

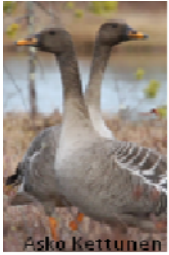
# International AEWA Single Species Action-Planning Workshop for the management of Taiga Bean Goose (*Anser f. fabalis*)

Population size, trend , distribution, threats, hunting, management,  
conservation status and possible actions in

Finland



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Finland



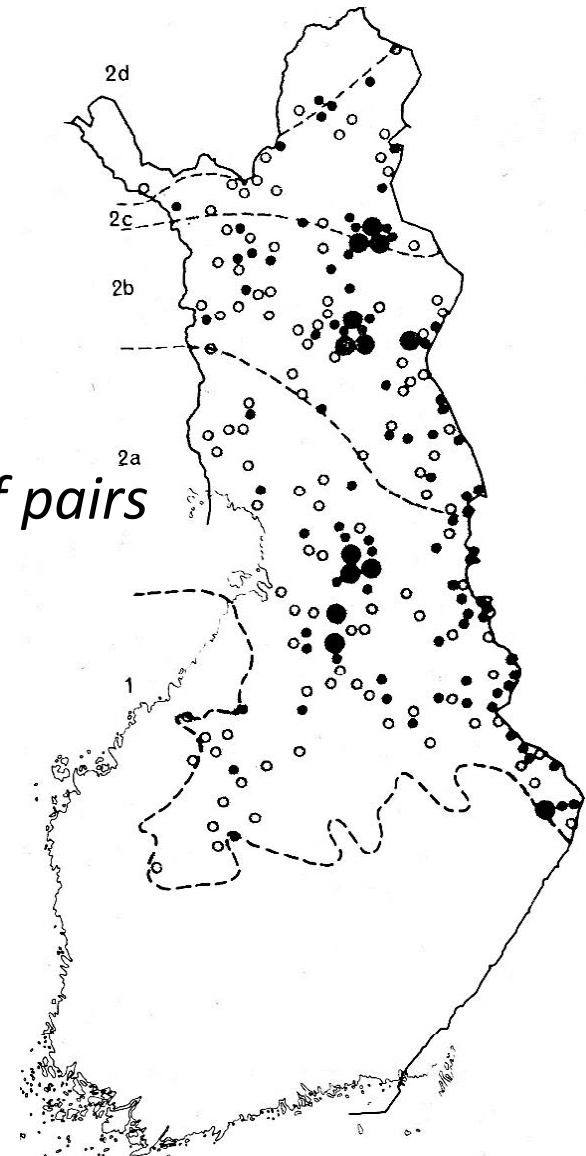
# Population

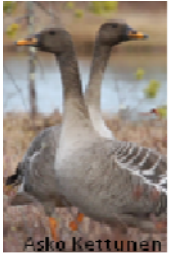
- Estimate of present breeding population size: **1 700–2 500 pairs** (Väisänen et al. 2011)
- “educated guess”

