



Flanders Egyptian Goose Trials Begin

The Egyptian goose is native to Africa south of the Sahara and Nile Valley. It was introduced in western Europe for ornamental purposes by the 17th century. Wetland bird surveys show that it is still increasing in numbers and range. With its colourful plumage and small size, this shelduck relative looks more like a duck than a goose. Yet, problems due to overpopulation of this species are comparable to larger geese species like greater Canada goose. They include damage to agriculture, eutrophication of water bodies and sensitive vegetation types, nuisance through their faecal droppings, trampling and overgrazing. As Egyptian goose is a cavity breeding species, there is also anecdotal evidence for disruption of breeding native species through competition for nesting sites.

In the RINSE area of Flanders, Egyptian goose are culled through hunting and in Flanders egg destruction is practiced. Moulting captures, successful in reducing Canada goose numbers, are inefficient for this species. The birds often do not become completely flightless in July, and they tend to dive away before they can be caught. Therefore, three RINSE partners have joined their expertise. A one-year field trial kicks off in January 2013, in order to explore different innovative options for the control of Egyptian goose.

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New App to record invasive species to launch in 2013

A new App is currently being developed as a part of the RINSE project that will enable users to report a sighting of an invasive non-native species in a matter of seconds! The App is being developed by the NatureLocator team at the University of Bristol, who have already released several successful Apps to record wildlife sightings, including PlantTracker and Leaf Watch. Mike Sutton-Croft, RINSE Technical Co-ordinator, said: 'We are excited to be working with the NatureLocator team on this important and ground-breaking new project. Their wealth of experience in this area means that we can produce something fresh and new, with many more features and a much slicker user experience than any other App of this type. It will enable users to report sightings of invasive animals, as well as plants, which is something that no other App currently allows you to do.' The App is scheduled to launch in April 2013 and will be available for iPhone and Android based devices. For further information contact

michael.sutton-croft@norfolk.gov.uk



<<continued from front page These include a specially designed floating trap (see right) with a live lure, a device that can also be put on land in the vicinity of breeding pairs, and a double clap net for larger geese concentrations.

The floating cages will be tested year-round on more than 20 locations throughout the RINSE area in a standardised design, investigating trapping success in time and efficiency of the device. During the breeding season, additional traps will also be placed in breeding areas close to the nest. The clap net is currently being optimised technically and will be applied from September to December 2013.

To find out more contact tim.adriaen@inbo.be.



Awareness Raising on Invasive Non-Native Plants; Delivered in Hampshire, shared across Europe

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, one of the RINSE partner organisations, hosts The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project which aims to stop the spread of invasive non-native plants in the New Forest area, particularly along rivers and in wetland habitats. Raising awareness about the problems caused by invasive non-native plants is critical to the success of this Project.

During July 2012 Catherine Chatters, New Forest Non-Native Plants Officer, ran training sessions for staff in Hampshire County Council's Highways Department and for staff at Enterprise Mouchel working on behalf of the Highways Agency. Invasive non-native plants such as Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* and Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* grow in road verges in the vicinity of watercourses in the New Forest area. Catherine reminded the County Council staff of their responsibilities to control such species to prevent contamination of areas further downstream where landowners and volunteers have been working hard to eradicate them.



The delivery of these workshops forms one of the actions to be delivered under the RINSE projects Training and Awareness Raising Work Package.

Grounds maintenance staff at New Forest District Council also learnt about the problems caused by invasive non-native species at a training session led by Catherine during November and further training sessions aimed at raising awareness amongst anglers and horticulturalists are being planned by the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project for 2013.

To find out more contact CatherineC@hwt.org.uk



Training for road maintenance agents from the Conseil Général du

Pas-de-Calais

At the beginning of the RINSE program CPIE met local partners to explain more about the threats posed by Invasive Non-native Species (INS) and to offer them management advice.

Amongst these partners was the Conseil Général du Pas-de-Calais which is responsible for the maintenance of roads and hiking trails which unfortunately act as corridors allowing the spread of INS. Training for 61 road technical officers took place at the beginning of April 2012 to help them identify INS and to

instruct them in the most efficient management measures.

CPIE produced an easy identification sheet of the two main species (Japanese knotweed and Giant Hogweed) for staff to post up in their vehicles.

Following the success of this initial training, the Conseil Général have asked CPIE for further training in 2013 – so increases in road maintenance agent skills should lead to a decline in INS across the area.

For further information contact céline.fontaine@cpie-authie.org.

