

Diversity and Distribution of Waterbirds during Spring in Wetlands around Huanghai Sea and Bohai Sea in China

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Wetlands around Huanghai Sea and Bohai Sea in China are an important part of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway and key stations for migrating waterbirds. In order to determine the current status of the waterbirds in the wetlands around Huanghai Sea and Bohai Sea in China, the diversity of the waterbirds in this area in spring were surveyed synchronously by 30 institutions using line transects and point count methods from 2016 to 2018.

In total, 26 wetlands in this region were surveyed, with 18 wetlands surveyed in the spring of 2016 and 2017, and 23 wetlands were surveyed in spring 2018. During the surveys, 2,588,603 individuals of waterbirds (137 species, 17 families, 8 orders) were recorded. Among these species, 80.7% (53 species) of them were shorebirds, with three species listed as CR (critically endangered)-grade, 6 species listed as EN (endangered)-grade, 6 species listed as VU (vulnerable)-grade and 13 species recognized as NT (near threatened)-grade by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The abundance of waterbirds in different wetlands was significantly different, and the number of individuals among species varied greatly.

This study indicated that Huanghai Sea and Bohai Sea Region were important stopovers for shorebirds and some rare bird species, such as Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*), Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*) and Oriental White Stork (*Ciconia boyciana*). In the spring of 2016, 2017 and 2018, there were 8, 8 and 10 wetlands to meet both "Criterion 5" and "Criterion 6" in this area; in spring 2018, 17 wetlands have



ABSTRACT

been found to meet "Criterion 6" in this region, however, the protection for this region remains insufficient. As ecological civilization in China is progressing, conservation of the wetlands and the biodiversity in Huanghai Sea and Bohai Sea Region becomes inevitable.

