Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds

# Survey of New Potential Sites and Monitoring of Key Breeding Sites of Aquatic Warbler in Ukraine, 2006

**Project supported by the RSPB, BirdLife International Partner in the UK**

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## SUMMARY

In 2006, the hydrological conditions for Aquatic Warbler were favorable during all breeding season in Central and Western Ukraine. During May and first half of June 2006, the water level in Central Ukraine (Chernigiv and Kyiv regions) in floodplains of the rivers was the highest since 1997. In mid June, there were strong rains in Western Ukraine, which have caused small rise of water on habitats of Pripyat population group. This small rise has not affected the AW nesting.

During this season, the number of the Desna-Dnipro population was estimated at **468 - 503 males** (Annex 1, Tabl. 4). In comparison with 2005, the number of AW in the key breeding habitats in Supoy River valley has essentially decreased – by nearly 30 %. A small decrease was also observed on the key breeding habitat in the valley of Uday River. A new breeding habitat was found in the hydrological zakaznik of local importance "Svidovetsky". 13 singing males were counted during evening counts. The area of this territory is 15-20 ha. It is possible to assume that AWs have stopped nesting in mire "Zamglay".

The total number of the Ukrainian part of Pripyat population was estimated at **3000 - 3605** males (Annex 1, Tabl. 5). These numbers are a little lower than in 2005, even with accounting for discovering new habitats of AW. The total area of new sites is about 500 ha. In comparison with 2005, the number of AW in the key breeding habitats in valleys of Pripyat and Lower Tsir has essentially decreased – by almost 35 % (~ 500 males). The number of AW in other monitoring sites was the same as last year or even higher.

The total number of the Ukrainian population is **3500 - 4100 (3468-4108) males**.

During the breeding season of 2006, survey of 67 new potential sites was carried out in Chernigiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Lugansk, Volyn, and Rivne regions. The most part of these areas does not present any interest as potential AW habitats. They were either drained or substantially transformed. No Aquatic Warblers were found on these sites.

Now there is a real threat for AW habitats in the valley of Pripyat. Volyn State Department for Water Resources Management has adopted a new flood abatement program. The title of the programme is "Ecology-2010", though it might cause severe ecological damage. Volyn State Department of Ecology and Natural Resources has approved this program. One of the key activities under this program is indentation of river-bed between Rechitsa and lake Lyubyaz. In 2005, similar work was already done on the part of Pripyat valley between Schedrogir (Pidgirya) and river Turya mouth. As a result of this work, the water level in river has decreased and in May and June 2006, it was 1 meter lower than on other sites and in comparison with previous years. The water goes away from the floodplain. The level of water has dropped below the level of baseline years at the sites of floodplain that are located on a distance of more than 1 km from the river. Therefore, urgent actions are needed to prevent indentation and such habitat deterioration between Rechitsa and lake Lyubyaz.


## I. GENERAL PART

### Project Background

Aquatic Warbler (AW) *Acrocephalus paludicola* is a globally threatened species, which breeds in Belarus, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Ukraine. The global population is estimated at around 27,000 - 42,000 singing males (BirdLife 2005), with major populations in Belarus, Ukraine, Poland and Hungary. The breeding distribution is fragmented because of habitat constraints.

This species is included in the Annex I of the European Union's Wild Birds Directive, Appendix II of the Bern Convention, Appendix I and II of the Bonn Convention, Appendix II of CITES.

On April 29th, 2003, 9 countries whose territories include natural habitats of Aquatic Warbler have signed the Memorandum of Understanding and Action Plan Concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* (under the auspices of the Convention on the

Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals). Ukraine joined this Memorandum on the 21st of May. Now, it is important to update the respective National Action Plan and take measures to ensure proper enforcement of the Memorandum in Ukraine. Current project substantially contributes towards this task through continuing monitoring of AW breeding populations in Ukraine, which could help develop effective conservation strategy including measures for the protection of species, sites and habitats.

The monitoring of six key habitats of AW has been carried out by the Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds since 2002. For this purpose, two breeding sites of Desna-Dnipro population (valleys of Supoy and Uday Rivers) and four breeding sites of Pripyat population (two sites at the valley of Pripyat, valleys of Turya and Stir River) were chosen. These six key breeding sites support from 50 to 70 % of the Ukrainian Aquatic Warbler population.

In 2006, survey of all 6 monitoring plots was carried out. Besides this, surveys of new areas and other known habitats of Aquatic Warbler were conducted.

# II. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

## 1. Project Team establishment

Established field team included three experts:

| Field Team |
|---|
| 1. A. Poluda (Project leader) |
| 2. I. Legeyda |
| 3. O. Gnatyuk |

## 2. Methodology

The methodology of the fieldwork was a standard one, which has been used for the last four seasons. This methodology is based the following steps:

- Survey of Aquatic Warbler is conducted on 1,5 km-long routes;
- Counting of birds is carried out within 200 m strip transects;
- The starting point and the end of each rout strip are marked with well–seen marks. In Central Ukraine, marking of 100 m strips was done with 2,5–3 m high poles. In Western Ukraine, the GPS-72 (Garmin) devices were used for marking 100 m transects;
- The survey of Aquatic Warblers at monitoring routes starts 60 minutes before the sunset and continues for 80–100 minutes. All singing males within 200 m transects were counted and mapped;
- Other bird species are recording during the survey and special morning counts (during the first survey period only);
- Information about hydrological regime and vegetation is also collected.

Two single surveys of six breeding sites of Desna-Dnipro population and Pripyat population were carried out during May–July. Furthermore, there were surveys of other known habitats of Aquatic Warbler and tens of new potential sites in Chernigiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Lugansk, Volyn, Rivne regions.

## 3. Results

Detailed monitoring results for each site are presented in appendixes.

### 3.1. Hydrological conditions in wetlands of the Northern Ukraine during the Aquatic Warbler nesting season

The hydrological conditions for Aquatic Warbler were favorable during all breeding season in Central and Western Ukraine. Fig. 1 (see Annex 1) shows how water level was changing during May – July, 2002-2006 in the floodplain of Uday river on the border of Chernigiv and Poltava regions (Usivka village). The river in this part flows under natural conditions and the water level is not affected by any artificial structures, such as dams, sluices etc. This diagram, with some corrections, can reflect change of the water level in floodplains of the majority of rivers (and moors) of natural habitat of Aquatic Warblers in Central Ukraine. As one can see from the diagram, the level of water in floodplains of this region during AW breeding season was the highest for the last 5 years. We can also show that this level was the highest since 1997.

The hydrological conditions for Aquatic Warbler were favorable during all breeding period in Western Ukraine. In mid June, there were strong rains in the region, which caused small rise of water on sites of the Pripyat population group. This small rise has not affected AW nesting.

## 3.2 Desna-Dnipro population group

### 3.2.1 Monitoring areas

Monitoring plots of the Desna-Dnipro population group were surveyed 2 times: in the III-rd decade of May, I-st decade of June and II-nd decade of July.

#### 3.2.1.1 Key breeding habitat in the valley of Supoy river (Kyiv reg., Zgurivka and Yagotin districts; coordinates of habitat centre: 50.25; 31.45; between villages Vilne, Bezuglivka, Ozerne and Mala Berezanka)

The key breeding habitat consists of two plots (Annex 3, Map 1). Plot 1 is located along the western border of the river floodplain. It is a stripe of nearly 6 km length and 200 m width. The area of this site is 110-120 ha. Plot 2 is located in the eastern part of the valley (the area is 90-100 ha). The stripe of the site has a length of 3,200 m and a width of up to 300 m.

The monitoring route is in the northwestern part of the breeding site (right bank of the river floodplain), on a distance of 100 - 120 m from the western side of the floodplain (Annex 3, Map 1). The width of a recording strip (200 m) allowed counting all birds, which breed in this part of the river floodplain. The southern route point have co-ordinates: 50°24′90″ N; 31°43′90″ E; northern — 50°25′58″ N; 31°44′23″ E. Length of the route was 1,5-kms.

The first survey was carried out on May 31$^{st}$, 2006. 13 singing males on the monitoring route were counted (Annex 1, Site Data Sheet 1).

The second survey on the monitoring route was carried out on July 12$^{th}$, during which 14 males were recorded.

Besides the above-mentioned areas, other sites of plots 1 and 2 were also surveyed (Annex 1, Site Data Sheet 1). The total surveyed area in July was 171 ha (nearly 78% of total area of the site). Totally, 72 singing males were counted on this area.

The level of water was optimum for AW during all breeding season (Annex 1, Fig. 2). During first half of breeding period the level of water was highest after 1997. As we have wrote, this breeding site has stable hydrological regime that could be explained by a presence of the Supoy lake-pond, which is located downstream, and which is characterized with a constant water level.

In this season we estimate the number of the breeding group as 100-110 singing males (Plot 1: 60-70, Plot 2: 40).

#### 3.2.1.2 Key breeding habitat in Uday valley (Chernigiv reg., Ichnya district; coordinates of habitat centre: 50.51; 32.09; between villages Doroginka, Bakayivka, Monastyryshche and Komarivka)

The main part of the population (Plot 1) is located in Zhevak mire (from 2005 it is a part of zakaznik of the national importance "Doroginsky") (Annex 3, Map 2). Its total area is 314 ha. Aquatic Warblers occupy 150-200-meter strip at mire sides. The total area of suitable habitat, which is occupied by AW in Plot 1 is about 300 hectares (including Zhevak mire and 4 km wide coastal strip of Uday river floodplain). The monitoring route is in eastern part of Zhevak mire on a distance of 100 - 120 m from the northern side of the mire (Annex 2, Map 2). A western point of the route has coordinates: 50°51′86″ N; 32°07′84″ E; the eastern one - 50°51′32″ N; 32°08′83″ E. A length of the route is 1,5 km.

Plot 2 is located in the western part of a floodplain of river Uday between villages Doroginka and Bakayivka. This site is 2,0 km long and 70-100m wide (20 ha) (Annex 3, Map 2).

The first survey on the monitoring route was carried out on June 7th. 22 singing males were found on the route there (Annex 1, Site Data Sheet 2).

The second survey was carried out on July 17th. The weather conditions were favourable. 30 singing males were counted (Annex 1, Site Data Sheet 2).

During this season, the water regime in the breeding site was optimum for nesting of Aquatic Warbler (Annex 1, Fig. 3). As we already noted in the Report of 2003, level of water in this breeding habitat is determined by the presence of adjusting sluice located on the river in 300 m to the south of the Monastyryshche - Zaudayka road (Annex 3, Map 2). This structure has high importance for all parts of the river floodplain, which are located up-stream.

The number of Aquatic Warblers in this key area in 2006 is estimated as 280-300 singing males.

### 3.2.2 Other breeding habitats of the Desna-Dnipro population

During this season, the following sites of Desna-Dnipro population were visited:

#### 3.2.2.1. Hydrological zakaznik "Gorodok" (Chernigiv reg., Shchors district; 3 km south-east of Petrivka, to west of Snov river, co-ordinates of the habitat centre: 51.50.10 N; 31.48.71 E).

We found this site in 1998 when 12 singing males were counted during the sunset. This is a typical sedge-rush (*Carex-Equisetum*) mire of this region. Birds occupied plots with the swamp horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile* (it occupies up to 90% of the habitat); the rest of the area was occupied by sedge. In 1999, we counted 15 singing males, in 2003 – 16 males. On July 18th, 2006, 12 singing males were counted there during evening survey. The total number of this breeding group is atleast 20 males.

#### 3.2.2.2. The breeding habitat in the valley of Galka (Chernigiv reg., Nizhin district; coordinates of the habitat centre: 50.48.000 N; 31.58.500 E; between villages Bogdanivka and Leonidivka).

This breeding site was found in 1998, but it was not until 2005, when the first evening survey was carried out. 15 singing males were counted. We estimate the number of all breeding group as 15-20 singing males. All river Galka is drained and canalized. The small part of the natural floodplain remains only on this site. The total area of suitable habitat is 40-50 ha. The site has no official protection status. On July 17th, 2006 we have visited this site during daytime. 2 singing males and 1 female were counted in the part of this breeding habitat.

### 3.2.2.3. The breeding habitat in the valley of Perevod river (Kyiv reg., Zgurivka districts; coordinates of the habitat centre: 50.29 N; 31.57 E).

This habitat was found in May 2000, and by June 19th, 12 males were recorded there. On July 3rd, 2002, 4 singing males were counted on this site during daytime. On June 28th, 2003, only 2 males were noted there during the evening census, and the birds sang very inactively.

On July 12th, 2006, 13 singing males were counted there during daytime. The hydrological conditions for AW nesting were optimum. We assume that at that time there were up to 15 males. The total area of this habitat is 20-30 ha.

### 3.2.2.4. The breeding habitat in hydrological zakaznik of local importance "Svidovetsky" (Chernigiv reg., Bobrovitsa district, 3 km north of Voron'ky and 0,5 km of Svidovets ; co-ordinates of the habitat centre: 50.42.30 N; 31.34.30 E) (Annex 3, Map 3).

The first time we surveyed this site on June 6th, 1997, when 10 singing males were counted. During a full census on June 5th, 1999, 11 males were counted. On May 29th, 2000, only 6 males were recorded there. On June 27th, 2003, another survey was conducted and 18 males were counted during evening census. On July 7th, 2005, this site was visited during daytime and 7 singing males were counted in part of the breeding habitat. On July 11th, 2006, 4 singing males were counted in daytime within 10 ha of the site. The total number of males there is at least 20. The total area of this habitat is 60 ha.

### 3.2.2.5. The breeding habitat in hydrological zakaznik of local importance "Boloto Supoy" (Chernigiv reg., Bobrovitsa district, near Petrivka and 3 km south to Novy Bykov, co-ordinates of the habitat centre: 50.34 N; 31.40 E).

We have discovered this small habitat with the area of 6 ha on June 23rd, 1995. The number of AW males counted there ranges from 2 in 2002 up to 5 males in 1995and 1999. On June 28th, 2003, in daytime we surveyed another habitat (20 ha) 1 km to the north. The total number of counted males was 8 (4 and 4) at two areas. Evening census was carried out on May 22nd, 2005, when 18 singing males were counted. The estimates for this breeding group are 20-25 males for the last year. This year, we visited area only once on July 10th, 2006, and have not carried out an evening census. Habitat and water regime was suitable for breeding and birds may have left the habitat after the first cycle of breeding.

### 3.2.2.6. A new breeding habitat in hydrological zakaznik of local importance "Svidovetsky" (Chernigiv reg., Bobrovitsa district, northern part Bilotserkivtsy; co-ordinates of the habitat centre: 50.39 N; 31.36.700 E) (Annex 3, Map 4).

We surveyed floodplain of rivers Supoy on the plot Voron'ky – Bilotserkivtsy – Stary Bykov in 1995. Most suitable for AW habitats were found on the plot Voron'ky – Bilotserkivtsy, however we have not found AW. On June 11th, 2006, we surveyed the area for the second time. Habitats suitable for AW are located along the western edge of the floodplain on the plot Voron'ky – Bilotserkivtsy where sedge-horsetail association grow along 3 km transect (width is 150-300 м). We have counted 13 males of AW only in one area during the evening census. The area of this habitat is 15-20 ha.

