waterbirds and their habitats?
Yes No
- The project will improve the understanding of factors important for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF?
Yes No
- The applicant agrees to provide a final report within 3 months of the completion of the project?
Yes No
- The applicant agrees to submit 1-2-page article and photographs for inclusion on EAAFP's website and/or write a brief article for the EAAFP's newsletter. Photographers will be acknowledged?
Yes No

- The applicant will acknowledge the support of the EAAFP in any publications, Yes No
presentations and reports arising from this work?

D. Project Details

Project Title: Please provide a concise and informative title of your entire project (not just the component for which funds are sought)

Research and conservation actions for Scaly-sided Mergansers and their habitats in the Republic of Korea

Project Proposal:

Details of your entire project (not just the component for which EAAFP funds are sought) (2.5 page maximum)

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Objectives: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To use work in Yeoncheon County and at additional sites in 2022 to help generate awareness of the conservation needs of the species in Yeoncheon, in the ROK and on the Korean Peninsula, with a special focus on wintering and staging birds; 2. Outside of Yeoncheon County, to conduct survey (of wintering birds between February 9th and 20th; and of staging birds in mid-November) of Scaly-sided Merganser; 3. To compare counts in winter 2022 with counts made in the winters of 2012 and 2014 in order to identify a population trend (if any); 4. To use this enhanced research effort in 2022 to call for the conservation of key sites in the ROK and on the Korean Peninsula through in-person and online meetings at multiple sites; and if additional funding can be found, through a Post-COVID international symposium to be held in the ROK, with input from Russian Federation, PR China and if possible, from the DPRK. |
| 2. Background: | <p>The Scaly-sided Merganser <i>Mergus squamatus</i> is a shy migratory and globally Endangered duck species. The species breeds along rivers and is also largely dependent on unpolluted, fast-flowing rivers during migration and in winter (Solovyeva et al. 2017; BirdLife International 2022).</p> <p>The four principal range states for the species are: the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Russian Federation (Solovyeva et al. 2017).</p> <p>In the past 15 years there has been substantial research done and conservation actions taken on the breeding grounds within the Russian Federation (Russia) and the People's Republic of China (PR China) and within the main wintering areas for the species within PR China, including a major citizen science initiative involving more than 2,000 birdwatchers (Zeng et al. 2018).</p> <p>Progress on closing information gaps and on building support for conservation of the species on the Korean Peninsula has been much less substantial. To the best of our knowledge, there has only been one winter survey focused on the species in the DPRK (Moores 2019); and despite the species' assessment as Nationally Endangered and as a National Natural Monument (NIBR 2019), only two surveys covering all/ most of the ~10 regular wintering river sites for the species in the ROK have been conducted to date, in 2012 and 2014, with the latter survey part-funded by a small grant from the EAAFP. Both of these surveys were organized and conducted in mid-winter by Birds Korea, and both found between 140 and 149 individual Scaly-sided Merganser (Moores & Kim 2014) - greatly exceeding the number recorded during the national winter bird census under the auspices of the national Ministry of Environment.</p> <p>In subsequent years there has been no effort to count Scaly-sided Merganser at all or at most of these known sites for the species within the ROK. It has therefore not been possible to identify whether or not there has been any significant change in numbers wintering in the ROK during the last decade. In addition, prior to late 2020, there was no research aimed at improving understanding of migration across the Korean Peninsula, even though geolocators suggest that at least some Scaly-sided Merganser likely stage in the ROK, especially during southward migration (Solovyeva et al. 2012).</p> <p>In November and December 2021, Nial Moores / Birds Korea was contracted by Yeoncheon County to survey Scaly-sided Merganser and other waterbirds in the Yeoncheon Imjin River Biosphere Reserve. The research included a small training workshop; and repeat counts together with two local members. Although contractual obligations prevent the inclusion of data in this application, our research confirmed the international importance of this area for Scaly-sided Merganser; and also found compelling evidence of the area's importance for staging mergansers.</p> |

A contract to continue this work between February and December 2022 within Yeoncheon Imjin River Biosphere Reserve has been drawn up; and will be signed on (or about) February 8th 2022. Discussion was also held with the County Mayor in December 2021 about the possible designation of the key area as a Flyway Network Site for Scaly-sided Merganser; for a possible international online workshop on Scaly-sided Merganser conservation in March; and for a possible in-person international symposium focused on river biodiversity and on Scaly-sided Merganser in late 2022.

The aim, expressed through this small grant, is to find additional ways in which to encourage participation both by Yeoncheon County and by other local governments in the ROK with substantial populations of Scaly-sided Merganser, to become more aware of the species and the conservation measures that they can take for the species and their habitats. In January, further brief discussions were therefore held with potential key players, including with the Program Officer of the EAAFP Secretariat and Dr Bernhard Seliger (Representative of the Korea Office of the Hanns Seidel Foundation).

