ARCTIC BIRDS BREEDING CONDITIONS SURVEY

supported by the International Wader Study Group and Wetlands International's Goose and Swan Specialist Groups

Co-ordinated collection of environmental data from many Arctic localities gives insights not only into ecological processes acting at wide scales, but also provides valuable information for the conservation of sites and species. This questionnaire aims to collect information about the breeding conditions for birds through the Arctic as contribution to the database of International Wader Study Group and Wetlands International's Goose and Swan Specialist Groups, established in the Moscow State University, Russia. Although being initially focused on waders and wildfowl the database currently accumulates data on other groups of arctic terrestrial birds, as their responses to changing environment has often much in common.

The form is in two parts. This first section aims to summarise general information on environmental conditions at locations where field studies have been undertaken.

A second part (optional) produced in different versions for different parts of the Arctic, enables more detailed information on the presence and breeding success of individual species to be recorded. There are three versions of Part 2, one for Greenland, Iceland, Svalbard and Scandinavia, one for Alaska and Canada, and one for Russia.

The database is being continually updated, and we are interested in completed forms not only from the current field season, but also from previous years including from expeditions that may already have published material elsewhere. Current information about the project, access to the database and survey bulletin issues can be obtained from http://www.arcticbirds.net. Contributors will receive annual bulletin summarising information on the breeding conditions for birds in the Arctic.

We would greatly appreciate feed-back and completed forms from all those active in Arctic fieldwork, as well as ideas and comments from any interested party.
see http://www.arcticbirds.net for more information

PART ONE: please complete a separate form for each year and each site visited

YEAR: _____

1. FIELD TEAM

1.1 RESPONDENT:

1.2 ADDRESS:

1.3 PHONE:
1.4 FAX:
1.5 E-MAIL:

1.6 PROJECT/SURVEY NAME:

1.7 DATES IN FIELD
Start (D/M/Y): ……
Finish (D/M/Y): ……

1.8 SIZE OF TEAM:

2. SURVEY SITE

The objective of this section is to summarise broad information on the site.

2.1 COUNTRY

2.2 SITE NAME:

2.3 CO-ORDINATES
(latitude and longitude - these are essential to provide; give limits to a wider area and/or fill in separate form(s) if pronounced diversity of conditions occurred across the study area):

2.4 ALTITUDE (the average and/or range in which most of the study area falls, in metres above mean sea level):

2.5 PRINCIPAL TYPES OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES IN THE STUDY AREA (please tick)

- Vicinities of a permanent human settlement (indicate if now abandoned) ❑
- Area affected by industrial development (mineral exploration/mining) ❑
- Permanent meteorological/polar/reserve station ❑
- Summer only field camp (including tent camps) ❑
- Area used for seasonal hunting/fishing ❑
- Area used by reindeer herders ❑
- Other (specify): ❑

3. WEATHER AND SNOW-MELT

The objective of this section is to gain a broad idea of the major weather patterns during the arctic summer liable to affect the productivity of breeding birds.

3.1 SNOW STILL PRESENT ON ARRIVAL IN FIELD
(excluding apparently permanent snow-banks)? Yes ❑ No ❑

3.2 DATE OF ESTIMATED 50% SNOW COVER ON FLAT AREAS
(excluding apparently permanent snow-banks):

3.3 DATE OF ICE BREAK-UP ON MAJOR RIVERS:

3.4 DATE OF 'FINAL' LOSS OF SNOW COVER ON FLAT AREAS:

3.5 HOW MANY MAJOR SNOW FALLS OCCURRED IN THE PERIODS:

15-30 April ___ 1-15 May ___ 16-31 May ___ 1-15 June ___ 16-30 June ___

1-15 July ___ 16-31 July ___ 1-15 August ___ 16-31 August ___

3.6 HAVE YOU VISITED THE SITE IN PREVIOUS YEARS? Yes ❑ No ❑

3.7 WAS THE SEASON

early ❑,	average ❑, or	late ❑	in timing
warm ❑,	average ❑, or	cold ❑	in temperature
dry ❑,	average ❑, or	rainy ❑	in humidity

3.8 GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE WEATHER CONDITIONS:
(please note occurrence of extreme weather e.g. floods, heavy hail storms, etc., and their possible influence on bird abundance and breeding success)

4. FAUNA IN STUDY AREA

The objective of this section is to summarise the main animal groups present and give indications of their breeding status (if known)

WERE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ANIMALS PRESENT AND/OR BREEDING IN THE STUDY AREA?
(*Please tick relevant boxes)*

Notes: ***Breeding:*** *evidence of courtship, copulation, nest-scraping, nest with eggs, freshly used nest or egg-shells found.*
Hatching successful: *unfledged chicks seen; adults carrying food; adult alarm-calling near brood.*
Fledging successful: *recently fledged young seen.*

Group of animals	**Present**	**Abundance**			**Breeding performance**			**Were more detailed studies made?**
		occasional / rare	**Frequent/ Common**	**Abundant**	**Breeding?**	**Hatching successful?**	**Fledging successful?**	
Arctic Fox	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑			❑
Red Fox	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑			❑
Ermine/Stout	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑			❑
Mink	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑			❑
Lemmings	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑			❑
Voles	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑			❑
Waders/Shorebirds	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Swans	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Geese	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Ducks	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Birds of prey	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
incl. Rough-Legged Buzzard/Hawk	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Ptarmigans/Grouse	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Cranes	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Skuas/Jaegers	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
incl. Pomarine Skua/Jaeger	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Gulls and Terns	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Owls	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
incl. Snowy Owl	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Passerines	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Other:								
	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑

5. BREEDING CONDITIONS AND BIRD REPRODUCTIVE PERFORMANCE

5.1 PLEASE GIVE GENERAL CHARACTERISTIC OF BIRD BREEDING CONDITIONS AT THE STUDY SITE; THE FOLLOWING MATTERS ARE OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE: BETWEEN YEAR CHANGES IN BIRD ABUNDANCE, HATCHING/BREEDING SUCCESS, ITS DEPENDENCE ON PREDATORS' ACTIVITIES AND ABIOTIC CONDITIONS:

5.2 PLEASE CHARACTERISE IMPACT OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES (HUNTING, DISTURBANCE, EGGING, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, HABITAT DEGRADATION, ETC.) ON BIRD NUMBERS AND BREEDING SUCCESS IN THE STUDY AREA:

5.3 PLEASE EVALUATE BIRD HATCHING/BREEDING SUCCESS

POOR ❑ AVERAGE/MODERATE ❑ GOOD ❑

5.4 PLEASE GIVE REFERENCES TO ADDITIONAL RELEVANT SOURCES OF INFORMATION (*reports, webpages, other publications, colleagues*):

If you are able to give more detailed information on individual species, please also fill in Part 2 for the relevant Arctic region (available at http://www.arcticbirds.net or from the address below).

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO

Pavel Tomkovich
Zoological Museum, Bolshaya Nikitskaya Str., 6, 125009, Moscow Russia
e-mail: pst@zmmu.msu.ru

Thank you for completing this form!