

International Single Species Action Plan for the Western Palearctic Population of the LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, <i>Anser erythropus</i>
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Comments from THE NETHERLANDS on Version 3.0. - Third and Final Draft, May 2008

Reception date: 3 July 2008 (email)

Herewith you receive some technical comments to the International Single Species Action Plan for the Western Palearctic Population of the Lesser White fronted Goose. Our final position will be coordinated in EU context at MOP4.

The plan was well prepared and great care was given to sensitive issues.

The report 'Pleisterplaatsen van Dwergganzen in Nederland' by Kees Koffijberg et al. (2005) was quoted in the plan.

From this report we used the following information for the national report to CMS under annex I species:

Lesser White-fronted Geese were always rare in the Netherlands. In 1981 a reintroduction project was set up in Swedish Lapland to guide the geese via a safe route to the North Sea countries. Nowadays every winter some 100 birds are seen in the Netherlands.

SOVON report 2005/06 (Koffijberg et al) describes an increase from ca 20 individuals around 1990 to ca 120 from 2003/04 onwards. There are 6 core sites for this species, where 87% of all observations took place. Average peak numbers vary from 50 individuals near Anjum to 5 elsewhere. The majority are of Swedish origin. It is also estimated that 96% of the reintroduced Swedish birds winter in the Netherlands.

Two breeding records + 1 mixed pair were recorded but it was assumed they were of feral origin.

On page 28-30 hunting and disturbance are mentioned as threats.

In the Netherlands hunting of this species is prohibited. Hunting of other goose species is also prohibited but in the framework of concentrating geese in feeding areas (where farmers are financially supported) , geese are chased away from other areas, In this context Great White fronted goose and Greylag Goose may be shot to a limited extent. This policy is currently under evaluation. Although Lesser WF Goose may not be chased away, in practice it cannot be fully excluded if they occur mixed with other species.