Status of the implementation of the Single Species Action Plan for the Taiga Bean Goose (TBG)
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The Single Species Action Plan for the Taiga Bean Goose

Background

- The Taiga Bean Goose is one of the few declining goose populations in the Western Palearctic

- Wintering population size, estimated at 100,000 birds in the mid-1990s, had decreased to 63,000 by 2009

The Single Species Action Plan for the Taiga Bean Goose

Long-term goals

- To restore and maintain favourable conservation status
  - 165,000-190,000 in total
  - 5,000-10,000 in Western Unit
  - 60,000-80,000 in Central Unit
  - 100,000 in Eastern Units
- Stable or increasing trends

The Single Species Action Plan for the Taiga Bean Goose

Objectives

- Increase survival rate of adults (legal/illegal hunting)
- Increase reproductive rates (disturbance, spring habitats)
- Stop ongoing loss, fragmentation and degradation of habitats, and restore lost, fragmented and degraded habitats (gas/oil developments, forestry, agriculture)

TBG Management Unit definitions

Based on the state of our knowledge about the flyway definitions and status and distribution at that time.

Derived mostly from ringing recoveries and expert opinion.

TBG Update on Management Units

Western Management Unit

Mid-winter count data from East Central Scotland, Eastern England and NW Jutland, Denmark

Fully protected from hunting, extended June 2017

Western Management Unit Distribution map mid-winter 2017

NW Jutland – at least six widely spread groups, rather unpredictable in feeding distribution in time and space (slight increase)

Slamannan in East central Scotland, which stage in N Jutland (stable/declining)

Norfolk in SE England (declining)

TBG Update on status of Western Management Unit

January 2016: counts of 421 (Denmark, plus 623 Bean Geese unidentified to race but highly likely to be this subspecies) 263 in Scotland and 22 in England.


TBG Update on Status of Western Management Unit

At current rates of population increase, this means that it will take until 2049 to reach the Management Unit target of 5,000 individuals and until 2067 to reach 10,000 geese without additional interventions (although at this stage it is difficult to see what such interventions there could be)

TBG Update on Status of Western Management Unit

Annual reproductive success
- Age ratios and brood sizes sampled in Scotland, some data from SE England
- Not regularly undertaken in NW Jutland, DK

Annual survival
- Geese neck-collared in Scotland in recent years
- Not regularly carried out in NW Jutland, DK

Hunting bag
- Not appropriate to this management unit, although hunting mortality may occur, needs to be quantified and solutions found
TBG Management Unit definitions

**Central Management Unit**

Mid-winter count data from Southern Sweden, NE Jutland and SE Denmark

Legally hunted in Russia, Finland and Sweden, also in Denmark, although here substantial legislative efforts are made to minimise the kill of Taiga Bean Geese in favour of Tundra Bean Geese through temporal and spatial restrictions on the hunt.
TBG Central Distribution map mid-winter 2017

Central Management Unit

1. Many resorts throughout southern Sweden

2. Resorts throughout SE Denmark

3. Unknown (but usually hard weather refuge) sites in Germany south of this range

4. NE Jutland – three major resorts centered on Lille Vildmose, hard weather movements southwards in Jutland and to Netherlands
NE Jutland TBG GPS study

Winter

Spring/autumn

Breeding/moult

Moult
TBG Update on Status of Central Management Unit

January 2016: counts of 46,645 (8,895* in Denmark, 37,750 in Sweden, none in The Netherlands)

January 2017: counts of 56,792 (5,253* in Denmark, 51,528 in Sweden, 11 in The Netherlands)

* Includes 30% (2016) and 16% (2017) of Bean Geese unidentified to race assigned to Taiga/Tundra subspecies based on observed ratios amongst the remaining numbers assigned to race in the field.
TBG Update on monitoring status of Central Management Unit

Annual reproductive success

- No age ratios or brood sizes are sampled in Denmark or Sweden

Annual survival

- Modest numbers of collared birds have been resighted in this flyway, but the data series are too short and involve too few individuals to generate robust annual survival estimates

- A commitment to regular catching and marking of birds would effectively fill this gap
TBG Update on monitoring status of Central Management Unit

Hunting bag

- Swedish open season 1 October-31 December in Skåne and Blekinge, derogated protective hunting estimated at 1,675 Bean Geese in 2014/15 and 1,582 in 2015/16 (2016/17 data not available)

- Danish open season 1 September-30 November, since 2014 restricted to Vordingborg, Guldborgsund og Lolland, estimated annual kill of Bean Geese 1,296 in 2014/15 and 1,440 in 2015/16 (2016/17 data not available)

- The hunting kill is not differentiated into subspecies, but the majority in Denmark is thought to be Tundra A. f. rossicus, the majority in Sweden Taiga Bean Goose A. f. fabalis

- In June 2017, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway agreed on a harvest rate of 3% for this Management Unit
TBG Management Unit definitions

**Eastern Management Units**

Based on the state of our knowledge about the flyway definitions and status and distribution at that time

Derived mostly from ringing recoveries and expert opinion

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Oak Roland Therkildsen

TBG Management Units Distribution map mid-winter 2017

Eastern 1 Management Unit

Winters in Eastern Germany and Poland estimated 15,000 Jan 2015, down from 35,000-40,000 in mid 2000s, but no more recent counts are available.

Eastern 2 Management Unit

Prior to 1960s wintered in Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Northern Afghanistan, Northwest China and Kazakhstan. Recently only present in SE Kazakhstan and E Kyrgyzstan, guestimated at 2,000-5,000 in 2014, but no recent counts.

Hunting ban recommended for both Management Units

TBG Update on status of Eastern Management Units

Annual reproductive success
- No age ratios or brood sizes are sampled anywhere

Annual survival
- Very small numbers of collared birds have been collared in Eastern 1 flyway, but insufficient to generate robust survival estimates which are desperately needed from this flyway

Hunting bag
- No data are available
TBG Progress on monitoring of Management Units

Western
• Pretty good, needs better racial definition, counts and age ratios in NW Jutland otherwise more or less in place

Central
• Count network good, needs better racial definition in SE Denmark.
• Lacking assessment of reproductive effort and adequate survival estimation
• Better hunting statistics, including racial definition

Eastern 1 and 2
• Anything would be better than what we have now!
Thank you for your attention!