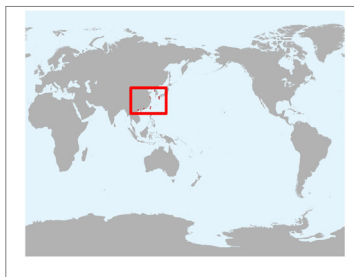




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Geographical range

Amazing Species: Black-faced Spoonbill

The **Black-faced Spoonbill**, *Platalea minor*, is classified as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. The birds migrate along the east coast of Asia, nesting in summer around the Korean Peninsula and wintering in Taiwan, Province of China, Hong Kong, mainland China, Japan, Macau, and Viet Nam. Since the first census in 1990, the population has grown from 300 to 2,300. However, this may be only a tenuous recovery from an earlier population crash possibly caused by pesticides.

The main threat to this bird is the destruction and pollution of their wetland habitat. Even though many wetlands are nominally protected, some governments flout their own laws and allow "reclamation" (filling) of wetlands for agriculture or the expansion of cities. Economic development in China has converted many coastal wetlands into aquaculture ponds and industrial estates.

Taiwan recently designated a National Scenic Area around the most populous wintering site of the Black-faced Spoonbill, and successful ecotourism there is proving that species conservation can be profitable. Scientists, environmental planners and activists are working to save the birds and their habitat, and developing new areas where the population can expand.

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