

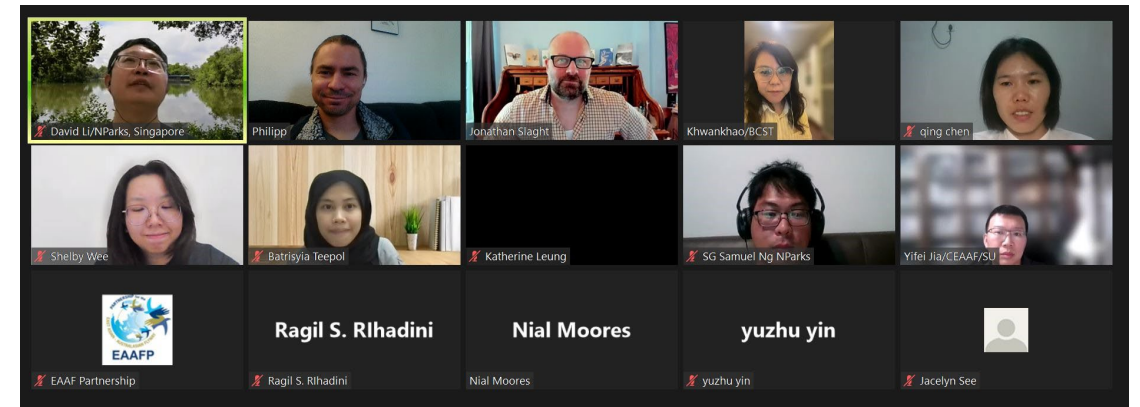
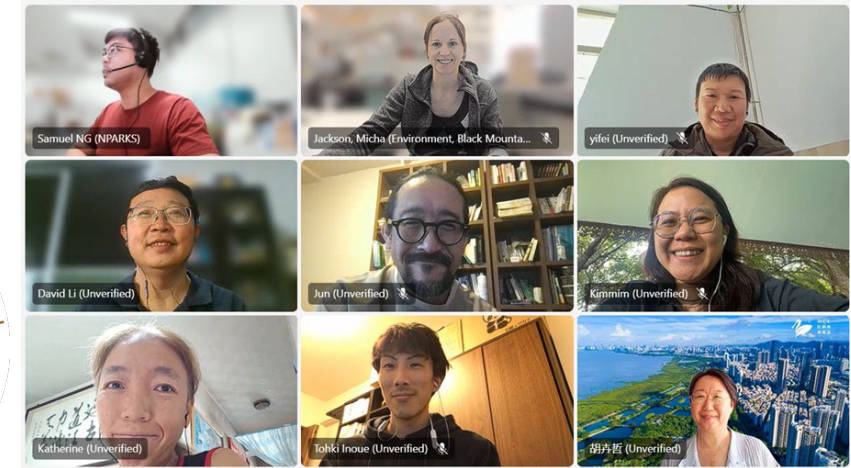
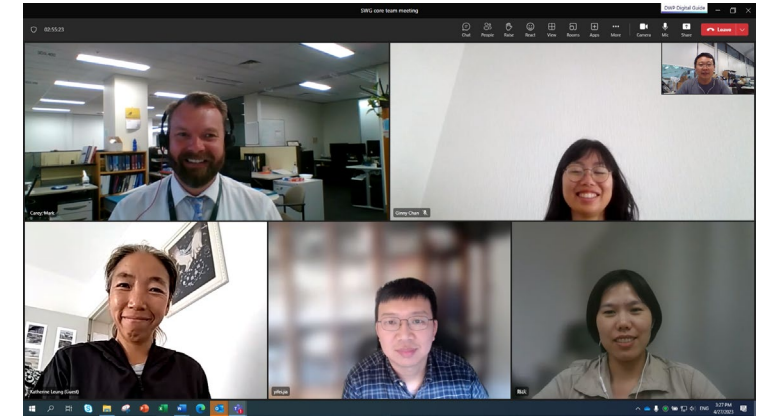
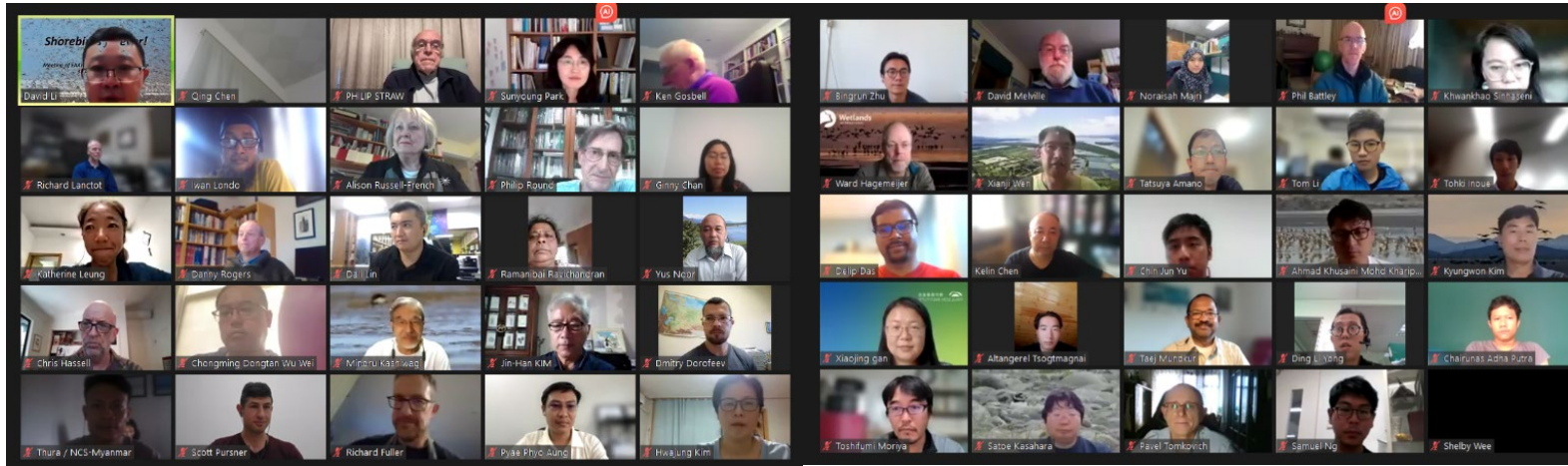
East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Shorebird Working Group