The breeding habitat is located in 7 km to the south from the habitat near village Svidovets and in 9 km to the north from the habitat near Novy Bykov.

#### 3.2.2.7. The breeding habitat in mire system "Zamglay" (Chernigiv reg., Repki district: 2 km to northern-west of Zamglay; co-ordinates of the habitat centre: 51.50 N; 31.08 E)

We found this habitat on May 30th, 1998 and have not visited it since then. There was a large marsh in the middle of XX century with the total area of nearly 13,000 ha of the natural mire. There were large areas of grassy mires. In the 1960th and 1970th, the enormous areas of these mires were drained for intensive peat extraction. Currently, almost the whole mire is drained; small edge forest mires have remained non-drained; the largest "open" mire with dominating sedge habitat was transformed into peat-extraction area and dry pastures. As a result of surveying small areas located at the edge of the former mire, a small AW subpopulation was found. 10 singing males were counted. It is a typical sedge-rush (*Carex-Equisetum*) habitat 400 m long and 70-100 m wide (Annex 3, Map 5, red colour). It was wet during the survey.

We visited this site on June 24-25th, 2003. Habitat was completely dry and according to the message of local shepherds, it was dry in May of this and last years. We have not found AWs at the habitat, likely this group has left the site. In 2-3 km to the west from this site, there are sedge habitats with the total area of 20-30 ha (Annex 3, Map 5, green colour). They were not completely dry by the time of the survey, as the previous habitat. However, as in previous year, there were no AWs observed here.

We visited this site on July 18th, 2006. Except for lowlands, the habitat was completely dry. However, the water-level was much higher here in May-June 2006. We know that water-level at the site was higher in 2006 then in the region as a whole during last years. In usual years (at least in 2001-2005), the habitat was dry during the same periods. It has resulted in transformation of vegetation, and the area of sedge grasslands has reduced 2 times (by up to 2 ha). AWs have left this site. Most likely, the 1998th (when we have found this group) was one of last years of this settlement.

This year, we surveyed the territory to the west from the site (Annex 3, Map 5, and green colour). Water regime was optimum, but there were no AWs again.

#### 3.2.2.8. The breeding habitat in the valley of river Snov (Chernigiv reg., Shchors district: 4 km northern-east of Elino; co-ordinates of the habitat centre: 52.02.180; 32.03.320).

On June 6th, 1998, 2-3 AW males were found in the open part of the floodplain; the area is nearly 20 ha. We have received the opportunity to visit the habitat only this year. Since the habitat is located along the state border now, we were not able to survey or even approach the habitat. However, we had the possibility to listen to birds singing in the habitat. Unfortunately, we have not heard any singing AW males. It is not yet clear now whether there is an existing breeding group.

In June-July 2006, we visited ten areas of existing mires, which have already disappeared in the basins of Desna and Dnipro rivers (Chernigiv, Sumy, Poltava and Kharkiv regions). Description of the most interesting ten plots is provided in Annex 2. Unfortunately, we did not found any AWs on these sites.

## 3.3. Pripyat population group

Monitoring plots of the Pripyat population group were surveyed two times: during last decade of May and last decade of June.

### 3.3.1. Monitoring areas

Similar to the last years, we carried out two surveys of four breeding monitoring areas of AW population group in this region. These areas support from 50 to 60 % of the AW Pripyat population.

### 3.3.1.1. Key breeding habitat in valleys of Pripyat and Lower Tsir (Volyn reg., Lubeshiv district; coordinates of habitat centre: 51.52; 25.13; from east of village Vetly to villages Birky and Tsir)

This key breeding habitat consists of two plots (Annex 3, Map 6). Plot 1 is located in Pripyat floodplain near the southern edge of Vetly and includes the following mires: Torople, Zamalitsa, Zapastushye. The site has more than 3,000 ha. However, only small part of the site is suitable for AW nesting. There are large remaining areas of bushes and reed beds, as well as dry places. Most part of AW habitat is sedge hay grassland. Currently we know about 1400 ha of suitable areas.

Plot 2. AW occupies sites with dominating rushes and cereals. The most part of this land is used for grazing. Near 10% of the area is hay grassland (Musheve). The suitable habitat is about 500 ha.

The monitoring route lies along the right bank of Pripyat floodplain to south-east of Vetly village (part of plot 1, total area — 175 ha). The route line passes along the river at a distance of 200-500 m. The western route point has co-ordinates 51°52′64″N; 25°08′91″E, eastern — 51°52′62″ N; 25°10′27″E. Length of the route is 1,5 km (Annex 3, Map 6).

During May-June, water level was optimum for AW breeding on the site (Annex 1, Fig. 4).

Results of the surveys are summarized in Annex 1, Table 1 and Site Data Sheet 3 (Annex 1).

During the 1st nesting cycle, we carried out surveys along the central drainage channel. Three wooden dams with sluices were constructed on this channel in October 2005 (Annex 3, Map 6). Water level in this habitat was optimum during the breeding season in 2006 due to the dams. As a result, the number of birds was considerably higher than in 2003-2004, when the water level was very low. For example, 21 singing males were counted within 60 ha during the 1st nesting cycle on June 12th, 2003; and 5 males — during the 2nd nesting cycle on July 5th, 2003; 28 males —on June 7th, 2004; and 3 males —on July 10th, 2004; 36 males — on May 20th, 2006; and 31 males —on June 30th, 2006 (Annex 1, Site Data Sheet 3).

The total area of suitable habitat in the Plot 1 is nearly 1400 ha. There were small number of AW in the area near the monitoring route – north-western part of the habitat (175 ha). The estimate of the total number is up to 50-60 males.

There were also 600-800 males singing at other area of Plot 1 (~1200 ha).

The number of AW on the Plot 1 was estimated as 650-860 singing males.

The total area of suitable habitat on the Plot 2 is 500 ha.

Estimated number of AW in Plot 2 is 210-240 males (almost 500 singing males were counted in 1998, 300 — in 1999, 280-350 — in 2002, 80-90 — in 2003, 50-70 — in 2004, and 300-350 — in 2005).

The total estimated number of AW males in this key breeding habitat is 900-1100 (Plots 1 and 2, and other habitats of the key site).

### 3.3.1.2. Key breeding site in Pripyat valley between Rechitsa and Pidgirya (Volyn reg., Ratne district; coordinates of the habitat centre: 51.46; 24.43)

This breeding site includes part of Pripyat floodplain from village Rechitsa to village Pidgirya. The total area of suitable AW habitat is 350 ha.

Monitoring route was near vil. Pidgirya. First 600 m of the route runs over a dam located at a side of the floodplain. We carried out survey only on one side (northern) along the 100 m strip of the monitoring route. Double surveys were carried out on the other part of the route along the 200 m strip. The western route point has co-ordinates 51°47′130N; 24°44′670E, the eastern — 51°47′265N; 24°46′140. Length of the route was 1,7 km, total area of the plot is 28 ha. Monitored area of the habitat is 120 ha.

Hydrological conditions were suitable for AW in the breeding habitat during May-June (Annex 1, Fig. 5), even though in last half of May the water level was lower than usual (and in comparison with other sites of Pripyat floodplain). We believe it was caused by deepening of the river channel downstream from this monitoring plot. Volyn State Department for Water Resources Management

has carried out this activity in autumn 2005. Heavy rains in June 2006 caused raise of water level in the river.

Surveys were carried out on May 22nd and June 27th. The survey results are summarised in Annex 1 (Table 2 and Site Data Sheet 4).

Total estimated number of AW on the breeding monitoring site (120 ha) is 80-90 males in June. The number of singing males in the floodplain between villages Rechitsa and Pidgirya (350 ha) was 240-270 birds.

#### 3.3.1.3. Key breeding site in Vizhery mire in lower Turya valley (Volyn reg., Kamin-Kashirsky district; coordinates of habitat centre: 51.42; 24.50)

Vizhery mire is located in the Turia floodplain (right river bank). The total area of suitable AW habitat is 275 ha. The monitoring route was goes through the central part of the habitat. Coordinates of eastern route end point: 51.42.490 N; 24.50.313 E; western — 51.42.390 N; 24.49.027 E. The total length of the route is 1,5 km, the survey area is 30 ha.

Water level was favorable for AW breeding in the monitoring plot during May-June 2006 (Annex 1, Fig. 6). More precisely, water level was near-optimum.

Surveys were carried out on May 23rd and June 26th. The survey results are summarised in Annex 1 (Table 3 and Site Data Sheet 5). 24 singing males were counted within 30 ha in May and 36 males — in June.

The estimate of the total number of the breeding group is 320-340 singing males.

#### 3.3.1.4. Key breeding site of Middle Stir valley near Chetvertnya village (Volyn reg, Rozhishche and Manevichy districts; coordinates of habitat centre: 51.04; 25.28)

This breeding site consists of three plots (Annex 3, Map 7):

Plot 1: part of the right bank of Stir floodplain between Chetvertnya and Godomichi villages. Area of AW habitat is 40 ha.

Plot 2: part of the right bank Stir floodplain in northern-west from Chetvertnya. Area of AW habitat is almost 15 ha. There were 20 males counted in 1998.

Plot 3: part of Stir floodplain near south-eastern edge of Navoz village (left bank). There is "Gursko-Grivensky" Hydrological Zakaznik of local importance (Rozhishche district) located within the Plot; the area is 145,2 ha. Area of suitable AW habitat is 110 ha. Nearly 50 males were counted there in 1998 and only 6 singing males were counted in 1999 (total number is 10 males at most).

We found a new AW habitat during June 2006 (Plot 4). It is located on the left bank of Stir floodplain, 5 km to WE from Plot 1 (Co-ordinates: 51.05.180 N; 25.34.075 E) (Annex 3, Map 8). 4 singing males were counted during daytime. The area of AW habitat was nearly 10-15 ha in this season. We estimate this group in 10-15 males. The number of AW can be higher in other years.

The monitoring route was marked out on Plot 1. It passed for 100-150 m along the southern side of the river floodplain. The total length of the route is 1,4 km and the monitoring area is 28 ha. Eastern point of the route has co-ordinates 51°03′310N; 25°29′800′E; western - 51°03′170N; 25°28′710E.

Water level on monitoring plot was near-optimum during May and June (Annex 1, Fig. 7). First we surveyed the site on May 24th, 2006, when 11 singing males were counted within the monitoring plot. During the second survey we counted only 7 males along the monitoring route (Annex 1, Table 6 and Site Data Sheet 6). We estimate the number of AW within the plot 1 as 15 singing males.

On June 25th, 2006, seven males were counted during evening survey (18:00 – 19:00) within 26 ha of plot 3. We can assume that about 40 males live on the plot.

In the breeding season 2006, 70-80 males lived in four plots of the site.

### 3.3.2. Surveys of other breeding sites of AW of the Pripyat population group

Besides the obligatory double survey of monitoring plots, we have visited some other known settlements.

**Pripyat valley between Komarove and Retchica**

In 1996, expedition of M. Flade has found about 50 ha of suitable AW habitats. Seven males were counted. M. Flade has estimated the total number of this group in 25 males. We visited this plot of the floodplain on July 1st, 2006. It was completely dry, the mires and sedge grassland have disappeared. The riverbed was deepened by dredger between Komarove and Retchica in 1999-2000. We assume that AWs have already ceased nesting on this site several years ago.

**Pripyat valley between Pidgirya and Turya mouth**

In 1999 and 2002 we did not record any AW in this part of the floodplain, though M. Flade has estimated number of AW as 15-90 males in 1996. Area of the suitable habitat is 50-200 ha (data of M. Flade). In 2003, 40-60 males nested in habitats adjoining to Krupino lake. In 2004, 120-150 males lived on these breeding sites.

The total estimated area of habitats suitable for AW in 2004 (June 4th and July 11th):

a) Site near Pidgirya village (right bank) — 20 ha (20 males);
b) Site located northeast of Pidgirya village (right bank) — 15-20 ha (15 males);
c) Site near lake Krupine — 55-60 ha (~50 males);
d) Site located the east of Schedrogir village — more than 50 ha (~50 males).

Total area of suitable AW habitat is almost 150 ha (Annex 3, Map 9).

In July 2005, we visited two sites of the breeding habitat ("a" and "c"); there were any bird registered. Water level in the breeding habitat strongly depends on the water level in river. The water level in habitat is high even in usual years. Although water level was very high on the sites this year, estimated number of birds was very low, from 10 to 20 males.

Hydrological regime has significantly changed on the site in 2006 as a result of deepening of riverbed between Schedrogir (Pidgirya) and river Turya mouth carried out by Volyn State Department for Water Resources Management in autumn 2005. As result of this activity in May and June 2006, water level in river was lower than 1 m in comparison with other sites and water level that should be in this season. The water level fell below ground level on those plots of floodplain that are located more than 1 km from the river (for example, area of lake Krupine). Despite unsuitable dry condition in habitats, small number of AW continued nesting. It is likely that the number of birds will be minimal in the next year.

The situation in 2006: plot "a" – about 10 males; plot "b" – about 5 males; plot "c" – about 30 males; plot "d" – about 5 males. The number of AW in the site is 40-60 males.

**Pripyat valley (right bank) between beginning of channel Wizhewskiy and vil. Vetly (including mire "Zalissya")**

It is the very large area of Pripyat floodplain. The total area is about 2500 ha. More than 600 ha of floodplain are suitable for AW nesting. In daytime, we have visited some plots in mire "Zalissya", near road Glusha – Nevir, between vil. Nevir – Vetly. Almost 40 singing males were counted on these plots. The total number of population is 300-350 males in 2006.

**Pripyat valley (left bank) between vil. Vetly, Girky and Lubotin**

We surveyed this area in 2005 and 2006. The large areas of suitable for AW habitats were found south (more 150 ha) and southwest (~150 ha) of vil. Girky, near vil. Lubotin (more 200 ha) (Annex 3, Map 10). Density of singing males was very high, in particular nearly one male/ha in 2005-2006. 400-500 males are found on this site in 2006.

**Pripyat valley (left bank) south-west of vil. Grechishcha and hay meadow to the south**

Before 2005, we had surveyed about 100 ha suitable for AW habitats there. Survey plot are located southwest of vil. Grechishcha (Annex 3, Map 11). However, we found large areas (more than 100 ha) to south in 2005. Particularly, we did not register any AW last year, as the water level was high. In 2006, AWs bred on this plot. During evening survey (26.06.2006), 11 singing males were counted (30 ha) on the first plot. Totally, 30-40 males lived on this plot. On the second plot, 8 males were counted on 16 ha. Totally, about 50 males are estimated on all plots. We estimate the total number as 80-100 males on the breeding site.

**Area near Lyubyaz lake**

There are two habitats, where AW present, the total area is about 100 ha. During daytime survey, 6 males of AW song on area of 2 ha in June, 30. The number of the group is 80-100 males.