*Number of pairs*

- 10–25
- 2–9
- 1

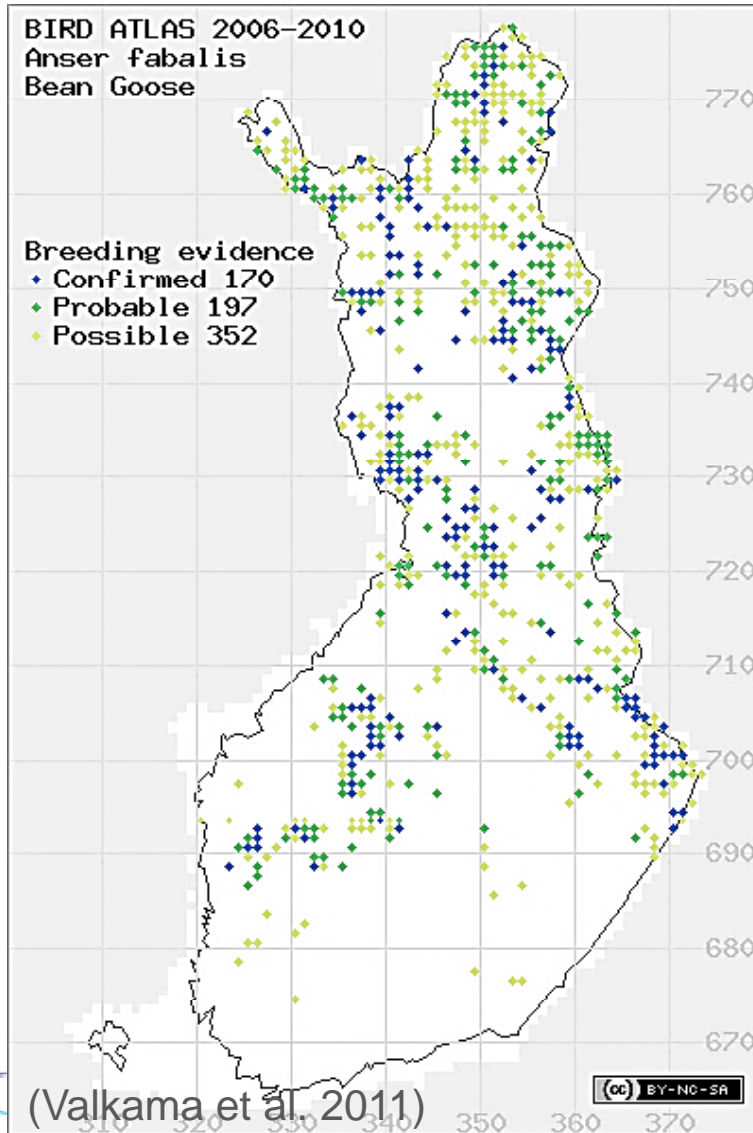
*Distribution and numbers of breeding pairs in 1973–1983 (Pirkola & Kalinainen 1984)*



