



ESIEG2025: XI International Workshop Eurasian Spoonbill International Expert Group

Location: Lauwersoog – the Netherlands

Dates: 22-26 September 2025

Venue

Wadden Sea World Heritage Centre

<https://ontdekwec.nl/en/>

Haven 6, 9976 VN Lauwersoog

*A place where science, knowledge and education come
together in an inspiring and interactive experience,
research laboratories and the new home of Seal
Centre Pieterburen."*

Registration and abstract submission before 20 June 2025

link: <https://esieg2025.sciencesconf.org/>

Programme

Monday 22 September: ARRIVAL & WELCOME

- 14:00 – 17:00 – Arrival & Registration at WEC
- 17:00 – 21:00 – Welcome reception and Dinner at WEC

Tuesday 23 September: SPOONBILL BEHAVIOUR, ECOLOGY & CONSERVATION

- **08:30 – 09:00 – OPENING OF CONFERENCE**
 - Welcome by ESIEG, BirdEyes & WEC
- **09:00 – 12:00 – MORNING SESSION:**
 - 09:00 – 09:30 – Keynote lecture 1 [speaker TBD]
 - 09:30 – 10:00 – Presentations (2x)
 - 10:00 – 10:30 – Coffee break + posters
 - 10:30 – 12:00 – Presentations (6x)
- **12:00 – 13:30 – LUNCH BREAK**
- **13:30 – 15:30 – AFTERNOON SESSION:**
 - 13:30 – 14:00 – Keynote lecture 2 [speaker TBD]

- 14:00 – 15:00 – Presentations (4x)
- 15:00 – 15:30 – Coffee break + posters
- **15:30 – 17:00 – ESIEG ROUND-TABLE:** updates on Spoonbill population developments and conservation issues. We ask all participants to provide up-to-date population estimates for their country ahead of the meeting (see details below)!
- **17:00 – 21:00 – EVENING PROGRAM**
 - 17:00 – 18:00 – WEC exhibition visit
 - 18:00 – 19:30 – Dinner
 - 19:30 – 21:00 – **Screening and Q&A of TV documentary on spoonbills by Hilco Jansma**

Wednesday 24 September: PARTICIPATORY SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- **09:00 – 12:00 – MORNING SESSION:**
 - 09:00 – 09:30 – Keynote lecture 3: [speaker TBD]
 - 09:30 -- 10:15 – Presentations (3x)
 - 10:15 – 10:45 – Coffee break + posters
 - 10:45 – 12:00 – Presentations (5x)
- **12:00 – 13:30 – LUNCH BREAK**
- **13:30 – 17:00 – AFTERNOON SESSION:**
 - 13:30 – 14:45 – Visit to WEC facilities and exhibitions
 - 15:14 – 15:45 – Coffe break + posters
 - 15:45 – 16:30 – Presentations (3x)
 - 16:30 – 17:30 – **UNESCO ROUND-TABLE:** Spoonbills as ambassadors of World Heritage & Biosphere Reserves along the East-Atlantic Flyway
- **17:30 – 23:00 – EVENING PROGRAM:**
 - 17:30 – 18:00 – Break-out & Relax
 - 18:00 – 19:30 – Dinner
 - 20:00 – ... – **Spoonbiller Party:** all participants are requested to bring delicacies from their home countries which we will share during the traditional “Spoonbiller party”.

Thursday 25 September: EXCURSIONS

- **08:30 – 16:00: FIELD TRIP**
BirdEyes researchers will guide a trip to key Spoonbill sites in and around Lauwersmeer. At the time of the conference, we expect many Spoonbills to be present at post-breeding aggregation sites, where they will be preparing for migration.

BirdEyes researchers will guide the excursion. We will organise **bus(es)** and a **packed lunch** to ensure everyone can participate in the excursion.