In order to share contemporary data with local governments and with the national Ministry of Environment and Cultural Heritage Administration, Birds Korea will conduct a survey of known wintering sites in the ROK for Scaly-sided Merganser between February 9th and 20th. Approximately half of this survey work will be funded by Hanns Seidel Foundation. In November (the period of peak southward migration, based on geolocator dates and survey in late 2021), in addition to conducting repeat counts in Yeoncheon County, Birds Korea will, if funding is given, survey 2-8 additional rivers, in order to improve understanding of the migration strategy of the species through the ROK.

These surveys and intervening months will be used to support local birders with basic training in identification and data entry; and to communicate with relevant local governments. A report will also be prepared and shared with the EAAFP Secretariat, with the Scaly-sided Merganser Task Force and it is intended with MOLEP in the DPRK, in order to encourage more research on the species in the DPRK. The data likely can also be used in a collaborative peer-reviewed paper focused on migration and tracking.

It is intended for the work in 2022 to be built on further on 2023 as funding allows, with e.g. the initiation of an annual national survey of the species; and greater participation by ROK bodies in supporting actions in the Scaly-sided Merganser Single Species Action Plan.

3. Project plan, timeline and methods:

Project commences on February 9th 2022 and will be completed by December 15th 2022. National ROK survey (one main element of this small grant application) to be conducted between February 9th and 20th 2022; additional research to be conducted in Yeoncheon County through a separate contract (February-December 2022), with particular focus on assessing wintering numbers and migratory turnover of birds along one major river; and additional counts to be conducted along 2-8+ additional rivers in November. Meetings to be held with NGOs, birders and local government officials in these other areas (if funders agree, with e.g., invitation to them to join online or in-person workshops in Yeoncheon). Initial discussion has already been held with several potential key players with the aim of proposing one river in Yeoncheon County as a Flyway Network Site for the Scaly-sided Merganser.

4. Likely benefit to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitat / or key research outputs:

1. Improved understanding of the status of the Scaly-sided Mergansers in winter and during the main southward migration period in the ROK (contributing to KRA 1.1 , KRA 3.1, KRA 3.2 & KRA 3.3.1)
2. Opportunity for the first time to compare counts made in three different winters, to suggest a possible national-level population trend between 2012/ 2014 and 2022 (contributing to KRA 3.2.1);
3. In combination with research to be conducted in Yeoncheon County in 2022, improved opportunity for raising awareness and concern nationally for the Scaly-sided Merganser as an indicator species of clean, fish-rich rivers;
4. In combination with measures which are being proposed which might, or might not (!), be taken in Yeoncheon County in 2022 (including the designation of one stretch of river as a Flyway Network Site for the species), the opportunity to encourage site-level conservation measures to be taken there and elsewhere along key rivers in the ROK (thus potentially contributing to KRA 1.7 and 1.1.1 and KRA 4.3); .
5. Increase in capacity for some local birdwatchers to identify, count and in the future, to monitor rivers used by the species, with the aim of building momentum for more comprehensive research on the species in the future (to be undertaken e.g. by universities etc), potentially contributing to KRA 3.1 & KRA 1.5.

5. Alignment with EAAFP Working Groups and Task Forces priorities:	Alignment with Actions 1, 23, 31 and 32 of the EAAFP Scaly-sided Merganser Single Species Action Plan (Solovyeva et al. 2017).
6. Explain the part of your project for which you are seeking EAAFP funds in this Application (provide details in the Project Budget section below):	<p>EAAFP funds are being sought (1) to cover costs for part of the national survey in February 2022; (2) for data organisation and report writing (in March-April); (3) to support meetings with additional potential key players during 2022, with the aim of having several local governments, research institutions, environmental NGOs, and government corporations (e.g. K-Water) more interested in the conservation of Scaly-sided Merganser by the end of 2022; (4) to conduct counts along 2-8+ additional key rivers during the suspected peak of southward migration through the ROK; and (5) to support the writing of a report on progress made by the end of 2022.</p> <p>Funds have already been secured for the research in Yeoncheon (from Yeoncheon County: contract to be signed on February 8th) ; and from the Hanns Seidel Foundation, for half of the national survey in February 2022, during which other avian biodiversity will also be recorded. Presentations, including on Scaly-sided Merganser, are already organised in Sancheong County (Nam River: one of the most important rivers in the ROK for the species), in February 2022.</p>
7. Scientific References cited in the Application:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BirdLife International. 2022. Species Factsheet Mergus squamatus. 2. Moores, N. & A. Kim. 2014. Birds Korea Scaly-sided Merganser Mergus squamatus Survey, January 2014. Birds Korea Report prepared for the EAAFP, June 2014. 3. Moores, N. 2019. Internal Report for the Hanns Seidel Foundation: River and Bird Survey, West DPRK, January 26th-February 1st 2019 4. NIBR. 2019. Red Data Book of Republic of Korea. Volume 1. Birds. 5. Solovyeva, D. V., Afanasiev, V., Fox, J. W Shokrin, V. & Fox, A. D. 2012. Use of geolocators reveals previously unknown Chinese and Korean scaly-sided merganser wintering sites. Endang Species Res 17: 217–225. 6. Solovyeva, D.V., P.A. Cranswick & B. Hughes. 2017. International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Scaly-sided Merganser Mergus squamatus. CMS Technical Series No. #, EAAFP Technical Series. 7. Zeng Q., Wei Qian & Lei G. 2018. Contribution of citizen science towards cryptic species census: “many eyes” define wintering range of the Scaly-sided Merganser in mainland China. Avian Res (2018) 9:6
8. How will any continuing COVID restrictions be managed for project delivery?:	Current COVID restrictions will not interfere with the national surveys; or with report writing. Restrictions might limit additional meetings during the course of the year.

