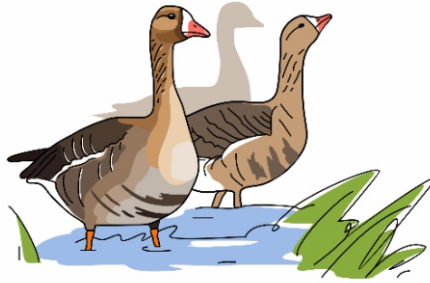


18th Conference of
Goose Specialist Group
27 – 30 March 2018
Klaipėda, Lithuania

Conference abstracts



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GOOSE AND SWAN DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE DURING SPRING MIGRATION IN THE NEMUNAS DELTA

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Nemunas delta is the most important territory for migrating waterfowl in Lithuania. Spring floods make a very productive feeding habitat for geese, swans and ducks. In the Nemunas delta flooded grasslands and surrounding areas like arable land are intensively used for waterfowl grazing and roosting during spring migration. In Nemunas delta region, geese stay from couple of days to several weeks. First arrive Graylag Geese (in the end of February) and the other species are present later. The last migratory geese stay by the middle of May. This presentation is based on bird count data from springs 2011 and 2012 in the territory where 12 main stopovers sites were indicated. In different sites from 1500 to 17000 geese and 250 -1300 swans were counted per day. Highest number of geese was recorded in Rupkalviai ornithological preserve and Sausgalviai village. Most abundant species was Greater White-fronted Goose (GWfG) – 95% of all geese individuals. The most abundant swan was Whooper Swan – 74% of all swans' individuals. The maximum numbers counted per one-day were 43000 Great White-fronted geese and 3700 Whooper Swans. In comparison in the 90's most abundant species was Bean Goose. The highest number of geese were recorded at the first part of April, while swans reached peak at the end of March. The high number of waterfowl using the territory indicated the importance of this place for waterfowl on migration to Northern territories.