1. Email

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1. What is your name?

Yi-Chin (Sunny) Tseng

1. What is your career stage?

student or between degrees

1. What is your current position?

PhD candidate

1. What is your current affiliation?

University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, Canada

1. Please describe your story in 200 words or less.

The story starts with a Siberian Crane that got blown off course, ending up in Taiwan. It was the year I graduated from university, an organization initiated a project sending a small group of young scientists to the Siberian Arctic Tundra to visit the breeding ground of the crane, and learn more about how these two very different places, Taiwan and Siberian Tundra, are connected. I thought: “It’s such a precious opportunity to explore the place that I have never seen, I have never been.”

I proposed to record the bird sounds in the Siberian Tundra. We flew through the coldest city, Yakutsk, and then to this broken village, Chokurdakh. At the edge of the world, the 24 hours daylight shinning on the tundra in Kytalyk Natural Reserve, where birds thrive and breed. It was such an amazing landscape with splendid biodiversity… Arctic Tern, Ross’s Gull, Yellow-billed Loon, and Siberian Crane… I brought back some of the most amazing and rarest sound recordings from the edge of the world.

My life career was changed by this journey, by the people, the birds, and the connections. Taiwan and Siberian Tundra, they are two places very far away, but we are connected because of birds – because of the missing crane bringing us together.