

Small Grant Fund for EAAFP Working Groups & Task Forces

2025 Application Form

A. Details of Applicant

Institution/ organisation:	Association of specialists for bird study and conservation “Goose, Swan and Duck Study Group of Northern Eurasia” (Association “RGG”)		
Contact Details Name:	Dr.	Rozenfeld	Sofya
	Mr./Ms./Dr.	Family Name	Given Name
Position:	coordinator		
Email Address:	rozenfeldbro@mail.ru		

Brief Background of the Institution/ organisation	<p>The Association “RGG” was established in 1994 as a non-profit organization dedicated to uniting scientists, nature enthusiasts, and hunters who are passionate about the study and conservation of Anseriformes, as well as the sustainable management of their resources. RGG boasts over 250 members, including professional ornithologists, conservationists, hunters and amateur naturalists from 28 countries. The Association “RGG” coordinates numerous Russian and international projects aimed at studying the biology, distribution, and population dynamics of Anseriformes. It also focuses on the sustainable use and protection of these species, as well as the conservation of their habitats in breeding areas, wintering sites, and along migration routes.</p> <p>The most important projects of Association “RGG” are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Study of the distribution and taxonomy of the Bean Goose in Russia 2. Study of the Red-breasted Goose in breeding areas and on migration routes 3. Monitoring the abundance and distribution of the Red-breasted Goose and the Lesser White-fronted Goose in the water bodies of the Kuma-Manych depression 4. Optimization of habitats used by rare and globally threatened species of Anseriformes in Kalmykia 5. Regulation of hunting in the Southern Federal District of Russia (Republic of Kalmykia, Stavropol Krai, Volgograd Region) 6. Monitoring of the Red-breasted Goose, Lesser White-fronted Goose and Bewick's Swan in the Black Sea region 7. Assessment of the state of the Lesser White-fronted Goose wintering grounds in Azerbaijan Identification of key stopover sites for the Lesser White-fronted Goose during autumn migration in Dagestan 8. Monitoring of Anseriformes in Northern Kazakhstan and in adjacent territories of the Orenburg Region 9. Counting nesting Anseriformes and studying the trophic relationships of geese in the territory of the Shoinsky nature reserve (Kanin peninsula) 10. Study of the state of the populations of geese for the development of measures for their conservation and rational use in the Yuribey River basin (Yamal peninsula) 11. Study of the Taiga Bean Goose in the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug 12. Monitoring of rare and game species of Anseriformes in the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug and Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug-Yugra using aerial surveys 13. Monitoring of populations of waterfowl in the coastal tundra of northeast Asia using aerial surveys 14. Study of the nature of stay, features of biology and distribution of Anseriformes in Central Taimyr 15. Assessment of the hunting pressure of the indigenous population of the regions of the Far North of Russia on waterfowl by the questionnaire method
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16. Study of the state of the population of the Swan Goose in the Russian Far East and the development of measures to preserve the species and its habitats
17. Study of the Swan goose in Eastern Mongolia
18. Prospects for preserving populations of the Grey Goose by artificial breeding
19. Tagging of geese in the spring migration in the Kostroma region (Russia)
20. Monitoring urban populations of waterfowl
21. Study of species composition, population dynamics and distribution of Anseriformes in urban habitats and man-made reservoirs in Central Russia and adjacent territories
22. Study of population dynamics and changes in the range of the Ruddy Shelduck in the twentieth century
23. Monitoring the Ruddy Shelduck population in Moscow and the Moscow region
24. Studying the status of rare Anseriformes species populations in the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug (using GIS technologies) and developing a monitoring system and a set of measures for their conservation
25. Internship of Russian specialists at the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Anchorage, Alaska): methods of aerial surveys of waterfowl and processing their results
26. Assessment of the status of populations and the quality of habitats of rare Anseriformes species on the Gydan Peninsula
27. Identification of population parameters, dynamics and migration patterns, wintering sites and population affiliation of the Bewick's Swan
28. Abundance and biotopic distribution of Anseriformes during autumn migration in the Nenetsky Autonomous Okrug, Baydaratskaya Bay (Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug) and Dvuobye (Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug and Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug-Yugra)
29. Aerial surveys of anseriformes on Vaigach Island
30. Counting the number of sea ducks along the coasts of the Barents and Kara Seas in May 2018
31. Study of the effect of collecting Common Eider down in the Onega Bay of the White Sea on nesting success
32. Repeat of an aerial survey of the tundra of Northeast Asia. Thirty years later...
Guanotrophication of Taimyr lakes
33. Study of the geography of geese and swan populations of the Taimyr Peninsula
34. Aerial survey and census of Anseriformes on the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk, the territory of the Koryak Nature Reserve and the Gulf of Kresta

