

GOOSE BULLETIN

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GOOSE BULLETIN is the official bulletin of the Goose Specialist Group of Wetlands International and IUCN.

GOOSE BULLETIN appears as required, but at least once a year in electronic form. The bulletin aims to improve communication and exchange information amongst goose researchers throughout the world. It publishes contributions covering goose research and monitoring projects, project proposals, status and progress reports, information about new literature concerning geese, as well as regular reports and information from the Goose Database.

Contributions for the **GOOSE BULLETIN** are welcomed from all members of the Goose Specialist Group and should be sent as a Word-file to the Editor-in-chief. Authors of named contributions in the **GOOSE BULLETIN** are personally responsible for the contents of their contribution, which do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board or the Goose Specialist Group.

Editor-in chief: Johan Mooij (johan.mooij@bskw.de)
Biologische Station im Kreis Wesel
Freybergweg 9, D-46483 Wesel (Germany)

Editorial board: Fred Cottaar, Tony Fox, Carl Mitchell,
Johan Mooij, Berend Voslamber

Goose Specialist Group of Wetlands International and IUCN
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Editorial

In front of you, you see the 18th issue of the GOOSE BULLETIN, in which the 16th meeting of the Goose Specialist Group (GSG) in Beijing (China) is announced. Both these devices are the fundamental elements that keep the GSG together, to improve co-operation between the members and to co-ordinate information exchange on goose research and monitoring, as well as circulating data on goose counts to make them more accessible and effective than they have been in the past.

The idea for a regular GSG meeting was born during the Anatidae 2000 meeting in Strasbourg (France), in December 1994 and crystallised in the GOOSE BULLETIN 6 from August 1995:

“We very much hope that the establishment of a regular meeting of “goose-minded” people, together with the continued publication of the Bulletin, will greatly enhance the involvement of the membership of the Group and meet our objectives by improving our means of dissemination and communication between goose researchers and enthusiasts.”

The reason for founding a Goose Specialist Group and the need for co-ordination of goose research activities was clarified in more detail in the major publication to date of the GSG, “Goose populations of the Western Palearctic”:

“Geese, as so many observers have pointed out, are no respecters of human political boundaries, and this continues to necessitate international consultation and co-ordination of common approaches. Hence, there has been increasing emphasis placed upon the need for management and coordination on a flyway-wide level, yet, we have seen increasing goose damage conflict associated with several of the expanding populations. At the same time, we have experienced a huge upsurge in scientific interest in geese, manifest in the increasing number of projects and publications arising from the community.” (MADSEN et al. 1999).

In spite of the fact that the “magnum opus” of the GSG only dealt with the “Goose populations of the Western Palearctic” the pretence of the Group always was to be a platform for bridging the gap between all goose research activities around the world. This worldwide engagement of the group is reflected in the venues of the GSG meetings, of which two were and a third one is planned outside the Western Palearctic, as well as by the contents of the GOOSE BULLETIN, which offers a growing assortment of fascinating publications about goose populations and research activities around the entire globe.

With the 18th issue of the GOOSE BULLETIN in front of you and the 16th GSG meeting to come, we have to conclude that the ideas of the 1990s are still bearing fruit. It is up to us all to keep it moving!

Please keep sending us your goose manuscripts!

The next issue of the GOOSE BULLETIN is planned to appear in November 2014, which means that material for this issue should have reached the editor-in-chief not later than the 30st of September 2014.....but earlier arrival is allowed!

The Editorial Board



16th meeting of the Goose Specialist Group, Beijing (China), 22-28 November 2014

The 16th meeting of the Goose Specialist Group will be held in Beijing, China from 22-28 November 2014 and will be hosted by the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and will include a field visit to Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve within the Yangtze River floodplain.



Soon more information about this meeting will be made available at:
<http://www.geese.org/gsg/>.



Winter Distribution and Abundance of Bar-headed Geese *Anser indicus* on the Yun-Gui Plateau, China

Qiang Liu¹, Fengshan Li², Fang Yang³

¹ National Plateau Wetlands Research Center, Southwest Forestry University, Yunnan, 650224, China; cranelover@gmail.com

² International Crane Foundation, Baraboo, WI, 53913, USA.

³ Yunnan Forestry department, Yunnan, 650021, China.

Key words: *Anser indicus*, abundance, distribution

Abstract

Bar-headed Geese *Anser indicus* probably play a role in the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1. Analyses to determine the spread routes highly rely on basic information on their distribution and abundance, however, this information is still limited, especially the population wintering on the Yun-Gui Plateau in China. In 2002, 2003 and 2004, we surveyed all known wintering areas of Bar-headed Geese by undertaking counts at roosts in Yunnan and Guizhou Province. Our surveys found total numbers ranging from a maximum of 3821 geese in January 2004 to 1456 geese in January 2002. The highest concentrations of geese during all three surveys occurred at Lashihai reservoir, Caohai Lake, Napahai Wetland and Daqiao reservoir. A migration route from Caohai Lake in Guizhou Province to Qinghai Lake in Qinghai Province has been identified by bird banding and satellite tracking. However, the Bar-headed Geese on the Yun-Gui Plateau are more isolated, and we suggest that more geese should be tracked or banded in the future in this area to establish the migration routes of this segment of the population.

