

Project Update: March 2020

During June - September 2019 we carried out a search of new habitats for a management in the Sporovo Reserve and two places were found in floodplain of the Yaselda River and the Sporovskoe Lake. The staff of the reserve extended the works on restoration of habitats in February of this season.

We checked the condition of great snipe breeding habitats in vicinities of the Berezinski Reserve and floodplain of the Berezina River. We found overgrowing of many breeding habitats without grazing. Grazed floodplain meadows (only two places) kept favourable conditions for the breeding of the great snipe. We found also that these habitats were important for migratory snipes (*Gallinago gallinago*, *G. media* and *Lymnocyptes minimus*) as and wild animals like badger (*Meles meles*) and mountain hare (*Lepus timidus*). We tried to use a night-vision device during night trips to find hidden or feeding birds in floodplain meadows. It helped us to find birds among tussocks and dense grasses.

Preparation of equipment and maps for field works were conducted from February - March 2020. We have also applied to Idea Wild non-profit organisation and received additional equipment for the project (four camera traps) in the framework of small grant programme.



A search of new habitats for a management in the Sporovo Reserve



Jack Snipe stopped during migration in the Great Snipe breeding habitats.





Juvenile of the Great Snipe caught during autumn migration in floodplain of the Berezina River.



Badger searching for earthworms in floodplain meadows.