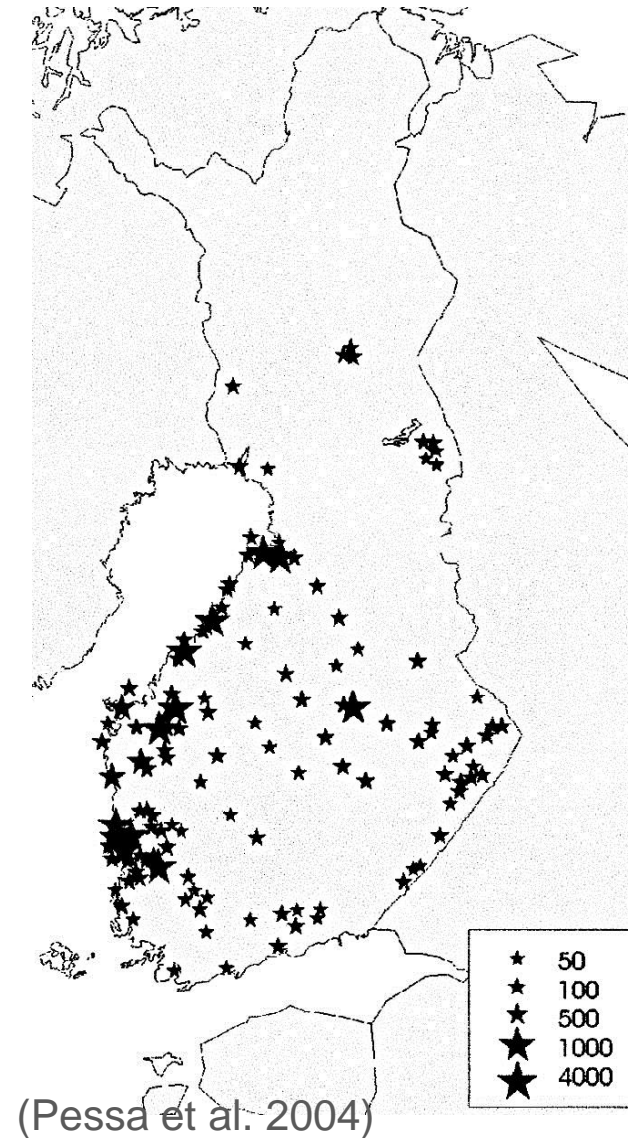


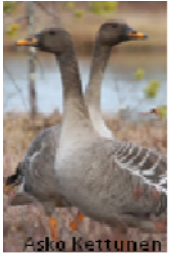
# Distribution

## Breeding distribution

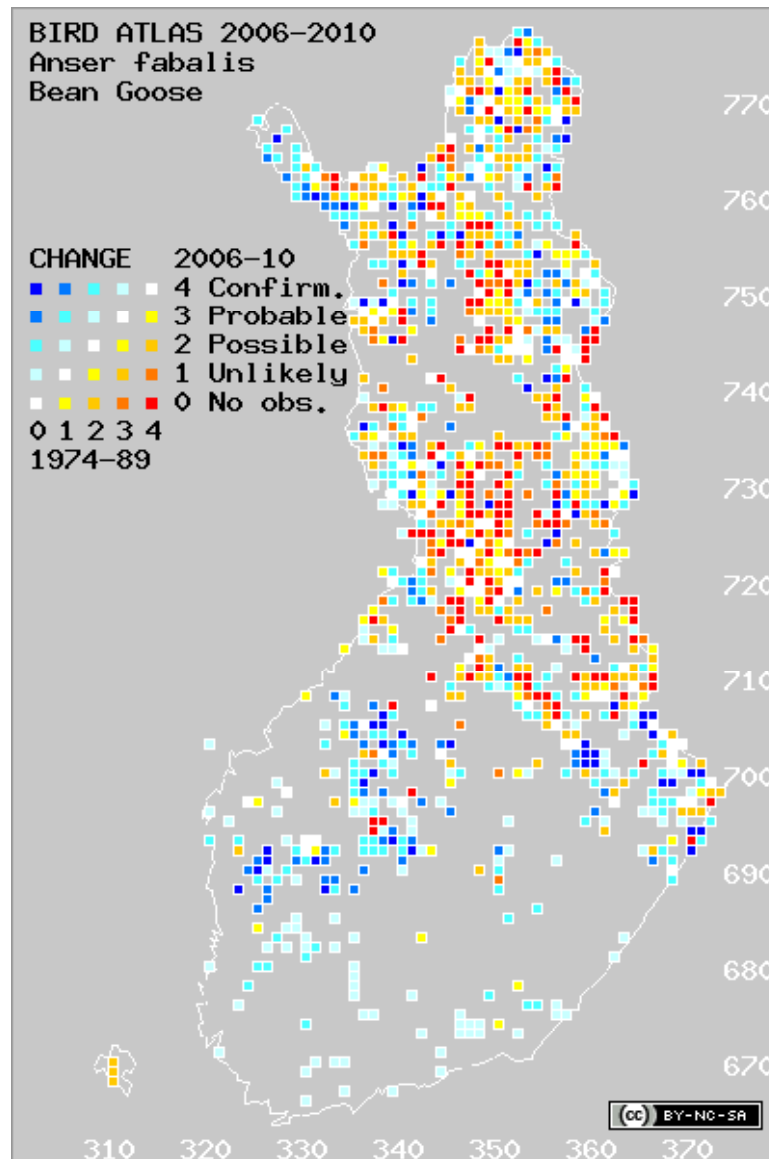


## Spring staging sites 1995–2005





# Trend



Finnish Bird Atlas surveys:

