



## REPORT OF BELARUS BIRD RINGING CENTRE

### 1. Organisation

Belarus Bird Ringing Centre (BBRC) started to work officially in the beginning of 1998 on the basis of the Institute of Zoology, Belarus National Academy of Sciences (Minsk). BBRC is established with the assistance of Danish Environmental Support Fund (DESF), "Ornis Consult Ltd" and Copenhagen Bird Ringing Centre at the Zoological Museum in Copenhagen.

Now Belarus Bird Ringing Centre is a unit of the Institute of Zoology, Belarus National Academy of Sciences (Minsk).

### 2. Staff

Today 3 persons are employed: the head of scheme Dr. Michael Nikiforov and two researchers (Irina Samusenko and Tatiana Pavlushchick).

### 3. Ringers

Number of ringers:

1996 - 4

1997 - 7

1998 - 20

1999 - 29

2000 - 35.

Ringling courses: no, but we are planning to organise a training for ringers in nearest future.

### 4. Ringing/recoveries

Number of birds ringed: 1996 - 212, 1997 - 196, 1998 - 1050, 1999 - 4249, 2000 - 6504 (the data on 1999-2000 are still incomplete).

Number of species ringed: 1996 - 7, 1997 - 14, 1998 - 61, 1999 - 99, 2000 - 127.

Number of recoveries: 1996 - 11, 1997 - 13, 1998 - 23, 1999 - foreign - 27, own - 7, 2000 - foreign - 73, own - 81.

Now we are collecting recovery data mainly from hunters and foresters. Some of them have found rings from hunted and found dead birds many years ago. We are trying to inform everybody about newly established ringing centre and get more information about recoveries.

### 5. Rings

First national rings were produced in 1996. First part of ring stock (50,000 rings of 6 sizes) was produced in Poland by "Aranea" due to support of Bonn Convention Secretariat. Production of 17,700 rings (6 additional sizes) was supported in 1999 by DenSF. 1000 special rings for White Stork (double number engraved, inscription black painted) were supported by Vogelwarte Radolfzell in 1999. 25,000 rings were produced in Poland by "Aranea" due to support of SEEN in 2001 and 500 special rings for Bittern - with the help of RSPB. So, we already have in use 17 different sizes of aluminium and steel Belarus rings with inscription "BELARUS, Minsk, Inst.

Zoology” or “Minsk” only for lesser ones. Their internal diameter is ranged from 2.0 mm to 30.0 x 20.0 mm.

## **6. Colour -ringing**

Colour-ringing is co-ordinated by the ringing scheme.

- Colour-ringing of *Charadrius hiaticula* and *Xenus cinereus* has started in spring 1999 in Pripyat River floodplain. This project was registered by Wader Study Group.
- The project of colour-ringing of *Larus argentatus* and *Larus cachinnans* has started in 1999 due to the help of Kjeld Pedersen (Copenhagen Ringing Centre) who produced special rings for our ringing centre. Red plastic rings K701-1000 were used.
- Colour-ringing of *Acrocephalus paludicola* - since 2000.

## **7. International ringing projects**

Belarus ringers are involved in following international projects:

- Population biology and monitoring of *Acrocephalus paludicola* - since 1997;
- Wader-Wetland-Inland (WWI) - since August 1999.
- SEEN: Two ringing stations started ringing activities in Belarus in 2000

## **8. Other current projects**

Several national ringing projects are carried out in frameworks of following research projects:

- Monitoring of raptors and owls in Belarus Lakeland;
- Number and distribution of *Aquila clanga* and *Aquila pomarina* in Belarus;
- Bittern ecology in Belarus.

## **9. Computers**

BBRC is planning to computerise the data on bird ringing and recoveries. The software on recoveries registration and composition of reports according to EURING codes is ready and the software on ringing data proceeding is developing now.

Computerisation of ringing data and recoveries is in process.

## **10. Other activities**

BBRC published first Guide Book in Belarus language for broad circle of readers (professional ornithologists, students, bird-watchers, hunters etc.).

Three posters (rare and endangered birds as well as breeding and migratory birds of Belarus) were published. The posters and the booklet were distributed among schools and local hunting societies all over Belarus.