

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Ivan Zuban
Project title	Studying Rare and Hunting Species of Geese and Branta in the North of Kazakhstan and Creation of Monitoring System and Set of Actions for their Protection
RSG reference	23134-2
Reporting period	May 2018 - May 2019
Amount of grant	£ 5000
Your email address	Zuban_ia@mail.ru
Date of this report	

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Monitoring the number of geese and branta at the key points of migration in Northern Kazakhstan using the latest technical means				Thanks to the acquired information about geese and branta key points of migration during spring-autumn period, all work events of monitoring the population numbers were organised and held in time. We faced a problem of high amount of meltwater during spring period covering some migration points of geese and branta - it made transport movement a bit more complicated. Anyway, this problem was solved by using unmanned aerial vehicle and photographic equipment.
To study the factors influencing the nesting population of the gray goose, and on migrating geese and branta to determine their limiting effect.				Question about influence of the localities on distribution of the grey geese nesting populations is still not clear.
Catch and tagging (satellite transmitters, rings and collars) of nesting and migrating geese and branta				Important problem we faced during the organisation of catching geese in 2018 was in the fact grey geese had a very high level of awareness. This problem was solved in spring 2019 by putting grey goose (grey goose and domestic goose hybrid) in a trap's active zone to attract birds.
To reveal the features of migration routes and the migration strategy of birds, key areas along the paths of the spring and autumn migration and wintering using data from satellite telemetry, as well as ringing data				The goal is completed partly, because of some reasons highlighted in the comment above, so marking birds with transmitters was organised only during spring 2019. Concerning this today, we do not have a full pack of information about geese and branta migration paths. We will get this information during autumn-winter period 2019-2020.

<p>To prepare a list of new key territories for the globally endangered species of geese and branta, for assigning them to the key of ornithological territories of international importance</p>			<p>During spring monitoring work in 2018 new important for geese and branta migration point was detected - it is situated in north-east part of the North Kazakhstan oblast. Approximately 20% of worldwide red-breasted geese population is detected in this area. The importance of this area is proved by monitoring researches during spring period 2019 and by information from satellite tracking of the marked bird in central part of the oblast.</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

The main difficulty in realisation of the project was in organisation of trapping geese and branta. This problem was solved by detailed studies of experience from ornithology colleagues, more than that, thanks to perfection and modernisation of the catching methods.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

The main important results of the realization of the project are:

1. Detecting a new migration point important for species included in the lists of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, IUCN. This will let the strengthening of secure events in this region happen.
2. Catching and marking the red-breasted geese using satellite transmitters. This will let to detect the species migration strategy (paths of flight, new places of wintering and migration points).
3. Catching and marking the grey geese using satellite transmitters. We already have first data about bird's paths of movement inside the nesting area, also the shedding places are detected. Also, the information about migration paths and wintering places will be acquired.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).

The local population did not directly participate in the project. We resorted to a survey of the population to clarify the timing of migration of geese in different areas of the region, identify new nesting places for gray goose, etc. An anonymous survey of hunters about the amount of birds they caught, availability of species from the red book, etc.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Undoubtedly, our plans are to continue this work, because the basis for sustainable management of waterfowl is the constructive regulation of extraction volumes and hunting parameters based on regular annual monitoring of both hunting and rare species.

With no doubt, continuation works of marking geese and branta is very important in our eyes. One more important problem we have to solve is to increase the level of awareness of the local people about species of geese and branta in the region. We are planning to make a number of meetings and seminars for students of the region and also design and promote booklets.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

Results of our work are highlighted by two republican and one regional television channels, also four publications in republican and regional newspapers. More than that, two scientific articles were published in republican and foreign editions, one more article is in edition.

7. Timescale: Over what period was The Rufford Foundation grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

Work on the project was carried out on schedule from May 2018 to May 2019.

8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Purchase of fuel (gasoline AI 92)	1160	1160		
Traveling expenses (3 persons - 40 days)	340	340		
Rent of the car UAZ (40 days)	1000	1000		
Rent of the car VAZ 21213 (40 days)	1000	1000		
Wages	1500	1500		
TOTALS	5000	5000		

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

Undoubtedly, the most important further steps are the continuation of the monitoring of the number of hunting and rare species of geese and branta on the territory of the region. Identification of new key territories for globally endangered species, as well as confirmation of the importance of those found, in order to assign them the status of International. Not less important is continuation of the marking bird's works and increasing ecological education of local people.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did The Rufford Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

The Foundation logo was not used during realisation of the project, but financial support was always mentioned everywhere in publications and mass media presentations.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Key members:

I. Zuban –

Participation in field expeditions to monitor migration migrations of geese and branta. Capture and tagging of geese and branta with satellite transmitters and rings. Statistical processing of the material. Analysis of satellite telemetry data. Development of an algorithm for the classification of photographic objects. Preparation of scientific publications.

V. Vilkov –

Monitoring of numbers, study of nesting biology of the local gray goose population. Catching and tagging geese and branta with satellite transmitters and rings. Statistical processing of material. Preparation of scientific publications.

M. Kalashnikov –

Monitoring of numbers, study of nesting biology of the local gray goose population. Catching and tagging geese and branta with satellite transmitters and rings. Statistical processing of material. Preparation of scientific publications.

A. Remshov & S. Pasechny –

Drivers.

Additional participants:

A. Timoshenko –

Participation in field expeditions to monitor migration migrations of geese and branta. Capture and tagging of geese and branta with satellite transmitters and rings.

N. Pethov –

Catching and tagging branta with satellite transmitters and rings.

M. Iliev –

Photographer.

P. Cranswick –

Catching and tagging branta with satellite transmitters and rings.

12. Any other comments?

The data obtained on the number and distribution of geese and branta in the territory of northern Kazakhstan are very important scientifically both at the regional and international levels. Design and integration of methods of catching the geese and branta was the first and quite successful experience for Kazakhstan. We sincerely thank the foundation for the opportunity to do such an interesting and important work in the scientific plan, and we hope for further cooperation.