WHAT ARE THE SUBSPECIES OF BEAN GOOSE MIGRATING IN THE SOUTH OF WESTERN SIBERIA?

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It is considered that between western (*Anser fabalis rossicus* and *A. f. fabalis*) and eastern subspecies (*A. f. middendorffii*, *A. f. serrirostris*) of the bean goose *Anser fabalis* there is a border that runs along the Yenisei River. Thus according to these data only the western subspecies occurs in Western Siberia (WS). Nevertheless, as early as 1898 G.E. Ioganzen assumed that *A. f. middendorffii* can migrate via the south of WS. More later H. Johansen and J. Delacour described *A. f. johanseni* – the form of bean goose which was typical for southern WS. Finally, M. Ruokonen with collegues showed that it genetically identical to *A. f. middendorffii*. In 2009–2017 we gathered 40 samples of bean geese from Tomsk region (taiga zone of WS) and 22 from Altai Krai (steppe zone of WS), which were shot by hunters in spring. With the aim to determine the subspecies identity of these geese, we analyzed d-loop sequences of the mtDNA. Surprisingly, among all individuals 45 % in Tomsk region and 59,1 % in Altai Krai proved to belong to *A. f. middendorffii*. We suggest that the western border of the range of the *A. f. middendorffii* may have shifted from Yenisei up to Ob river. Otherwise we can turn back to idea of validity *A. f. johanseni* which genetically is closely related with *A.f. middendorffii.* Despite the urgent need of conservation of this subspecies, it is under sever hunting pressure in Tomsk region and Altai Krai. Obtained data is a serious argument to stop hunting of geese in the WS.