Introduction

Bar-headed Geese have a restricted world distribution and it is said to play an important role in the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 (ZHOU et al 2006; BOUROUBA & WU 2010). Bar-headed Goose is endemic to Asia (KEAR 2005), breeding at high altitudes (3000-5300 m) in the Qianghai-Tibetan Plateau and adjacent areas, in northwest and west China, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzia and north Mongolia. It winters in Pakistan, India, Myanmar, and south-central Tibet Autonomous Region of China (GOLE 1982; CHENG 1987; KEAR 2005; ZHANG et al. 2012).

Determining the total population size of Bar-headed Geese has been undertaken on the wintering areas, together with some research (BISHOP et al. 1997; VAN et al. 2010; ZHANG et al. 2011). However, Bar-headed Geese also winter in Yunnan and Guizhou Province, southwest China (YANG 1995) and the information about this population is still limited.

We carried out field surveys in January of 2002, 2003, 2004 to address the lack of knowledge of the current distribution and abundance of Bar-headed Geese occurring on the Yun-Gui Plateau.

Methods

Study area

Caohai Lake

Caohai Lake is a National Nature Reserve, mainly to protect Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis* and Common Crane *Grus grus*. It is situated in northwest Guizhou Province, on the eastern edge of Yun-Gui Plateau at 2171 m above sea level (ZHAO 1999). The lake is a freshwater lake with a surface of 1300 ha, average depth 2 m and a maximum depth of 5 m, and is surrounded by farmland and shallow water marshes.

Napahai Wetland

Napahai Wetland is a Provincial Nature Reserve, listed as a Wetland of International Importance with an area of 2400 ha to protect important water birds such as Black-necked Crane, as well as alpine wetland ecosystems. It lies in a high valley (3260 m) in northwest Yunnan province, at the northwestern edge of Yun-Gui Plateau. Napahai Wetland is a seasonal karst wetland composed of shallow-water marshes, wet meadows and lakes with water outflow through karst caves that drain underground into the Jinsha River at the upper reaches of the Yangtze. The wetland is surrounded by forest vegetation and farmland (YANG et al. 2010).

Daqiao Reservoir

Daqiao Reservoir is a part of Huize National Nature Reserve in northeast Yunnan Province. The Reservoir is surrounded by farmland and shallow water marshes with a water surface of 500 ha (YANG et al. 2010).

Lashihai Reservoir

Lashihai Reservoir is a Provincial Nature Reserve, listed as a Wetland of International Importance. It was a seasonal karst wetland like Napahai Wetland before 1994, but it has been converted into a reservoir. The water surface is 933 ha at an altitude of 2441 m (YANG et al. 2010).

Other smaller sites are pools or reservoirs with an area of less than 250 ha.

