

Eradication of Ruddy Ducks in the Netherlands

Carlijn van der Baan – Province of Noord-Holland



Presence last winter (left) and this breeding season (right)



[Rosse Stekelstaart - Oxyura jamaicensis - Waarneming.nl](https://www.waarneming.nl/)



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Number of controlled birds

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	Total	
Drenthe	0	0	0	0	0	0	Ringed bird Germany
Flevoland	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Friesland	-	-	-	0	1	1	
Gelderland	0	0	0	9	6	15	6 birds Nijkerk
Groningen	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Limburg	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Noord-Brabant	3	0	12	0	0	15	Agreements with municipalities
Noord-Holland	0	3	0	0	0	3	
Overijssel	-	-	-	0	0	0	
Utrecht	14	-	-	1	0	15	
Zeeland	5	5	15	8	5	38	
Zuid-Holland	0	2	3	7	17	29	
Total	23	10	30	25	29	117	

Professionalization of control in the Netherlands

Agreements

- Participation of all (12) provinces in a working group for invasive alien species.
- Learning from each other in order to professionalize the control of the ruddy ducks.
- Every province will aim for a license and permit for Natura 2000.
- Appointing professional hunters or hunting teams.
- Ambition for a cross-border approach (and split the costs).

Taking a professional approach to ensure more effective reduction of ruddy duck numbers in the Netherlands by:

- Stepping up coordination between the provinces.
- Setting up collaborations in which specialized hunters work for different provinces.
- Lifting the last legal restrictions that impede eradication in Natura 2000 areas.
- The provinces welcoming the expert assistance that was offered by the UK.
- The provinces welcoming the assistance offered from France with regards to experimental cage traps. Unfortunately experiments and cooperation were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Bird Flu. The Netherlands still considers to add the experimental set-up of cage traps to our eradication methods.

Professionalization of control in the Netherlands

Issues

- Not all provinces have the same permits, some legal barriers remain (license, Natura 2000);
- A cross-border approach is therefore difficult.
- Impassable areas or urban areas where shooting is not safe, like the Driemanspolder in Zoetermeer (see pictures below)
- The capacity of the policy makers: usually one or (maximum) two people in each province for invasive alien species.
- No notifications of sightings on www.waarnemingen.nl due to ethical concerns.



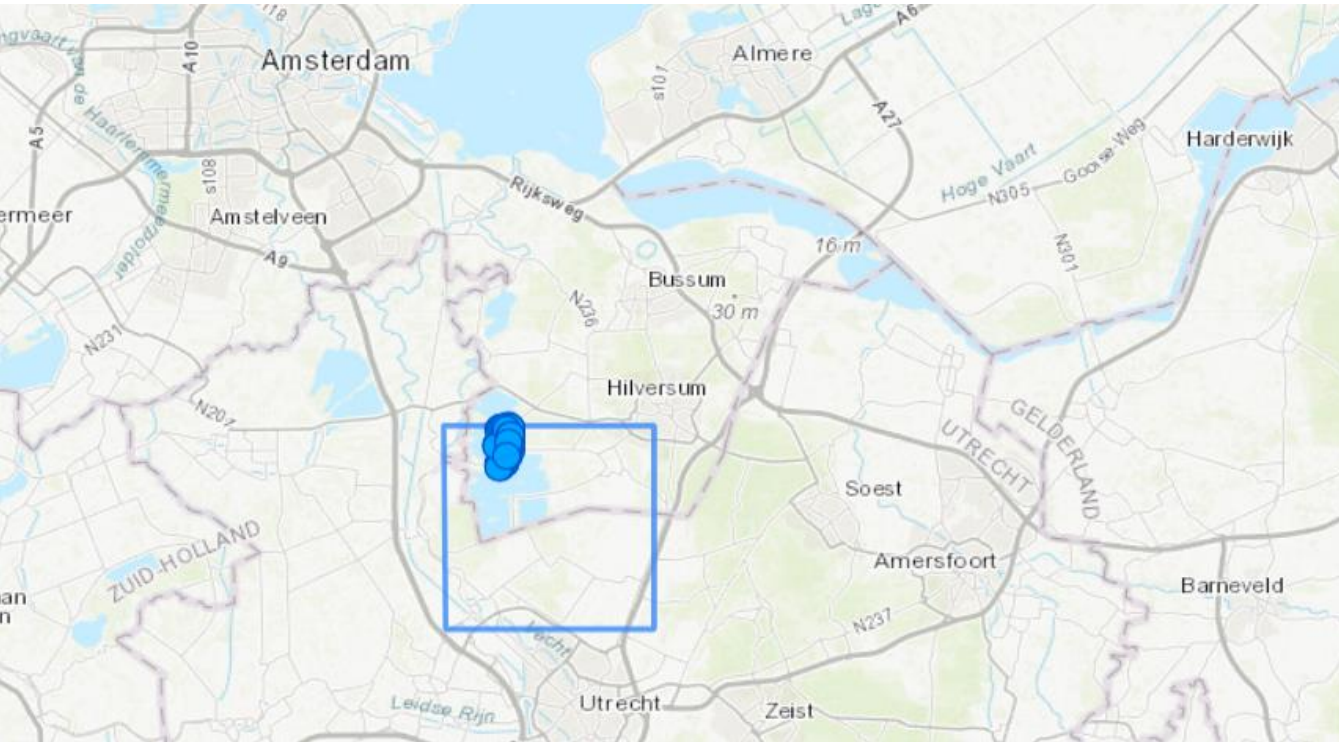
Professionalization of control in the Netherlands

