

3rd Meeting of the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group

12-14 April - Trondheim, Norway

AEWA Technical Committee recommendation regarding the delineation of biogeographic populations of Lesser White-fronted Geese (*Anser erythropus*) under AEWA

(Drafted and approved by the AEWA Technical Committee at its 13th Meeting – 14.-17. March 2016)

Application of the principles of delineation of species populations under AEWA to the Lesser White-fronted Geese breeding in the Nordic countries

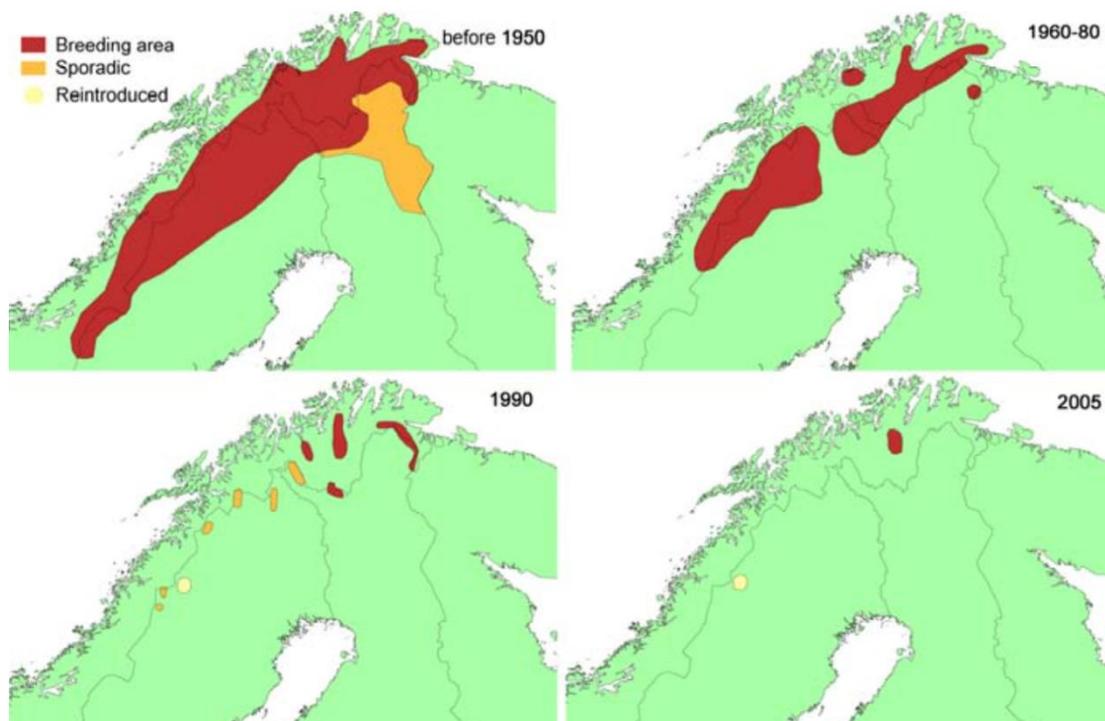


Figure 1. Historical and recent breeding distribution of the Lesser White-fronted Goose in Fennoscandia (Source: AEWA Single Species Action Plan for the Lesser White-fronted Goose, 2008).

As Figure 1. shows, over the last century the distribution of Lesser White-fronted Geese in Fennoscandia became increasingly fragmented resulting in two separate breeding areas.

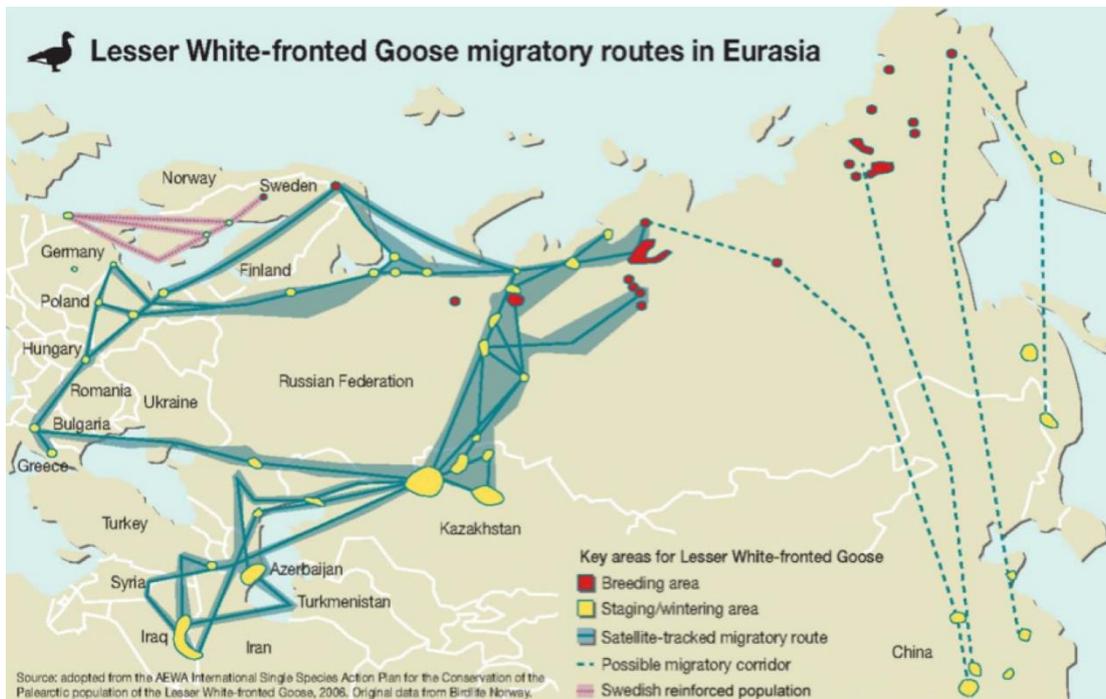


Figure 1. Global distribution of the Lesser White-fronted Goose populations. Dashed lines show the linkages between breeding and wintering areas for the Eastern main population, but the precise migration routes followed are unknown. (Source: draft revised AEWA Single Species Action Plan for the Lesser White-fronted Goose, version 2015)

As the result of a human-induced flyway modification, birds breeding in Sweden now winter in the Netherlands - thus birds breeding in Sweden and Norway also have separate wintering grounds.

Conclusion

Based on their current dispersion patterns - with the Lesser White-fronted Geese breeding in Sweden wintering in the Netherlands and the birds breeding in Norway wintering in Greece - the AEWA Technical Committee considers that the current AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the conservation of the species adopted in 2008, treats the two populations correctly as separate biogeographic populations.