

## Check of migration AW through delta of Danube.

It is known, that AW of Poland, Belarus, Western Ukraine (Volyn reg.) migrates through Western Europe. What route flies AW from the Kiev and Chernigiv regions of Ukraine by while it is not known. We do not exclude, that these birds can fly by other way (for example, through the Balkan peninsula). During last 14 years we ringed 95 AW of the Desna-Dnipro population (77 ad males, 10 ad females, 8 juv). Unfortunately, because of small quantity ringed birds we have not received any recovery.

If to assume, that AW from this region of Ukraine fly through Balkan, the important key territory should be delta of Danube. Is huge wetland, which plays the very important role in seasonal migrations of many bird species, including various species of Acrocephalus. This region also has high importance for migration of similar species to Aquatic Warbler - Sedge Warbler. In August, millions of these birds stops here to replenish their body fat.

It is possible to assume that Aquatic Warbler also uses this region in its migration strategy especially with taking into account that the area is located in 500-600 km from the breeding sites. This distance is equivalent to one night flight.

In 2009 I could carry out capturing of birds in delta of Danube. For this purpose I have chosen the most northern part of delta - wetland «Stensovski plavni». The area of Plavni makes more than 5000 ha. Practically all the territory covered by rich and high reed. There are small sites, where reed is low and no dense. I have chosen one such site for capturing of birds (see map, photos). It is located near to the channel Danube - Sasyk. The area makes no more than 10 ha. This territory is a place of breeding tens pairs of Paddyfield Warbler. In August 1995 I carried out here capturing of birds. From 10.08. till 3.09.1995 988 birds were captured. Most of all (39 %) was captured Reed Warbler (389). Second (20,5 %) was Sedge Warbler (202). From my point of view this place is very perspective during autumn migration (birds meet first favorable biotopes in delta of Danube here). For spring migration this territory represents smaller interest - if the birds begin night migration, starting from sites of delta, which are located to the south, they will fly over «Stensovski plavni» during the first night hours and probability to "alight" them is very low. Besides I carried out spring capturing when the most part of AW was already in breeding sites.

In time of bird capturing I broadcast song of AW using automobile CD player (loud speakers were in 50 meters from camp). Player worked from 2-00 till 9-00 each night/day.

Naturally, I assigned the special hopes on autumn migration. The capturing I began July 29. In this day already passed rather intensive migration of adult Sedge Warbler - 21 birds were caught. It is necessary to emphasize, that the number of breeding of Sedge Warbler in area of «Stensovski plavni» is very low and makes on the average of 7 pairs/km<sup>2</sup> I (our data), and in June of 1996 on 3 kms of route along the channel Danube - Sasyk was counted only 3 singing males.

