

DARK-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE

Branta bernicla bernicla

The Dark-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*) is one of the species that has its breeding grounds in the high Arctic (Siberia). They arrive there late May/ early June. Only shortly after, the young hatch in July, just less than two months later they migrate together with their parents to the wintering grounds in Western Europe.

AFRICAN - EURASIAN MIGRATORY (WATER BIRD) AGREEMENT



1

The breeding starts in mid June. The majority of the Brent Geese breed on the shores of the Taimyr Peninsula and on small islands off the coast in the Kara Sea. They breed in colonies of up to several hundred pairs, often mixed with large gulls. These gulls protect the nests and young of the Brent Goose against predation of Arctic foxes but, at the same time, predation by gulls take place. The clutch size is 3 to 4, maximal 6 eggs. In good years with favourable weather and also a high lemming density the breeding success can be very high. But in years with bad weather conditions or only a few lemmings available, predators, like Arctic foxes and Snowy Owls among others swap from their main prey, the lemmings, to young water birds, including the Brent Geese and can cause major breeding failure.



2

The young hatch in mid July and are immediately led to the water. At the end of July the geese all gather at joint moulting places, where they are flightless and very vulnerable for some weeks. In late August they start the migration back to the wintering grounds in Western Europe, where they arrive in September.

3

In September the geese gather along the coast of the Wadden Sea, west as far as England and south to France. Some have travelled from as far east as the Lena Delta, more than 5,000 km away. In total the population is estimated to have stabilised today at about 250,000 - 300,000 birds after a crash in the 1930s. They only started to recover in the 1970s from less than 20,000. In the Wadden Sea they start grazing the eel grass in autumn. Later in spring they move to the salt marshes to feed on the freshly sprouting grass. In some cases the geese move increasingly further inland behind the dykes, where they are more and more in conflict with local farmers. Hunting and other human activities have an impact, specially in Russia.



4 Action Plan

The recovery of the population status of the Brent Goose is one of the success stories of nature conservation. However due to loss of natural coastal habitats in the wintering areas the number of conflicts with local farmers has increased. An international action plan, developed under AEWA, aims to secure and manage the population on a high viable level, to conserve and/ or restore natural coastal habitats and, last but not least, reduce the agricultural conflict through international cooperation between the countries involved.

В тундрах черные казарки гнездятся поодиночке и колониями, часто на островах, иногда близ гнезд белой совы и других хищных птиц, или в колониях крупных чаек. Такое покровительство помогает им охранять свое потомство от хищников песцов и поморников. В гнезде обычно 3-6 яиц. Вылупление птенцов происходит в июле, за ним следует период линьки, когда гуси на две недели теряют способность к полету. Молодые птицы осенью отличаются от взрослых отсутствием белого ошейника и наличием белых каемок на кроющих перьях крыльев.

Общая численность черных казарок от Европы до Таймыра составляет около 250-300 тысяч птиц. В результате мер охраны эта популяция восстановилась после депрессии в 1950-60х гг., но численность ее до сих пор нестабильна. В России в настоящее время обсуждается вопрос открытия охоты на черных казарок. Но делать это надо осторожно, чтобы вновь не подорвать их

численность. Международный план действий, разработанный под эгидой Афро-Евразийского соглашения о перелетных водоплавающих птицах (AEWA), направлен на разработку эффективной системы охраны и использования ресурсов черной казарки. В России информацию о Планах и ответы на Ваши вопросы Вы можете получить в Рабочей группе по гусеобразным птицам Северной Евразии по адресу: Москва, 119071, Ленинский проспект 33, ИПЭЭ РАН (РГТ). Тел. (095) 138 22 31, rgg@eesjr.msk.ru

LEGEND	
	Nesting sites of <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>
	Stop-over sites of <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>
	Wintering sites of <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>
	Migration route of <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>
	Mountains
	Deserts
	Water bodies
	Wetlands
	Glaciers

Projection: Lambert azimuthal
Latitude of centre of projection: 30 00 00