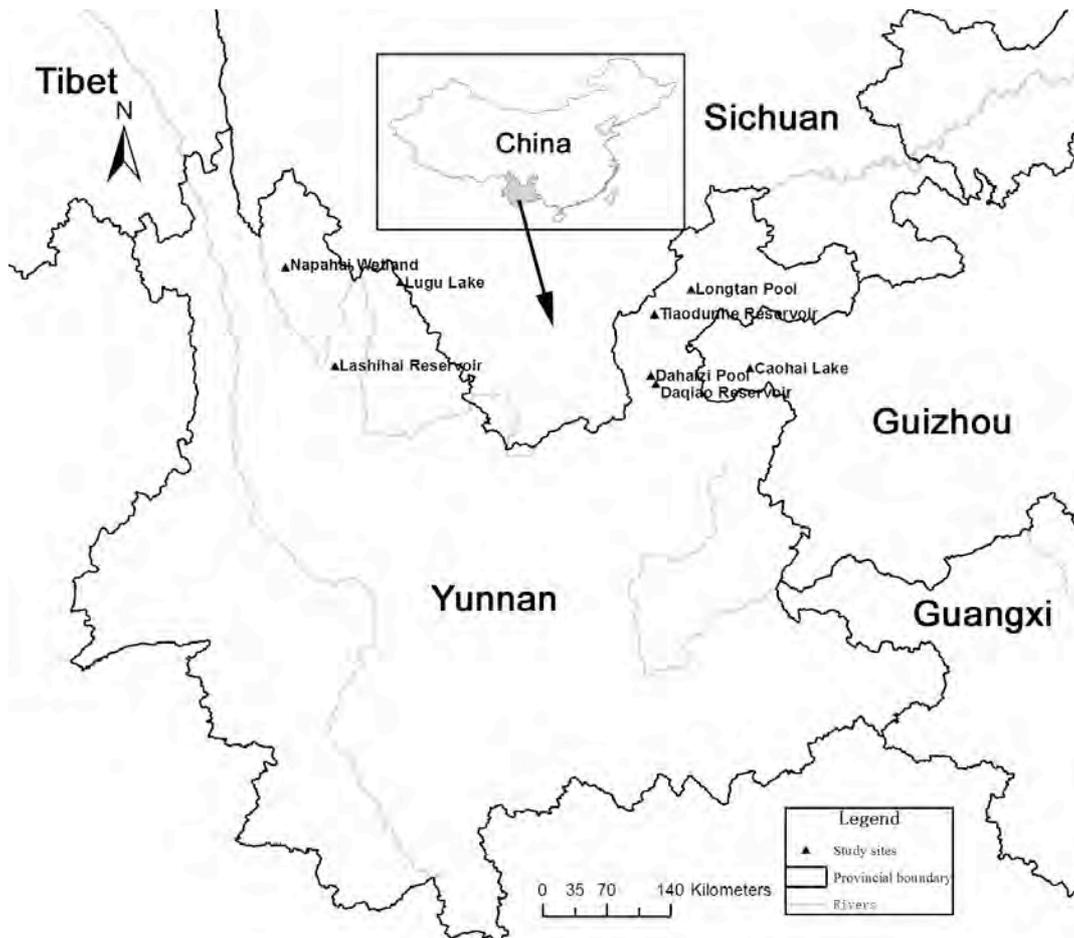


Fig. 1. Wintering sites of Bar-headed Geese on the Yun-Gui Plateau

Goose counts

The size of the roosting populations was determined by recording the numbers of Bar-headed Geese at each site at dawn (07:30-08:30 hours). Binoculars were used to scan the roosting areas to obtain a general understanding of the geese, after that we used spotting scopes to identify and count the geese. All survey teams conducted counts on the same day.

Results and discussion

A total of 1759, 3955, 5330 Bar-headed geese were observed in 2002, 2003 and 2004, respectively. These counts suggested that the number of Bar-headed Geese has increased rapidly in recent years at Yun-Gui Plateau. The highest concentration of geese during all three surveys occurred at Lashihai reservoir (Average 23.0%, n=3), Caohai Lake (Average 21.5%, n=3), Napahai Wetland (Average 18.5%, n=3) and Daqiao reservoir (Average 31.1%, n=3). These four survey sites accounted for 93.6%, 94.1% and 94.7% of the total number of Bar-headed Geese counted in 2002, 2003 and 2004, respectively.

Table 1. Numbers of wintering Bar-headed Geese on the Yun-Gui Plateau, China in 2002, 2003 and 2004

Sites	Center coordinate		Altitude (m)	Number in year		
	Latitude	Longitude		2002	2003	2004
Lugu Lake	27.709785	100.785158	2700	26	6	8
Lashihai Reservoir	26.878471	100.135659	2441	410	1071	995
Tiaodunhe Reservoir	27.391408	103.292528	3178	16	194	197
Daqiao Reservoir	26.689611	103.307521	2491	521	1692	1114
Dahaizi Pool	26.781508	103.254105	2396	71	9	20
Longtan Pool	27.641601	103.650966	2507	0	24	60
Napahai Wetland	27.854906	99.646775	3260	303	393	1509
Caohai Lake	26.850837	104.2365646	2171	412	566	1427
Total				1759	3955	5330

A similar increase in abundance was also described in the Tibetan winter areas. In the 1990s, the number of Bar-headed Geese wintering at south-central Tibet was estimated at between 1,000-14,500 (SONG et al. 1994; BISHOP et al. 1997). By 2009, the number had increased to more than 50,000 geese (ZHANG et al. 2011). The Asian Waterbird Census demonstrated the world population of Bar-headed Geese is increasing (WEI et al. 2009). However, it still not clear to what extent the population had been increasing, because recent census coverage has included more wintering areas than in earlier years. We especially lack data on breeding numbers and reproductive success at breeding areas over a run of years.

Three migration routes have been identified in China as a result of bird banding and satellite tracking. These are 1) from Qinghai Lake to South-central Tibet; 2) from Qinghai Lake to India; 3) from Qinghai Lake to Caohai Lake (ZHANG & YANG, 1997; ZHANG et al. 2011; PROSSER et al. 2012). However, the distribution of Bar-headed Geese on the Yun-Gui Plateau is so widespread and isolated from the other migration routes that more geese amongst this group of birds should be tracked or banded in the future, to confirm their migration routes and distribution.

Acknowledgements

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Lesser White-fronted Geese *Anser erythropus* in the Lena and Olenyek Rivers catchment, Siberia

Victor G. Degtyaryev¹, Nikolai N. Egorov¹, Innokentiy I. Ochlopkov¹, Oleg B. Oleinikov² & Michail D. Tomshin²

¹Institute for Biological Problems of Cryolithozone, Siberian Division, Russian Academy of Sciences, Lenin Ave, 41, Yakutsk 677980, Russia. dvigarea@yandex.ru

²Institute of Diamond and Precious Metal Geology, Siberian Division, Russian Academy of Sciences, Lenin Ave, 39, Yakutsk 677980, Russia.

Introduction

The north-west part of the Lena River catchment and the adjacent catchment of the Olenyek River are thought to be one of the regular breeding areas for Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* in Russia. This was based on data obtained from interviews with indigenous peoples living in the lower reaches of the Olenyek River by MOROZOV & SYROECHKOVSKIY (2002) as well as the documented discovery of moulting non-breeders, and possibly a breeding pair, of the species in the upper reaches of the Tyung – the western tributary of the Viluyi River in 1989 (LABUTIN 1992; BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL 2001). This paper updates our information on the recent status, distribution and numbers of Lesser White-fronted Geese in the region.