- 1974–1979
- 1986–1989
- 2006–2010

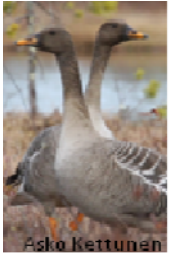
■ disappeared from a grid  
(10 x 10 km)  
where used to breed

■ the degree of breeding evidence  
■ declined

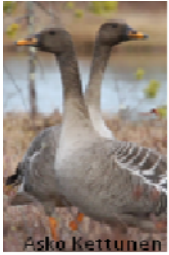
Anecdotal evidence from hunters  
and bird watchers: the breeding  
population has declined

(Valkama et al. 2011)





Pesäneva fen, Sievi (N 63°48'01", E 24°50'56"), no breeding Taiga Bean Geese since 2003



# Possible causes of decline

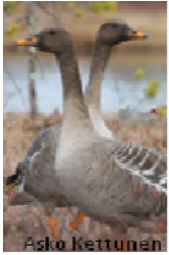
- Annual survival rates of Taiga Bean Geese neck-banded in northern central Finland in 1981–1994 (n = 430)

Age class, years	Annual survival rate	95% confidence limits	
		lower	upper
1	0.47	0.41	0.54
2	0.84	0.71	0.92
3	0.53	0.41	0.65
≥ 4	0.66	0.61	0.71

(S. Aikio & A. Paasivaara unpublished)

- Hunting?
- Breeding habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation?
- Interspecific competition?
- Predation?



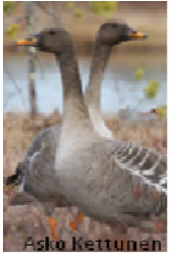


# Threats to the Taiga Bean Goose in Finland

- List of potential threats in order of significance:
  - Habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation (4)
  - Hunting (at staging sites) (4)
  - Interspecific competition (from Whooper Swan) (?)
  - Increasing predator populations (?)
- New threats:
  - Wind farm development (3)
  - Ranking: 5=very significant, 4=significant, 3=medium, 2=low, 1=very low

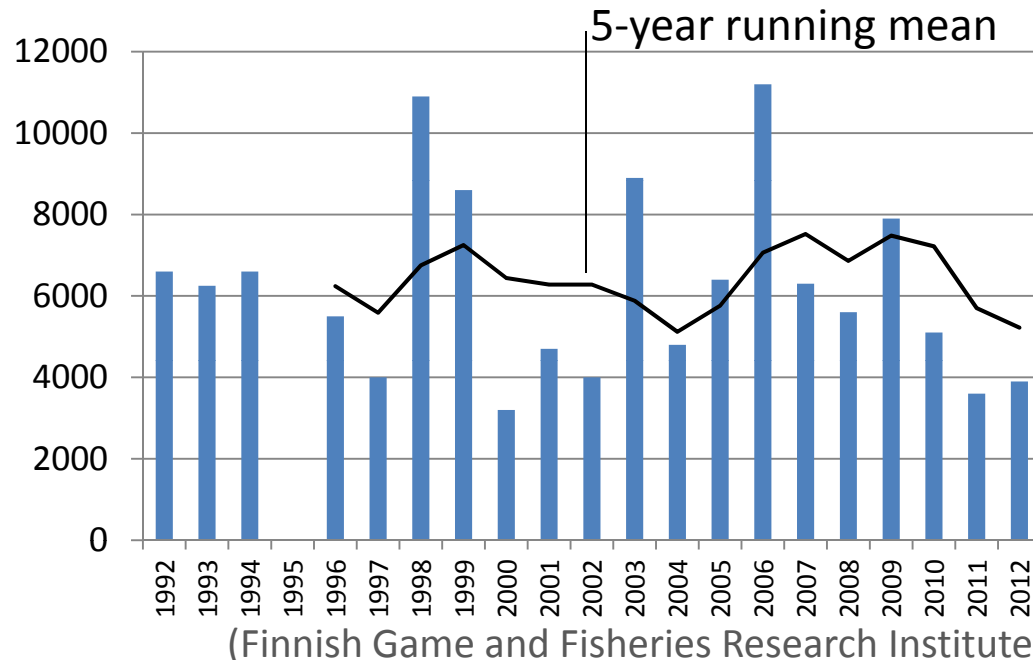


- Restoration of drained mires
- Establishment, restoration and management of wetlands



