Invisible connections: Why migrating shorebirds need the Yellow Sea

JAN VAN DE KAM, PHIL BATTLEY, BRIAN McCAFFERY, DANNY ROGERS, JAE-SANG HONG, NIAL MOORES, JU YUNG-KI, JAN LEWIS & THEUNIS PIERSMA 2010.

CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Victoria. A$49.95. Paperback with 160 pages, 240 colour photographs.

Everyone is aware that China and other Asian nations, particularly Korea, have experienced a period of unprecedented economic growth over the past 30 years. One of the advantages of this development is that in most cases the pressure to trap migrant birds for food is diminished. On the other hand the economic pressure for development has placed many coastal mudflats and wetlands along the Australasian flyway under threat. The Yellow Sea is at the epicentre of this clash between the pressure for economic development and the needs of migratory waders on the Australasian flyway. This book sets out to highlight the particular threats and challenges facing migrant waders along the mudflats of the Yellow Sea.

To that end the book is divided into eight chapters dealing with all aspects of the flyway from the breeding grounds on the tundra of the Arctic Circle, the threats and challenges facing waders on the flyway and the threats faced while on their 'summer holidays' in Australia and New Zealand. The intention is to highlight that time is running out for the travellers on the flyway as economic development pressures gobble up more mudflats and wetlands for housing, factories and golf courses. As the loss of the mudflats at Saegmangeum in Korea illustrates only too well, when it comes to economic development, migrant waders come at the end of the queue. It is now obvious that

even international treaties carry little weight when it comes to competing economic interests.

To counter the pressure coming from developers the authors of this book, researchers from along the flyway, set out to show what an extraordinary jewel the Australasian flyway is. The aim is to educate the Asian public in particular about the long-term cost of impairment or loss of the flyway. Raising public awareness about the flyway and the exquisite waders that use it will play an essential role in preserving it for future generations. In that respect the publishers have done a remarkable job of assembling an impressive team of researchers to explain all aspects of the ecology and mechanics of the flyway. The technical discussions are then complemented by the most stunning set of wader photographs by Jan van de Kam that I have ever seen. In particular the photographs of many familiar species in full breeding plumage should drive home to even the most philistine of developers what will be lost if uncontrolled reclamation of mudflats and coastal wetlands proceeds at its present pace.

The photographs alone make this a must buy for any shorebird watcher. In particular, photographs of such rarities as Spoon-billed Sandpiper in breeding plumage are absolutely stunning and may well represent the only view of this rapidly disappearing species that most birdwatchers will get. This is a species that could well be lost in our lifetime.

Despite the serious level at which most of the material is pitched the primary objective of the book is to educate the broader public about the threats to the flyway through the Yellow Sea and the migrant waders that use it. Although aimed largely at an Asian audience there are elements of this message of interest to Australians as the development threat is no less real here. In particular threats to saltfields, such as Dry Creek near Adelaide, have intensified in recent years so the need to educate politicians and the wider general public about the wonder that is the Australasian flyway is as urgent in Australia as it is in Asia.

This book does an excellent job of getting that message across to the general public so I would recommend that we all make the effort to purchase a copy to provide as birthday or Christmas gifts to friends and family. Although it contains a wealth of scientific data it would make an excellent addition to the coffee table where it would highlight the exquisitely beautiful birds and the threats they face on the Australasian flyway.

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To improve the performance and quality, someone needs to have something new every day. It will suggest you to have more inspirations,â€¦ Expand.Â Invisible Connections: Why Migrating Shorebirds Need the Yellow Sea. Jan van de Kam, Jan Lewis, T. Piersma. Geography. Invisible connections: why migrating shorebirds need the Yellow Sea. by J van de Kam (Photographs), P Battley, B McCafFery, D Rogers, J-S Hong, N Moores, J Yung-Ki, J Lewis and T Piersma.Â authors warn us that time is running out to save migratory shorebirds using the Yellow Sea, and they describe the gradual raising of awareness among the peoples of the Fly way to the story of migration and the value of the â€¯invisible conÂ¬ nections' they provide. Eight chapters describe the life history of miÂ¬ gratory shorebirds, the habitats they use, the need for conservation action and some of the initiatives that have been invoked to help save these birds. The content is as international as the birds it describes, ranging from the arid coasts of Australia to the arctic tundras. Danny Rogers is a shorebird biologist for the Arthur Rylah Institute (Department of Sustainability and Environment, Australia). Customer reviews. There are no customer reviews yet. Why migrating shorebirds need the Yellow Sea. Wageningen, The Netherlands: Wetlands International. Wan, J., Li, Z. C. and Lei, K. (2009) Dynamic analysis of the landscape spatial pattern in the coastal zone of the Bohai Bay, 1954-2000.Â Factors Affecting the Distribution Patterns of Benthic Invertebrates at a Major Shorebird Staging Site in the Yellow Sea, China. Wetlands, Vol. 34, Issue. 6, p. 1085. Bird migration is the regular seasonal movement, often north and south along a flyway, between breeding and wintering grounds. Many species of bird migrate. Migration carries high costs in predation and mortality, including from hunting by humans, and is driven primarily by availability of food. It occurs mainly in the northern hemisphere, where birds are funneled on to specific routes by natural barriers such as the Mediterranean Sea or the Caribbean Sea.