Study Area and Methods

During 1971–2006, we surveyed 18 stretches (from 7 to 592 km long) of 16 rivers of the Lena and Olenyek River catchments between 64°51' and 70°52' N, 106°39' and 120°19' E. The task was to count waterbirds and to survey wetlands during fieldwork conducted from early July to early August. Rivers up to 300 m wide were surveyed using two inflatable boats combined with counts undertaken by walking routes along lakes in river valleys or watershed depressions.

Results and Discussion

Lesser White-fronted Geese were found only on two rivers, the Kuoika River, a western tributary in the middle reaches of the Olenyek River and the Muna River, a western tributary of the lower reaches of the Lena River (Fig. 1). Both rivers are typical semi-mountainous middle-sized streams for this region.

On the Kuoika River (70°33' N, 120°29' E, Fig. 1.) calling individuals or pairs and groups of non-breeding geese were recorded at different points extending for some 100 km from its mouth in June 1971 and 1982, and seven broods were counted at the stretch 12 km long in its lower reaches during between 1st and 10th of August 2002.

On the Muna River (67°44' N, 120°19' E, Fig. 1.), 205 geese were counted along 302 km out of a total of 592 km surveyed by boat in 2005 from 31st June to 15th August. Of these, 107 were goslings, 49 were brood-rearing adult birds, 12 were likely failed breeding adults and 37 were non-breeding birds. Goslings were seen with and away from brood-rearing adults. One brood flock (entirely without adult birds) included 11 goslings of two clearly differing ages. The likely failed adult individuals were solitary birds (two records), pairs (two) and trios (two). The non-breeders were counted in flocks including 6, 6, 10 and 15 individuals.

Adult flying geese (i.e. after completing wing moult) were only seen after August 3, and the first goslings of adult size (but not yet able to fly, wing length *c.* 240 mm) were seen from 9th of August. A brood-rearing adult captured on 20th July was moulting, with fresh primaries no more than 20 mm long.

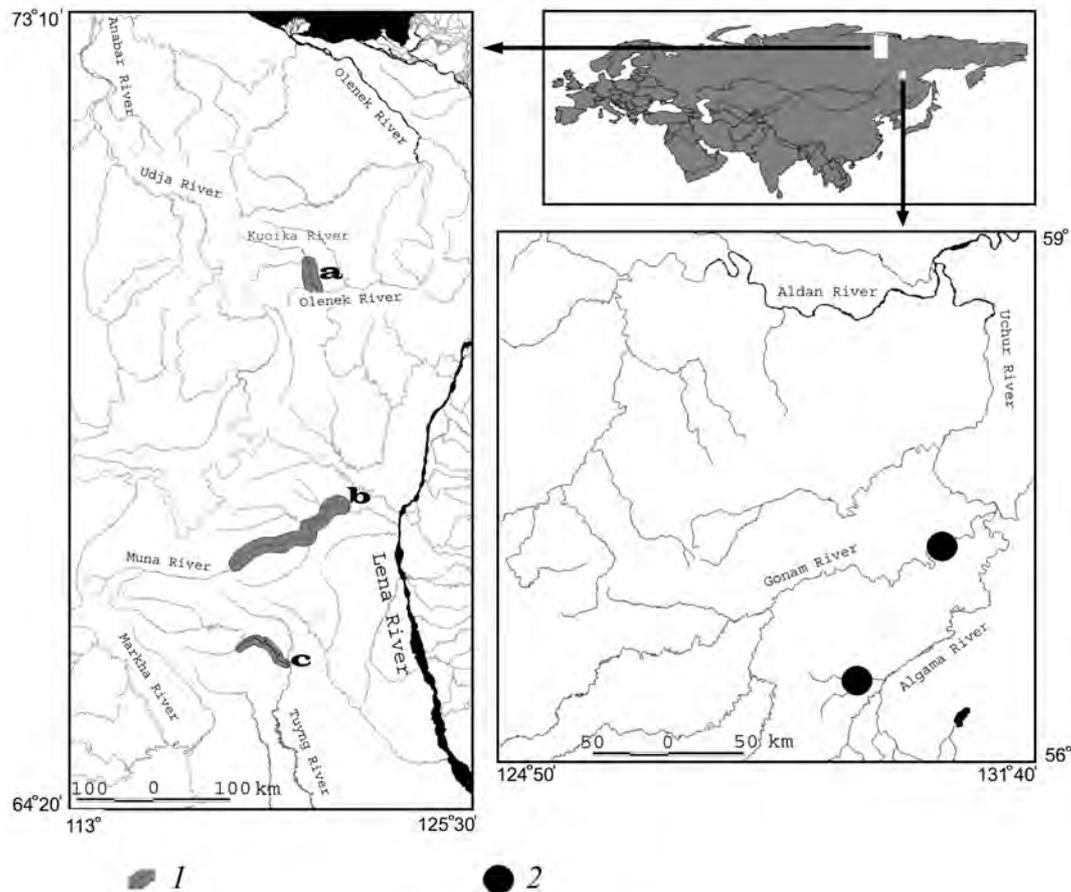


Fig. 1. Breeding distribution of Lesser White-fronted Goose in the Lena and Olenyek Rivers catchments, E Siberia.

1 – breeding records: a – at the Kuoika River, b – at the Muna River, c – at the Tyung River ;
2 – supposedly breeding places.

On the Muna River, geese occurred in high densities along two stretches within the 302 km of the river where the species was found. The first stretch was 37 km long and held 84 geese of all ages, the second was 65 km long and held 90 geese.

