

The 5th meeting of
**International Snowy Owl Working Group
(ISOWG)**

9.-13. March 2020
NIBIO Svanhovd Conference Centre,
Pasvik, Norway



Hosted by the Norwegian Snowy Owl Project



**NATURMUSEUM
OG BOTANISK HAGE**
UNIVERSITETET I AGDER



**NORWEGIAN
ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY**

AGENDA

Monday March 9th, 2020

- 11:30 - 12:30 Transport by cars from Kirkenes airport to Svanhovd
12:30 - 13:00 Registration at Svanhovd Conference Centre
13:00 - 14:00 Lunch
14:00 - 17:10 Fieldtrip (Birk-Husky bird feeder and/or searching for forest owls)
17:10 - 17:30 Coffee break at Svanhovd Conference Centre
17:30 - 18:45 Presentation and film about Svanhovd, nature and conservation areas in Pasvik. Guiding in the exhibition
19:00 Dinner at Svanhovd Conference Centre
21:00 Evening program: Informal snowy owl film(s) and social gathering

Tuesday March 10th, 2020

- 07:00 - 08:00 Breakfast
08:15 - 08:30 Official Opening by chair Karl-Otto Jacobsen and Arild R. Espelien, NEA.
08:30 – 10:00 **Theme 1: Snowy owl movements revealed by GPS and satellite telemetry**
Fledgling dispersal and survival in snowy owls (J-F. Therrien) 20 min
Caught in a SNOWstorm (D.F. Brinker) 30 min
Winter movements and philopatry of a migratory population of snowy owls (K. Wiebe) 20 min
Spring and autumn migration of snowy owls caught in Alberta 2019 (I.J. Øien) 20 min
10:00 - 10:20 Coffee break
10:20 - 12:30 **Theme 1 (continues) and Theme 2: Ecology of snowy owls**
Causes and consequences of movement in snowy owls (T. Curk) 20 min
Arctic wintering in Fennoscandian snowy owls (I.J. Øien) 20 min
Hitch-hiking the oceans – snowy owls on ships (J. Lang) 20 min
Biological signal field of snowy owls on Wrangel Island during breeding (I. Menyushina) 20 min
Cooperative snowy owl winter mortality investigations, 2013-2019 (D. F. Brinker) 20 min
12:30 - 13:30 Lunch
13:30 - 15:30 **Theme 3: Population status and dynamics**
Recent trends in snowy owl breeding and lemming populations on Bylot Island, Nunavut, Canada (G. Gauthier) 30 min
Snowy owls in Greenland on the brink? Insights from 32 years of long-term monitoring on Traill Island (B. Sittler) 30 min
The snowy owl in Iceland, past and present (U. Stenkewitz) 20 min

	<i>How many snowy owls inhabit Russian Arctic? (V. Morozov) 20 min</i>
	<i>Long-term trends in breeding status and the abundance of snowy owls in the Russian Arctic (M. Soloviev) 20 min</i>
15:30 - 15:50	Coffee break
15:50 - 18:00	Theme 4: Other topics
	<i>Genetic mapping of snowy owl populations - preliminary results (K. Wiebe) 20 min</i>
	<i>Former and recent status of the Hardanger Mountain Plateau in Southern Norway as breeding habitat for snowy owls (R. Solheim) 20 min</i>
	<i>Review of Project SNOWstorm APP to gather banding, morphometric and molt data (D. F. Brinker) 30 min</i>
	<i>Tracking great grey owls in Norway. Update on tracking results 2019-2020. (R. Solheim) 20 min</i>
	<i>Experiences from EUROMAMMALS group and Interactions Working Group, for sharing data and communication (J. Lang) 20 min + possible discussion</i>
19:00	Dinner at Svanhovd Conference Centre

Wednesday March 11th, 2020

06:30	Breakfast
07:00 - 19:00	Fieldtrip by bus to Varanger Peninsula & Seabird cliff Hornøya at Vardø (weather permitting)
20:00	Dinner at Svanhovd Conference Centre

Thursday March 12th, 2020

07:30 - 08:30	Breakfast
08:30 - 10:00	Workshop – Global status and population trend monitoring
	Scientific paper on global population status for snowy owl (introduction and status update by J.F. Therrien)
	How to proceed after publishing global status, should we try to establish global monitoring of snowy owls:
	<i>Index on population trends?</i>
	<i>What could be suitable common survey methods?</i>
	<i>Do Christmas Bird counts provide sufficient data to estimate snowy owl populations of North America?</i>
	<i>Other opportunities for citizen scientists to assist academics in snowy owl data collection?</i>
10:00 - 10:20	Coffee break
10:20 - 12:30	Workshop – Identification of threats to snowy owl populations
	<i>What are the probable effects of global warming?</i>
	<i>Are lemming and vole cycles changing?</i>

What is crucial for snowy owl population development: lemming resources for nesting, and/or winter food resources and hunting conditions?

