

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) movements

The breeding area of the Pintail covers a large area of the northern Holarctic, across North America and Eurasia. The Pintail is mainly migratory and in most regions is a long-distance migrant. Wintering areas are spread out in western and southern Europe, across Africa south of the Sahara, southwest Asia, India, southern China and Japan. North American Pintails move south and leave most of the breeding range during winter.

Large numbers of recoveries are available only from birds ringed in Russia, Britain and the Netherlands. Recoveries from the period December – February are found in western and southern Europe, North Africa and in the area of the Black and Caspian Sea. A few recoveries are also reported from southwest

Asia and India as well as from areas south of the Sahara in Africa. An increase in recoveries in Mediterranean countries like Italy is observed between January and February, becoming more intense between February and March. The most intense phases of return migration start in March, become prominent in southern Russia in April and reach the northernmost areas in May. Recoveries from the breeding season (May-June) cover a large area to about 80°E, with concentrations of recoveries in southwestern Siberia and northern Kazakhstan. The autumn migration seems to start in August, but recoveries are spread out in Ukraine, western and southern Russia and in Kazakhstan as late as October. Birds breeding in Iceland, Sweden, Finland, the Baltic States and northwest Russia migrate SW-S mainly to west and south Europe and often along the Atlantic coast. Birds from western and central Siberia move to the Mediterranean, the Balkans and the area of the Black and Caspian Sea as well as to India. Some also move to western and southwestern Europe, and further to tropical West Africa. Birds from Siberia and northern Russia also winter in southwest Asia, the Nile Delta and in wetlands in Sudan and Ethiopia. Recoveries of ringed birds indicate that interchange between flyways in different years exists. Moulting migration is common in Pintails and large numbers of males are known to gather in southwestern Siberia and northern Kazakhstan, where large concentrations of recoveries are found.

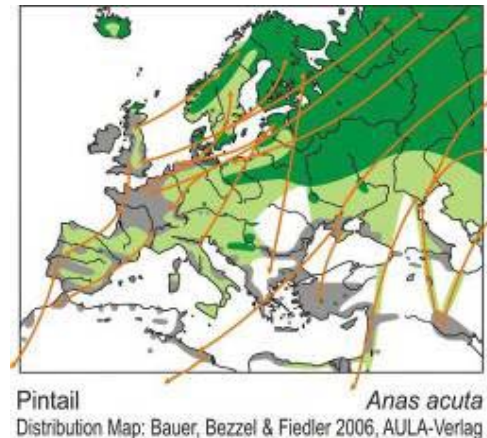


Figure 1: Map depicting the movements of Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) based on published information and ring recoveries in the EURING Data Bank.

From:

Delany, S., Veen, J. & Clark, J.A. (eds) 2006. *Urgent preliminary assessment of ornithological data relevant to the spread of Avian Influenza in Europe*. Report to the European Commission. Study contract: 07010401/2005/425926/MAR/B4. Authors: Atkinson, P.W., Clark, J.A., Delany, S., Diagona, C.H., du Feu, C., Fiedler, W., Fransson, T., Gauthier-Clerc, M., Grantham, M.J., Gschwend, M., Hagemeijer, W., Helmink, T., Johnson, A., Khomenko, S., Martakis, G., Overdijk, O., Robinson, R.A., Solokha, A., Spina, F., Sylla, S.I., Veen, J. & Visser, D.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/nature_conservation/focus_wild_birds/avian_influenza/index_en.htm

Table 1: Summary of the movements of Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) from the literature based on published information and ring recoveries in the EURING Data Bank.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Distribution: Holarctic, across North America and northern Eurasia, in Western Eurasia between 60° and 70°N. No discrete populations defined main migration routes along the coasts. In winter, four basins distinguished: Mediterranean, Sudan, Niger, Chad; overlap between wintering groups in Western Eurasia and Africa.