We never observed broods or adult non-breeding Lesser White-fronted Geese associated with broods or flocks of adult Middendorf's Bean Geese *Anser fabalis middendorffii* which were common in the entire catchment and which often inhabited the same river habitats.

The average density of Lesser White-fronted Geese on all occupied stretches of the Muna River was 6.8 adult birds and 0.9 broods per 10 km of the river (over 302 km). On the first most densely occupied stretch (37 km) the density averaged 22.7 adult birds and 3.2 broods per 10 km of the river, on the second (65 km) – 13.8 and 1.5 respectively. The size of broods being reared by adult geese (n=28) varied from 1 to 6 goslings and averaged 3.82 ± 0.23 SE.



Fig. 2. Lesser White-fronted Goose

No White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* was recorded at the Munakan River, one of largest tributaries of the Muna River surveyed between the 2nd and 20th of August 2003 (78 km of rafting) while Middendorf's Bean Geese were numerous there. There are no other reports of Lesser White-fronted Geese besides those of LABUTIN (1992), who reported them from some tributaries of the Olenyek or Lena Rivers

including the middle reaches of the Molodo River (69°25' N, 122°30' E, the Lena's tributary, 150 km north from the Muna River) surveyed in 2001–2007 (EGOROV & OKHLOPKOV 2007).

Our results suggest that although the Lesser White-fronted Goose breeds in the Lena River catchment, it is widespread outside the catchment in the upper and middle reaches of the Olenyek River. The Muna River appears to be the most important, densely inhabited breeding site for the species. In addition to the areas reported here, the species is known to breed in the upper reaches of the Tyung River (LABUTIN 1992) (see Fig. 1). It is likely that the Lesser White-fronted Goose still breeds in some parts of the south-east of the Lena River catchment (Fig. 1), based on information obtained from local people who report that the goose breeds (based on broods seen in August) in the upper reaches of the Algama River (56°19' N, 129°16' E). This information is thought to be reliable, because their information regarding the presence of the Far East Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* and the Hooded Crane *Grus monacha* was subsequently confirmed, and we observed a pair of Lesser White-fronted Geese on the Gonam River (57°05' N, 130°37' E) on the 23rd August 2003.

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Uncommon predator of Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Berend Voslamber & Mark Wilkinson

Corresponding author: Berend Voslamber, SOVON Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology, P.O. Box 6521, NL-6503 GA Nijmegen, The Netherlands. E-mail: berend.voslamber@sovon.nl

Until recently, the greatest threat to adult Greylag Geese *Anser anser* in The Netherlands was from human hunters. However, there are increasingly several natural predators that prey on these large birds.

During breeding and moulting period, White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (FISCHER 1984) and Red Fox *Vulpus vulpus* (HUDEC & ROTH 1970) can also catch adult birds.

While breeding, eggs and incubating females can also be taken by Red Foxes (KRISTIANSEN 1998, VOSLAMBER *et al.* 2012). Eggs can also be predated by Stone Marten *Martes foina*, Badger *Meles meles*, Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus* and Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*, but usually only after nests had been visited by Red Foxes (VOSLAMBER *et al.* 2012).

The intensity of Fox predation is higher in close proximity to occupied dens (BLANCO 1986) and Greylag Goose nests are particularly exposed to Fox predation pressure in these areas.



Fig. 1. Juvenile female Goshawk pushing head of Greylag Goose under water.
Picture by Mark Wilkinson on 26 October 2013 at Oude Waal, Nijmegen.

Excluding eagles, adult Greylag Geese are so large as to have few avian predators, so the observation of MW on 26 October 2013 of a juvenile female Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* catching an adult Greylag Goose is likely extremely rare. In this case, the juvenile female took a Greylag Goose in the water (see pictures) in the nature protection area of Oude Waal in the Ooijpolder, close to the city of Nijmegen. It took several minutes before the Goshawk killed the goose by holding the head of the bird under water in order to drown it. After killing the bird, it had to be dragged several metres through the water by swimming ashore using its wings as ‘paddles’ while dragging the goose behind it, finally emerging onto land. This is, as far as we could find, one of the very rare occasions where a Goshawk has been seen catching an adult Greylag Goose.

In The Netherlands, a long running study on raptors has produced a list of over 40,000 prey-items of Goshawks (data kindly made available by Rob Bijlsma, Netherlands Working Group on birds of prey). This list is dominated by species like Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*, Commons Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*, thrushes *Turdus*, crows *Corvus* and rabbits *Leporidae*. In all, only 18 Greylag Geese (0.044%) were recorded as prey and in most cases the prey were goslings. However, it seems that in one case a Goshawk had specialised on Greylag Geese, catching 16 individuals.



Fig. 2. Juvenile female Goshawk dragging Greylag Goose through the water.
Picture by Mark Wilkinson on 26 October 2013 at Oude Waal, Nijmegen.

Acknowledgements

Rob Bijlsma and Gerard Muskens kindly provided information about prey items of Goshawks in The Netherlands. Heleen Visser assisted with sharpening the pictures.



Picture 3. Juvenile female Goshawk trying to bring the Greylag Goose on land.
Picture by Mark Wilkinson on 26 October 2013 at Oude Waal, Nijmegen.