**The area near lake Rogozne**

The total area of this site is 30-40 ha. During daytime survey two singing males were counted on May 22nd, 2006. Water level was very high – 30-40 cm above the ground during this period. 30-40 males are found on the site.

**Stokhid valley near Stara Chervishcha**

We know one AW habitat in this area (20 ha) where 20 males nested last year. In the beginning of June, 2005, the site was flooded, water level rose more than 50 cm above the ground. We did not hear any AW in June and July. In 2006, water level was optimum, however, during surveys in daytime we did not register any AWs on May 18th and 24th, and on June 26th. Birds do not nest here for the last two years.

**Chornoguzka valley**

Total area of suitable habitat is almost 430 ha. Number of AW at the site was 150-200 males in 2005. Evening survey was carried out in the area of 52 ha near eastern part of Tseperiv on June 01st, 2006. 17 singing males were counted. Estimated number of breeding group is 130-150 males.

67 new potential sites in Chernigiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Lugansk, Volyn, and Rivne regions were surveyed during May-July. Mostly, they are not of interest as potential habitats of AWs. They were drained or significantly transformed. Brief overview of 22 the most important areas is summarized in Annex 2. The maps of these areas are shown as Map 1 and 2 (Annex 4). They include mires, where birds were registered earlier or there was information about observation of AW.

For example:

- Russian ornithologist Somov N.N. and Zarudniy N. observed AWs on sites No. 11 and 17 more than 100 years ago;
- Polish ornithologists have reported on observation of AW by Polish entomologist (knowing AW) in the reserve “Streletska Step” (site No. 14);
- Ornithologists-amateurs from Rivne observed AW in Ust’e river valley (site No. 18).

Unfortunately, we have not found AWs at any of these sites. Some mires are suitable for AW, however they are small (No 2, 3, 8, 9, 13, 17, 22).

## 4. Conclusion

Hydrological conditions for Aquatic Warbler were favorable during all breeding season in Central and Western Ukraine. During May and first half of June 2006 in Central Ukraine (Chernigiv and Kyiv regions) water level in rivers floodplains was the highest since 1997. In mid June, the strong rains have passed in Western Ukraine causing small rise of water on sites of Pripyat population group. This small rise has not affected success of AW nesting.

During this season, the number of the Desna-Dnipro population was estimated as **468-503 males** (Annex 1, Table 4). In comparison with 2005, the number of AW in the key breeding habitat in Supoy river valley has essentially decreased and constitutes almost 30% of the previous figure. Besides, a small decrease was noticed for the key breeding habitat in Uday river valley. A new breeding habitat was found in hydrological zakaznik of local importance "Svidovetsky". 13 singing males were counted during the evening survey. Area of the site is 15-20 ha. It is possible that AWs have stopped nesting in mire "Zamglay".

The total estimated number of Ukrainian part of Pripyat population is in **3000-3605** males (Annex 1, Table 5). Despite finding new AW habitats, the total number is lower than in 2005. Total area of new sites is almost 500 ha. In comparison with 2005, the number of AW in the key breeding habitat in Pripyat and Lower Tsir valleys has essentially decreased – almost by 35% (~500 males). The number of AW on other monitoring sites was the same as the last year or higher.

The total number of Ukrainian population is **3500-4100 (3468-4108) males**.

Currently, there is a real threat for AW habitat in Pripyat valley. Volyn State Department for Water Resources Management has developed program on flood prevention under the title "Ecology-2010" Programme, which might have a negative impact on local environment. The Programme was approved by Volyn Department of Ecology and Natural Resources. The Programme includes deepening river-bed between Rechitsa and lake Lyubyaz. This kind of activity was carried out in Pripyat valley between Schedrogir (Pidgirya) and Turya river mouth in 2005. As a result, in May and June 2006 water level in the river was lower by more than 1 m in comparison with other sites and normal seasonal water level. Floodplain remained dry. Water level was below the ground level on those plots of floodplain that are located on a distance of more than 1 km from the river.

## 5. Final assessment

**A) Timetable and scope of implemented activities:** All planned activities were implemented in time, started according to the timetable, and the agreement. Monitoring in 2006 was conducted with using financial support from RSPB. Careful financial management and efficient planning allowed achieve all objectives, including survey of new potential habitats. Financial report is provided in Annex 5. Minor delays of some activities did not influence the results of the project.

**B) Possible proposals for an adjustment or re-orientation with respect to the originally proposed working plan:**

- NA.

**C) Problems encountered:**

- No problem encountered**.**

**D) Financial**

1. **Total amount budgeted: US$ 3,928.00**
2. **Total expenditure: US$ 4 721,90**
3. **Request to change budget categories, including requests to make use of «contingencies»**

No requested budget categories change.

4. **Information regarding the liquidity position of the project and the planned budget for the next reporting period:**

| Total RSPB contribution in accordance with project agreement | Instalments received to date | Total expenditure to date | Balance of funds still pending |
|---|---|---|---|
| US$ 4 928.00 | US$ 3 928.00 | US$ 4 721.90 | **US$ - 793.90** |

SUMMARY BUDGET (See ANNEX 5)

# ANNEX 1. Field forms, monitoring results for 6 key monitoring sites

**Fig. 1: Dynamics of water level at the floodplain of Uday river on the border of Chernigiv and Poltava regions**

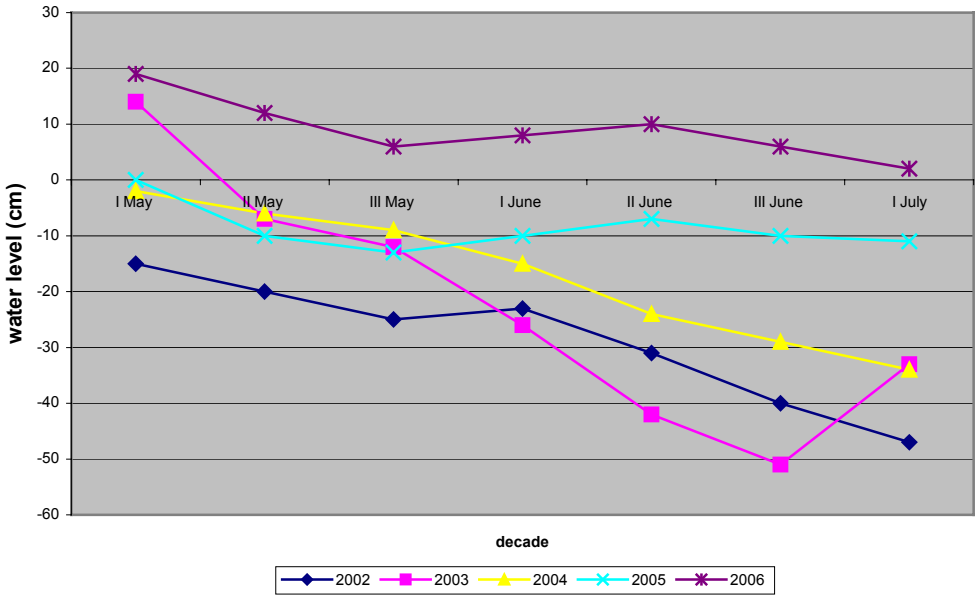
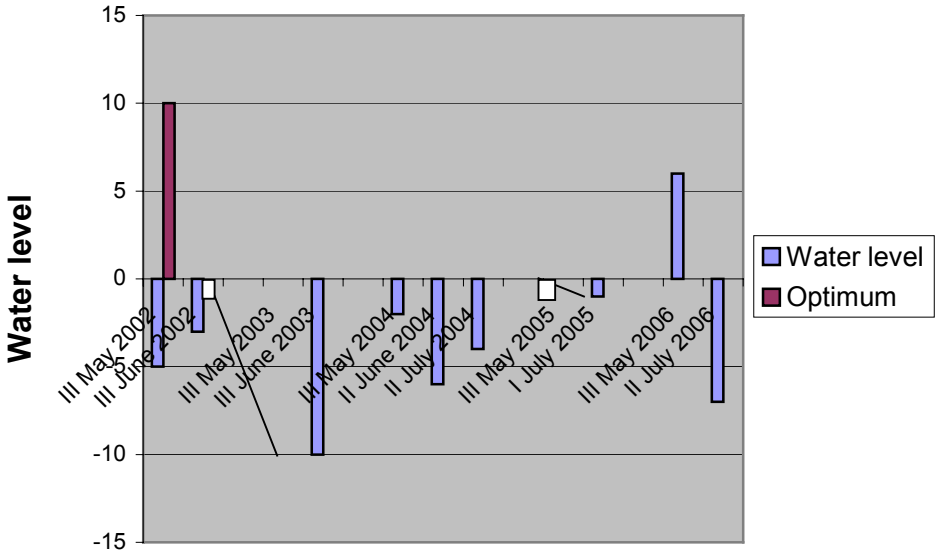



**Fig. 2: Dynamics of water level at the monitoring plot in the valley of Supoy**



**Site Data Sheet 1**

# BirdLife International Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team
# Site Data Sheet

## A - General Information

| (1) Site name (bold letters) | (2) location: position to next village/town, country, region, district; | (3) site no in map |
|---|---|---|
| Key breeding habitat in valley of the Supoy river | between villages Vilne, Bezuglivka, Ozerne and Mala Berezanka; Ukraine, Kyiv reg., Zgurivka and Yagotin districts<br>Geographical co-ordinates: 50°25‘ N 31°45‘ E | |

| (4) area in total (ha) | (5) pure sedge mire area (ha) with subtypes | (5) area suitable for Aquatic Warbler (ha) |
|---|---|---|
| 800 | ~ 300 | 200-220 |

| (7) years and total estimate of Aquatic Warbler population | | (8) years and total number of counted male Aquatic Warblers | |
|---|---|---|---|
| year: | estimate: | year: | counted males: |
| 1996 | 150-200 | 1996 | 128 |
| 1997 | 150-200 | 1997 | |
| 1999 | 120-140 | 1999 | 119 |
| 2000 | 100-120 | 2000 | 92 |
| 2001 | 120 | 2001 | 72 |
| 2002 | 90-100 | 2002 | 47 |
| 2003 | 90-100 | 2003 | 35 |
| 2004 | 110-130 | 2004 | 20 |
| 2005 | 160-180 | 2005 | 101 |
| 2006 | 100-110 | 2006 | 72 |

| (9) Compiler (name, address): Poluda Anatoliy | (9) date of latest update: October of 2006 |
|---|---|

## B - Information on single sunset counts

| (11) No./name of plot | (12) plot size (ha) | (13) date of count | (14) number of counted AW | (15) density (males/km²) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| monitoring plot | 26 | 28.05.96 | 30 | 115 |
| Monitoring plot | 26 | 24.06.97 | 25 | 96 |
| Monitoring plot | 26 | 10.06.99 | 24 | 92 |
| Monitoring plot | 26 | 26.05.00 | 26 | 100 |
| Monitoring plot | 26 | 28.06.01 | 18 | 69 |
| Monitoring plot | 26 | 27.05.02 | 16 | 62 |
| Monitoring plot | 26 | 16.06.03 | 15 | 58 |
| Monitoring plot | 30 | 27.05.02 | 18 | 60 |
| Monitoring plot | 30 | 30.06.02 | 18 | 60 |
| Monitoring plot | 30 | 23.05.03 | 10 | 33 |
| Monitoring plot | 30 | 19.06.03 | 17 | 57 |
| Monitoring plot | 30 | 21.05.04 | 17 | 57 |
| Monitoring plot | 30 | 16.06.04 | 20 | 67 |
| Monitoring plot | 30 | 18.07.04 | 9 | 27 |
| Monitoring plot | 30 | 24.05.05 | 14 | 47 |
| Monitoring plot | 30 | 06.07.05 | 11 | 37 |
| Plot 1(southern) | 56 | 06.07.05 | 50 | 89 |
| Plot 1(southern) | 20 | 20.07.05 | 22 | 110 |
| Plot 2 | 18 | 20.07/05 | 15 | 83 |
| Monitoring plot | 30 | 31.05.06 | 13 | 43 |
| Plot 1 (central part) | 17 | 31.05.06 | 8 | 47 |
| Monitoring plot | 30 | 12.07.06 | 14 | 47 |
| Plot 1 (central part) | 17 | 12.07.06 | 8 | 47 |
| Plot 1 (southern part) | 60 | 12.07.06 | 24 | 40 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Plot 2 | 64 | 13.07.06 | 26 | 41 |
| | | | | |

## C - Detailed information on habitat and bird community

(16) detailed habitat description: vegetation structure, water level and condition, human impact (cutting, burning, drainage, ...), coverage and height of shrubs; coverage and height of tussocks; moss cover; indicate date(s) of first description.

Mesotrophic or slightly eutrophic open sedge fen mire.

The habitat has two plots. Plot 1 is located along the western border of the river floodplain. It is a strip almost 6 km long and 200 m wide. The area of this territory is 110-120 ha. Plot 2 occupies a territory in the eastern part of the valley (the area is about 90-100 ha). The site strip has a length of 3,2 km and a width of up to 300 m.

A vegetative background is composed of sedges, horse-tail, cat's-tail; separate willow bushes.