Part B. FOR CONFERENCE APPLICANTS ONLY

(For Task Force or Working Group members delivering their own work as a presentation, paper or poster)

Conference Title:	Location:	Date:
Presentation Abstract (250 word maximum):		

Part C. FOR ALL APPLICANTS

Experience Relevant to Project:

As an NGO, Birds Korea has a long track record of conducting projects in the ROK with economic efficiency and with some success of raising awareness and effecting change. As Director of Birds Korea. I have more than 30 years’ experience of conducting waterbird counts in East Asia; have led two national surveys of Scaly-sided Merganser in the ROK and with the Hanns Seidel Foundation (Korea office) and members of the Task Force co-led survey of the species in the DPRK, in accordance with the Single Species Action Plan; I am an active member of the Scaly-sided Merganser Task Force; and I have fulfilled the obligations of several EAAFP small grants in the past. A short CV is also attached.

Please **also** attach a maximum 2-page CV or list non-academic research experience and experience with migratory waterbirds/conservation e.g. work experience, volunteer experience, bird banding, birdwatching.

E. Project Budget (please outline costs of your entire project, not just the component(s) for which funds are being sought from EAAFP)

Item (Please list)	Budget (USD)	Co-funding acquired (source and amount in USD)	Co-funding applied for (source and amount in USD)	Support requested from EAAFP (USD)
Equipment: (details)				
Consumable items (details) Food				500
Travel and accommodation (details) Travel costs during survey and for meetings; Gas, local accommodation during surveys				1,000
Computing & clerical (details)				250
Other (details)		A contract for research in Yeoncheon County has been agreed for 18-20,000 USD; and Hanns Seidel Foundation will provide 1-2,000 USD for survey in February		2,250
Total amount requested from EAAFP Small Grants Fund: (in USD)				4,000

Budget justification: Please provide brief description and justification of all major budgetary items requested, indicating any that are essential to the project and/or conference for which you are applying (250 word maximum):

As a small NGO, Birds Korea's work is funded through projects and donations (with membership fees largely used to cover office costs etc). Although work within Yeoncheon County will be funded by local government, money for this project in sites outside of Yeoncheon is required to pay for gas, and perhaps for car hire, food, accommodation and 50/USD / day per diems for surveyors; transport costs for additional meetings (and to get to survey sites); additional costs from any training offered to birders; and a 50 USD / day per diem contribution for time engaged in report writing (~10-20 dates) if the grant is approved.

F. Declaration

I have discussed the contents of this Application with the relevant Chair/s and Coordinator/s of relevant Working Group and/or Task Forces and I certify that to the best of my knowledge all documentation and information submitted or made available by me is true, accurate and complete.

By ticking the box you are agreeing to the above statement: ✓

G. Application Checklist

All relevant sections of this Application have been completed.	Yes ✓	No
Full payment details have been provided on the final page.	Yes ✓	No
Application is being submitted electronically as one single document.	Yes ✓	No
Application is being submitted in MS Word format.	Yes ✓	No
Application has been discussed with the relevant Coordinator of relevant working Group and/or Task Forces and these have been carbon copied (cc) to this application submission as evidence they have seen and approved this Application.	Yes ✓	No

Applications that do not comply with these guidelines will be returned to the applicant.

Application Submission

Please email your Application as a single document to:
secretariat@eaaflyway.net

EAAFP will acknowledge the receipt of your Application.

Applications close at 5pm (Seoul Time) on 6 February 2022
Results will be announced on 7 March 2022 on EAAFP Webpage and via email

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Decision: _____

Authorised: __/ __/ __ _____

Entered: __/ __/ __ _____

Comments: _____

Lead Investigator Advised: __/ __/ __ _____

PLEASE COMPLETE PAYMENT DETAILS ON FINAL PAGE

PAYMENT DETAILS

To ensure prompt payment of successful applications please complete the following details and submit with your Application.

PREFERRED PAYMENT METHOD

Electronic funds transfer (EFT)

GRANT CONDITIONS

In accordance with the application criteria, the following conditions must be met:

- Funds are to be strictly exempt from organisational administration charges.
- You are required to submit one copy by email of the final report within 3 months of the completion of the project.
- You are required to acknowledge the EAAFP and the Small Grant Fund in any presentations, publications, reports or promotional material arising from this work. Please email secretariat@eaaflyway.net in order to obtain an electronic copy of EAAFP logo for use on any display material you will be preparing.
- You may be requested to write a brief article for the EAAFP newsletter.
- You are required to provide EAAFP with an electronic copy of your final report at the completion of your project, as well as a copy of any publications that result from your grant.