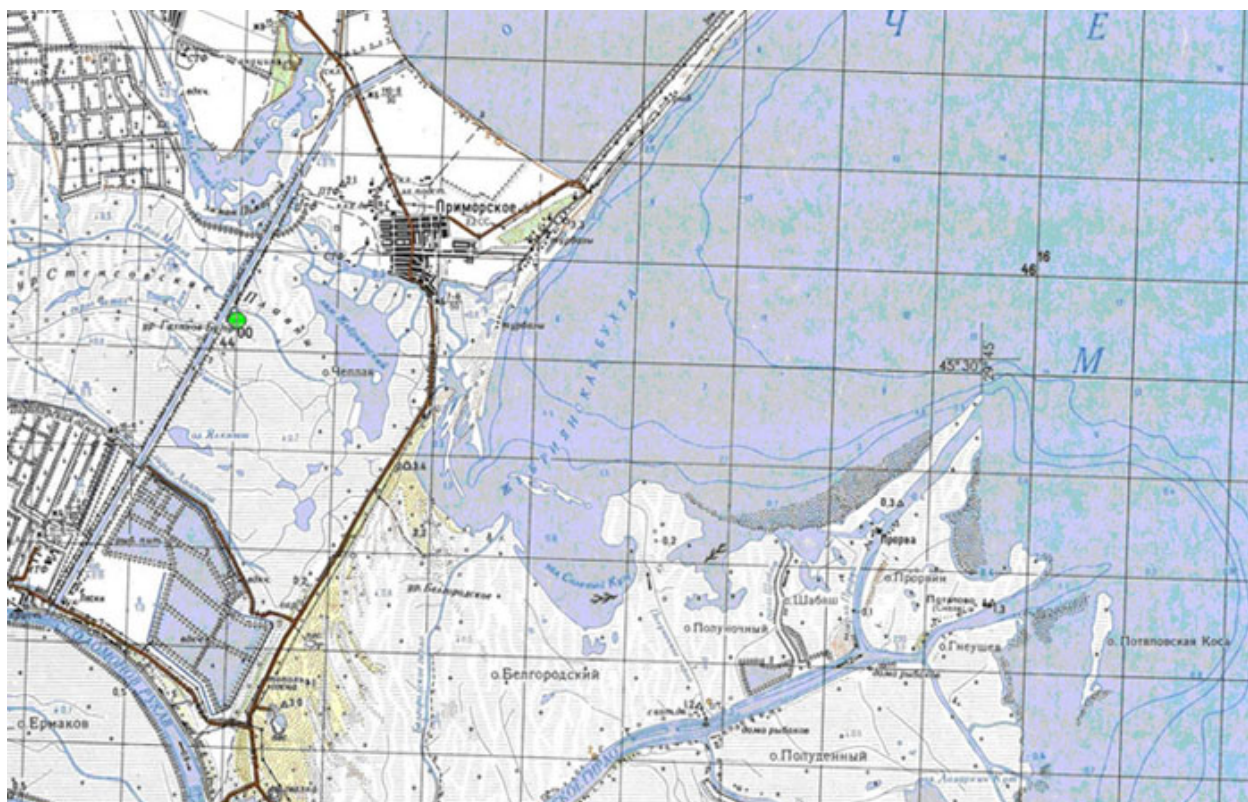
The broadcasting of songs AW attracts migratory Sedge Warbler. These birds were most numerous in mine capturing (see table) - they have made almost 42 % from all birds (in August 1995 - 20,5 %). It was possible visually to observe, as the birds flied is directed to the party of loud speakers. At the first light hour a lot of Sedge Warblers were on plot of capturing. The overwhelming majority of Sedge Warbler was captured within 4-5 morning hours. Later birds departed in this territory - they were distributed on «Plavni».

Unfortunately, I have not captured AW. I assume, that if AW migrates through this area, I could "land" and catch AW.

In the beginning of August there was a strong heat (up to +38° C) - as in Africa. I worked one (my dog was my assistant) and consequently it there was a heavy work.

I would like to receive the comments (and advices) from the colleagues, which carry out capturing of migratory AW (Martin, Bruno, Arnaud, Fernando etc.)

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	7.05. - 16.05.2009	29.07. - 08.08. 2009 and 12.08. - 18.08.2009	%%	Total
Acr.agric.	31	179	9,4	210
Acr.arund.	12	85	4,5	97
Acr.melan.	1	3	0,2	4
Acr.palus.	3	58	3,0	61
Acr.schoe.	39	794	41,7	833
Acr.scirp.	232	614	32,2	846
Alc.atthi.		6	0,3	6
Cot.cotur.		1	0,1	1
Emb.schoe.	5	38	2,0	43
Hir.rusti.		2	0,1	2
Hip.icter.	1		0,0	1
Hip.palli.		1	0,1	1
Ixo.minut.	2		0,0	2
Lan.collu.	2	16	0,8	18
Loc.fluvi.	1	1	0,1	2
Loc.lusci.	7	47	2,5	54
Lus.lusci.	1	7	0,4	8
Lus.sveci.	8	12	0,6	20
Mus.stria.	1		0,0	1
Pan.biarm.	176	13	0,7	189
Par.major		1	0,1	1
Phy.tr-us	4	17	0,9	21
Rem.pendu.		1	0,1	1
Sax.rubet.	9	2	0,1	11
Syl.atric.	3		0,0	3
Syl.commu.		3	0,2	3
Syl.curru.	4	5	0,3	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>1906</b>		<b>2448</b>



