

Occurrence and trends of *Anser erythropus* in Kostanay Region (KZ) in 1997 - 2006

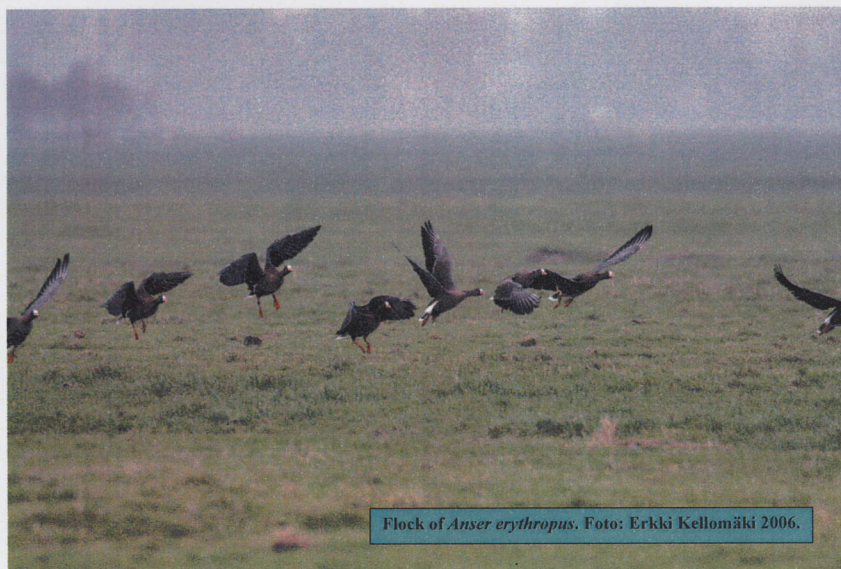
Yerokhov, S. ¹; Bereozikov, N. ¹; Kellomäki, E. ² & L. Kahanpää ³

¹Laboratory of Ornithology, Institute of Zoology, Kazakhstan Academy of Science Syerokhov@nursat.kz

²Häme Regional Environment Centre, Finland erkki.kellomaki@kolumbus.fi

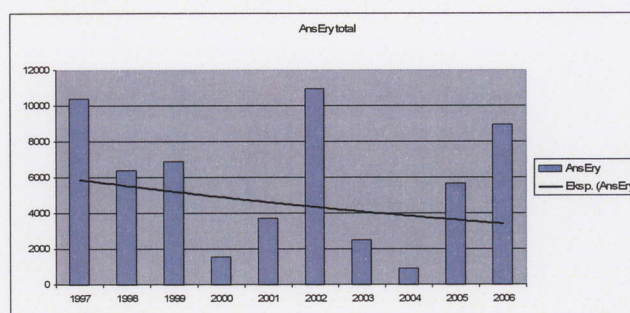
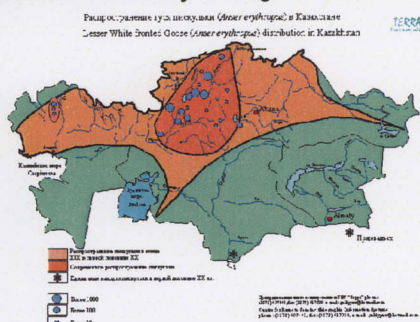
³University of Jyväskylä, Dep. of Mathematics and Statistics kahanpaa@maths.jyu.fi

Autumn monitoring of migrating geese has been implemented in Kostanay Region, NW-Kazakhstan since year 1997 in cooperation between Institute of Zoology of Ministry of Education and Science (KAS), Häme Regional Environment Centre (Finland) and Friends of the LWFG (Finland). Special attention has been paid on the Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*). Kostanay Region is only place to monitor progress of LWFG population of Western Siberia. Survey was realised by two teams in 2005 – 06 as a part of Siberian Crane Wetlands Project, funded by UNDP and UNEP. There was only one survey team in other years.



Flock of *Anser erythropus*. Foto: Erkki Kellomäki 2006.

Kostanay Region is huge area, > 200 000 km². It is hard to achieve statistically comparable samples each year. Potential stop-overing wetlands are over 50. Rainfall in winter time foreordains water level in wetlands next autumn. Annual variations are great. When lakes are empty or too salty, geese can not use lakes for resting and drinking sites. This has great impact on migration pattern and behaviour of geese. Water level was optimum in 1997-1998 and lowest in 2001-02. Access to wheat grains on surrounding fields has prominent influence on geese stopping, too. When autumn is warm, arctic geese delay longer time in Russia before entering to Kazakh territory. Mass species in Kostanay Region are *Anser anser* (local breeder), *Anser albifrons* and *Branta ruficollis*. *Anser fabalis* and *Branta bernicla* are occasional species only. Share of *Anser erythropus* was 0,8 – 5,5 % of all identified geese in 1997 - 2005. Year 2006 was extraordinary with 12% share. Trend of LWFG population seems to be anyhow negative one.



	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
AnsEry	10413	6389	6910	1536	3696	10951	2524	879	5652	8941
AnsAlb	717087	132902	240391	91129	30996	15391	8729	17195	237034	15906
AnsAns	249054	30936	83934	52994	57081	136061	42545	21363	67207	43002
BraRuf	106176	63941	95893	33297	36166	34346	15987	12592	42176	6495
Total	1082730	234168	427128	178983	127939	196749	69785	52029	352069	74344