Floating pennywort eradication in sight in Norfolk

Floating pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*) was first found growing in the River Waveney on the southern boundary of the county in 2007. Despite a rapid response by the Environment Agency and Broads Authority, and further concerted efforts to control the plant in 2008 and 2009, the infestation spread rapidly downstream and by the end of 2009 extended along approximately 11km of the river. Initially floating pennywort was being controlled using volunteers who were pulling the plant by hand, but the continued rapid spread of the plant highlighted that a more concerted and strategic approach needed to be taken. This led Defra (Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs) and the Broads Authority to fund a full-scale eradication programme in 2010 and 2011, which was overseen by the Norfolk Non-native Species Initiative (NNSI). The NNSI hired a contractor to survey and remove floating pennywort from the affected stretch of the river for 6 months of the year, with the contractor spending two days a week on the river. Floating pennywort is generally removed by hand, but in some cases we have opted to use herbicide if a patch is proving particularly difficult to eradicate or access for hand removal is problematic. Funding from Defra and the Broads Authority came to an end in 2011 but eradication had not been achieved and so the final stages of



the eradication are now being funded through the RINSE project. The eradication is proceeding very well, with huge progress being made in 2012. The NNSI is confident that floating pennywort will be eradicated from the river in 2013, on schedule and within the predicted budget. The RINSE project offers a brilliant opportunity to share the good practice that has been developed in Norfolk over the last few years, as well as learn from the experiences of other Partners in tackling this plant. If everything goes according to plan then I look forward to sharing the good news of the demise of floating pennywort in the River Waveney later in 2013! For further information contact

michael.sutton-croft@norfolk.gov.uk

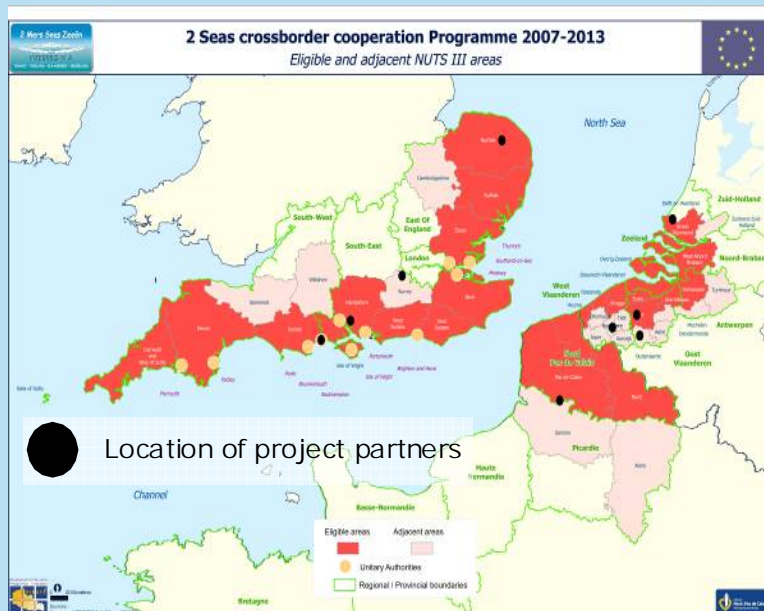
About RINSE

Our project has been funded by the European Union - Interreg IVA 2 Seas programme and has a total of nine partners from France, England, Belgium and the Netherlands.

RINSE will look at ways of managing invasive non-native species (INS) across the project area. It will also seek to improve awareness of the threats posed by INS, and the methods to address them.

For more about projects approved by the 2 Seas Programme, see the Project Directory (RINSE features on page 53)

http://www.interreg4a-2mers.eu/admin/page_ext_attachments/753



Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to host New Zealand Pygmyweed Conference— 20 March 2013

The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project is hosting a one-day conference focussing on attempts to control the notoriously invasive non-native plant called New Zealand pygmyweed *Crassula helmsii*. The event is aimed at countryside managers and will include presentations on a wide range of control techniques including *inter alia* herbicide, hot organic foam, aquatic dye and salt water in the UK and elsewhere in Europe. The event is an opportunity to hear about the research for biological control. The conference will be held at Brockenhurst Village Hall in the New Forest, starting at 9am and finishing at 4.30pm. Booking is essential. For further details and to book a place please contact Catherine Chatters, New Forest Non-Native Plants Officer, at Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust at CatherineC@hwt.org.uk



Crassula helmsii; GBNNSS

Dates for your Diary

- ◆ **January 31 - Project Partners Claim (3) due to Lead Partner**
- ◆ **February 27— Cross-border Steering Group Meeting, Flanders**
- ◆ **March 14 & 15—Interreg Two Seas Annual Event 2013, Rotterdam**
- ◆ **March 20—Control of New Zealand Pygmyweed Conference, UK**

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