Moult: moult migrations frequent, moulting areas in the Volga Delta, North Caspian region, SW-Siberia; mass moult migrations in Siberia

Population (or part of population)	Autumn Migration		Wintering / Non-breeding Grounds		Spring Migration		References
	direction / via	during	location	during	direction / via	during	
North America	exchange with Eastern Russia		North America and Central America, Japan				3, 10
Central Eurasia	probably moulting in Volga Delta, migration via Egypt		Sahel region (Senegal, Niger, Chad) of West Africa, Northwest Europe, the Mediterranean basin, eastern Africa, Southwest Asia south to the Gulf, India, China, Japan				2, 3, 8, 10, 11, 14
SW-Siberia moulting and breeding sites			along shores of Mediterranean, Black and Caspian Seas, Iraq and India, Egypt, wetlands in Sudan and Ethiopia				11, 14
European Russia and Western Siberia			Black Sea/Mediterranean region, Western Asia and Nile delta				1, 3, 5, 8, 12
Russia (Ob and Irtysh), western and central Siberia	moult in North Caspian region, migrate via Egypt		Netherlands, NW-France, Great Britain, as far as North Africa and Senegal delta				1, 2, 3, 8, 10
the Baltics, Scandinavia, Iceland			Northwest Europe, (Wadden Sea), Denmark, Netherlands, Italy				2, 5, 8, 12
Finland	mainly SW to SSW: Denmark, Benelux, South of Britain, French Atlantic Coast; Italy		Great Britain, along Atlantic coast, Italy, North Africa				2, 5, 11
Norway (rare breeder)		Aug-Nov	Scotland, few overwintering on coast north to Tromsø, probably west coasts of Europe, possibly south to West Africa				9
Denmark (rare breeder)	SW		Great Britain, France, Spain, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, few along Mediterranean	Dec-Feb			2, 5
Belgium			Camargue (France) and Guadalquivir Delta				7
Netherlands			France, Spain; few East as far as Egypt				14
Northwestern population	during cold weather movements		increases in Northern France (out of Dutch, German and Danish coasts), Iberia				8
Great Britain and Ireland			(mainly sedentary); passage through Britain on major flyway from northwest Siberia to subtropical Africa.				3

References consulted in drawing up the movement summary tables. Number in tables indicate which reference was used in drawing up each line of data in the tables.

Number in Tables	Reference
1	Bauer, H.G., Bezzel, E. & Fiedler, W. (eds.) 2005. <i>Kompendium der Vögel Mitteleuropas</i> . Aula-Verlag, Wiebelsheim.
2	Speek, B.J. & Speek, G. (1984). <i>Thieme's vogeltrekatlas</i> . Thieme, Zutphen.
3	Wernham, C., Toms, M., Marchant, J., Clark, J., Siriwardena, G. & Baillie, S. (eds.) 2002. <i>The Migration Atlas: movements of the birds of Britain and Ireland</i> . T. & A.D. Poyser, London.
4	Fransson, T. & Pettersson, J. (2001): <i>Svensk ringmärkningsatlas. Vol. 1</i> . Stockholm. Including preliminary printouts for volume 2 (unpublished, 2006)
5	Bønløkke, J., Madsen, J.J., Thorup, K., Pedersen, K.T., Bjerrum, M. & Rahbek, C. in press. <i>Dansk Trækfugleatlas. The Danish Bird Migration Atlas</i> (to be published spring 2006). Rhodos International Science & Art Publishers Ltd., Holtegaard, Humlebæk, Denmark.
6	Unpublished printout of recovery maps from the Helsinki Bird Ringing Scheme.
7	Roggeman, W., Huisseune, D., Vangeluwe, D., Vandenbulck, P. & Vandousselaere, P. 1995. <i>Belgian Ringing Scheme Databank. Gaviidae to Anatidae</i> . Studiedocumenten van het K.B.I.N., Brussels.
8	Scott, D.A. & Rose, P.M. 1996. <i>Atlas of Anatidae Populations in Africa and Western Eurasia</i> . Wetlands International Publication 41.
9	Bakken, V., Runde, O. & Tjørve, E. 2003. <i>Norsk Ringmerkings Atlas. Lommer - Alkefugler</i> . Ringmerkingscentralen, Stavanger Museum.
10	Bianki, V.V. & Dobrynina, I.N. 1997. <i>Anseriformes, Dabbling ducks</i> . In: Pavlov, D.S. (series ed.): <i>Migrations of Birds of eastern Europe and Northern Asia</i> . Nauka, Moscow.
11	Veen J., Yurlov, A.K., Delany S.N., Mihantiev, A.I., Selivanova, M.A. & Boere, G.C. 2005. <i>An atlas of movements of Southwest Siberian waterbirds</i> . Wetlands International, Wageningen, The Netherlands.
12	Recovery maps from the Italian Bird Ringing Scheme
13	Czech Duck Ringing project. URL: http://www.mujweb.cz/veda/aythya/menu/records.htm
14	McClure (1998): <i>Migration and Survival of the Birds of Asia</i> . White Lotus Press, Thailand.
15	Kishchinskii, A.A. (1978): <i>Gaviiformes to Ciconiiformes</i> . Migrations of birds of eastern Europe and Northern Asia. Nauka, Moscow.
16	Kishchinskii, A.A. (1982): <i>Falconiformes to Gruiformes</i> . Migrations of birds of eastern Europe and Northern Asia. Nauka, Moscow.
17	Svazasn S., W. Meissner, V. Serebryakov, A. Kozulin & G. Grishanov (2001): <i>Changes of wintering sites of waterfowl in central and eastern Europe</i> . OMPO, Vilnius.