Web site: <https://www.casarca.ru/>

B. Prior Funding from EAAFP

This project is partly related to the supported project Bird community monitoring at Chaun delta, Chukotka, Russia, as related to climate change and anthropogenic factors (2020)

C. Applicant's Membership of EAAFP Working Groups and Task Forces

By ticking this box, you confirm your membership of a Working Group and/or Task Force of the EAAFP:

Please list the name/s of the WGs and TFs of which you are a member:

Anatidae Working Group _____

D. Relevant EAAFP Working Group or Task Force Chair/Coordinator - Details

Please contact the EAAFP Programme Coordinator at godwit@eaaflyway.net if additional guidance is needed concerning this section.

Name of Working Group or Task Force: Anatidae Working Group

Title of Chair/ Coordinator:	Dr (Ms, Mr, etc.)	Usiyama Family Name	Katsumi Given Name/s
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Email address of
Chair/Coordinator: mwwc@dune.ocn.ne.jp

E. Project Proposal Details

Project Title: Please provide a concise and informative title of your entire project (not just the component for which EAAFP funds are sought)

Summer ranges and numbers of East Asian waterfowl revealed from the aerial surveys in the Arctic and Subarctic

Project Duration: Please provide an approximate duration for your proposed project. This will help us to indicate the approximate reporting schedule.

10 June 2025 – 31 December 2025

Project Proposal:

Details of your entire project (not just the component for which EAAFP funds are sought)
(2.5 pages maximum)

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| 1. Objectives: | To delineate summer ranges (breeding and moulting); to discover concentrations and to estimate population sizes of primary geese and ducks in the East Asian tundra and forest-tundra.
To create video trailer about East Asian waterfowl and their study. To introduce this movie to local TV for show. |
| 2. Background: | The aerial surveys over East Asian Arctic and Subarctic have been lasting for 6 years (2019-2024); the year 2025 will be the last in a row with a primary goal to transect survey the Wrangel Island. By the way to and from the Wrangel Island the additional areas should be surveyed and that will be the areas missed in previous years. The results of previous surveys are published in part for Bewick's swan (Solovyeva et al., 2023), Lesser White-fronted Goose (Solovyeva et al., 2024), Siberian Crane (Rozenfeld et al., 2023). This time we plan to process the data and publish populations estimates and summer ranges of the Greater White-fronted Goose, Taiga and Tundra Bean Geese, and Black Brant. In addition, we will process the data on duck populations. We have the data of aerial surveys in 2020-2024 processed properly, however the data from 2019 need to be checked by experienced person for the correct species identification. |
| 3. Expected Outputs and Outcomes: | Drawing of maps of summer ranges of the Greater White-fronted Goose, Taiga and Tundra Bean Geese, and Black Brant. Preparation of scientific publications about the densities and population sizes of the above species in the East Asian tundra and forest-tundra (see our previous publications Rozenfeld et al., 2023, Solovyeva et al., 2023 and Solovyeva et al., 2024 as examples). Mapping of geese concentrations in summer (key moulting sites).
Conservation movie about the field work with waterfowl (nest searches, investigation of the breeding biology, nest success and the reason for nest failure, including predation) with the emphases of conservation need. Movie by well-known wildlife cameramen Artur |

