

- Scaly-sided Mergansers are known as a valuable "indicator species" because they need near-natural and healthy rivers to survive

- Research throughout Korea has found that they often share rivers with other important and threatened wildlife, including River Otters, Mandarin Ducks and Long-billed Plovers

- The species has been seen on more than a dozen Korean rivers. The most important of these for the Scaly-sided Merganser are the Imjin River in Yeoncheon County; the Namhan River; the Nam and Seomjin Rivers; the Chongchon River and the Bukhan River.

Birds Korea is dedicated to the conservation of birds and their habitats in Korea and the wider Yellow Sea Eco-region. We work locally and nationally for conservation, and are members of the special international Scaly-sided Merganser Task Force, under the auspices of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (<https://www.eaaflyway.net/>), based in Incheon.



Scaly-sided Mergansers, Imjin River, Birds Korea Yeoncheon

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For further information or to share sightings of Scaly-sided Mergansers, please contact

Birds Korea at | [Nial.Moores@birdskorea.org](mailto:Nial.Moores@birdskorea.org)

Birds Korea office | +82 (0)51.627.3163

<https://www.birdskoreablog.org/>



Mandarin Duck



Long-billed Plover

## The Shy River-dweller

# Scaly-sided Merganser



Found only in East Asia

Shy and wary of people

Globally Endangered and a National Natural Monument in Korea, with a world population of only 4,000 – similar to the world population of the Tiger!

Confined to rivers, where they dive for fish

Seen in Korea between October and mid-April

Scaly-sided Mergansers have long crests, flanks covered in fish-like scales, and red bills with a yellow tip

Males have dark green heads  
females and young birds have brown heads

Main threat in Korea is disturbance by people

River dredging and dams also damage their habitat and the habitat of the fish that they eat

If you are lucky enough to see a Scaly-sided Merganser please keep your distance!

