



*AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF  
AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS*

*Doc. AEWA/TBG/ISSAP/Inf.1.4  
25 March 2025*

**WORKSHOP FOR THE REVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SINGLE  
SPECIES ACTION PLAN FOR THE TAIGA BEAN GOOSE**

*1-3 April 2025, Bonn, Germany and Online*

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**NOTE ON THE OCCURRENCE OF TAIGA BEAN GOOSE IN THE  
NETHERLANDS**

Given that the Netherlands will not be able to attend the Taiga Bean Goose ISSAP Revision Workshop, this note has been prepared to explain their proposal to be delisted as a range state in the revised plan.

Workshop participants are invited to take note of this document.

## **Note on the occurrence of Taiga Bean Goose in the Netherlands**

### **Backgrounds**

The Netherlands is listed as range state in the AEWA ISSAP Taiga Bean Goose published in 2015 (Marjakangas et al. 2015). Until the early 1990s, the species was a regular wintering species in specific parts of the country, often with peak numbers coinciding with cold-spells (Koffijberg et al. 2009, Sovon 2018). Two Natura 2000-sites have been designated for the species as night-roost (see [stats.sovon.nl/stats/soort/1571](https://stats.sovon.nl/stats/soort/1571) → assigned areas). The current conservation status is unfavourable, following a sharp decline in abundance since the early-mid 1980s (Fig. 1). This decline has been attributed to a general contraction of the wintering range, showing overlapping patterns with the situation in Western- and Northern Germany (Koffijberg et al. 2009).

For this reason, the Netherlands proposes to be delisted as range state in the upcoming revised ISSAP. Below, we summarize the current status of the species and give some argumentation for this proposal.

### **Current status**

Data from the monthly goose censuses show that since 2011/12 the seasonal average is only 0-2 individuals ([stats.sovon.nl/stats/soort/1571](https://stats.sovon.nl/stats/soort/1571), Fig. 1). Unsystematic recordings reported to the citizen-science portal [waarneming.nl](https://www.waarneming.nl) suggest a few more birds, but still less than 5 individuals per winter. Most of the time, these refers to single individuals, associated with flocks of the much more numerous Tundra Bean Geese. The species has become one of the rarest goose species in the country (Red-breasted Geese and Lesser White-fronted Geese being more abundant) and meanwhile has become a much-sought species by birders, being a nearly-vagrant species. ID is often debated, as identification of single birds in Tundra Bean Goose flocks easily prompts discussions about the correct ID. As the species has become so rare, it is not well represented anymore in the national census scheme.

About a decade ago, the species was mainly found in the province of Noord-Brabant (also associated with the designated Natura 2000-sites) and scattered over the eastern part of the country (Fig. 2). More recently, it has been only found in the northern part of the country. The latter observations are all associated with Tundra Bean Goose. The reason for the cluster of observations in Noord-Brabant in Fig. 2 originates from a small flock that came down to the Netherlands during a cold spell in the winter of 2014/15. This flock consisted of 16 individuals, some of them equipped with transmitters or colour markings from Denmark (Hornman et al. 2016). This represents the largest flock seen in the past decades.

### **Future status**

Given the contraction of the wintering range and the general tendency for warmer winters, we expect that Taiga Bean Goose will remain a more or less vagrant species in the Netherlands without any traditional staging sites. In terms of management or conservation of the species, the situation in the Netherlands will be irrelevant to the flyway of the species, even if every now and then a larger flock is visiting the country during a cold spell. For that reason, also the designated Natura 2000-sites remain in place. It has been proposed to reduce the national conservation objective from 650 to 80 individuals (representing the annual mean), i.e. providing roosting and feeding conditions for such a

number. But even this objective of 80 individuals seems extremely high, compared to the seasonal average of only 1 individual after 2014/15.

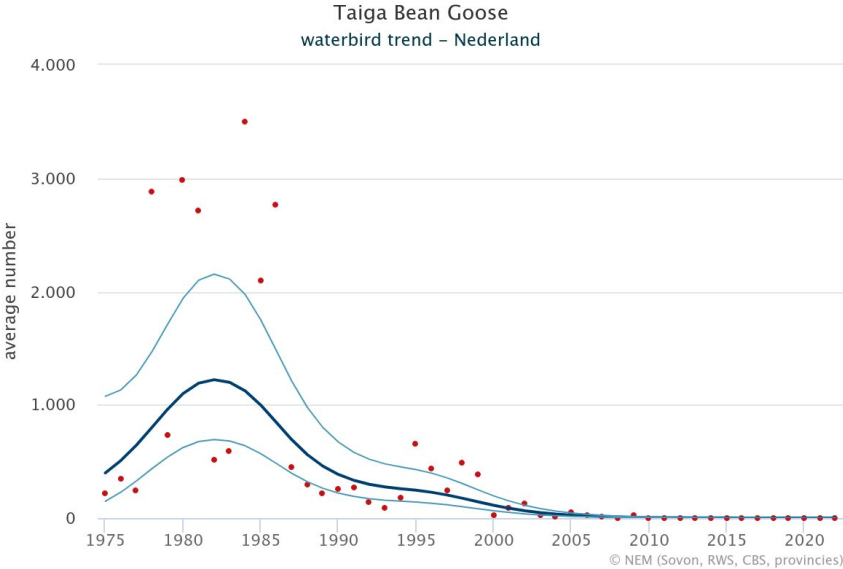


Figure 1: Trend in abundance of Taiga Bean Goose in the Netherlands. Data are retrieved from the monthly goose census scheme. Shown are annual means. Source: stats.sovon.nl/stats/soort/1571

