

## OBSERVATION OF GREATER SNOW GEESE WITH COLLARS AND COLOR BANDS - PROTOCOL

### OBJECTIVES

- 1) Observe the highest number of birds with collars to study migratory movements and survival.
- 2) Determine the family status of birds with collars, when possible.

### MARKERS USED

- Most geese with **yellow** collars are females. These collars have alphanumerical code with 2 letters [L] and 2 numbers [N] : LLNN, NNLL or LNLN.
- Geese with **green** or **grey** collars have radio transmitters and are also females. The alphanumerical code has 2 numbers (NN), 2 letters (LL) or 1 number/1 letter (LN or NL).
- Geese can also have a plastic band with an individual code of 3 letters [LLL] or 2 letters/1 number [LLN]. The **color** varies according to **years** (yellow, red, green, white and black) and also the **leg** (left or right).

### OBSERVATIONS

When a marked goose is spotted, you need to...

- Read the **complete code** of the collar or the plastic band (make sure to note the **color** and, for a plastic band, the left or right leg) of the individual.
- Note the presence of a **partner** and **young** (how many?) with a marked female, if possible.
- Note the **presence of bands** (metal and plastic) on the male and/or the young, if possible.
- Indicate the **level of certainty** of the collar code and the status (1:certain, 2:uncertain).
- Note the **location** where the goose was observed

The determination of the status is **optional** and is done under good conditions of observation and if there is enough time to do so. To determine the status, we need to follow the marked bird for a period long enough to identify the presence of a partner (male) and young. If the status for either the partner or the number of young is unknown, this must be indicated (there is a code for this particular situation).

## DATA ENTRY

- The observations of geese with a **yellow, green or grey** collar are registered on the data sheets **OBSERVATION OF GREATER SNOW GEESE WITH COLLARS**. When a young with a color band is observed with a marked female, we indicate if the band was read (code 1) or not (code 0) in the column "b\_rd" on the sheet **OBSERVATION OF GREATER SNOW GEESE WITH COLLARS** at the line corresponding to the female's code. This will help make the link between the two databases.
- The observations of **ADULT** geese with a color band are registered on the data sheets **OBSERVATION OF GREATER SNOW GEESE WITH BANDS (ADULTS)**. The information collected is the same as for collars but we must also indicate the color of the band as well as the leg (L or R).

The 2 types of data sheets described above also contain additional information that should be indicated concerning the location, the habitat and the status (couples and/or young), as well as the list of codes to use. The list of codes is given at the bottom of each data sheet (except for the codes of locations which appear on a separate sheet).

## TO SEND US YOUR COLLAR SIGHTINGS

- 1- If you only have a **few sightings**, you can simply send them [by e-mail](#) and list them in your message or submit them directly on our website in the "[Collar sightings](#)" section.
- 2- If you have **lots of sightings** to send us...
  - You can download our datasheets, register your observations directly in the Excel file and send it back by [e-mail](#).
  - You can download and print our datasheets, fill them out and send them [by mail](#).
  - You can send us an [e-mail](#) and list all your observations in the message.

Thank you in advance for your help,

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