Danny Rogers is a shorebird biologist for the Arthur Rylah Institute (Department of Sustainability and Environment, Australia). Customer reviews. There are no customer reviews yet. softcover; a general introduction to various bird species found at the shore and not just "shorebirds"; covers sandpipers & plovers, gulls, terns, herons, waterfowl, and some passerines; shows 40+ species with 200 good color photos; 1-2 pages of text on each of 28 birds address primarily feeding, migration, abundance, behavior, habitat preference, historical notes, and other natural history material; first 1/3 of. the book gives general overview to biology, migration, population, and related topics of "shorebirds" in general; restricted range map given for the 28 highli...Â Invisible Connections. Why migrating shorebirds need the Yellow Sea. by van de Kam, J, et al. 2008, 152pp, ISBN: 9789058820099. Invisible Connections is largely a photo essay of the migration of shorebirds that pass through the Yellow Sea. Its purpose is to raise public awareness of the importance of the Yellow Sea to Asian and North American shorebirds. I laud scientists who take the time to produce books for a general audience, and this is a nice example of this outreach. The text summarizes some current views of migration and information on the migration of shorebirds through Asia; it will be of interest to students of migration. The text is matched with evocative images taken mainly by Jan van de Kam of the tundra Preview â€" Invisible Connections by Jan van de Kam. Invisible Connections: Why Migrating Shorebirds Need the Yellow Sea. by. Jan van de KamÂ International cooperation is essential to maintain an unbroken chain of habitats to support these global travelers and their need for stopover sites to rest and refuel along their flyway. This book and its wonderful photographs by Jan van de Kam bring to life the dramatic journeys of migratory shorebirds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, the importance of their staging sites and the need for international cooperation to maintain this cycle. Key features - Outstanding photography - Important conservation issues linking USA, Asia and Australasia ...more. Migrating shorebirds tend to gather in high concentrations to rest and feed as they make their long migrations, making them predictable and easy to hunt. As recently as 2019, there was evidence that far eastern curlews were being shot in the Kamchatka peninsula in eastern Russia as they gathered among larger flocks of whimbrels.Â Shorebird numbers are declining and Fuller said developments around the Yellow Sea â€" where many of the migrating birds stop to rest â€" had robbed them of about two-thirds of the intertidal mud-flats over the past 50 years. Far eastern curlew numbers had crashed by about 80% in the past 30 years, he said, and the species was listed as critically endangered in Australia in 2015.

The birds are increasinglyâ€¦Â Red knots and great knots depend on the tidal mudflats of China's Bohai Bay to rest and refuel during their long-distance migrations. The birds are increasingly competing with development for this vital habitat. The survival of these incredible aerialists hangs in the balance. 3 Credits. Jan van de Kam. softcover; a general introduction to various bird species found at the shore and not just "shorebirds"; covers sandpipers & plovers, gulls, terns, herons, waterfowl, and some passerines; shows 40+ species with 200 good color photos; 1-2 pages of text on each of 28 birds address primarily feeding, migration, abundance, behavior, habitat preference, historical notes, and other natural history material; first 1/3 of. the book gives general overview to biology, migration, population, and related topics of "shorebirds" in general; restricted range map given for the 28 highlighted species. (2763). S...Â Invisible Connections. Why migrating shorebirds need the Yellow Sea. by van de Kam, J, et al. 2008, 152pp, ISBN: 9789058820099. â€œInvisible Connectionsâ€ is a wonderful photographic journey that follows the migration of shorebirds flying from their breeding grounds in the Arctic through East Asia to Australasia. It highlights one of natureâ€™s most spectacular phenomena and reveals the surprising and little-known connections that exist between countries, habitats and people through this migration. Where to buy: Shop. Invisible Connections. download. We review research concerning shorebird migration through the Yellow Sea and highlight key research activities required for the conservation of shorebirds in the region. These activities include: confirming the population consequences of loss of stopping sitesÂ We did not include these two sites because they are outside of the traditional Yellow Sea region. Data sources: Barter (Reference Barter2002), Moores (Reference Moores2006), Yang (Reference Yang2006), and China Coastal Waterbird Census Group (2009, 2011). Table 1. Checklists of migratory shorebirds in the Yellow Sea. Species that are only occasionally recorded in the Yellow Sea but are abundant in other flyways are not included. Each year, invisible to the naked eye, millions of migrating shorebirds fly from Australasia towards the tidal flats of the Yellow Sea bordering China and Korea. Each flock is made up of individuals using whatever strategies they can muster to endure the flights, weather the storms and find safe havens to rest and refuel on their long journeys to the breeding grounds in Siberia or Alaska. Once there, successful reproduction of as many individuals as possible is key to survival. Shorebird migration is one of nature's most spectacular phenomena, creating surprising and hitherto poorly understood