	Ryabitsev will be created and introduced to local TV in the north-eastern regions of Russia.
4. Project plan, timeline, and methods:	Aerial surveys in Chukotka mainland (outside the Wrangel Island) is planned for July-early August weather permitted. Seaplane Sterkh-1 is used for aerial surveys over Russian tundra since 2015. Survey methods are described in our recent papers (i.e. Rosenfeld et al., 2023). The method includes taking pictures of each flock/pair/individual bird. Camera-men and his assistant will spend July in the Chaun Biological Station for taking video. Bird photos of 2019 and 2025 will be processed in September-mid December. The movie will be ready by early November. Final report will be submitted in mid December.
5. Expected benefit to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitat / or key research outputs:	KRA 2.1; KRA 3.1; KRA 3.2; KRA 3.3
6. Alignment with EAAFP Working Groups and Task Forces priorities:	Anatidae WF; Shorebird WG; Seabird WG (loons and seagulls); Monitoring TF
7. Explain the part(s) of your project for which you are seeking EAAFP funds in this Application <i>(provide details in the Project Budget section below):</i>	We are seeking EAAFP funds for (1) processing the survey data from 2019 (checking the species identification); (2) processing the survey data from 2025 (about 20,000 bird photos from the plane); (3) supporting movie team to access the study area in the Chaun Delta, Chukotka.
8. Confirm that the part(s) of the project for which EAAFP funds are requested can be undertaken even if no co-funding is available	NO. If the EAAFP funds aren't available this year we will concentrate on the species other than migrating along the EAAF: eiders, Snow Geese, Emperor Geese (all migrating along the America's Pacific Flyway).
9. Continued project:	In part this proposed project is a continuation of a previous project funded by the EAAFP Small Grant Fund for Working Groups and Task Forces (Small Grant to Dr Diana Solovyeva in 2020). Part of aerial surveys of 2025 are planned in the vicinity of the Chaun Delta. The proposed movie will be about the work and achievements of the long-term bird monitoring in the Chaun Delta as well as about aerial surveys in the East Asian tundra.
10. Scientific references cited in the Application:	Rozenfeld, S. B., Byskatova-Harmey, I. P., Barykina, D. A., Kirtaev, G. K., & Solovyeva, D. V. 2023. Modern Trends in Populations of the Siberian Crane (<i>Grus leucogeranus</i>) and the Sandhill Crane (<i>Grus canadensis</i>) (Gruidae, Gruiformes) on the Tundra of Yakutia and Chukotka Based on Aerial Surveys. <i>Biology Bulletin</i> 50(8), 1977-1989. 2. Solovyeva, D.V., Barykina, D A., Kirtaev, G.V., Danilova, V.V., & Rozenfeld, S.B. 2023. The Tundra Swan, <i>Cygnus columbianus</i> (Anatidae), in the East Asian Arctic: Trends and Ranges of Various Flyway Populations. <i>Biology Bulletin</i> 50(8): 1908-1919 3. Solovyeva D., Rozenfeld S., Barykina D., Kirtaev G., Danilova V., Meng F., Cao L., Lei G., Zeng Q. 2024. Estimated size of the Eastern population of the Lesser White-

fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* revealed from aerial surveys of key moulting sites.
Wildfowl 74: 53–68.

F. Experience of Applicant Relevant to the Proposed Project

Aerial survey team with Dr Sofya Rozenfeld as team leader and observer and George Kirtaev as a pilot is the only group conducting aerial surveys in the Russian Arctic. Experienced birder Valeria Danilova joined the group in 2021 and she is responsible for camera identification of bird pictures from the plane. Cameramen Arthur Ryabitsev is well known by his conservation movies (www.youtube.com/@Zapiski.Sibirskogo, https://youtube.com/@xanavei?si=pt-37i3vrQxSE_K9). The project is conducted in close cooperation with Dr Diana Solovyeva and her group working on the Chaun Biological Station for 23 years.

Please also include a recent maximum 2-page CV or list non-academic research experience and experience with migratory waterbird and wetland conservation e.g. work experience, volunteer experience, bird banding, birdwatching.

G. Project Budget

Please outline the costs of your entire project, not just the project component(s) for which funds are being sought from the EAAFP.