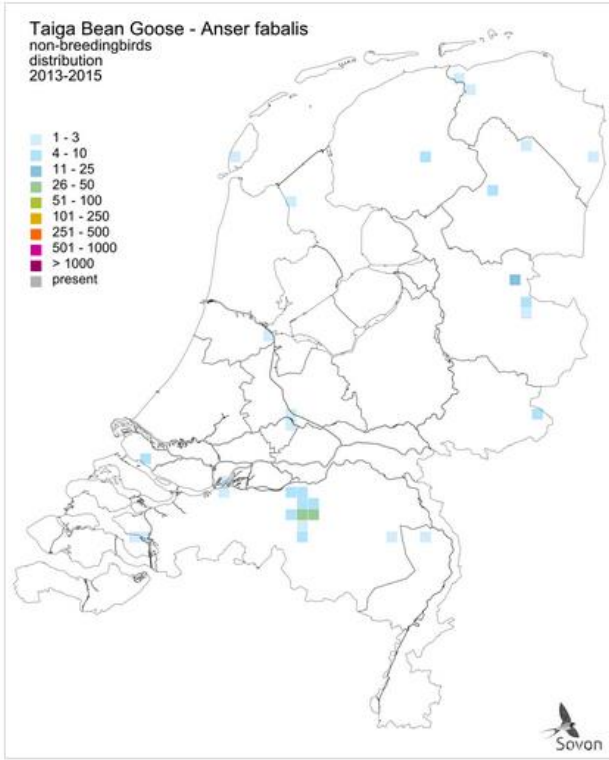
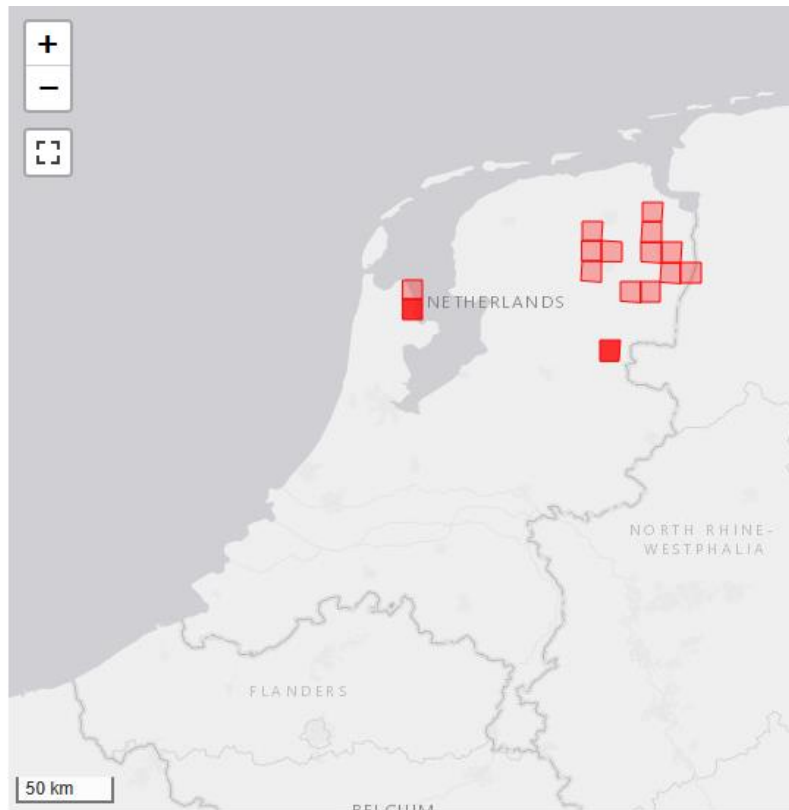


Figure 2: Distribution of Taiga Bean Goose in the Netherlands during the last national atlas period 2012/13 – 2014/15. Source: stats.sovon.nl/stats/soort/1571.



**Figure 3:** Distribution of non-systematic reports submitted to waarneming.nl, 2019/20 – 2023/24.

**Source:** [waarneming.nl/species/338/maps/?start\\_date=2019-07-01&interval=315360000&end\\_date=2023-06-30&map\\_type=grid10k](https://waarneming.nl/species/338/maps/?start_date=2019-07-01&interval=315360000&end_date=2023-06-30&map_type=grid10k)

## References

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