

Project Update: August 2017

This season we performed extensive searches of key breeding sites in floodplains of the Sinyaya, Dolzanka, Berezina and Drut Rivers. Using a kayak, we continued surveys in the Drut River floodplains along about 100 km of the riverbed. We found 10 new leks (including data previous year) with the total numbers of males estimated between 88 and 125 birds. We also searched for leks in two places of open fen near the Naroch Lake. Only one small lek was found in the fen.

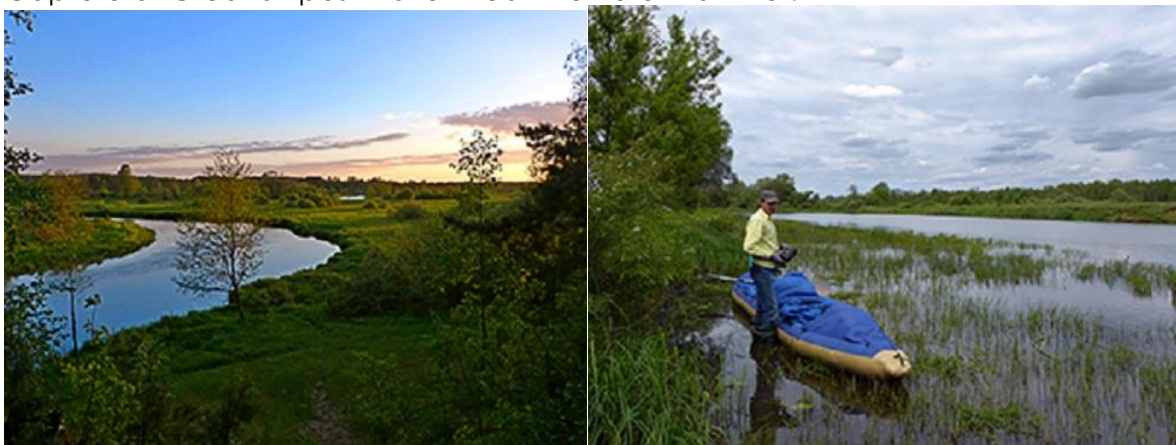
Censuses of the great snipe were carried out in the Sporovo Reserve during May in order to estimate the results of works on restoration of breeding habitats. This season we recorded strong increases (several times) in the numbers of lekking males as compared to censuses of 2011-2013. New lek was also found in restored habitats for aquatic warbler.

We caught and ringed 25 birds on two lekking arenas in the Sporovo Reserve and Berezina River. Five males and one female were equipped with VHF transmitters. We studied a distribution of birds during breeding season (May-June) using radio-tracking. Males were recorded near leks where they were caught. Female was tracked out one time and its brood was not found.

We presented the project results at Eighth Woodcock & Snipe Workshop that was held in Portugal from 9th to 11th May, 2017. Data will be published in the conference proceedings by the end of this year.



Capture of Great Snipes in a lek near the Berezina River.



Key breeding habitats of the Great Snipe in the floodplain of Drut River.



Caught Great Snipe female equipped with VHF transmitter.



Left: Study of Great Snipe distribution on floodplain meadows during breeding season using radio-tracking in valley of the Berezina River. Right: Presentation of the project results at Eighth Woodcock & Snipe Workshop in the Portugal.