Optimum water level is 5-10 cm and its fluctuations on this site of the floodplain are not as significant as on other sites. It could be explained by the fact that there is a large pond - the Supoy lake down the stream, due to which there is more or less stable hydrological regime in the breeding habitat.
The habitat is not subject to mowing.
Date of first description: 16.06.1995

(17) changes in habitat conditions (date, description of changes in relation to first description)

| date/year: | description of changes: |
|---|---|
| Spring 2000 | 6 ha of monitoring plot was burnt |
| | |
| | |

(18) characteristic plant species and abundance in 4 categories (+, ++, +++, ++++)

| | |
|---|---|
| C. rostrata +++ | |
| Carex appropinquata +++ | |
| C. omskiana +++ | |
| Equisetum fluviatile ++++ | |
| Menyanthes trifoliate +++ | |
| Typha latifolia +++ | |
| Salix cinerea ++ | |
| Dacthylorhiza fuchiss + | |
| Rumex confertus + | |
| | |

(19) other bird species observed (give numbers of breeding pairs and abundance in bp/km², if possible)

| bird species (data of 2002) | number (30 ha) | abundance | bird species | number | abundance |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Acrocephalus schoenobaenus | 40 | 184 | Saxicola rubetra | 2 | 7 |
| Anthus pratensis | 2 | | | | |
| Asio flammeus | 1 | | | | |
| Emberiza schoeniclus | 23 | 77 | | | |
| Botaurus stellaris | 2 | | | | |
| Gallinago gallinago | 5 | | | | |
| Locustella luscinioides | 2 | | | | |
| Luscinia svecica | 6 | 20 | | | |
| Motacilla citriola | 5 | 17 | | | |
| (20) other animal species observed: | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

## D - Threats and protection status

| |
|---|
| (21) legal protection status:<br>Hydrological zakaznik of national importance "Usivsky" |
| (22) description of threats: |
| (23) conservation action needed: |

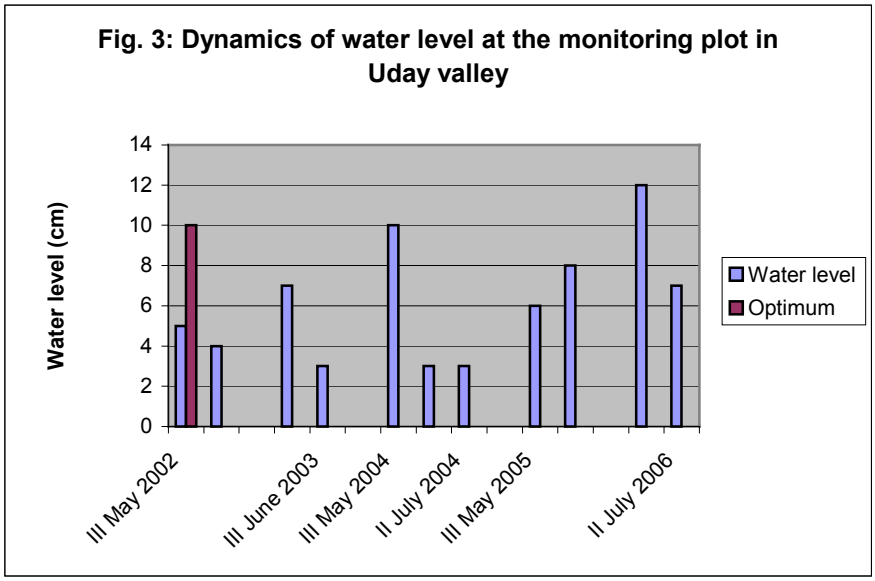



**Fig. 3: Dynamics of water level at the monitoring plot in Uday valley**

## Site Data Sheet 2

# BirdLife International Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team
# Site Data Sheet

## A - General Information

| (1) Site name (bold letters) | (2) location: position to next village/town, country, region, district; | (3) site no in map |
|---|---|---|
| **Key breeding habitat in the valley of Uday** | between villages Doroginka, Bakayivka, Monastirishche and Komarivka; Ukraine, Chernigiv reg., Ichnya district<br><br>Geographical co-ordinates**: 50°51‘ N 32°09‘ E** | |

| (4) area in total (ha) | (5) pure sedge mire area (ha) with subtypes | (5) area suitable for Aquatic Warbler (ha) |
|---|---|---|
| | 400 | 320 |

| (7) years and total estimate of Aquatic Warbler population | | (8) years and total number of counted male Aquatic Warblers | |
|---|---|---|---|
| year: | estimate: | year: | counted males: |
| 1997 | 250 | 1997 | 101 |
| 1998 | 250 | 1998 | 110 |
| 1999 | 205 | 1999 | 106 |
| 2000 | 140-160 | 2000 | 50 |
| 2001 | 220-250 | 2001 | 40 |
| 2002 | 280-300 | 2002 | 126 |
| 2003 | 270-290 | 2003 | 62 |
| 2004 | 300-320 | 2004 | 46 |
| 2005 | 340-360 | 2005 | 100 |
| 2006 | 280-300 | 2006 | 45 |

| (9) Compiler (name, address): Poluda Anatoly | (9) date of latest update: October of 2006 |
|---|---|

## B - Information on single sunset counts

| (11) No./name of plot | (12) plot size (ha) | (13) date of count | (14) number of counted AW | (15) density (males/km²) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| monitoring plot | 36 | 27.06.97 | 35 | 97 |
| monitoring plot | 36 | 09.06.98 | ~40 | 111 |
| monitoring plot | 36 | 07.06.99 | 31 | 86 |
| monitoring plot | 36 | 22.06.00 | 18 | 50 |
| monitoring plot | 36 | 11.07.01 | 40 | 111 |
| monitoring plot | 36 | 29.05.02 | 34 | 94 |
| monitoring plot | 36 | 01.07.02 | 42 | 117 |
| monitoring plot | 36 | 22.05.03 | 26 | 72 |
| monitoring plot | 36 | 26.06.03 | 42 | 117 |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 29.05.02 | 31 | 103 |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 01.07.02 | 39 | 130 |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 22.05.03 | 23 | 77 |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 26.06.03 | 37 | 123 |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 26.05.04 | 29 | 97 |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 15.06.04 | 41 | 137 |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 19.07.04 | 33 | 110 |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 20.05.05 | 41 | 137 |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 04.07.05 | 54 | 180 |
| Plot (central part) | 20 | 04.07.05 | 14 | 70 |
| Plot (N-W part) | 44 | 05.07.05 | 32 | 73 |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 07.06.06 | 22 | 73 |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 17.07.06 | 30 | 100 |
| Plot 1 (eastern part) | 18 | 17.07.06 | 15 | 83 |
| | | | | |

## C - Detailed information on habitat and bird community

(16) detailed habitat description: vegetation structure, water level and condition, human impact (cutting, burning, drainage, ...), coverage and height of shrubs; coverage and height of tussocks; moss cover; indicate date(s) of first description.

Mesotrophic or slightly eutrophic open sedge fen mire.
The main part of the population (Plot 1) is located in Zhevak mire. Aquatic Warblers occupy 150-200-meter strip from mire sides. The area suitable for AW is 300 ha. The other part of AW habitat (Plot 2) is located in the western part of a floodplain between villages Doroginka and Bakayivka. This site is 2,0 km long and 70-100m wide (20 ha). Now the breeding habitat is located in ”Doroginsky” hydrological zakaznik of national importance.
A vegetative background is composed of sedges, horse-tail, cat’s-tail; separate willow bushes.

Optimum water level is 1-10 cm and its fluctuations at this site of the floodplain are not as significant, as on other sites. This is due to an adjusting sluice located on the river 300 m south of Monastirishche - Zaudayka road. This construction has very large importance for all parts of the river floodplain up the stream.
The most part of habitat is subject to mowing.
Date of first description: 27.06.97

(17) changes in habitat conditions (date, description of changes in relation to first description)

| date/year: | description of changes: |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |

(18) characteristic plant species and abundance in 4 categories (+, ++, +++, ++++)

| | |
|---|---|
| Carex pseudocyperus ++++ | |
| C. omskiana ++++ | |
| Equisetum fluviatile +++ | |
| Menyanthes trifoliate +++ | |
| Typha latifolia ++ | |
| Salix cinerea + | |
| | |

| | |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |

(19) other bird species observed (give numbers of breeding pairs and abundance in bp/km², if possible)

| bird species (data of 2003) | number (30 ha) | abundance | bird species | number | abundance |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Acrocephalus palustris | 1 | | | | |
| Acrocephalus schoenobaunus | 49 | 163 | | | |
| Anthus pratensis | 3 | | | | |
| Emberiza schoeniclus | 22 | 73 | | | |
| Asio flammeus | + | | | | |
| Gallinago gallinago | 5-8 | | | | |
| Limosa limosa | 2 | | | | |
| Locustella luscinioides | 1 | | | | |
| Motacilla citriola | 6 | 20 | | | |
| Motacilla flava | 2 | 7 | | | |
| Porzana porzana | + | | | | |
| Saxicola rubetra | 2 | 7 | | | |
| Vanelus vanelus | 3 | | | | |
| | | | | | |

(20) other animal species observed:

| | |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |

## D - Threats and protection status

(21) legal protection status:
Hydrological zakaznik of national importance ”Doroginsky”

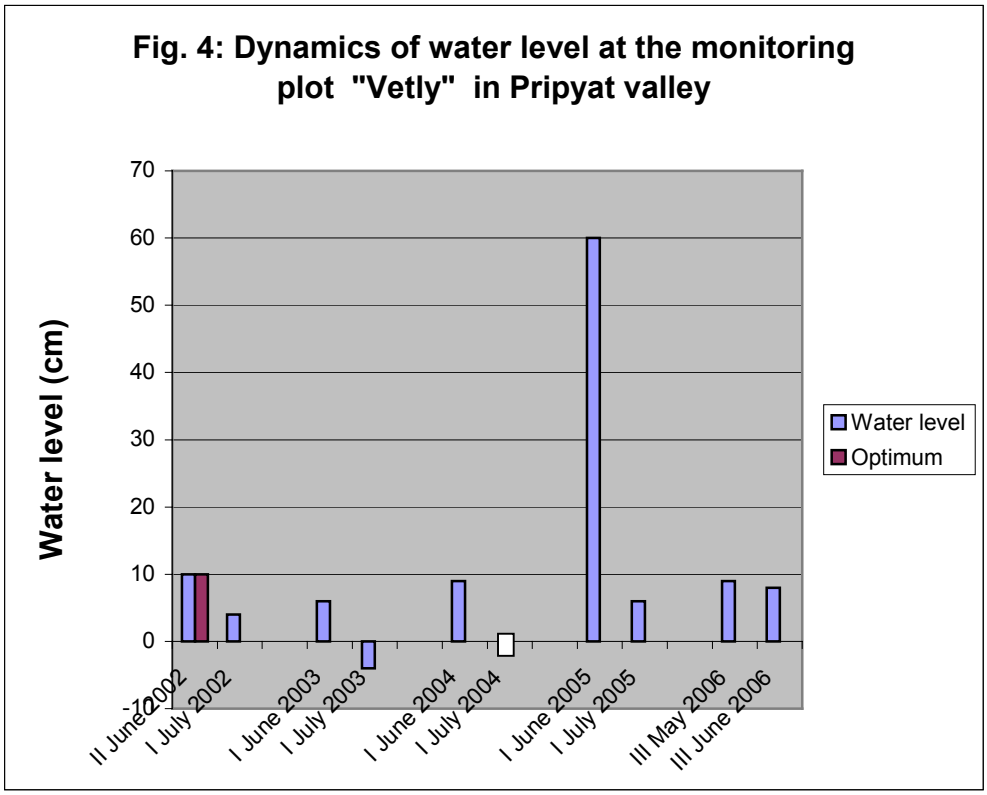
(22) description of threats:
After privatization of collective-farm’s lands, the situation with marsh mowing has changed. Now, less than 50 % of area is subject to mowing. On the sites, where during some years grass is not cut, there are some changes in vegetative cover.

(23) conservation action needed:

**Table 1:** Results of AW survey at the monitoring plot “Vetly”

| **Date of survey** | **Number of singing males per monitoring route (1,5 km )** | **Population estimate on the monitoring plot (part of plot 1) (175 ha)** |
|---|---|---|
| 16.06.2002 | 17 | 80-90 (for 150 ha) |
| 09.07.2002 | 3 | |
| 09.06.2003 | 19 | 90-100 (for 150 ha) |
| 05.07.2003 | 11 | |
| 05.06.2004 | 25 | 140-150 |
| 08.07.2004 | 8 | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 05.06.2005 | 10 | 50-60 |
| 11.07.2005 | 2 | |
| 21.05.2006 | 10 | 50-60 |
| 28.06.2006 | 6 | |




## Site Data Sheet 3

**BirdLife International Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team**
**Site Data Sheet**

**A - General Information**

| (1) Site name (bold letters) | (2) location: position to next village/town, country, region, district; | (3) site no in map |
|---|---|---|
| **Key breeding habitat in valleys of Pripyat and Lower Tsir** | East of the village Vetly to villages Birky and Tsir; Ukraine, Volyn reg., Lubeshiv district<br>Geographical co-ordinates: **51°52‘ N 25°13‘ E** | |

| (4) area in total (ha) | (5) pure sedge mire area (ha) with subtypes | (5) area suitable for Aquatic Warbler (ha) |
|---|---|---|
| more 4000 | | Plot 1 – no less 1400<br>Plot 2 – 500 |

| (7) years and total estimate of Aquatic Warbler population | | (8) years and total number of counted male Aquatic Warblers | |
|---|---|---|---|
| year: | estimate: | year: | counted males: |
| 1996 / 1998 | 700-800 | 1996 / 1998 | 462 |
| 1999 | ~400-500 | 1999 | 68 |
| 2002 | 880-1150 (Report – 2002) | 2002 | 43 |
| 2003 | 600-700 (Recalculation for 1300 ha) | 2003 | 54 |
| 2004 | 800-900 | 2004 | 86 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 1400-1600 | 2005 | 171 |
| 2006 | 900-1100 | 2006 | 106 |

(9) Compiler (name, address): Poluda Anatoly

(9) date of latest update: October of 2006

## B - Information on single sunset counts

| (11) No./name of plot | (12) plot size (ha) | (13) date of count | (14) number of counted AW | (15) density (males/km²) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Plot 2 | 170 | 26.06.98 | 78 | 46 |
| Plot 2 | 86 | 26.06.98 | 68 | 79 |
| Plot 2 | 112 | 03.07.99 | 41 | 37 |
| Plot 2 | 58 | 03.07.99 | 27 | 47 |
| Plot 2 | 18 | 15.06.02 | 11 | 37 |
| Plot 2 | 60 | 15.06.02 | 15 | 25 |
| Plot 1 (monitoring plot) | 30 | 16.06.2002 | 17 | 57 |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 09.07.2002 | 3 | |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 09.06.2003 | 19 | 63 |
| Plot 1 | 60 | 12.06.2003 | 21 | 35 |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 05.07.2003 | 11 | |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 05.06.2004 | 25 | 83 |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 08.07.2004 | 8 | |
| Plot 1 | 98 | 06-07.06.2004 | 55 | 56 |
| Plot 2 | 60 | 08.06.2004 | 6 | 10 |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 05.06.2005 | ~ 10-15 | 33 |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 11.07.2005 | 2 | |
| Plot 1 | 156 | 13.06.2005 | 169 | 108 |
| Plot 2 | 72 | 13.06.2005 | 44 | 61 |
| Plot 1 | 64 | 13.07.2005 | 81 | 127 |
| Plot 2 | 22 | 13.07.2005 | 24 | 109 |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 21.05.2006 | 10 | 33 |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 28.06.2006 | 6 | 20 |
| Plot 1(dam 1–upper canal) | 64 | 20.05.06 | 36 | 56 |
| Plot 1(dam 1–upper canal) | 64 | 30.06.06 | 31 | 48 |
| Plot 2 | 20 | 30.06.06 | 11 | 55 |
| | | | | |

## C - Detailed information on habitat and bird community

(16) detailed habitat description: vegetation structure, water level and condition, human impact (cutting, burning, drainage, ...), coverage and height of shrubs; coverage and height of tussocks; moss cover; indicate date(s) of first description.

Rich floodplain mire in valleys of Pripyat and Lower Tsir. Earlier, we marked out three plots in this area. Now we consider only two plots. Plot 1 occupies the Pripyat floodplain south-east of Vetly (including mires of Torople, Zamalitsa, Zapastushye). The area is more than 3,000 hectares. However, not all the area is suitable for nesting of Aquatic Warbler. There are large plots of bushes or cane, as well as dry places. Most part of AW habitats are sedge hayfields. Now, we know 1400 ha of suitable sites.

Plot 2. AW occupies habitats with dominating rush and cereals. The most part of this area is used as a pasture. Nearly 10% of this area is hayfields (Musheve). The area of suitable biotopes is near 500 ha.

Water level in habitats is determined by Pripyat river (north sites of Plot 1) and Tsir (Plot 2 and southern part of Plot 1)
Date of first description: May, 1996.

