



Welcome to this side event about the lesser white-fronted goose.

The Norwegian stock of Lesser White-fronted Geese is so small that researchers are on first-name terms with the birds.

Standing, literally, on the edge of a precipice should not be so dangerous for a bird, but in the case of the Lesser White-fronted Goose it is, figuratively speaking, of significance. The position of this species is such that there is serious doubt about whether it will be able to continue to fly in the future.

The seriousness of this situation is underlined by the fact that the Lesser White-fronted Goose is also threatened globally. As with all other species, you and I know that once the last specimens vanish, the species is gone forever.

## Lesser White-fronted goose – a prioritized species

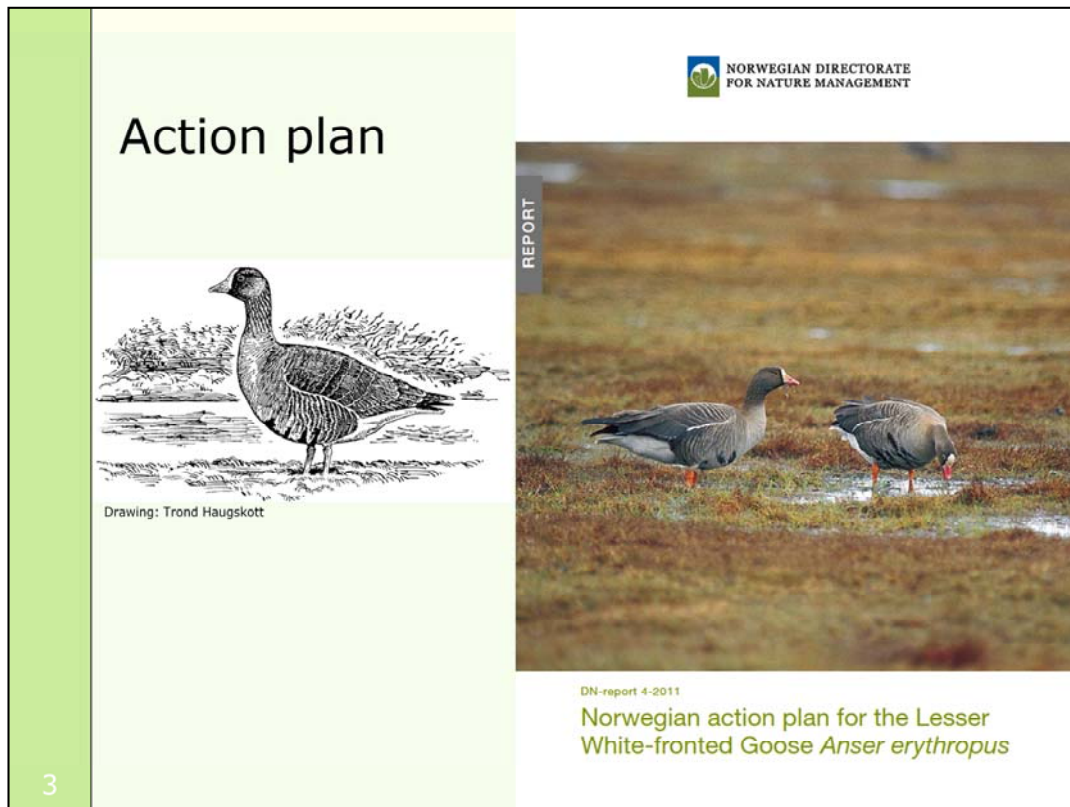


The county of Finnmark, in the very north of Norway, holds a significant number of the breeding pairs left in Fennoscandia. This gives Norway a special responsibility for the species.

The Lesser White-fronted Goose has been designated as a **prioritised species** in a regulation under the Norwegian Nature Diversity Act.

The taking, damaging or destruction of prioritised species is forbidden. If necessary, legislation governing the area in which the species live can be drafted.

The State can provide subsidies for measures to look after prioritised species.