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Middendorf's Bean Goose *Anser fabalis middendorffi* on Vilyuiskoe plateau, Siberia

Victor G. Degtyaryev¹, Nikolai N. Egorov¹, Innokentiy I. Ochlopkov¹ & Michail D. Tomshin²

¹ Institute for Biological Problems of Cryolithozone, Siberian Division of Russian Academy of Sciences, Lenin Ave, 41, Yakutsk, 677980

² Institute of Diamond and Precious Metal Geology, Siberian Division of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Lenin Ave, 41, Yakutsk, 677980

Introduction

This article summarises an article published in *Zoologicheskii zhurnal* (DEGTYARYEV et al. 2008a). The breeding range of Middendorf's Bean Goose in the Lena River catchment has become fragmented in recent years. The subspecies no longer nests on the Central Yakutian Plain and lower reaches of rivers flowing from plateaus and mountain ridges that encompass the plain. At the present time, the species breeds mainly in very remote areas, which are difficult to access by humans, including the Vilyuiskoe plateau situated in the north-western part of the Lena River catchment and the southern part of the Olenyek River catchment.

Study Area and Methods

The article is based on the data obtained during the fieldwork to determine the recent status of Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* in the Lena and Olenyek Rivers catchments (DEGTYARYEV et al. in lit.), except for surveys in the middle reaches of the Olenyek River. During 1987-1998, 127 lakes and 15 stretches of 13 rivers of different types were surveyed (Fig. 1), covering 2794 km of rivers using inflatable boats. To calculate average breeding density, we related the number of breeding pairs to 10 km stretches of river and took into account that the maximum clutch size of Middendorf's Bean Geese *Anser fabalis* was eight eggs (DEL HOYO et al. 1992). A breeding pair was recorded as based on the observation of: i) warning calls of a pair or an individual, ii) a brood (consisting of up to eight goslings) associated with a pair or an individual, or without rearing adults. Broods consisting of nine to 16 goslings being reared by a pair or an individual were considered as being from two nesting pairs.

Results and Discussion

We did not observe any breeding or moulting Middendorf's Bean Geese on any of the surveyed watershed depressions and on three sections of river surveyed by boat. Solitary individuals, pairs, broods and flocks of different composition were recorded on other surveyed rivers. In total, 310 adult geese and 227 goslings were counted in 42 broods, of which 106 adults were brood-rearing birds, the others were moulting non-breeding and likely failed adult individuals. Broods consisted of 2–6 goslings and 64 % of them were accompanied by pairs, 26 % by single adults, 2 % by trios, and 7 % of broods were without parents. Up to 10 % of all counted geese on a surveyed stretch were observed by accident beyond the field of view of the counter in the boats. On occasions, boat surveys went whole days without encountering geese, yet their tracks were often recorded or geese appeared on the same stretches on the next day. Goose tracks in the substrate or feathers were found in woodland and lakes up to 300 m from rivers. One brood being reared by an adult goose and seven non-breeding individuals was recorded on two of 64 surveyed lakes in a valley 100 and 300 m from a river. Local people report that the Northern Bilberry *Vaccinium uliginosum* frequently fills the

oesophagus and stomachs of Middendorf’s Bean Geese shot in August. Wolves *Canis lupus* and their tracks commonly occurred in the goose habitats along rivers and are likely goose predators. During the surveys, we counted 13 wolves, including one lying in ambush for geese (on the 10th of July, at 02:30 p.m.). Another wolf was seen stalking a flock of Middendorf’s Bean Geese and then catching a moulting adult goose (7 July, 10:17 a.m.).

Our survey data lead us to conclude that on the Vilyuiskoe plateau and adjacent areas, Middendorf’s Bean Goose is not likely to breed in watershed depression wetlands and avoids both river rapids and river stretches with intermittent flows. Rather, this population is restricted to stretches of rivers in semi-mountainous parts of the catchment. In July to early August, the rivers are occupied by broods, breeding and non-breeding adults roughly in the proportion 2 : 1 : 2. The brood size averaged 3.88 ± 1.21 goslings ($n = 42$). Average population density on surveyed rivers was 0.3 breeding pairs, 1.2 goslings and 1.1 non-breeding adults per 10 km of a river. On pristine stretches of river or those with very restricted human access, the population density averaged 0.4–0.8 breeding pairs per 10 km, but on those river sections where geese are subject to hunting, poaching and regular disturbance by Man, the density falls to 0.0–0.2 breeding pairs per 10 km. The plateau population is also apparently affected by wolf predation.

During the brood rearing periods, in the broader river valleys, a considerable part of the population spent their time away from the safety of rivers moving through woodlands, feeding at lakes, foraging on dense stands of Northern Bilberry. Based on the goose numbers counted on lakes and the number and extent of suitable valley lakes situated within 300 m of river systems, we calculated that this segment of the population constituted between 13 % and 32 % of the total numbers. Hence, 20–40 % of geese in a catchment may be out of sight of observers only surveying the main rivers, perhaps more depending on conditions of a given river valley.