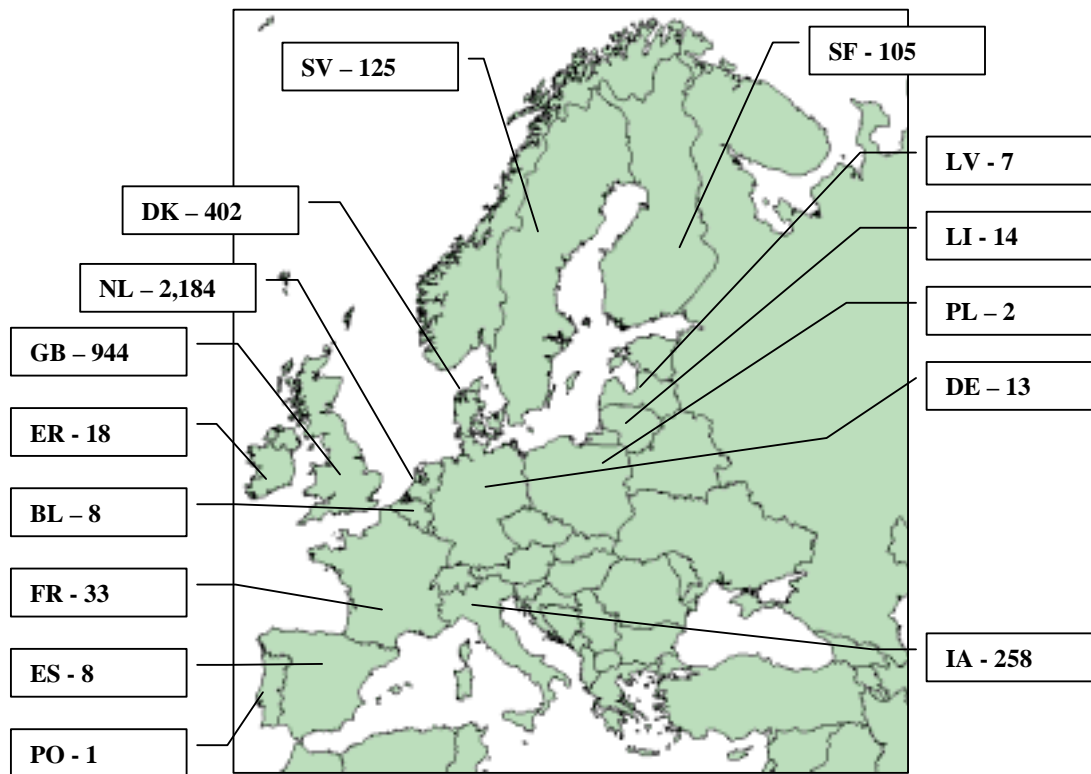


Figure 2. Country of ringing and numbers of recoveries of birds featured in maps of finding locations - Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*).