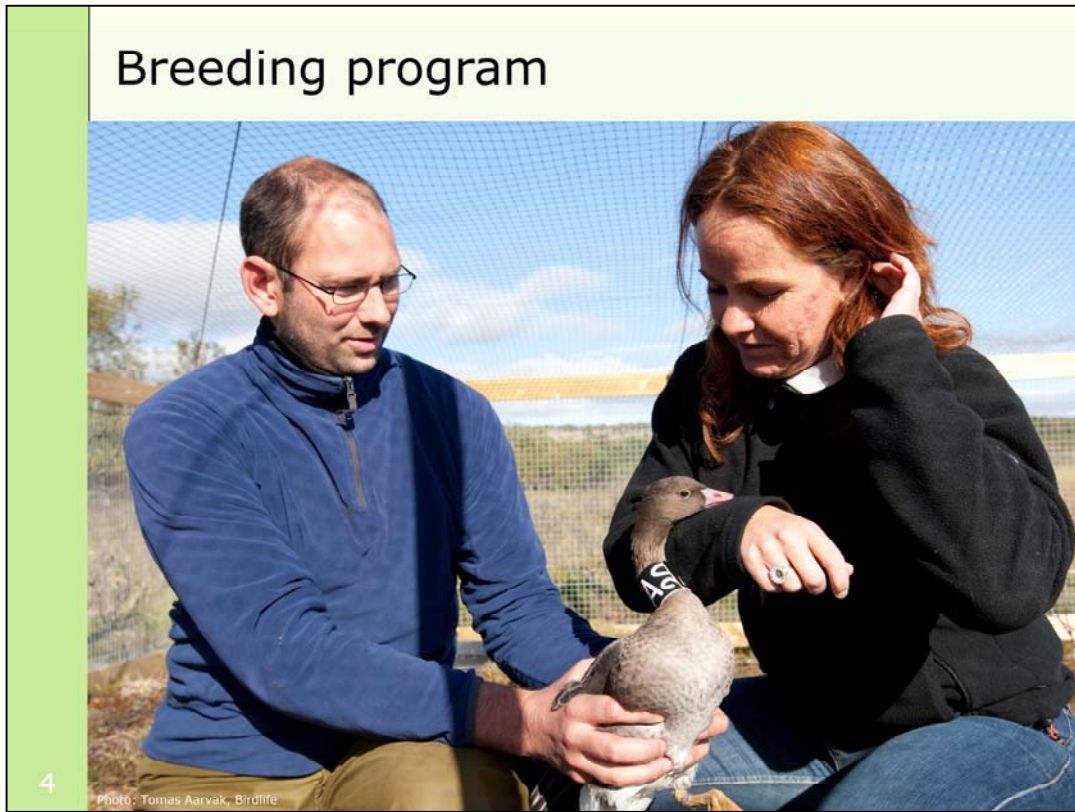
### Measures that work:

- to secure nesting and rest areas against encroachment and interference
- to ban hunting in specific areas
- to fight predators in nesting and rest areas
- to increase knowledge about the species in specific areas
- to establish surveillance program for lesser White fronted geese
- take an international role in the cooperation to protect this bird.

The Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management has made an action plan for the lesser White fronted goose, as you can see a picture of here.

One measure to be tested or investigated is to establish breeding programs for lesser White-fronted goose.

## Breeding program



We are now reintroducing birds in the wild. Up to now this has partly been a success. Experiences after two seasons of releasing birds bred in captivity shows that this is a difficult task, only one of the released birds has been observed back at Valdakmyra the year after release.

In the picture we see Kjetil Solbakken from the Norwegian Ornithological Society and me with a Swedish lesser white-fronted goose on Valdakmyra in Porsanger, Finmark. Both the goose and four others were released on this location in August 2010. In 2011 five geese were released.

## New technology – new knowledge



The Norwegian Ornithological Society collaborates with the Norwegian Nature Inspectorate on a project where Swedish lesser white-fronted geese from the breeding station "Nordens Ark" are equipped with satellite transmitters and released at Valdakmyra at Porsangerfjord in Finnmark. The goal is that they are migrating south to Greece together with wild geese to winter.

The transmitters will give us more knowledge about the geese movements and how the population evolves.

However; the breeding program will only be a additional measure – a test on whether its possible to help the population grow faster. The most important and effective measures are the once already mentioned;

- to secure nesting and rest areas against encroachment and interference,
- to ban hunting in specific areas,
- to fight predators in nesting and rest areas.

## Challenges



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The most imminent problem for the conservation of the Lesser White-fronted Goose is the accidental or illegal shooting of birds on migration in Eastern Europe and at the wintering sites, as this picture from Kazakhstan shows.

A Norwegian action plan for the species has little value if it only focuses on measures within Norway. Norway has also been active at an international level for many years.

Here to mention our involvement in the international Single Species Action Plan for the Lesser White-fronted Goose in 2008 and participation in EU-LIFE.

## Lesser White-fronted goose in Kazakhstan



This autumn I visited the nature reserve Korgalzhyn in Kazakhstan, where some of the lesser white-fronted geese land on their way to Greece.

Here you see our guide, who told us about the birds in this area. We saw thousands of gees, but since they were at quite a distance, we were not sure wheter some of them were lesser white-fronted geese. Anyhow, it was fascinating to watch the birdlife in this nature reserve.

## International collaboration



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Photo: Marianne Gjerv

The reason why I visited Kazakhstan, was because I attended a UN Ministerial Conference in the Environment for Europe-process.

At the conference, I got the opportunity to discuss the situation of the lesser white-fronted goose with the environmental minister of Kazakhstan Mr. Nurgalis Ashimov.

We agreed on the importance of taking management actions to prevent and reduce the accidental or illegal shooting of the lesser white-fronted goose.

It's a great pleasure to me to inform you that the Norwegian government will allocate funds for measures to reduce threats from hunting endangered species such as the Lesser White-fronted goose in the area Kostanay in Kazakhstan.



Thank you for your attention!



I hope you will enjoy our short film about the lesser white-fronted goose. I look forward to join the discussions afterwards.