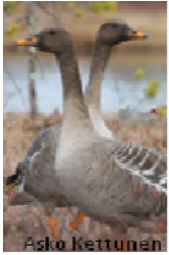
# Hunting

- Statutory open season for Bean Goose: 20<sup>th</sup> August–31<sup>st</sup> December
  - Restrictions on open season since 2010 (e.g. in 2013 the onset of open season postponed to 1<sup>st</sup> September–10<sup>th</sup> October, depending on area)
  - Estimated annual hunting bag 1992–2012



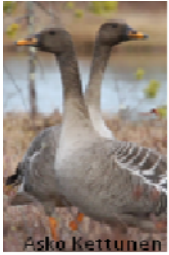
mainly Taiga Bean Geese





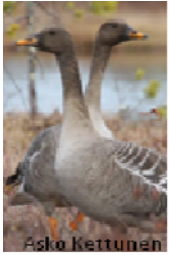
# Conservation and management

- Restoration of drained mires (especially on state-owned land in northern and eastern Finland)
- Establishment, restoration and management of wetlands for waterbirds
  - hunters are involved
- Supplemental feeding with grain by hunters (mainly in spring)



# The Taiga Bean Goose - the local community and the economy benefits - damages

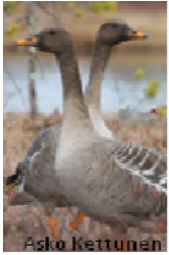
- Provide information about the relevance of the Taiga Bean Goose to local communities and national or local economy
  - Highly valued as a quarry species especially in northern Finland
  - Are there local hunting traditions associated with it? Yes, traditional goose hunting on breeding areas (using the Finnish spitz dog)
  - A species of great interest to bird watchers, too
  - Is the species important for the national or local economy?
    - Some hunting tourism on state-owned land in northern Finland
  - No damage to agriculture reported



# National Information - Monitoring

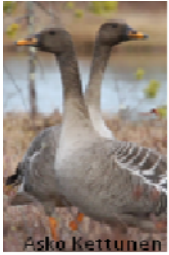
- Is there monitoring programme that provides data of Taiga Bean Goose
  - Monitoring of migration by bird watchers
- Are there any plans launching a monitoring programme?
  - Breeding population size
    - census on breeding pairs in spring
  - Breeding success
    - brood counts in late summer





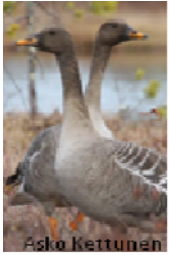
# National Information – Status of the species

- National legal status for the species:
  - Bean Goose is a game species
  - Hunting Act and Hunting Decree, 1993
  - Red list status in 2000 and 2010: Near Threatened
  - Which government agencies are responsible for implementation?
    - Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finnish Wildlife Agency
  - What is the level of implementation?
    - High
  - What obstacles hinder effective implementation?



# Actions and Planning

- Is there any Actions taken on Taiga Bean Goose
  - Hunting restrictions since 2010
  - Population ecological study
    - satellite tracking of individual Taiga Bean Geese
    - wing survey > age and subspecies composition of the hunting bag
- National Species Action Plan or other relevant plan
  - draft Management Plan for the Finnish Bean Goose Population
- National (Taiga) Bean Goose Working Group or other relevant group
  - No
  - Management actions are implemented by responsible authorities and agencies



## Other Information

- Provide any additional relevant information on the occurrence, hunting/sustainable use and conservation of the Taiga Bean Goose and its key sites / habitats in your country
- Provide any ideas or important facts to be considered in the concrete actions to be defined in this workshop