Rick Lanctot
Core Team Member
U.S. representative

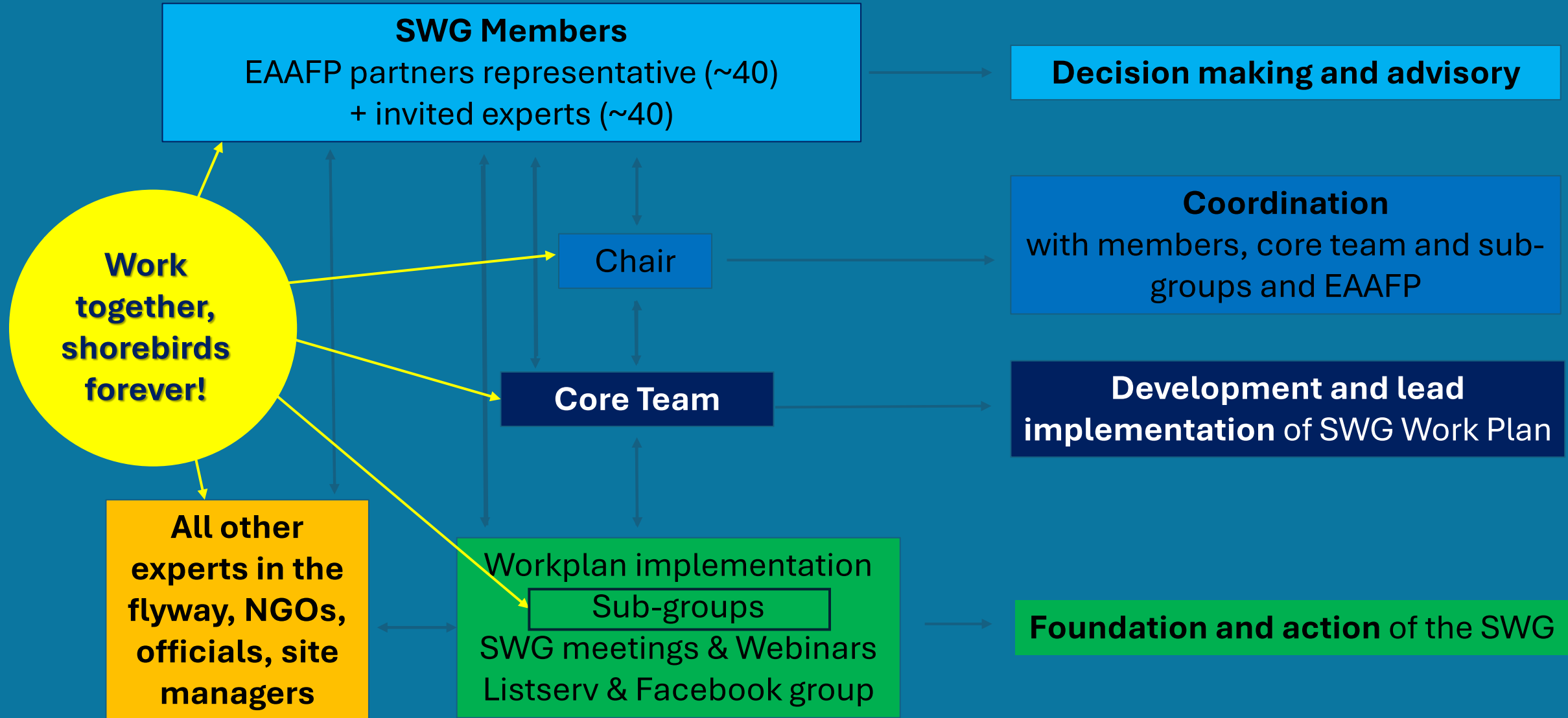
David Li
Chair of SWG
National Parks Board, Singapore