12:30 - 13:30

Lunch

13:30 - 16:00

Optional field walk/drive in surrounding areas (forest owls/bird feeder etc.)

16:00 - 16:20

Coffee break

16:20 - 18:30

Workshop – Joint GPS – satellite tagging efforts, web-site and other issues

Status for ISOWG web site.

Field manual initiated in Salekhard 2014. Work stopped. Is there a need to proceed?

Need for further joint effort on radio-tagging juvenile snowy owls in 2020?

Lena delta/mid section of Arctic Russia. Possibilities for satellite tagging snowy owls in this part of the Arctic?

Further tracking of Fennoscandian snowy owls – Finnish/Swedish breeding birds due to animal welfare constraints in Norway.

Tracking of Alberta wintering snowy owls – possibilities for future joint work.

Are there alternative methods for tracking than harness-mounted backpack transmitters?

Possible visit to sites of tracked birds during breeding season and determine breeding status, numbers, and lemming numbers.

Conclusions

19:00

Dinner at Birk Husky

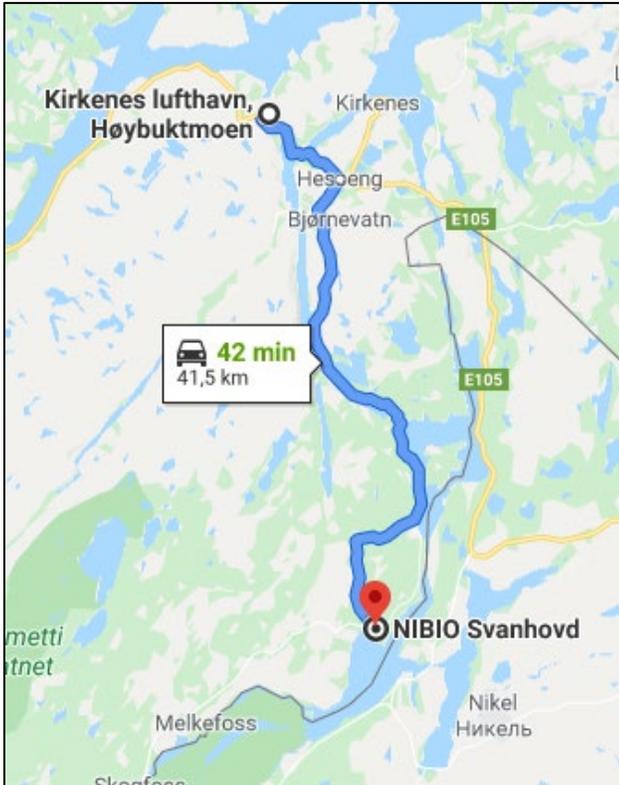
Friday March 13th, 2020

07:30 - 09:00

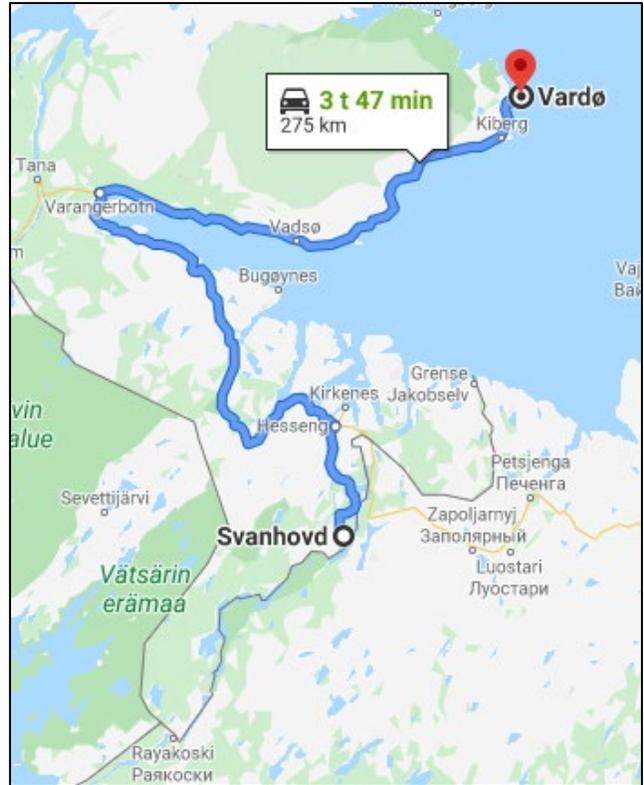
Breakfast and checkout

09:00

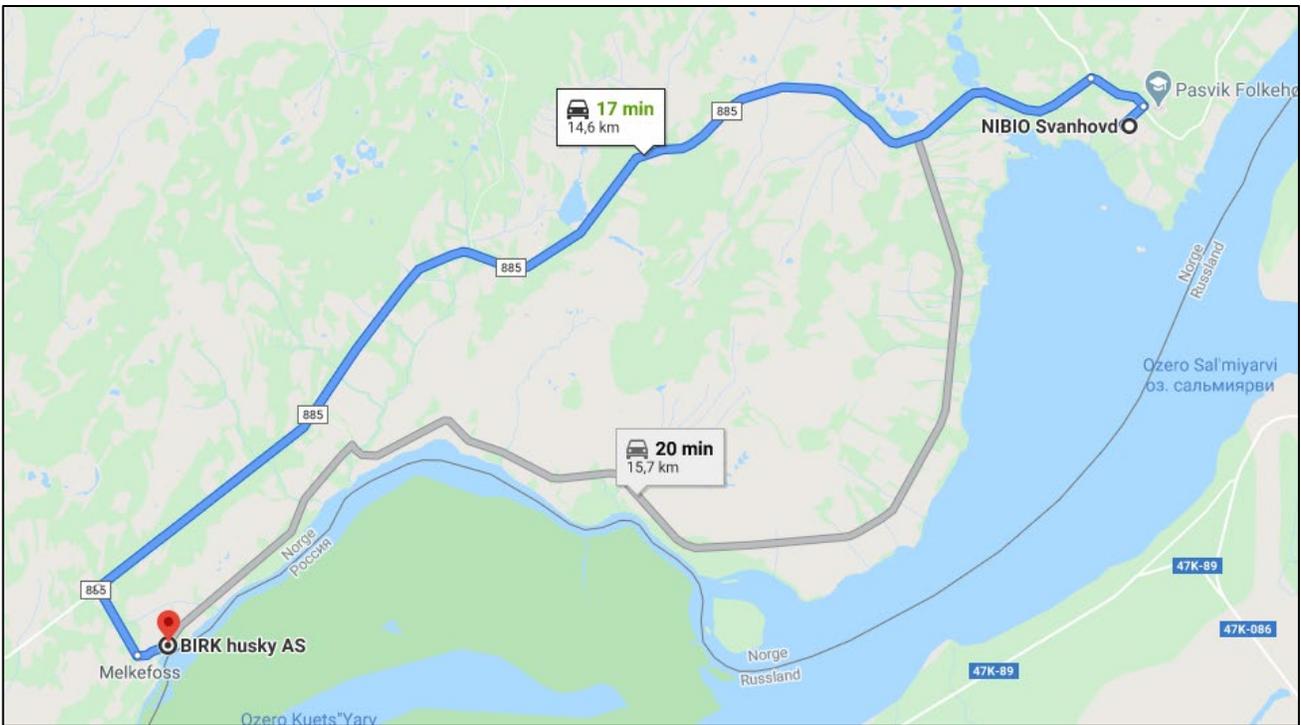
Departure to Kirkenes airport by cars



Kirkenes Airport – Svanhovd



Fieldtrip 11th March



Dinner at Birk Husky 12th March and bird feeder for passerines

Participants:

Karl-Otto Jacobsen, Norway
Ingar J. Øien, Norway
Roar Solheim, Norway
Tomas Aarvak, Norway
Arild R. Espelien, Norway
Gilles Gautiere, Canada
Marten Stoffel, Canada
Karen Wiebe, Canada
Mike Blom, Canada
Sarah Bradley, Canada
Paige Au, Canada
Benoit Sittler, Germany/France
Johannes Lang, Germany
Teja Curk, Germany
Ute Stenkewitz, Iceland
Aleksandr Sokolov, Russia
Vladimir Morozov, Russia
Irina Menyushina, Russia
Mikhail Soloviev, Russia
Jan-Eric Hägerroth, Sweden
Christer G. Wiklund, Sweden
Jean-Francois Therrien, USA/Canada
David Brinker, USA

