

# IUCN SSC Woodcock and Snipe Specialist Group



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**RED LIST AUTHORITY  
COORDINATOR**  
BirdLife International

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**  
130

#### SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Website: <https://www.wetlands.org/our-network/specialist-groups/woodcock-and-snipe-specialist-group/>

### Mission statement

The first aim of the Woodcock and Snipe Specialist Group (WSSG) is to provide up-to-date knowledge on eight woodcock and 18 snipe species in the world. It is also expected to encourage new research and to facilitate contacts between researchers. WSSG plays the role of expertise platform for biologists, conservationists and wildlife managers interested in woodcocks and snipes to share and exchange of information. As these are games species, the final objective is to ensure the sustainable use of the populations.

### Projected impact 2021–2025

With the actions that we intend to develop within the scope of the proposed targets for the quadrennium, we hope to increase knowledge about the various woodcock and snipe species and contribute to their conservation and definition of future actions.

### Targets 2021–2025

#### ASSESS

**T-002** Review conservation status of all woodcock and snipe species.

**T-010** Participate in the re-evaluation of the IUCN Red List status of the world's birds, with BirdLife (IUCN Red List Authority for birds).

#### PLAN

**T-008** Continue working closely with entities involved in the management of woodcock and snipe populations.

#### NETWORK

**T-001** Review membership and expand the taxonomic and geographic representation for the group by inviting 15 new experts with emphasis on increasing the representation of members from South America, Africa and Asia.

#### COMMUNICATE

**T-003** Publish the Proceedings of the 8<sup>th</sup> Woodcock and Snipe Workshop.

**T-004** Publish the Woodcock and Snipe Specialist Group annual newsletter.

**T-009** Organise the 9th Woodcock and Snipe Workshop.

### Activities and results 2021

#### ASSESS

##### Red List

**T-010** (KSR 6)

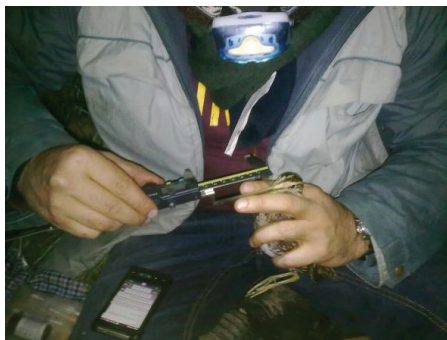
**Number of species re-evaluated for the IUCN Red List status of the world's birds, with BirdLife: 5**

**Result description:** The group continues to collaborate with BirdLife (IUCN Red List Authority for birds) on the re-evaluation of woodcock and snipe. Several members and collaborators reviewed or suggest revisions to the factsheets of 12 species: Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), Wilson's Snipe (*G. delicata*), Latham's Snipe (*G. hardwickii*), Swinhoe's Snipe (*G. megala*), Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyrtes minimus*), American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*), Eurasian Woodcock (*S. rusticola*); we include here also the five species from the genus *Coenocorypha* reviewed by Colin Miskelly: Auckland Snipe (*Coenocorypha aucklandica*), North Island Snipe (*C. barrierensis*), Snares Island Snipe (*C. huegeli*), South Island Snipe (*C. iredalei*) and Chatham Snipe (*C. pusilla*).

Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*)  
ringing during winter  
Photo: David Gonçalves



Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)  
ringing during winter in continental Portugal  
Photo: David Gonçalves



Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)  
habitat in the island of Flores (Azores)  
Photo: David Gonçalves



## Research activities

T-002 (KSR 5)

**Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation:** 0

**Result description:** The provisional structure of a review article on the conservation and policies of woodcock and snipe populations was prepared. Invitations were sent to potential collaborators in various regions of the world. We hope to make progress in the process shortly. Coordinators: Birgita Hansen, David Gonçalves, Eduardo Gallo-Cajiao and Richard Fuller.

## PLAN

### Policy

T-008 (KSR 9)

**Number of documents provided to support/guide policy making:** 0

**Result description:** Although there is no formal publication in this period, collaboration with entities involved in the management of woodcock and snipe populations continues, for example, with the 'Fédération des Associations Nationales des Bécassiers du Paléarctique occidental' and the 'Office Français de la Biodiversité'.

## NETWORK

### Membership

T-001 (KSR 2)

**Number of SSC members recruited:** 1

**Result description:** Recruiting new members has not been easy. More time will be dedicated to this objective.

## COMMUNICATE

### Communication

T-003 (KSR 12)

**Publication of the Proceedings of the 8th Woodcock and Snipe Workshop:** 0

**Result description:** Unfortunately, due to various difficulties, the publication of the proceedings is delayed.

T-004 (KSR 12)

**Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced:** 0

**Result description:** Unfortunately, due to various difficulties, the publication of newsletter number 46 is delayed.

## Acknowledgements

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Resources, InBIO Associated Laboratory, University of Porto; BIOPOLIS Programme in Genomics, Biodiversity and Land Planning, CIBIO, Portugal); Edward Mongin (APB-Birdlife Belarus, Belarus); Erik Blomberg (Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Conservation Biology, University of Maine, US); James M. Carrol (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Department of Forest Resources, Tifton, Georgia, US); Kévin Le-Rest (Office français de la biodiversité, France); Leho Luigujoe (Estonian University of Life Sciences, Institute of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Estonia); Stephen Garnett (College of Engineering, Information and the Environment, Charles Darwin University, Australia); Tatiana Sviridova (A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia); Yoshiya Odaya (Abiko City Museum of Birds, Abiko, Japan).

## Summary of achievements

**Total number of targets 2021–2025:** 7

**Geographic regions:** 7 Global, 1 Africa, 2 America, 2 Asia, 2 Europe

### Actions during 2021:

Assess: 2 (KSR 5, 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 9)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 12)

**Overall achievement 2021–2025:**