Many people in the EAAF care about shorebirds



Structure of SWG



SWG Activities, 2023-2025

- 1. Updated Shorebird Colour Marking Chart**

Shorebird Colour Marking Protocol for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (Updated: April 2025)

Key:

Upper flag	Banding location
Lower flag	

Pale blue	Russia, North-west Chukotka (Chaun Delta)
Orange	

Pale blue	Russia, Northern Chukotka <small>[using plain flags only]</small>
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Lime	Russia, Southern Chukotka
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Lime	Russia, Southern Chukotka
White	

Black	Russia, Kamchatka (various sites)
Yellow	

Yellow	Russia, Sakhalin Island <small>[using plain flags only]</small>
White	

Red	Russia, Schaste Bay and Viakhtu Bay <small>[on Nordmann's Greenshank, with colour bands]</small>
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Yellow (band)	USA, Northern Alaska (Barrow) <small>[on Dunlin, with colour bands]</small>
Green	

Orange (band)	USA, North Western Alaska <small>[on Dunlin, with colour bands]</small>
Green	

Blue (band)	USA, Western Alaska <small>[on Dunlin, with colour bands]</small>
Green	

Green (band)	USA, Northern Alaska (Canning River) <small>[on Dunlin, with colour bands]</small>
Green	

Pale blue (band)	USA, Northern Alaska (Ikpiuk & Prudhoe Bay) <small>[on Dunlin, with colour bands]</small>
Green	

Black	USA, Alaska <small>[on Bar-tailed Godwit]</small>
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Blue	Mongolia (various sites)
Green	

Orange	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
White	

White	Republic of Korea
Orange	

Blue	Japan, Hokkaido (Furen Lake and Utonai Lake)
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Blue	Japan, Hokkaido (Komuke Marsh) and Honshu <small>(Lower Tone River)</small>
Blue	

Blue	Japan, Honshu (Tokyo Bay and Torinoumi)
White	

Blue	Japan, Kyushu (Ariake Sea) and Okinawa <small>(Okinawa Island and Miyako Island)</small>
Orange	

Green	China, Yalujiang Estuary (Dandong, Liaoning)
Orange	

Blue	China, Bohai Bay (various sites)
Yellow	

Green	China, Jiangsu (Dongtai and Rudong)
Blue	

White	China, Shanghai Chongming Dongtan Nature Reserve <small>[before 2006, using plain flags only]</small>
Black	

Black	China, Shanghai Chongming Dongtan Nature Reserve <small>[after 2006]</small>
White	

Black	China, Zhejiang (blue flag on opposite leg, using plain flags only)
White	

White	China, Taiwan (various sites)
Blue	

White	China, Guangdong (Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Yangjiang and Zhanjiang)
Yellow	

Black	Thailand (Inner Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Coast of the Thai Peninsula)
Green	

Green	Cambodia
Black	

Yellow	Malaysia (East and West Malaysia)
Black	

Green	Singapore (Sungei Buloh and Pulau Ubin)
White	

Black	Philippines <small>[with colour bands]</small>
Blue	

Black	Indonesia, Java and Madura Island <small>[using plain flags only]</small>
Orange	

Orange	Indonesia, Sumatra and Central Borneo <small>[using plain flags only]</small>
Black	

Orange	Indonesia, West Papua <small>[using plain flags only]</small>
Orange	

Yellow	Bangladesh <small>[some Black-tailed Godwits are marked with 2 plain flags + 3 colour bands]</small>
Yellow	

White	India (various sites: North; West; East coast; Inland)
White	

Black	India, South
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Green	Sri Lanka
Green	

