

Project Update: August 2019

Restoration of the main Great Snipe breeding habitats which were determined during implementation of the previous project were conducted in the Sporovo Reserve during the end of February - early March. About 100 ha breeding habitats were restored near the Sporovoskoe Lake. The habitats were cleared of willow bushes and dense vegetation. We carried out searches of Great Snipe leks in these habitats during June. Numbers of males was very low in the restored habitats due to prolonged flood and high level of water.

We conducted the search of new key breeding habitats in floodplains of Sluch, Berezina, Yaselda and Veseyka Rivers. Additional field trips were conducted in floodplain habitats of the Prypyat River to gather data on management in these places and to check known leks in the key breeding habitats. We found that some habitats were overgrown with dense vegetation and willow shrubs. We didn't find Great Snipes in these habitats. Big leks remained in the places where some management were conducted and there were grazed meadows.

Together with the Sporovo reserve staff, we organized the manual mowing championship in the fen mire. The manual mowing championship was conducted in the Sporovo Reserve on August 10th in the vicinities of Vysokoe village to increase public awareness about conservation problems of rare species. About 30 teams from different regions took part in the event. Reportages about the event were published in more than 30 different mass media and broadcast on national television.



The lekking Great Snipes in the key breeding habitats of the Pripjat River.



Former breeding habitats of the Great Snipe which were overgrown by bushes after termination of grazing



Restored breeding habitats captured by drone in the Sporovo Reserve.



The teams took part in the manual mowing championship in the Sporovo Reserve.



Winner of the championship near the finish