Field trip

- On the 30th of June we had a meeting in the province of Flevoland with the UK and France.
- A pair of ruddy ducks with 4 ducklings in Nijkerk (province of Gelderland) → response action.



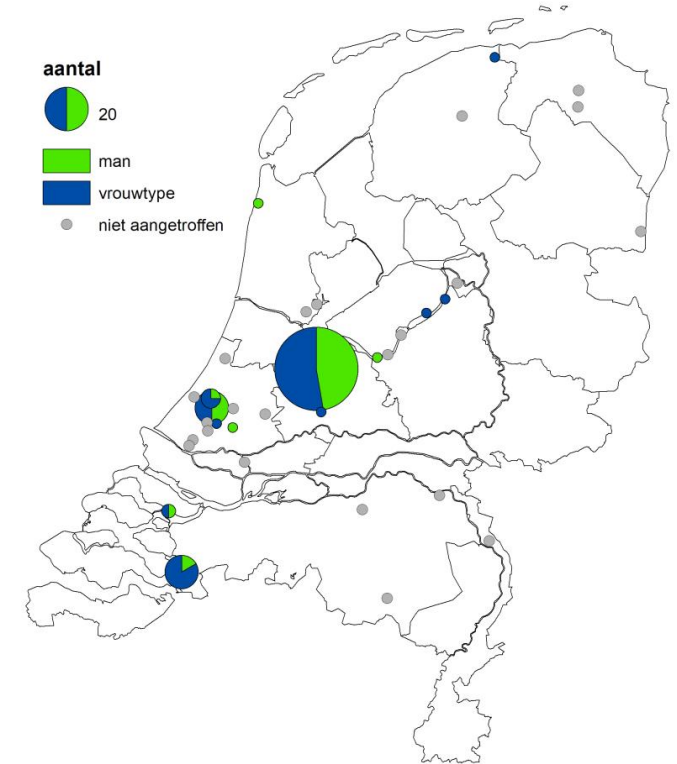
Loenderveense Plassen



Professionalization of control in the Netherlands

Province of Noord-Holland

- Ambition for eradication.
 - Specifically after the publication of Sovon on the winter population.
 - Loenderveense Plassen: 74 individuals.
 - Legal barriers: until now no hunting permit for Natura 2000.
 - We have updated our license (valid from summer 2022);
 - ✓ Natura 2000
 - ✓ Air rifle
 - ✓ Decoy, lure sounds, bait
 - ✓ Use of a trap
 - Anticipating on possible spread of population to other areas.
 - Currently 5 professional hunting teams for geese in Noord-Holland are active.
 - The control of the ruddy duck could be a part of their management plan.
 - If not (because geese are the priority), we will hire a specialised hunter.
 - In conclusion: the legal barriers will be removed this summer.
- The next step is to ensure an agreement regarding the plan's execution.



Figuur 1. Verspreiding van de Rosse Stekelstaart in Nederland op basis van de landelijke telling in december 2021.

Thank you for listening!