

## The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

### Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to [jane@rufford.org](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

#### Grant Recipient Details

<b>Your name</b>	Peiqi Liu
<b>Project title</b>	Survey of Scaly-sided Merganser ( <i>Mergus squamatus</i> ) Breeding Population and Migration in the Changbai Mountains, China
<b>RSG reference</b>	RSG ref: 29.12.07
<b>Reporting period</b>	2008
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£4,115
<b>Your email address</b>	peiqil@126.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	2008-09-29

**1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.**

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Breeding pair surveys			√	
Brood surveys			√	
Nest surveys			√	We successfully found 2 wild nests of Scaly-sided Merganser at the beginning of May
Pre-migratory congregation and stop-over survey		√		We have finished the stop-over site survey in March and early April. The survey of pre-migratory congregation sites will be made in middle and late October. But this has no effect on the final report on breeding population of Scaly-sided Mergansers in Changbai Mountains.

**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).**

Security problem when floating through fast flowing water is a big difficulty. Comparing with this problem, the suddenly snows and rains are nothing. Our boat had been overturned on Aug. 3. The lesson we got from this is never take off your life jacket whenever you are on the boat. The life jacket in good quality is fatal necessary.

Another unforeseen difficulty is that we overspent our fund because of the price zoom of fuel and labour in China. We have to use the money of buying climbing facilities for this amount of payments.

**3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.**

This project basically makes out the population densities of the Scaly-sided Mergansers in Changbai Mountains. This is very important and very basic step for long-term monitoring program and further conservation to this species.

This project discovered several unknown habitats and the distribution centre, an important migratory stop-over site and 3 pre-migratory congregation sites of the Scaly-sided Mergansers in Changbai Mountains.

Through this project, we basically understood some threats affecting the population recovery of Scaly-sided Merganser in Changbai Mountains. We have already reported these threats to the relative administrative departments of our government and some measurements are being considered.

**4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).**

In our field work, we have been to several forest bureaus and got the chances to talk with local administrative officials to arise their attention to the conservation of this species. A forest bureau had erected 20 artificial nests for Scaly-sided Mergansers under our guidance.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Pursuing the monitoring program to understand the population trend of Scaly-sided Merganser in the Changbai Mountains. Make studies on habitat selection and nest site selection. Trying the artificial nest program along some rivers with high breeding densities of Scaly-sided Merganser.

**6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?**

We will share our results with wildlife conservation organizations such as IUCN-SSC/Wetlands International Threatened Waterfowl Specialist Group (TWSG) and Wild life Administrative Department of Forestry Bureau of Jilin Province and any others who are interested in the conservation of this globally threatened species.

**7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?**

The RSG was used from the very beginning of our field work, middle much to the end of August. It was basically coincident with the anticipated length of the project.

**8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.**

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Train and bus tickets	100	100	0	
Car rent, £20 per day including fuel (65 days)	1,300	1,560	+260	As the prices of fuel and labour highly increased. We have to pay additional 50 ¥ RMB (about 4 £) to the car driver per day
Field per diem (food and accommodation, £15 a day/person, 135 days) P Liu – 65 days, Z Piao – 40 days, Boat driver – 30 days	2,025	2,165	+140	Additional 30¥ RMB (about 2 £) per day have been paid to each of the boat driver and another surveyor.
Tools for climbing trees	200	0	-200	This money was used for fuel payment.
Telescope and GPS	300	210	-90	We bought a cheap binocular and the cost saved was used for food and boat driver payment.

Rubber boat	100	120	+20	Price rising after our proposal submitting
Communication	50	50	0	
Small supply	40	40	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 4,115</b>	<b>£ 4,245</b>	<b>+£ 130</b>	The overspent amount of £ 130 (about 1850 Yuan RMB) was supported by Ms. Zhang Haixia.

**9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?**

In Changbai Mountain range, the Scaly-sided Merganser selects habitats in different types to live in different seasons, and this is the reason of its population yearly fluctuation in this range. There are still some habitats of this species have not been discovered in this range and it is not enough tell about the trend of this population according to the current studies we have made. We believe that the studies on the habitat selection of this species in Changbai Mountain range are the most important and should be carried out urgently. These studies could let us make out that how this species using its habitats and how many habitat resources left in this range, as well as threats come from habitat losing and degrading. Therefore, provide us the basic data and guidance for the conservation and population recovery programs, such as artificial nests program.

**10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

Yes, I have used the RSGF logo and clear declaration that this project was supported by the RSGF in my reports to Dr. Baz Hughes, Head of TWSG, and Dr. Diana Solovieva, Russian specialist on Scaly-sided Merganser.

**11. Any other comments?**

I appreciate the RSGF very much for the supports of this project. Our survey results are very important for referencing to the conservation of the Scaly-sided Merganser in Changbai Mountains. At present, we are thinking applying the Rufford Small Grant the second time for pursuing the studies on population trend and habitat selection of the Scaly-sided Merganser in the Changbai Mountain range in 2009.