Item (Please list)	Total Project Budget (USD)	Co-funding confirmed from sources other than EAAFP (source and amount in USD)	Co-funding applied for from sources other than EAAFP (source and amount in USD)	Funding requested from EAAFP (USD)
Equipment (seaplane parts):	2 000	6 000 Wrangel Island State Nature Reserve		2 000
Consumable items: Fuel for the aircraft and fuel delivery et route	4 000	4 000 Wrangel Island State Nature Reserve		0
Travel and accommodation: (details) Tickets Moscow-Magadan-Rytkuchi-Moscow, 2 persons Food, 2 persons, 30 days	1 200	0		1 200
Others: (details) Payment for the identification of birds on photoes	800	0		800
Float Repair	400			400
Aircraft fabric replacement	450			450
Bank Fee	150			150
Total amount requested from EAAFP Small Grants Fund: (in USD)				5 000

Budget justification: Please provide a brief description and justification of all major budgetary items requested, indicating any that are essential to the project and/or conference for which you are applying (250 words maximum):

To complete the project, it is necessary to repair the aircraft, as well as to deliver the participants to the work site by scheduled air service. To film a movie in Chaunskaya Bay, it is necessary to deliver the cameraman to the work site and organize his meals and accommodation.

Aircraft parts required

1x 685067 – Stator Assy
1x 864397 – Regulator with Amphenol Connector
1x 837206 – Torsion Shaft
1x 230429 – Oil Seal
1x 850981 – Gasket
8x 297656 – Spark Plug

H. Application Checklist

All relevant sections of this Application have been completed.	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full payment details have been provided in Section I Payment Details.	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Application is being submitted electronically as one single document.	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Application is being submitted in MS Word format.	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Applications that do not comply with these guidelines will be returned to the applicant.

I. Payment Details

To ensure prompt payment of successful applications please complete the following details:

J. Grand conditions

In accordance with the application criteria, the following conditions must be met:

1. Funds are to be strictly used for the purposes of implementation of the project as per the application form and budget provided.
2. Grants are awarded on the strict understanding that funds will be exempt from institutional administration charges unless a Partner government law so requires.
3. Lead investigators are responsible for obtaining all necessary permits from government authorities, indigenous communities, ethics committees etc., to undertake approved research or monitoring studies.
4. You are able to undertake and complete the project, with the funds received from the SGF. This should be possible even if you do not receive co-funding from other sources that you propose/may have applied for from other sources, as mentioned in Section F. budget table in the application.
5. Project completion is required within 18 months of the close of the application period, which would be 19 September 2026.

6. You are required to submit to the EAAFP Secretariat at secretariat@eaaflyway.net and copy the Programme Coordinator at godwit@eaaflyway.net and the Relevant Working Group or Task Force Chairs/Coordinators with the following:
- a final report within 3 months of the completion of the project;
 - a short write-up with photos for the EAAFP newsletter and website as well as a report to the relevant Working Group or Task Force within 3 months of the completion of the project; and
 - a copy of any publications that result from your grant.
7. You are required to acknowledge the EAAFP and the Small Grant Fund in any presentations, publications, reports or promotional material arising from this work.
8. You are required to include a logo of the EAAFP on any display material you will be preparing. Please email the EAAFP Secretariat at secretariat@eaaflyway.net and copy the Programme Coordinator at godwit@eaaflyway.net to obtain an electronic copy of the EAAFP logo.

K. Declaration

Association of specialists for bird study and conservation “Goose, Swan and Duck Study Group of Northern Eurasia” (Association “RGG”):

I have discussed the contents of this Application with the relevant Chair/s and Coordinator/s of the Working Group and/or Task Force and they have been carbon copied (cc) to this application submission as evidence that they have seen and supported this application.

I certify that to the best of my knowledge, all documentation and information submitted or made available by me is true, accurate, and complete.

By ticking the box, you are agreeing to the above statements:

L. Application submission

Please email your application as a single document to the respective Working Group or Task Force Chair/Coordinator and **copy** the EAAFP Secretariat at secretariat@eaaflyway.net and the Programme Coordinator at godwit@eaaflyway.net.

The EAAFP Secretariat will acknowledge the receipt of your application.

Applications close at 5:00 pm (KST) on 19 March 2025

Results will be announced by 22 May 2025 on the EAAFP webpage and communicated via email