



Petr Glazov

Chair

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Red List Authority Coordinator

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Location/Affiliation

Institute of Geography, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia

Number of members

412

Social networks

Facebook: Goose Specialist Group

Website: www.geese.org/gsg/

Mission statement

The Goose Specialist Group (GSG) seeks to strengthen contacts between all researchers on migratory goose populations in the northern hemisphere by organising regular scientific conferences and stimulating research on population dynamics of geese.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we will make a revision of current IUCN Red List status of goose species of concern in Europe. Addressing the conservation and management of declining, as well as growing, goose populations in Europe calls for a coordinated flyway approach amongst all range states concerned. To facilitate and implement such an approach, a European Goose Management Platform was established under the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), as called for by the AEWA Parties through Resolution 6.14. By the end of 2020, we expect acceptance of the Platform in most AEWA countries.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: assess global status of Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*) through intensive monitoring and satellite tracking at staging and wintering areas.

Research activities: (1) investigate local movement and behaviour of geese wintering in Lower Saxony (Germany) and assess environmental factors affecting local movement and behaviour; (2) conduct big survey expedition in

Kazakhstan for monitoring of the Red-breasted Goose wintering population; (3) assess survival of Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) goslings and juveniles in Arctic breeding grounds and impacts of climate warming.

Plan

Planning: develop a coordinated flyway monitoring protocol for the Red-breasted Goose.

Policy: develop and adopt a National Species Action Plan for the Red-breasted Goose in Romania and Kazakhstan.

Act

Conservation actions: (1) promote recovery of the Red-breasted Goose population through reduction and mitigation of poaching and illegal hunting impact at key staging and wintering areas; (2) investigate changes in migration route and dynamic and search for possible new staging and wintering areas of the Red-breasted Goose through satellite tracking.

Communicate

Communication: (1) raise awareness about Red-breasted Goose and threatened waterfowl at key staging areas in range countries; (2) create a GSG page on Facebook; (3) publish *Goose Bulletin*.

Scientific meetings: organise the 19th Conference of the Goose Specialist Group.

Activities and results 2020

Assess

Red List

i. The autumn count of Red-breasted Goose in Kazakhstan was cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions in 2020. A survey is planned in partnership with the AEWA Secretariat in autumn 2021. (KSR #1, 12)



Geese catching in Bulgaria
Photo: Nikolai Petkov

Ringling of a Red-breasted Goose,
Branta ruficollis (Vulnerable)
Photo: Nikolai Petkov



Acknowledgements

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Summary of activities 2020

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 3/5

Assess	3	■■■
Act	2	■■
Communicate	4	■■■■

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 12, 28, 32, 34, 37

KSR: Key Species Result

Research activities

- i.** The report for the Ministry of Lower Saxony on local movement and behaviour of geese wintering in Lower Saxony (Germany) has been produced. Scientific publications are still under production. (KSR #32)
- ii.** The big survey expedition to repeat the 2016 census of Red-breasted Goose in Kazakhstan was cancelled in autumn 2020 and rescheduled for autumn 2021. (KSR #12)

Act

Conservation actions

- i.** Hunting patrols with local authorities were implemented in Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Kazakhstan to help recovery of the Red-breasted Goose population. A high-profile case of a Red-breasted Goose poaching took place in January 2020 in Southern Romania. News about poaching the bird was seen by over 2 million viewers on the internet and television. In Kazakhstan, a hunter was prosecuted for killing Red-breasted Goose during hunting season in autumn 2020. Killing of vagrant Red-breasts was registered in Georgia. In winter season 2019–2020, hunting was banned for the winter in Romania and safe wintering secured. A report on hunting pressure along the flyway was produced. An audio study of hunting activities around key sites in Romania and Bulgaria is in preparation. Hunting was permanently banned in spring around Manych Lake (Russia) via state decree from Kalmykia and Rostov Region. Illegal killing, hunting disturbance and poaching continue to be threats during the autumn and winter period, but threats have been significantly reduced with the ban of spring hunting around Manych. (KSR #34, 37)
- ii.** Successful cannon netting of geese took place in February 2020 in Bulgaria. Nine Red-breasted Geese were tagged, but predominant tags were lost quickly. (KSR #12)

Communicate

Communication

- i.** An interactive exhibit was produced in four of five key countries: Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine. The exhibit has been seen by over 20,000 people so far. In 2020, a short video was produced by the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BSPB) and AEWA Red-breasted Goose International Working Group, on Red-breasted Goose migration and poaching threats to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day. The video has been seen by over 10,000 people so far. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tulip Festival was cancelled in 2020. (KSR #28)
- ii.** A Facebook page has been created (see: www.facebook.com/groups/417044005854612). (KSR #28)
- iii.** Two issues of *Goose Bulletin* were published in 2020 (Issue 25 – May 2020 and Issue 26 – November 2020). (KSR #28)

Scientific meetings

- i.** The 19th Conference of the Goose Specialist Group was held. Each of the conference days began with a 45-minute plenary lecture; in order of appearance, these sessions were: (1) ‘Setting the scene - various aspects’; (2) ‘Dynamics of small populations’; (3) ‘European Goose Management Platform’; (4) ‘Goose conflicts and management’; (5) ‘Hunting and predation’; (6) ‘Migration issues’; (7) ‘Migration issues 2 plus tools’; (8) ‘Breeding grey geese’; and (9) ‘Dynamics of breeding geese’ plus ‘disturbance’. (KSR #28)