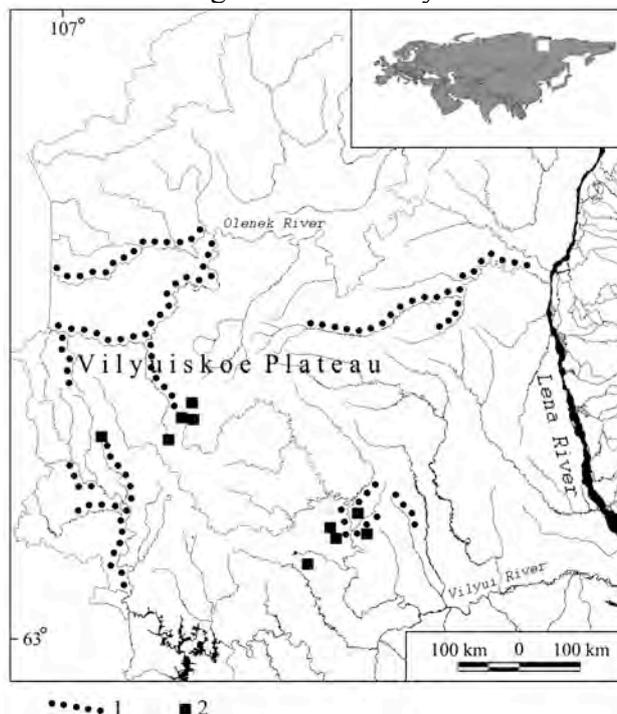


Fig. 1. Study Area.

1 – rafting river stretches; 2 – surveyed watershed depressions.

The Vilyuiskoe plateau retains many rivers in the semi-mountainous region that continue to be suitable for Middendorff's Bean Geese and we consider that the population continues to remain relatively numerous. However, it is increasingly threatened as the plateau is one of the most important areas for diamond exploitation which has been mined for about 50 years. Several diamond seams deposits have already been mined in the area and two hydro power stations have been constructed on the Vilyui River. These developments have resulted in the development of new roads and settlements in the area, which also increasingly support more intensive diamond exploration which increasingly penetrates into the central and western parts of the plateau and which will have adverse effects on the breeding grounds of Middendorff's Bean Geese in the future.



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Short note

Satellite monitoring of Greylag Geese *Anser anser* captured in Norway and Spain

Vincent Schricke¹ & Mathieu Boos²

¹ ONCFS, v.schricke@oncfs.gouv.fr

² Naturaconst@, direction@naturaconsta.com

One of the aims of the French national Greylag Goose *Anser anser* programme (coordinated by the ONCFS for the Ministry of Environment MEDDTL), is to improve our knowledge on the origin of birds migrating and wintering in France. This involves studying goose movements between their Nordic breeding areas (Norway, Sweden in particular) and Spain, a country representing the southern limit of the wintering range of north-west Europe's population (SCHRICKE 2011).

To that end, in collaboration with several European scientists, several Greylag Geese were deployed with GPS devices, financed by the National Hunters' Federation (FNC) and associated hunter associations, coupled with neck-collar marking of birds in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 in Norway (central west, west and south coast) in the summer period and in 2011 and 2013 in Spain (Donana National Park, Extremadura area) in the winter period.



This satellite monitoring should help achieve a better understanding of the birds' migratory behaviour, notably their movements and stopovers from their breeding areas to their wintering areas, as well as their local movements.

In Spain, 11 individuals caught in December 2013 in the reservoir of Canchales (Extremadura area) have been fitted with GPS devices, black coloured neck-bands and metal rings.

Reference

SCHRICKE, V. (2011): A new research project: Improving the knowledge on Greylag Goose in France. –Goose Bulletin 13: 13-16.



Obituary Prakash Gole 1937 – 2013

Bart Ebbinge, Chairman Goose Specialist Group

Prakash Gole passed away at the age of 75 on 27 November 2013 in Pune, India, where he lived. Prakash was not only known as ornithologist, but also as environmentalist and played a major role in establishing various institutes of ornithology both inside and outside India. He obtained a MA degree in Economics from Pune University in 1960, started his work in the field of environment conservation and education 1963 and subsequently in 1969 began working with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) branch in Pune. He undertook research on birds in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Ladakh, Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh and Bhutan, especially on swans, Tibetan (Black-necked) Crane *Grus nigricollis* as well as Sarus Crane *G. antigone*. In addition, he performed studies on water and wetlands as well as research to support the protection and management of wild animals. In 1982, Prakash Gole founded the Ecological Society in order to create environmental awareness and as a well-known expert on waterbirds and wetlands he was very active as a representative in a number of national and international research institutions and organisations. From 1994 he conducted a programme on Natural Resource Management. Besides these activities he found the time to write 4 books in English and 12 books in Marathi on these topics.



Prakash Gole in May 2008 during the GSG-meeting in Leh, Ladakh

I met Prakash Gole for the first time in Debrecen, Hungary, in October 1981 where during the annual meeting of the IWRB (International Waterfowl Research Bureau) a special symposium on “Population ecology of geese” was held. Prakash gave a fascinating presentation on the “Status of *Anser indicus* in Asia with special reference to India”, which was published in 1982 in the Hungarian journal *Aquila* (Vol.89:141-149). He showed slides of Bar-headed Geese on barren grounds with amazingly blue lakes high up in the mountains of Ladakh. Unbelievable that geese could find any good grazing up there.



The barren landscape of Ladakh, where Bar-headed geese nest.

Prakash in his typical modest, humble and charming way introduced goose researchers to a world completely unknown to them.

