

species	data	document	Last updated
Taiga Bean Goose	Spring counts	Methodology	16032022

The March population estimate is, as the October count, mainly comprised of data from Sweden with additional information from Denmark, Finland and Latvia.

The timing of this monitoring is highly dependent on the advance of the spring. The optimal monitoring occurs when the vast majority of the birds are found in Sweden. The timing of the counts in Sweden is scheduled when almost all Taiga Bean Geese of the Central MU are concentrated to spring staging sites in south-central Sweden and organised annually as a dedicated Bean Goose survey at all relevant sites (Skjllberg 2015).

In addition to this study, data from a network of observers plus extractions from the online portals www.dofbasen.dk in Denmark and www.tiira.fi in Finland are included.

Latvia is at present not an official range state for the Central MU. However, Kampe-Persson & Boiko (2019) describe how Taiga Bean Geese from the Central MU stage in the westernmost part of the country in early spring, while birds from the Eastern 1 MU stage in the eastern part of the country about one month later.

Both October and March counts are valuable, because the great majority of the Taiga Bean Geese from the Western and Central MUs stage simultaneously in Sweden during those periods. The great majority of these birds belong to the Central MU but a smaller number belongs to the smaller Western MU. These are not possible to separate from each other and it is thought that sometimes they occur in mixed flocks. In addition, the estimations are complicated by variation in the timing of the migration, so that Western MU some years are probably in Sweden during the counts but not in other years.