Yellow	Australia, Northern Territory
Blue	

Green	Australia, Queensland (including Gulf of Carpentaria)
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Orange	Australia, New South Wales
Green	

Orange	Australia, Victoria
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Orange	Australia, South Australia
Yellow	

Orange	Australia, Tasmania
Blue	

Yellow	Australia, South-west Western Australia
Orange	

Yellow	Australia, North Western Australia <small>[some Great and Red Knots, Bar-tailed and Black-tailed Godwits are marked with 1 plain flag + 4 colour bands]</small>
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White	New Zealand, North and South Island <small>[some Red Knots, Bar-tailed Godwits and Ruddy Turnstone are marked with 1 plain flag + 4 colour bands]</small>
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Red	New Zealand, South Island <small>[on Bar-tailed Godwit, with 1 plain flag + 4 colour bands]</small>
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Assigned but currently inactive:

Pale blue	Russia, Wrangel Island
White	

Blue	China, Guangxi and Hainan
Black	

Yellow	Vietnam
Green	

Black	Myanmar
Black	

Special colour flagging scheme for Spoon-billed Sandpiper:



Lime	Spoon-billed Sandpiper, wild birds from breeding ground
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White	Spoon-billed Sandpiper, chicks from head starting programme
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Yellow	Spoon-billed Sandpiper, wild birds from stopover sites
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Orange	Spoon-billed Sandpiper, wild birds from wintering ground
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Note: There are also small number of individuals marked following the Shorebird Colour Flagging Protocol, e.g. in recent year: Shanghai Chongming Dongtan (Black over white); Thailand (Black over green); North Chukotka (pale blue).

Notes:

Each colour marking combination may be shared by several researchers in one banding location. To differentiate between the projects, some minor variations of marks may be applied (e.g. placing the flag(s) on left or right leg, cutting the flag(s) at an angle). The EAAFP Shorebird Working Group holds an inventory of what and how colour marks are used by individual colour marking sites/organisations.

In China, some breeding Eurasian Oystercatcher in Liaoning Liao River Estuary, and some breeding Kentish Plover and Black-winged Stilt at various sites along the coast are marked just with colour bands (no flag).

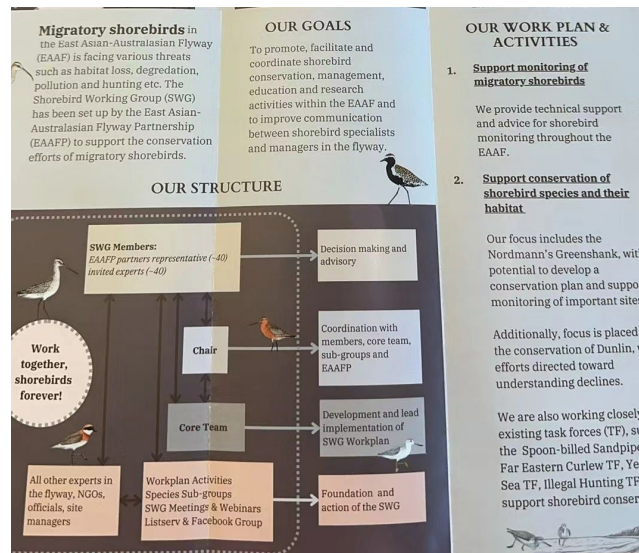
In Australia and New Zealand, non-migratory shorebirds (e.g. various oystercatcher species) are also marked with engraved leg flags, those might not follow this Protocol.

SWG Activities, 2023-2025

- 1. Updated Shorebird Colour Marking Chart**
- 2. EAAF Network Sister site Exchange Activities – Kayla Shively and Martin Robards**
- 3. Dunlin tracking effort – Rick Lanctot**
- 4. Bar-tailed Godwit outreach – Dan Ruthrauff and Jim Johnson**
- 5. Nordmann’s Greenshank task force initiated – Philipp Maleko, Jon Slaght, WCS**
- 6. Conducted 7 SWG Webinars**
- 7. Small Grant program (\$5000 max/year)**

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1. Updated Shorebird Colour Marking Chart
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8. Outreach



9. Develop Work Plan 2026–2030

(endorsed at EAAF Partners meeting on 30 October 2025)

- 1. Support monitoring of migratory shorebirds.**
- 2. Support conservation of shorebird species and their habitat.**
- 3. Support Capacity building and promote science for shorebird conservation and management**
- 4. Enhance communication relating to shorebird conservation**

Facebook: East Asian-Australasian Flyway Shorebird Conservation Network

Listserv: eaafswg.lists.fws.gov
(contact Rick Lanctot to join)