(17) changes in habitat conditions (date, description of changes in relation to first description)

| date/year: | description of changes: |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |

(18) characteristic plant species and abundance in 4 categories (+, ++, +++, ++++) for monitoring plot

| | |
|---|---|
| Carex riparia ++++ | |
| C. acuta ++++ | |
| Glyceria maxima +++ | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Typha latifolia +++ | |
| Calamagrostis canescens ++ | |
| Salix cinerea ++ | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

(19) other bird species observed (give numbers of breeding pairs and abundance in bp/km², if possible)

| bird species ((data of 2002-2003) | number | abundance | bird species | number | abundance |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Acrocephalus arundinaceus | 2 | 7 | | | |
| Acrocephalus schoenobaenus | 23 | 77 | | | |
| Emberiza schoeniclus | 23 | 77 | | | |
| Circus aeruginosus | 1 | | | | |
| Locustella naevia | 7 | 23 | | | |
| Luscinia svecica | 1 | 3 | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

(20) other animal species observed:

| | |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |

## D - Threats and protection status

(21) legal protection status:

Plot 1 is located on territories of three protected areas: hydrological zakaznik of local importance "Vetlyvsky", hydrological zakaznik of local importance "Girkivsky", hydrological zakaznik of local importance "Birkivsky". Plot 2 is located on non-protected territories.

(22) description of threats:

Habitats are heavily impacted by vegetation succession due to alterations of the water regime and cessation of traditional land-use practices (hand scything, winter burning, low-intensity grazing).
In the last 2-3 years, there is an excessive grazing by horses and cows on Plot 2 in.

(23) conservation action needed:

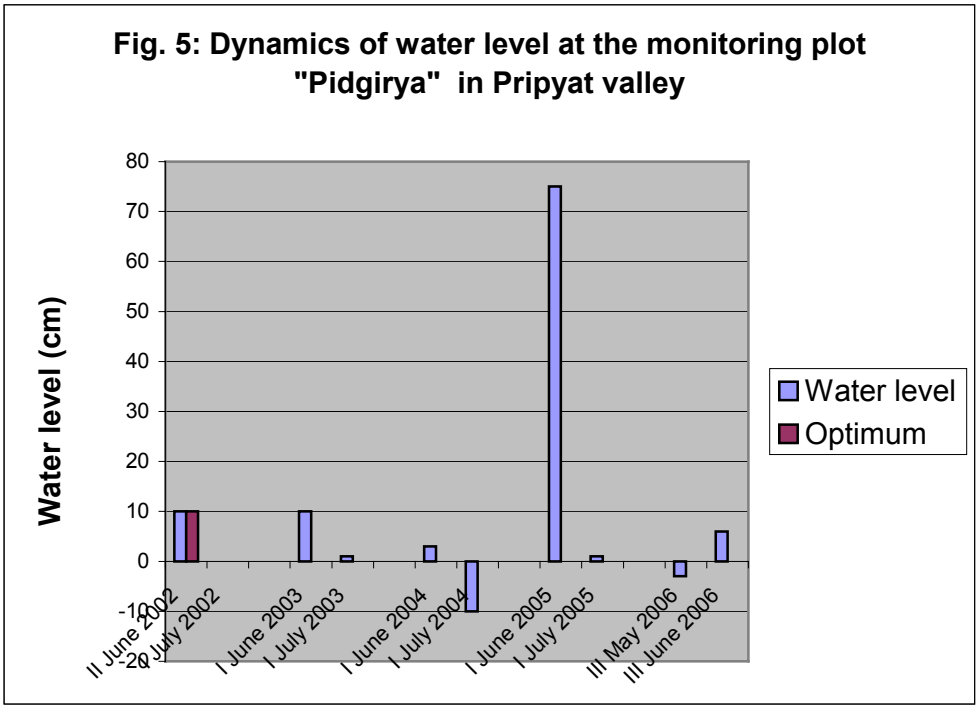



**Table 2:** Results of AW survey at the monitoring plot "Pidgirya"

| Date of survey | Number of singing males per monitoring route (1,4 km, 26 ha) | Population estimation (120 ha) (singing males) |
|---|---|---|
| 20.06.2002 | 30 | 130-150 |
| 11.06.2003 | 14 | 60-70 |
| 07.07.2003 | 9 | |
| 04.06.2004 | 24 | 100-120 |
| 11.07.2004 | 19 | |
| 07.06.2005 | 0 | |
| 15.07.2005 | 13 | 50-70 |
| 22.05.2006 | 16 (28 ha) | |
| 27.06.2006 | 20 (28 ha) | 80-90 |

## Site Data Sheet 4

| **BirdLife International Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team Site Data Sheet** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **A - General Information** | | |
| (1) Site name (bold letters)<br>**Key breeding site in the Pripyat valley between Rechitsa and Pidgirya** | (2) location: position to next village/town, country, region, district;<br>between Rechitsa and Pidgirya; Ukraine, Volyn reg., Ratne district<br><br>Geographical co-ordinates: 51°46‘ N 24°43‘ E | (3) site no in map |
| (4) area in total (ha) | (5) pure sedge mire area (ha) with subtypes | (5) area suitable for Aquatic Warbler (ha) |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 800 | | 350 |

| (7) years and total estimate of Aquatic Warbler population<br>year: estimate: | | (8) years and total number of counted male Aquatic Warblers<br>year: counted males: | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1996 / 1997 | 180-220 | 1996 / 1997 | 12+13 |
| 1999 | 10-15 | 1999 | 4 |
| 2002 | 340-400 | 2002 | 32 |
| 2003 | 180-220 | 2003 | 14 |
| 2004 | 300-350 | 2004 | 23 |
| 2005 | 180-220 | 2005 | 13 |
| 2006 | 240-270 | 2006 | 20 |

| (9) Compiler (name, address): Poluda Anatoly | (9) date of latest update:<br>October of 2006 |
|---|---|

## B - Information on single sunset counts

| (11) No./name of plot | (12) plot size (ha) | (13) date of count | (14) number of counted AW | (15) density (males/km²) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| monitoring plot | 24 | 20.06.2002 | 30 | 125 |
| monitoring plot | 26 | 11.06.2003 | 14 | 54 |
| monitoring plot | 26 | 07.07.2003 | 9 | |
| monitoring plot | 26 | 04.06.2004 | 24 | 92 |
| monitoring plot | 26 | 11.07.2004 | 19 | |
| monitoring plot | **26** | 07.06.2005 | 0 | |
| monitoring plot | **26** | 15.07.2005 | 13 | 50 |
| monitoring plot | **28** | 22.05.2006 | 16 | |
| monitoring plot | **28** | 27.06.2006 | 20 | 71 |
| | | | | |

## C - Detailed information on habitat and bird community

(16) detailed habitat description: vegetation structure, water level and condition, human impact (cutting, burning, drainage, ...), coverage and height of shrubs; coverage and height of tussocks; moss cover; indicate date(s) of first description.

Rich floodplain mire in Prypyat river valleys. The total area of the habitat with monitoring route is about 120 ha. Most of suitable AW habitats are sedge hay fields, which are subject to agricultural use.

Water condition of the habitats depends on Pripyat river water level – all of them are situated very closely to the river. There is no problem with overgrowing shrubs within the biotopes on this part of the river.
Date of first description: May, 1996

(17) changes in habitat conditions (date, description of changes in relation to first description)

| date/year: | description of changes: |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

(18) characteristic plant species and abundance in 4 categories (+, ++, +++, ++++)
for monitoring plot

| | |
|---|---|
| Carex riparia ++++ | |
| C. acuta ++++ | |
| Typha latifolia ++ | |
| Salix cinerea + | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

(19) other bird species observed (give numbers of breeding pairs and abundance in bp/km², if possible)

| bird species (data of 2003-2004) | number (26 ha) | abundance | bird species | number | abundance |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Acrocephalus arundinaceus | 6 | 23 | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Acrocephalus schoenobaenus | 21 | 81 | | | |
| Emberiza schoeniclus | 11 | 42 | | | |
| Locustella naevia | 7 | 27 | | | |
| Gallinago gallinago | 8 birds | | | | |
| Tringa tetanus | 5 pairs | | | | |
| Limosa limosa | 2 pairs | | | | |

(20) other animal species observed:

| | |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

## D - Threats and protection status

(21) legal protection status:
The habitats are located on the territory of two protected areas: hydrological zakaznik of local importance "Rechitsky" and hydrological zakaznik of local importance "Shchedrogirsky".

(22) description of threats:
In these habitats, there frequently is a high level of water due close location to the river. The dam on a road Pidgirya – Shchedrogir also has high significance for water level control.

(23) conservation action needed:

**Fig. 6: Dynamics of water level at the monitoring plot in Vizhery mire**

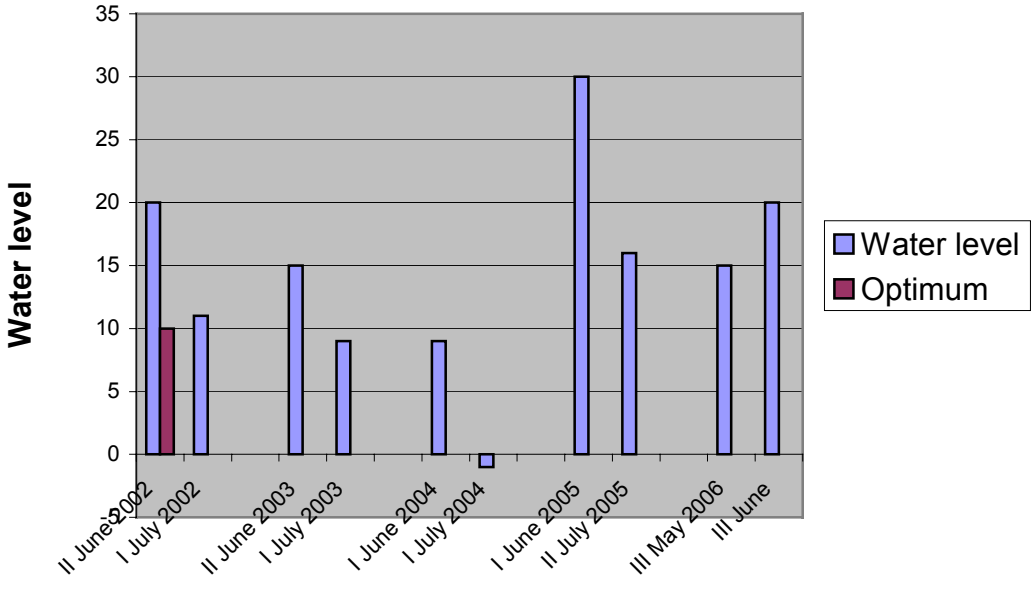


**Table 3:** Results of AW survey at the breeding habitat in Vizhery mire

| Date of survey | Number of singing males per monitoring route (1,5 km ) | Population estimation (275 ha) (singing males) |
|---|---|---|
| 19.06.2002 | 37 | 320-360 |
| 10.07.2002 | 11 | |
| 10.06.2003 | 32 | 280-300 |
| 06.07.2003 | 28 | |
| 03.06.2004 | 31 | 270-290 |
| 10.07.2004 | 15 | |
| 06.06.2005 | 8 | |
| 16.07.2005 | 35 | 310-330 |
| 23.05.2006 | 24 | |
| 26.06.2006 | 36 | 320-340 |

## Site Data Sheet 5

### BirdLife International AW Conservation Team
### Site Data Sheet

**A - General Information**

| (1) Site name (bold letters) | (2) location: position to next village/town, country, region, district; | (3) site no in map |
|---|---|---|
| **Key breeding site in the Vizhery mire in the lower Turya valley** | Between villages Khoteshiv and Melniki-Mostische; Ukraine, Volyn reg., Kamin-Kashirsky district<br><br>Geographical co-ordinates**:** 51°42‘ N 24°50‘ E | |

| (4) area in total (ha) | (5) pure sedge mire area (ha) with subtypes | (5) area suitable for AW (ha) |
|---|---|---|
| 400 | | 275 |

| (7) years and total estimate of AW population | | (8) years and total number of counted male AWs | |
|---|---|---|---|
| year: | estimate: | year: | counted males: |
| 1997 | 250 | 1997 | 150 |
| 1999 | 130-150 | 1999 | 28 |
| 2002 | 320-360 | 2002 | 37 |
| 2003 | 280-300 | 2003 | ~90 |
| 2004 | 270-290 | 2004 | 31 |
| 2005 | 310-330 | 2005 | 35 |
| 2006 | 320-340 | 2006 | 36 |

| (9) Compiler (name, address): Poluda Anatoly | (10) date of latest update: October of 2006 |
|---|---|

**B - Information on single sunset counts**

| (11) No./name of plot | (12) plot size (ha) | (13) date of count | (14) number of counted AW | (15) density (males/km²) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 66 | 30.06.99 | 28 | 42 |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 19.06.02 | 37 | 123 |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 10.07.02 | 11 | |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 10.06.03 | 32 | 107 |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 06.07.03 | 28 | 93 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| monitoring plot | 30 | 03.06.04 | 31 | 103 |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 10.07.04 | 15 | 50 |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 06.06.2005 | 8 | |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 16.07.2005 | 35 | 117 |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 23.05.2006 | 24 | 80 |
| monitoring plot | 30 | 26.06.2006 | 36 | 120 |

## C - Detailed information on habitat and bird community

(16) detailed habitat description: vegetation structure, water level and condition, human impact (cutting, burning, drainage, ...), coverage and height of shrubs; coverage and height of tussocks; moss cover; indicate date(s) of first description.

Rich floodplain mire in Turya valley. The most part of habitat is hayfield. Grassy cover has a height of 0,8-1,2 m, its density is medium. The vegetation background is composed of sedges – in hassocks and dispersed cereals, cotton grass, ferns, and mints. The common plant is Typha latifolia (15-20 plants per 100 sq. m).
Level of water in habitats is rather stable - during the years of the control of this mire we have not see either very high or very low water level.
Date of first description: May, 1997

(17) changes in habitat conditions (date, description of changes in relation to first description)

| date/year: | description of changes: |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |

(18) characteristic plant species and abundance in 4 categories (+, ++, +++, ++++)
for monitoring plot

| | |
|---|---|
| Carex omskiana ++++ | Menyanthes trifoliata ++ |
| C. rostrata ++++ | Comarum palustre ++ |
| Glyceria maxima +++ | |
| Typha latifolia ++ | |
| Calamagrostis canescens +++ | |
| Salix cinerea ++ | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

(19) other bird species observed (give numbers of breeding pairs and abundance in bp/km², if possible)

| bird species (2004) | number | abundance | bird species | number | abundance |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Acrocephalus schoenobaenus | 18 | 60 | Silvia communis | 1 | 3 |
| Emberiza schoeniclus | 10 | 33 | Porzana porzana | + | |
| Locustella naevia | 4 | 13 | Crex crex | 2 | 7 |
| Locustella luscinioides | 1 | 3 | Gallinago gallinago | 6 birds | |
| Anthus pratensis | 3 | 10 | Limosa limosa | 1 pair | |
| Carpodacus erythrinus | 3 | 10 | | | |

(20) other animal species observed:

| | |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

## D - Threats and protection status

(21) legal protection status:

The narrow strip of 300-400 m width along Turya river is included in the hydrological zakaznik of local importance "Tursky". The main part of the mire is not a protected area.