Later when the Goose Specialist Group came into being, I tried several times to invite Prakash again to our meetings, and indeed he managed to come over to our meetings in Odessa in March 2004 and again in Hungary (in Sopron) in November 2005, and became species coordinator for the Bar-headed Goose. At both meetings he made an everlasting impression on all participants. Everybody immediately liked this charming and modest man.

There we spoke about the possibility to organize a meeting in India where Bar-headed Geese are nesting. Finally Prakash invited the Goose Specialist Group to have a meeting in his beloved Ladakh, which was held in May 2008 in Leh, after two years of preparation. Indeed this careful preparation of Prakash Gole and his team of the Ecological Society made the meeting a truly unforgettable one.

I am very grateful to Prakash Gole for his efforts to share the amazingly rich nature of the Ladakh mountains with members of the Goose Specialist Group. May his soul rest in peace.

Prakash Gole on a bridge near Leh, Ladakh, May 2008



New Publications 2010-2013

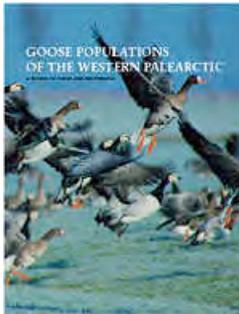
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Literature



The Goose Specialist Group made an impressive compilation (edited by Jesper Madsen, Tony Fox & Gill Cracknell) of our knowledge on the status and distribution of the goose populations of the western palearctic. This book is not for sale anymore, but a digital copy can be downloaded for free from:

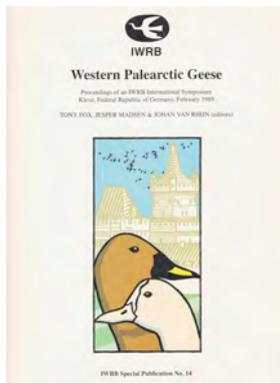
http://issuu.com/jesper_madsen/docs/goosepopulationswestpaleartic
or from

<http://bios.au.dk/en/knowledge-exchange/about-our-research-topics/animals-and-plants/mammals-and-birds/goose-populations-of-the-western-paleartic/>

The latest edition of the Wildfowl journal are now also available online, for free, at <http://www.wwt.org.uk/what-we-do/publications/wildfowl/archive/wildfowl-issue-61/>.

Furthermore it is still possible to receive a printed copy of the official proceedings of earlier meetings of the Goose Specialist group, as there are:

- IWRB International Symposium on Western Palearctic Geese, Kleve, Germany 1989,
- 10th Meeting of the Goose Specialist Group, Goose 2007, Xanten, Germany 2007,
- 12th Meeting of the Goose Specialist Group, Goose 2009, Höllviken, Sweden 2009:



Proceedings Goose Meeting 1989
(Kleve, Germany)

Interested? Please contact:
johan.mooij@bskw.de



Proceedings Goose 2007
(Xanten, Germany)

Interested? Please contact:
johan.mooij@bskw.de



Proceedings Goose 2009
(Höllviken, Sweden)

Interested? Please contact:
leif.nilsson@zooekol.lu.se

Proceedings of the 14th meeting of the Goose Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Wetlands International are now available online!

During the 14th meeting of the Goose Specialist Group which was held in Steinkjer, Norway in April 2012, contributors were invited to submit articles to the online journal *Ornis Norvegica*. *Ornis Norvegica* is the scientific journal of the Norwegian Ornithological Society (Norsk Ornitologisk Forening – NOF).

I am pleased to announce that the proceedings have finally been published. You can find articles from the 2012 meeting, as well as a number of other ornithological papers which are surely of interest on the journal website:

<https://boap.uib.no/index.php/ornis/index/>

Best wishes,
Paul Shimmings

The proceedings of the 15th meeting of the Goose Specialist Group are available!



The proceedings of the 15th meeting of the Goose Specialist Group in France in January 2013 have appeared as a special edition of the journal **Wildfowl**.

By sending an email to wildfowl@wwt.org.uk a copy of this Special Issue (nr.3) can be ordered at the cost of £17 plus an additional £3.50 for credit card transactions.



Call for help:

As discussed during the Höllviken meeting we invite all goose researchers to send their publications to our data bank of geese literature. Not only international but also local publications (including those in languages other than English) are most welcome.

Please send your publications, preferably as a pdf file, to Fred Cottaar fred.cottaar@tiscali.nl.



Goose catching in ancient Egypt





**Your article could
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than**

**the 30st of
September 2014**

Instructions to authors

The Goose Bulletin accepts all manuscripts dealing with goose ecology, goose research and goose protection in the broadest sense as well as Goose Specialist Group items.

All manuscripts should be submitted in English language and in electronic form. Text files should be submitted in “.doc”-format, Font “Times New Roman 12 point”, tables and graphs in “.xls”-format and pictures in good quality and “.jpg”-format.

Species names should be written with capitals as follows: Greylag Goose, Greenland White-fronted Goose etc. Follow an appropriate authority for common names (e.g. Checklist of Birds of the Western Palearctic). Give the (scientific) Latin name in full, in *italics*, at first mention in the main text, not separated by brackets.

Numbers - less than ten use words e.g. (one, two three etc) greater than 10, use numbers with blank for numbers over 1 000.

In case of doubt please look at the last issue of the Goose Bulletin.