- **16:00 – 18:00 – Break-out & Relax**
- **18:00 – 21:00 – Goodbye Dinner**

Friday 26 September: DEPARTURE (and for some, transit to IWSG conference in Haren, near Groningen)

ESIEG ROUND-TABLE

Spoonbill population update

As every three years, we will compile an update about the population size of Spoonbills in each flyway/country¹. We previously asked ESIEG members from all countries to ensure a comprehensive census of Spoonbills will take place in each country this year, and to provide the up-to-date population estimates for 2025 via email, or in this file: <https://lite.framacalc.org/pop-esieg> by 31 august 2025

Conservation actions and opportunities update

We ask participants from all countries to answer the questionnaire to be send by June 2025 for an update on the progress of the conservation actions and evaluation of threats within the international spoonbill action plan².

Pricing and Conference Package

The conference fee is set at **200 EUR per person, excluding accommodation**. The conference fee includes:

- admission to oral and poster sessions,
- workshop booklet and goodie bag,
- the official reception and coffee-breaks,

¹ Champagnon J, Kralj J. 2023. Eurasian Spoonbill population sizes and trends 2007-2022. In: Proceedings of the X Workshop of the Eurasian Spoonbill International Expert Group. Arles, France: IUCN-SSC Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill Specialist Group Special Publication 3, 15–18. https://storkibisspoonbill.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Special_Publication_2023.pdf

² Kralj J, Lok T, Pigniczki C, Cheshmedzhiev S, Habib M, El-Hacen HM, Champagnon J. 2023. Re-evaluation of priorities from AEWA Eurasian Spoonbill International Action Plan. In: Proceedings of the X Workshop of the Eurasian Spoonbill International Expert Group. Arles, France: IUCN-SSC Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill Specialist Group Special Publication 3, 19–28. https://storkibisspoonbill.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Special_Publication_2023.pdf

- lunch (3 days, incl. packed lunch on excursion day),
- dinner (4 days)
- participation in the fieldtrip on Day 4

The conference fee **including accommodation** is set at **385 EUR** per person (for 4 nights). To ensure availability of sufficient low-cost accommodation, we have reserved 50 beds in 1 and 2 person rooms across a number of bungalows in one of the nearby holiday parks in the Lauwersmeer area. These will be allotted on a first come, first served basis – though priority will be given to participants from low-income countries.

Participants from low-income countries:

We have secured the following **support for participants from low-income countries:**

- **Travel support & free conference participation for up to 5 participants from West Africa.** We will cover maximum 90% of the travel costs (incl. visa arrangements) and the full conference fee (incl. accommodation), for a maximum amount of 1.350EUR per person.
- **Travel support for 1 participant from a low-income Mediterranean country.** We will cover maximum 90% of the travel costs (incl. visa arrangements) and the full conference fee (incl. accommodation).
- **Free conference participation for up to 5 participants from low-income countries.** We will cover conference costs (including accommodation) for up to 5 people.

Participants applying for sponsored participation will be asked to demonstrate that they have not received alternative funding for the same costs, for example by a conference grant from the IWSG for participation in their Annual Conference, which will take place in Groningen just after the Spoonbill meeting, from 26-29 September.

Registration and Abstract Submission

We ask all participants to register and submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations before June 20th. In total there will be room for 23 oral contributions.

We will confirm acceptance of presentation or poster slots by July 10th.

Logistic information

Public transport to Lauwersoog:

- Train to Leeuwarden or Groningen (ca. 2.5h from Amsterdam Airport)
www.ns.nl
- Bus from Leeuwarden or Groningen to Lauwersoog (respectively 1h15m and 55m):
<https://www.qbuzz.nl/gd/lijn/QBUZZ/g163/1>

Accommodation:

- Holiday homes Lauwersoog – included in the price
<https://www.hometogo.nl/search/5460aeda83227?bounds=53.42568%2C6.17875%3B53.38746%2C6.24029>
- Alternatively, there are several hotels just outside the Lauwersmeer area