(22) description of threats:

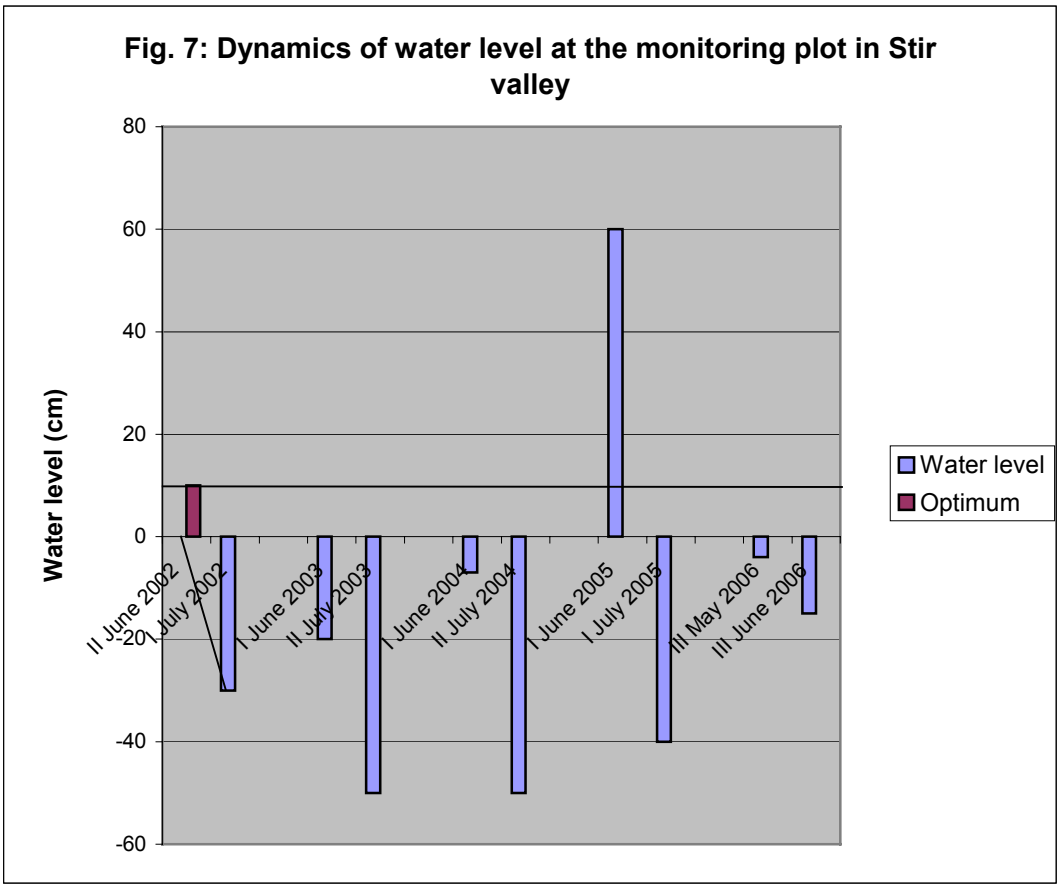
There were noted expansions of reed and bush to sedge sites in some parts of the habitat. The constraining factor here is a regular mowing of these plants. A big part of this territory is subject to annual redistribution of hayfields. As a result, people who use sites temporally are not interested in clearing sites from reed and bush. Due to this, it is advised to lobby the local authorities with a proposal of leasing sites for longer periods (up to 5 years).

| |
|---|
| (23) conservation action needed:<br>It is necessary to create protected territory in all Vizhery mire. |

**Table 4:** Results of Aquatic Warbler survey on the breeding habitat in Stir valley

| Date of survey | Number of singing males per monitoring rout (1,4 km ) | Population estimate | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Monitoring site (40 ha) | Total (165 ha) |
| 14.06.2002 | 12 | | |
| 08.07.2002 | 19 | 30 | 100-120 |
| 08.06.2003 | 20 | 30 | 100-120 |
| 03.07.2003 | 14 | | |
| 01.06.2004 | 15 | 20 | |
| 15.07.2004 | 26 | 35 | 120-130 |
| 04.06.2005 | 0 | | |
| 17.07.2005 | 7 | 10 | 70-80 |
| 24.05.2006 | 11 | 15 | |
| 25.06.2006 | 7 | 10 | 90-100 |

**Fig. 7: Dynamics of water level at the monitoring plot in Stir valley**



**Site Data Sheet 6**

# BirdLife International AW Conservation Team
# Site Data Sheet

## A - General Information

| (1) Site name (bold letters) | (2) location: position to next village/town, country, region, district; | (3) site no in map |
|---|---|---|
| **Key breeding site Middle Stir valley** | near village Chetvertnya; Ukraine, Volyn reg., Rozhishche and Manevichy districts<br><br>Geographical co-ordinates: 51°04‘ N 25°28‘ E | |

| (4) area in total (ha) | (5) pure sedge mire area (ha) with subtypes | (5) area suitable for AW (ha) |
|---|---|---|
| 800 | 200 | 165 + 15 ha (in 2006) |

| (7) years and total estimate of AW population | | (8) years and total number of counted male AWs | |
|---|---|---|---|
| year: | estimate: | year: | counted males: |
| 1998 | 150 | 1998 | 51 |
| 1999 | 10 | 1999 | 6 |
| 2002 | 95-130 | 2002 | 21 |
| 2003 | 100-120 | 2003 | 26 |
| 2004 | 120-130 | 2004 | 43 |
| 2005 | 70-80 | 2005 | 17 |
| 2006 | 90-100 | 2006 | 21 |

| (9) Compiler (name, address): Poluda Anatoly | (10) date of latest update: October of 2006 |
|---|---|

## B - Information on single sunset counts

| (11) No./name of plot | (12) plot size (ha) | (13) date of count | (14) number of counted AW | (15) density (males/km²) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Plot 1 | 25 | 23.06.98 | 22 | 88 |
| monitoring plot | 28 | 14.06.02 | 12 | |
| monitoring plot | 28 | 08.07.02 | 19 | 68 |
| monitoring plot | 28 | 08.06.03 | 20 | 71 |
| monitoring plot | 28 | 03.07.03 | 14 | |
| monitoring plot | 28 | 01.06.04 | 15 | 54 |
| monitoring plot | 28 | 15.07.04 | 26 | 93 |
| monitoring plot | 28 | 04.06.05 | 0 | |
| monitoring plot | 28 | 17.07.05 | 7 | 25 |
| Plot 3 | 30 | 02.06.04 | 17 | 57 |
| monitoring plot | 28 | 24.05.2006 | 11 | 39 |
| monitoring plot | 28 | 25.06.2006 | 7 | 25 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

## C - Detailed information on habitat and bird community

(16) detailed habitat description: vegetation structure, water level and condition, human impact (cutting, burning, drainage, ...), coverage and height of shrubs; coverage and height of tussocks; moss cover; indicate date(s) of first description.

Rich floodplain mire in Stir valley. The most part of the habitat is hayfield. Grassy cover has a height of 0,8-1,2 m, its density was medium. The vegetation background is composed of sedges – in hassocks and dispersed, cereals, ferns, and mints.

Three plots have been used there for monitoring:

Plot 1: part of the right-bank floodplain of Stir between Chetvertnya and Godomichi. The area of AW habitat is 40-50 ha.

Plot 2: Part of the right-bank floodplain of Stir north-west of Chetvertnya. The area of AW habitat is about 15 ha. In 1998, 20 males were counted here.

Plot 3: Part of the Stir floodplain near south-eastern outskirts of village Naviz (left bank). The

area of suitable habitats for AW is 110 ha.

The monitoring route is set on Plot 1. It passes in 100-150 m along the southern side of the river floodplain. Total length of the route is 1,4 km and the monitoring area is 28 ha.

The level of water in habitats very strongly changes and depends on Stir river.

Date of first description: June, 1998

(17) changes in habitat conditions (date, description of changes in relation to first description)

| date/year: | description of changes: |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

(18) characteristic plant species and abundance in 4 categories (+, ++, +++, ++++)

for monitoring plot

| | |
|---|---|
| Carex acuta ++++ | Menyanthes trifoliate +++ |
| Equisetum fluviatile ++++ | Typha latifolia ++ |
| Glyceria maxima +++ | Salix cinerea ++ |
| Calamagrostis canescens +++ | |
| Phalaroides arundinacea +++ | |
| | |
| | |

(19) other bird species observed (give numbers of breeding pairs and abundance in bp/km², if possible)

| bird species (data of 2002-2004) | number | abundance | bird species | number | abundance |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Acrocephalus schoenobaenus | 22 | 79 | Rallus aquaticus | + | |
| Anthus pratensis | 2 | 7 | | | |
| Circus pygargus | 1 | | Saxicola rubetra | 1 | |
| Crex crex | 3 | 11 | Gallinago gallinago | 2 birds | |
| Emberiza schoeniclus | 6 | 21 | Vanellus vanellus | 1 | |
| Limosa limosa | 1 | | | | |
| Locustella naevia | 5 | 18 | | | |
| Luscinia svecica | 1 | | | | |
| Motacilla flava | 5 | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

(20) other animal species observed:

| | |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

## D - Threats and protection status

(21) legal protection status:

The "Gursko-Grivensky" hydrological zakaznik of local importance (Rozhishche district) is located there (Subpopulation C); the area is 145.2 ha.

(22) description of threats:

(23) conservation action needed:

The level of water in habitats very strongly changes and depends on Stir river.

**Table 5:** Estimation of the number of the Desna-Dnipro Aquatic Warbler population

| Site and location | Total estimation of singing males in: | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **1996-1998** | **1999** | **2000** | **2001** | **2002** | **2003** | **2004** | **2005** | **2006** |
| **Supoy valley between Vilne and M.Berezanka** | **150-200** | **120-140** | **100-120** | **80-100** | **90-100** | **90-100** | **110-130** | **160-180** | **100-110** |
| Supoy valley near Novy Bykov (Zakaznik "Boloto Supoy") | 5 | 5 | 4 | ? | 5 | 10-15 | 15-20 | 20-25 | ? |
| Supoy valley near Voron'ky (Zakaznik "Svidovetsky") | 10 | 11 | 6 | ? | ? | 20 | (20) | 20 | 20 |
| Supoy valley near Bilotserkivtsy (Zakaznik "Svidovetsky") | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | 13 |
| **Uday valley between Doroginka and Monastirische** | **250** | **205** | **140-160** | **220-250** | **280-300** | **270-290** | **300-320** | **340-360** | **280-300** |
| Perevod valley near Paskivschina | ? | ? | 15 | ? | 15 | 3-5 | 15 | ~15 | 15 |
| Mire "Zamglay" (Chernigiv reg., Repky distr.) | 10 | ? | ? | ? | ? | 0 | ? | ? | 0 |
| Mire SE of Petrivka (zakaznik "Gorodok") (Chernigiv reg., Snov river) | 12 | 15 | ? | ? | ? | 20 | 20 | (20) | 20 |
| Snov valley NE of Elino (Chernigiv reg.) | 3-5 | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | 0 |
| Galka valley (Chernigiv reg.) (40-50 ha) | 3-5 | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | 5-10 | 20-25 | 20-25 |
| **Total number of known colonies** | **440-500** | **380-400** | **290-330** | **350-400** | **410-450** | **410-450** | **485-535** | **595-645** | **468-503** |

**Table 6:** Estimation of number of the Pripyat's population of Aquatic Warbler

| Site and location | 1996-1998 | 1999 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pripyat valley between Komarove and Retchica | 25 | ? | ? (25) | ? (25) | ?(25) | ? (25) | 0 |
| **Pripyat valley between Retchica and Pidgirye (Shchedrogir) (350 ha)** | **180-220** | **10-15** | **340-400** | **180-220** | **300-350** | **150-170** | **240-270** |
| Pripyat valley between Pidgirya and Turiya mouth (~175) | 15-90 | 0 | 0 | 40-60 | 120-150 | 10-20 | 40-60 |
| Eastern part of Turya mouth (~100 ha) | 5-10 | 30 | ? (30) | ? (30) | (30) | ?(30) | (30) |
| Area near canal Wizhewskiy – Pripyat (~350 ha) | 105-160 | ~30 | ? (105-160) | ? (105-160) | (105-160) | ? (105-160) | (105-160) |
| Pripyat valley to the south of Nevir (including mire "Zalissya") | 200-300 | 120-220 | 200-250 | 200-250 | 200-250 | 200-250 | 300-350 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (more 600 ha) | | | | | | | |
| **Area between Vetly, Birki and Tsir (~1900 ha)** | **700-800** | **270-290** | **600-700** | **340-410** | **800-900** | **1400-1600** | **900-1100** |
| Pripyat valley (left bank) between Vetly – Lubotin (>500 ha) | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ~250-300 | 400-500 |
| Pripyat valley (left bank) south-west of Grechishcha and hay-field to south (200 ha) | 20-50 | ? | ? (20-50) | ? (20-50) | (20-50) | 10-30 | 80-100 |
| Area north of Lyubyaz lake (90-100 ha) | 20-50 | ? | 80-100 | 80-100 | (80-100) | 80-100 | 80-100 |
| Area north of lake Rogozne (30-40 ha) | 40 | (40) | (40) | (40) | (40) | (40) | (40) |
| Southern and eastern banks of Wolyanske lake and canal "Khabarische" (~100 ha) | 20-50 | 20-50 | ? (20-50) | ? (20-50) | 20-50 | 70-90 | (70-90) |
| **Turya valley (mire "Vizhery") (275 ha)** | **250** | **130-150** | **320-360** | **280-300** | **270-290** | **310-330** | **320-340** |
| Stochid valley (St.Chervishche) (20 ha) | 70-150 | 10-20 | ~50 | 10-20 | (~50) | 0 | 0 |
| **Stir valley between Navoz – Godomitchy ( 180 ha)** | **150** | **20** | **95-130** | **100-120** | **120-130** | **70-80** | **70-80** |
| Area between lakes Bile and Pisochne (310 ha) | ? | ? | ? | ? | > 150 | 120-150 | (120-150) |
| Chornoguzka valley (430ha) | ? | ? | ? | ? | > 100 | 150-200 | 120-150 |
| **Total number of the group** | **1760-2305** | **705-950** | **1885-2405** | **1430-1795** | **2390-2785** | **2980-3545** | **2915-3520** |
| **Total number of Pripyat's population Ukrainian part, including Shatsk NP (25), Rivne reg. (60)** | **1940-2580** | **880-1230** | **2060-2680** | **1610-2070** | **2620-3015** | **3105-3670** | **3000-3605** |

