

Project Update: November 2016

Autumnal field works on the analysis of the population of migrating geese and brants were conducted in terms of two stages. From 2nd to 18th September 2016, the count of population of pre-migratory congregations of gray goose was conducted on 15 water bodies of Zhambyl district. Flocks of geese with the approximate population of 118-4500 individuals were noticed only within five out of 15 examined water bodies. Total population of the counted geese amounted to 7678 individuals.

From 25th September to 11th October 2016, the works were continued within the territories of another five administrative districts (Shal akyn, Timiryazev, Akkayin, Taiynsha and M. Zhumabayev) of the North Kazakhstan Region and one district of the Kostanay Region (Uzynkol district). Extension of the duration and the area of the monitoring process became possible due to the involvement of additional support of the foreign ornithologists from Finland (Sami Timonen) and Great Britain (Richard Cuthbert) in terms of realisation of the project by the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan – “Autumnal monitoring of the population of *Anser erythropus* in Kazakhstan” supported by the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) acting within the confines of the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. In the course of the expedition, 23 water bodies were examined by the working group and 28449 geese and brants of 5 species were counted, inclusive of two species included in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, the percentage of which amounted to 0,7%. In the current year there was a common reduction of the population of geese and brants nesting within the examined water bodies during the migration period. We observed shifts of the migration timing up to 1, 5-2 weeks later in comparison with the previous years, which is most likely connected with good weather conditions within nesting grounds. Apart from the population count, we conducted the work on the assessment of the level of pressure of hunting on the migrating geese. During 26 days of field works only one case of illegal hunting of gray geese was noted within the territory of the state nature reserve.

