



**Nordre Øyeren Bird Observatory**

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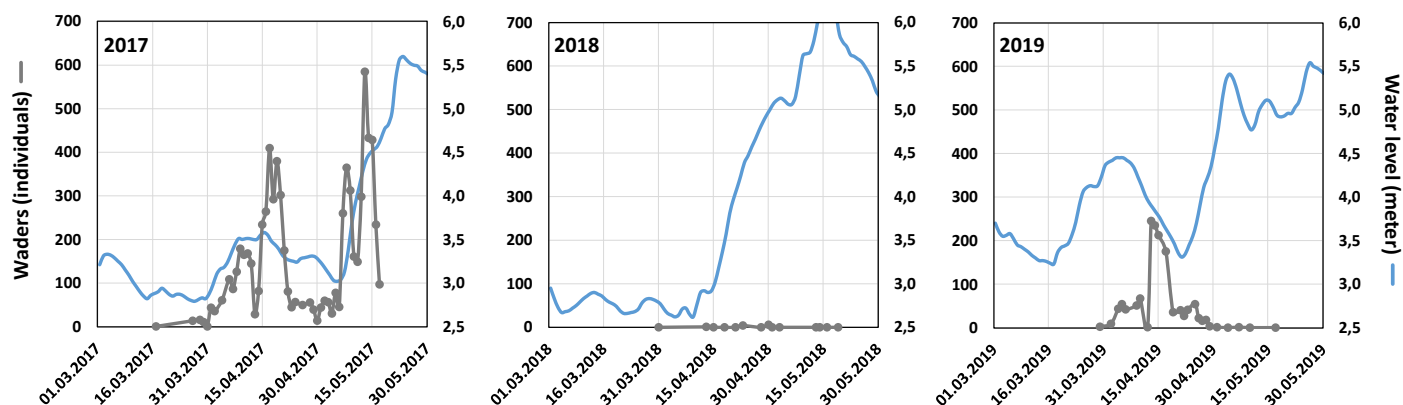
Norwegian Environment Agency  
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## **New water regulations for the Norwegian Ramsar wetland Nordre Øyeren still threaten the wader spring migration**

Nordre Øyeren Bird Observatory, The Norwegian Ornithological Society, Oslo and Akershus Region, Birdlife Norway and The Norwegian Biodiversity Network (Sabima) are still deeply concerned about negative effects of the new regulations of the water level in Lake Øyeren, Nordre Øyeren Ramsar Site (n°307), has on the spring migration of waders. We sent a letter of concern to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat in November 2014 (attached). Since then we have reminded both The Norwegian Environment Agency and Ramsar Convention Secretariat about this issue several times. To our knowledge there has been no development in this case since January 2016. The new water regulations, however, have been running ever since, and as can be seen in the attached data this has had dramatic, negative consequences for the area's suitability as a key feeding ground for waders on spring migration most years (see figure next page). As you might recall from our 2014-letter, the target water level during spring melting is set to 4,60 m latest 15 May in the new regulation. This is about the same water level at which the mud flats in the shallow bay Svellet is

### Foraging waders on the mudflats of Svellet, Lake Nordre Øyeren 1 March – 31 May 2017 -2019



Sources: The Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (water level), Norwegian Species Observation Service and Nordre Øyeren Bird Observatory (wader counts)

flooded. In 2017 this led to a dramatic decrease in wader numbers after 15 May. In 2018 an early spring flood led to a complete loss of foraging possibilities in May. In 2019 the target water level was reached already 1 May, and no significant May migration of waders was observed.

Nordre Øyeren Bird Observatory, The Norwegian Ornithological Society, Oslo and Akershus Region, Birdlife Norway and The Norwegian Biodiversity Network (Sabima) urge The Norwegian Environment Agency and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat to take action without further delay.

Sincerely yours,

*Thomas Sæther*

Thomas Sæther  
Leader  
Nordre Øyeren Bird Observatory

*Håkan Billing*

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Chairman  
The Norwegian Ornithological Society,  
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*Christian Steel*

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