## ANNEX 2. Description of new sites surveyed in 2006

| Site Number on the Route | Geographical description, Coordinates Date of survey | Characteristic of the habitat | Bird species | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Mire in the valley of small influx of the river Romen (rivers Sula, Dnipro) **Rubanka** Chernigiv reg., Bahmach district **50.57.260 N; 32.46.400 E 08.06.2006** | Large rich floodplain mire - 180 ha. It has high water level. It is open highgrass marsh. High degree of eutrophication. The background of vegetative cover is formed by *Phragmites australis* and *Typha latifolia.* Narrow strip of *Equisetum fluviatile* at the edge of the mire. | *Acrocephalus arundinaceus, Emberiza schoeniclus, Acrocephalus schoenobaenus, Motacilla citriola, Botaurus stellaris, Circus aeruginosus, Egretta alba.* | |
| 2 | Mire in valley of small influx of the river Romen (rivers Sula, Dnipro) **Dmytrivka** Chernigiv reg., Bahmach district **50.55.090 N; 32.57.510 E 09.06.2006** | Rich floodplain mire. The total area is nearly 80 ha. The most part of the mire is sedge-horsetail habitat. Good drainage by river; usually dry conditions. | High number of *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus. Motacilla citriola, M. flava, Saxicola rubetra, Circus pygargus*. | |
| 3 | Mire in valley of small influx of the river Romen (rivers Sula, Dnipro) **Bilivezhi-Pershi** Chernigiv reg., Bahmach district) 51.01.670 N; 32.47.920 E **08.06.2006** | Rich floodplain highgrass mire. The area makes nearly 100 ha. The most part of mire is area of *Phragmites australis.* Sedge-horsetail habitat (*Carex omskiana, C. acuta, C. disticha*) is found along the southern edge of floodplain. The total area is 5-7 ha. | *Acrocephalus arundinaceus, Emberiza schoeniclus, Acrocephalus schoenobaenus, Saxicola rubetra, Motacilla flava, Botaurus stellaris, Circus aeruginosus, C. pygargus.* | |
| 4 | Mire in valley of small influx of the river Romen (rivers Sula, Dnipro) **Tinitsa** Chernigiv reg., Bahmach district 51.06.960 N; 32.58.240 E **08.06.2006** | The dams separate nearly 100 ha of floodplain. As a result, there is very high water level (more than 1 m). | The high number of ducks and coots. *Anser anser, Ardea cinerea, Botaurus stellaris, Crex crex* (1 males), *Gallinago media* (1 mating-place), *Egretta alba, Tringa tetanus, Limosa limosa, Acrocephalus arundinaceus* | |
| 5 | **Valley of river Snov (influx of the river Desna)** Elino **Chernigiv reg., Shchors district** 52.01.850 N; 31.58.890 E **19.07.2006** | The part of the floodplain of river Snov to the north from vil. Elino. There are large areas of scrubs and dry meadows. The floodplain is used as a pasture. | | . |
| 6 | **Mire near the river Sula (influx of the river Dnipro)** Gudymy | The mire is located outside of the floodplain of river Sula. The total area is 70-80 ha. More | High number of *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* and *Emberiza schoeniclus*. | Mowing |

| Site Number on the Route | Geographical description, Coordinates Date of survey | Characteristic of the habitat | Bird species | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Sumy reg., Romny district** 50.32.600 N; 33.17.380 E **09.06.2006** | 90% of the mire is the area of *Phragmites australis.* | | |
| 7 Map 3 (Annex 4) Pic. 1 (Annex 6) | **The upper of river Artopolot (influx of the river Sula; river Dnipro)** Krasnoznamenka **Poltava reg., Gadyach district** **50.24.050 N; 33.44.350 E** 09.06.2006 | The large marshy lowland has an area of nearly 150 ha. The level of water is very high (0,3 – 1,0 m). Large areas of open water. There are large areas of *Phragmites australis* (40%) and *Clyceria maxima.* | High number of *Botaurus stellaris, Egretta alba, Ardea cinerea, A. purpurea, Anas platyrhynchos, A. querquedula, Fulica atra, Acrocephalus arundinaceus, Emberiza schoeniclus, Motacilla flava, Luscinia svecica* . *Circus aeruginosus* (3 pairs), *Crex crex* (1 male). | The small part of mire (83 ha) is hydrological zakaznik of local importance. |
| 8 Map 4 (Annex 4) Pic.2 (Annex 6) | **Valley of river Grun' (influx of the river Tashan'; rivers Psel, Dnipro)** Shengariyvka **Poltava reg., Zinkiv district)** **50.12.480 N; 34.31.380 E** 10.06.2006 | The southern part of the floodplain holds sedge associations (*Carex acuta*). The total area is 20-30 ha. The water level is 5-15 cm above the ground. | *Motacilla flava, Acrocephalus schoenobaenus, Emberiza schoeniclus.* | This site seems to be suitable for AW. |
| 9 | **Valley of river Ryabinka (influx of the river Vorskla; river Dnipro)** Yabluchne **Sumy reg., Velyka Pisarivka district** **50.19.770 N; 35.12.500 E** 11.06.2006 | The floodplain of the river was drained 20 years ago. There are small areas of remaining sedge (*Carex acuta, Carex disticha*), but the area is dry. | In sedge habitats: *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* and *Crex crex* (3 males in daytime) | |
| 10 Map 4 (Annex 4) | **Salt mire near vil.** Hotimlya **Kharkiv reg., Vovchansk district** **50.02.440 N; 36.51.390 E** 12.06.2006 | Large salt-marsh, the total area is more than 500 ha. Nearly 90% of the mire is dry salty habitat. Other parts of the area are wet habitats. The dominant species are *Scirpus tabernaemontani* and *Juncus gerardii.* Very small areas of *Carex distans.* | High number of *Motacilla citriola* and *Alauda arvensis.* Other species: *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* (4-5 males on 1,5 km route), E*mberiza schoeniclus* (3 males), *Luscinia svecica (2 males), Vanellus vanellus, Gallinago gallinago, Circus aeruginosus, Aquila heliaca (1 bird)* | |
| 11 Map 6 (Annex 4) Pic. 3, 4 (Annex 6) | **The mouth of river Velyka Babka (influx of the river Siversky Donets)** Kytsivka **Kharkiv reg. Chuguyiv district** **49.51.690 N; 36.47.830 E** | Currently, it is difficult to determine how this area looked 100 years ago. AW is not likely to nest there. Now, the most part of this area is dry. There are small sedge areas, but they are located in dry | In habitats: *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus, Locustella naevia, Luscinia luscinia.* | On 9.05.1885, N.Somov shot a male AW.on this site |

| Site Number on the Route | Geographical description, Coordinates Date of survey | Characteristic of the habitat | Bird species | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 12.06.2006 | places. | | |
| 12 | **Valley of river Velykiy Burluk (influx of the river Siversky Donets)** Basalyivka **Kharkiv reg. Chuguyiv district** **49.48.800 N; 37.01.050 E** 12.06.2006 | This floodplain of river has very high water level (0,5 - 1 m). The vegetative cover is mostly formed by *Phragmites australis* and *Scirpus tabernaemontani* | This habitat is very favorable for geese, ducks, and coots. High number of *Acrocephalus arundinaceus, Locustella luscinioides, Panurus biarmicus, Emberiza schoeniclus, Motacilla flava, Luscinia svecica.* 2 males *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus. Crex crex* (6 males on 10 ha). | |
| 13 Map 7 (Annex 4) Pic.5 (Annex 6) | **The upper part of river Krasna (influx of the river Siversky Donets)** Tarasivka **Lugansk reg. Troitsk district** **49.41.520 N; 38.25.450 E** 13.06.2006 | The mire (350-400 ha) is located in the floodplain of the river. There are sites with open water and wet plots in the central part of the mire. Dozens hectares of sedge habitats are located along the southern edge of the floodplain. *Carex sp*. is very dense and high (1,2 – 1,5 m). | 1,5 km of route: *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* (8 males), *Emberiza schoeniclus* (6 pairs), *Locustella luscinioides* (3 males), *Locustella naevia* (1 male). High number of *Motacilla flava* and *Motacilla citriola.* | |
| 14 Map 8 (Annex 4) | **The nature reserve** "Streletska Step" **49.18.190 N; 40.04.240 E** 14.06.2006 | Hilly landscape and non-deep ravines. There are small streams. No AW habitats. | *Silvia communis*, *Saxicola rubetra*, *S. torquata*, *Circus pygargus* (2 males), *Asio flammeus.* | Information from Polish ornithologists: during breeding season, a Polish entomologist has observed AWs there (he knows AW) |
| 15 Map 9 (Annex 4) | **Valley of river Bereka (influx of the river Siversky Donets)** Petrivske **Kharkiv reg. Balakliya district** **49.08.370 N; 36.54.250 E** 15.06.2006 | Large (near 400 ha) salty marsh. The most part is dry and only the turn is wet. The vegetative cover is mostly formed by various species of wormwoods and cereals. | 1km of route: *Sylvia communis* (15 pairs), *Luscinia svecica* (8 pairs), Motacilla flava (9 birds), *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* (1 male). | |
| 16 Map 10 (Annex 4) Pic. 6, 7, 8 (Annex 6) | **Valley of river Bereka (influx of the river Siversky Donets)** Dmytrivka **Kharkiv reg. Barvinkove district** **49.08.230 N; 36.42.250 E** 15.06.2006 | The mire (nearly 500 ha) is located in the floodplain of the river. Hydrological conditions vary – there are dry salty meadows, wet habitats and large sites where a level of water is 0,1 - 1.4 m. Vegetative associations also vary. The vegetative cover is mostly is formed by *Phragmites australis, Typha angustifolia, T.* | *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus, A. agricolla, A. arundinaceus, Alauda arvensis, Motacilla citriola, M. flava, Saxicola rubetra, Emberiza schoeniclus, Locustella luscinioides.* | |

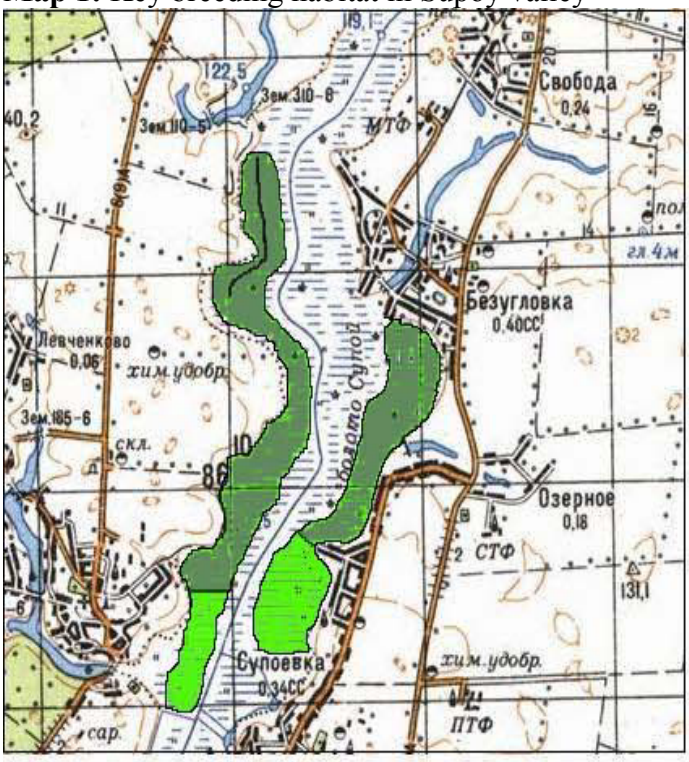
| Site Number on the Route | Geographical description, Coordinates Date of survey | Characteristic of the habitat | Bird species | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *laxmannii, Bolboschoenus maritimus, Triglochin maritinum, Juncus gerardii, Schoenoplectus lacustris, Scirpus tabernaemontani.* | | |
| 17<br><br>Map 11<br>(Annex 4)<br><br>Pic. 9, 10, 11<br>(Annex 6) | **The upper part of the river Orchik (influx of the river Oril'; river Dnipro**<br>Gorchakivka<br>**Kharkiv reg., Krasnograd district)**<br>**49.38.970 N; 35.26.680 E**<br>16.06.2006 | Nearly 100 ha of the mire in the river floodplain. High degree of eutrophication. The vegetative cover is formed by *Phragmites australis* ( 90% of site). Narrow strip of *Carex omskiana* (~ 100 m) at the western edge of the mire. Water level in sedge habitat is 5-15 cm. Its' area is 5-6 ha. | *Acrocephalus arundinaceus, Sylvia communis,Grus grus.* | More than 100 years ago N.Zarudniy has found AW here. Now, the suitable habitats for AW are very small. |
| 18 | **The valley of river Ust'e (influx of the river Goryn'; river Pripyat)**<br>Rivne<br>**Rivne reg.**<br>**50.39.250 N; 26.14.840 E**<br>25.05.2006<br>24.06.2006 | Sedge habitat has an area of nearly 20 ha. Due to good drainage by river and streams, the habitat is usually dry. | 2 km of route: *Emberiza schoeniclus* (22 males), *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* (25 males), *A. palustris* (3 males), *Motacilla flava* (10 pairs), *M. citriola* (2 pairs), *Locustella luscinioides* (1 male). | Ornithologists-amateurs from Rivne claimed observing AWs. No AWs were found during 2 evening surveys. |
| 19<br><br>Map 12<br>(Annex 4)<br>Pic. 12<br>(Annex 6) | **Mire "Silnuha"**<br>Galuzia<br>**Volyn reg., Manevichy district**<br>**51.25.840 N; 25.37.360 E**<br>26.06.2006 | Large mesotrophic mire (more than 600 ha). Now the marsh degrades. It is drained and subject to peat extraction. | | |
| 20 | **Mire "Zasvet'e"**<br>Serhiv<br>**Volyn reg., Manevichy district**<br>**51.28.350 N; 25.33.550 E**<br>26.06.2006 | 15-20 years ago the marsh was drained and there was a peat extraction. Now this area is dry; it is covered with bush and wood. There are many open sites without vegetative plants. | | |
| 21<br><br>Map 13<br>(Annex 4)<br>Pic.13<br>(Annex 6) | **The valley of river Stir (influx of the river Pripyat)**<br>Berestechko<br>**Rivne reg.**<br>**Mlyniv district**<br>**50.28.270 N; 25.15.840 E**<br>02.07.2006 | Some 20-30 years ago it was a large mire (~800 ha) located in the floodplain of Stir river. It was drained and peat extraction is going on there. Now this territory is dry. | | It is possible that AW could have nested there before the survey. |
| 22 | **The mouth of river Lypa (influx of the river Stir)** | The mire is in left part of river floodplain It is | Dominant bird species: *Acrocephalus* | |

| Site Number on the Route | Geographical description, Coordinates Date of survey | Characteristic of the habitat | Bird species | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Map 14 (Annex 4) | Lypa **Volyn reg. Gorohiv district 50.26.650 N; 25.07.210 E** 02.07.2006 | typical mesotrophic mire. There are associations of *Carex omskiana, Equisetum fluviatile, Menyanthes trifoliate.* The right part of floodplain is oligotrophic mire. There are areas about 1 ha with *Cladium mariscus*. The total area of the marsh is almost 200 ha. | *schoenobaenus,Emberiza schoeniclus, Motacilla flava, Anthus pratensis.* | |

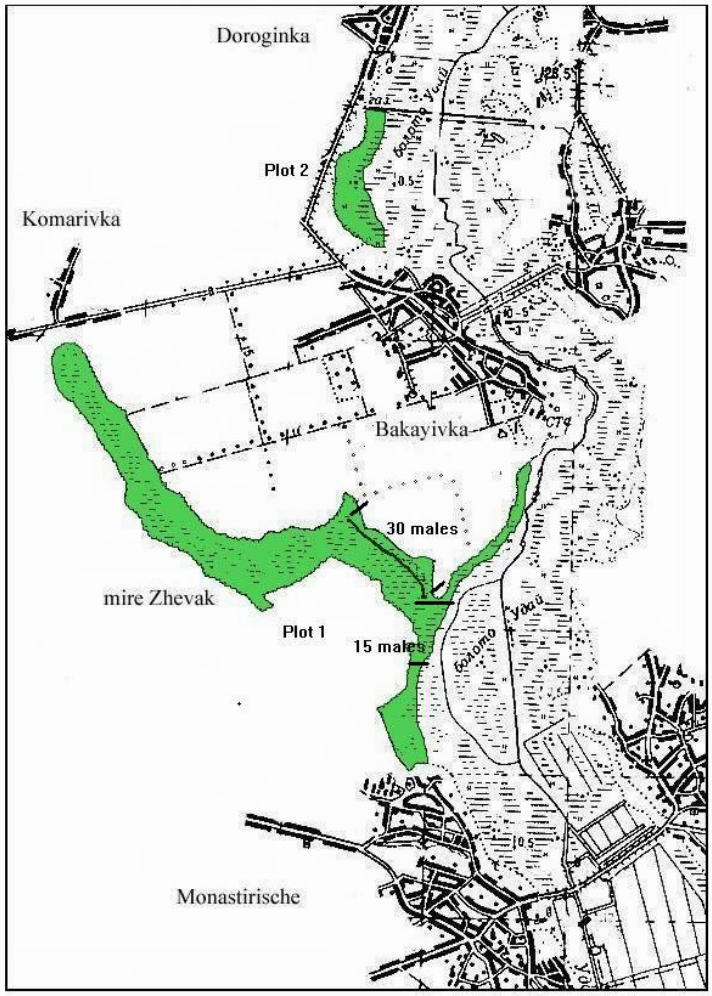
# ANNEX 3. Maps

## List of Maps (Monitoring Sites)

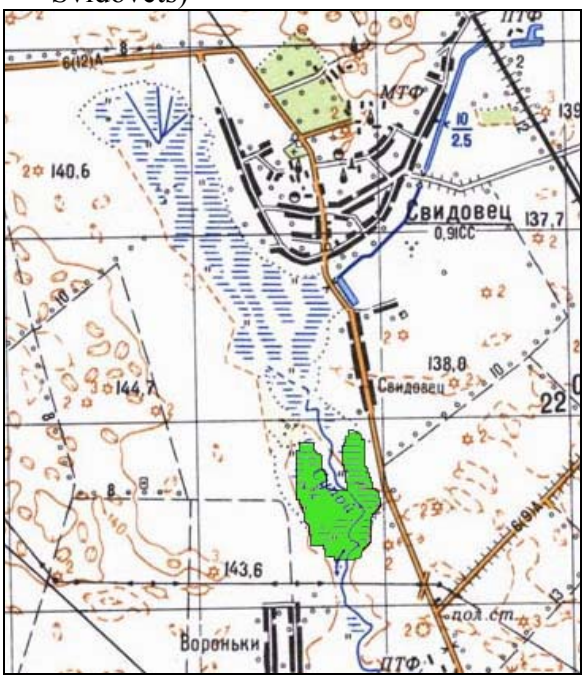
**Map 1:** Key breeding habitat in Supoy valley



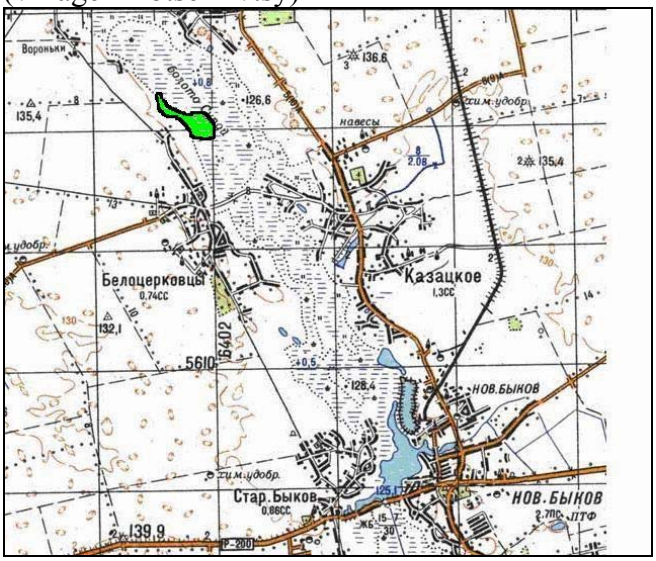
**Map 2:** Key breeding habitat in Uday valley



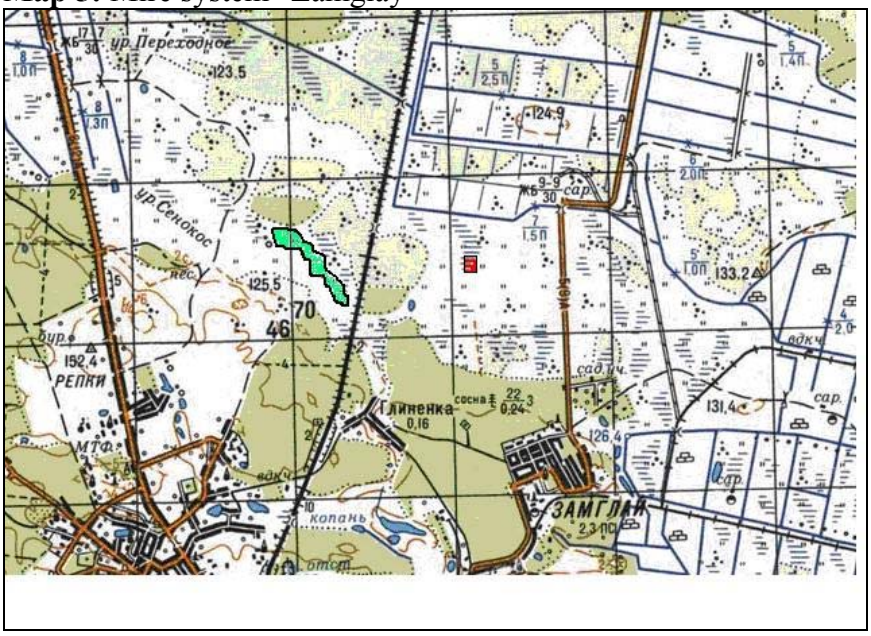

**Map 3:** The breeding habitat in hydrological zakaznik of local importance "Svidovetsky" (village Svidovets)



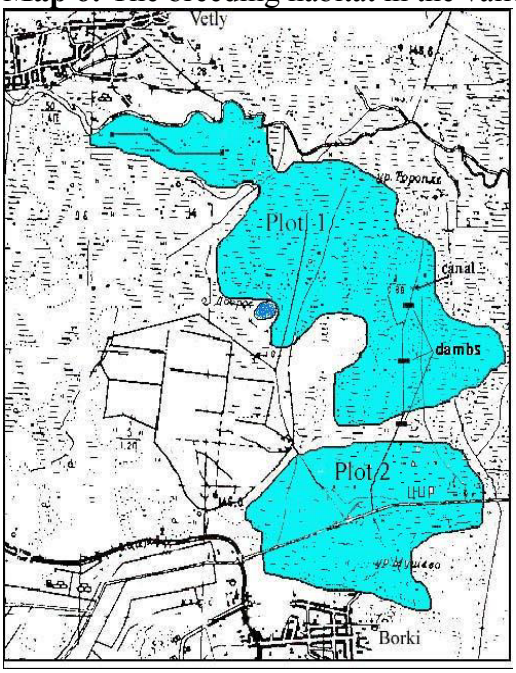
**Map 4:** The breeding habitat in hydrological zakaznik of local importance "Svidovetsky" (village Bilotserkivtsy)




**Map 5:** Mire system "Zamglay"

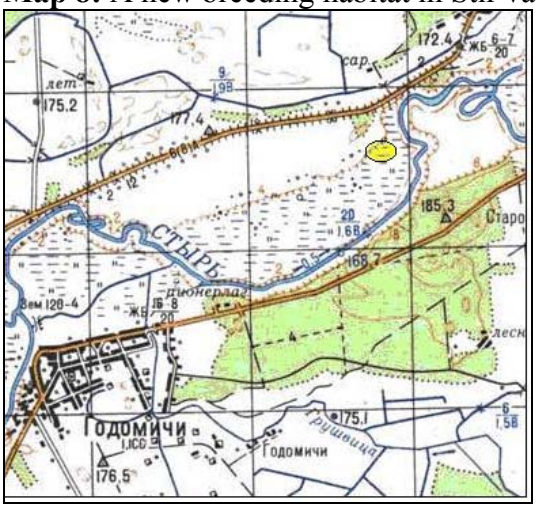


**Map 6:** The breeding habitat in the valleys of Pripyat and Lower Tsir

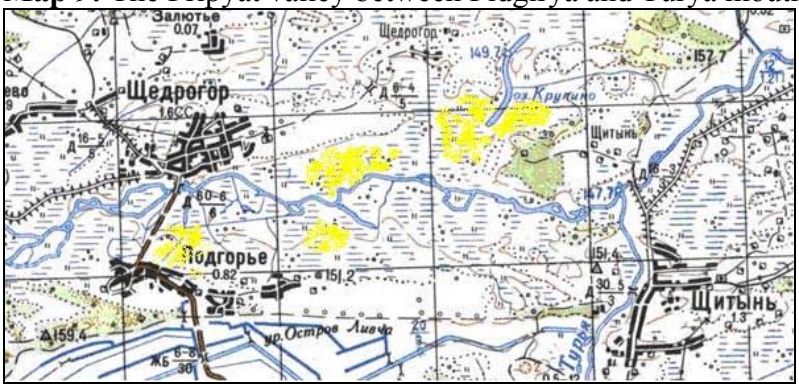



**Map 7:** Key breeding habitat in Stir valley

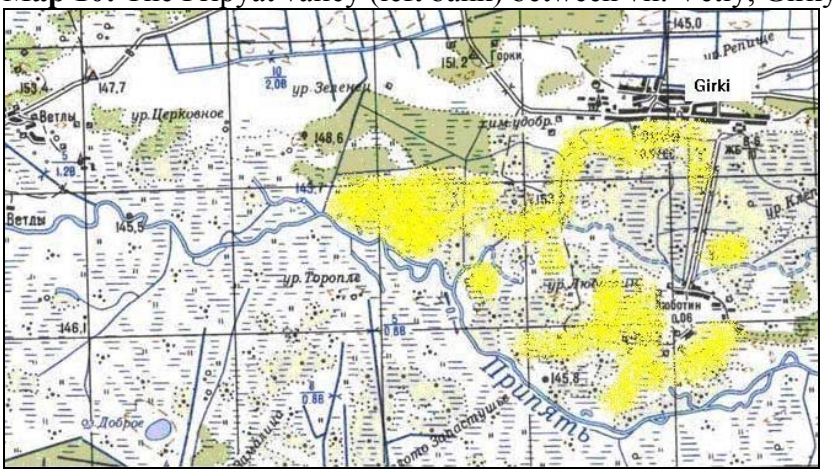

**Map 8:** A new breeding habitat in Stir valley



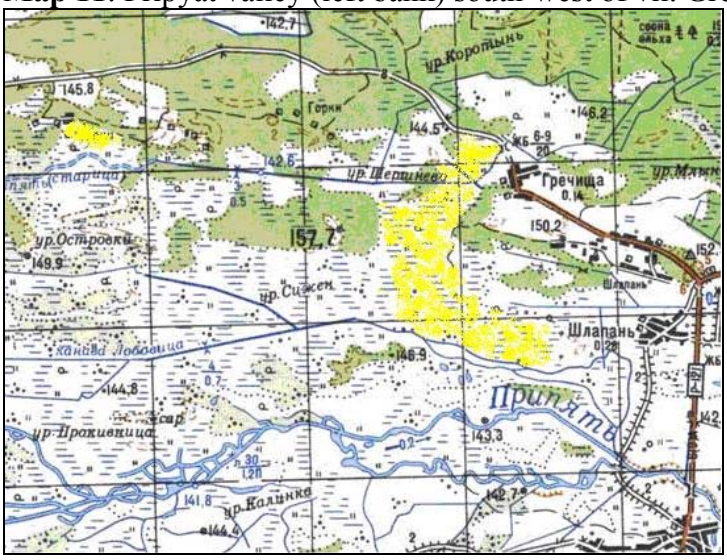
**Map 9:** The Pripyat valley between Pidgirya and Turya mouth




M**ap 10:** The Pripyat valley (left bank) between vil. Vetly, Girky and Lubotin




**Map 11**: Pripyat valley (left bank) south-west of vil. Grechishcha and hay-mowing to south




## ANNEX 4. Maps of new potential sites surveyed in 2006

**Map 1:** Location of Sites in Eastern Ukraine

**Map 2:** Location of Sites in Western Ukraine

**Map 3:** The upper of river Artopolot (Poltava reg.)

**Map 4**: Valley of river Grun (Poltava reg.)

**Map 5**: Salt mire near vil. Hotimlya (Kharkiv reg.)

**Map 6**: The mouth of river Velyka Babka (Kharkiv reg.)

**Map 7**: The upper of river Krasna (Lugansk reg.)

**Map 8**: The nature reserve "Streletska Step" (Lugansk reg.)

**Map 9**: Valley of river Bereka southeast of vil. Petrivske (Kharkiv reg.)

**Map 10**: Valley of river Bereka near vil. Dmytrivka (Kharkiv reg.)

**Map 11**: The upper of river Orchik (Kharkiv reg.)

**Map 12**: Mire Silnuha (Volyn reg.)

**Map 13**: The valley of river Stir near vil. Berestechko (Rivne reg.)

**Map 14**: The mouth of river Lupa (Volyn reg.)

## ANNEX 5. Financial Report

| | USD Project | Spent, USD | Leftover | UAH Project | Spent, UAH | Leftover | #receipt |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| **Personnel** | | | | | | | |
| Salary of Project Leader | 200,00 | 199,90 | 0,10 | 1000,50 | 1000,00 | 0,50 | 7 |
| Salary of Accountant | 150,00 | 149,96 | 0,04 | 750,38 | 750,18 | 0,20 | 7 |
| **Subtotal** | **350,00** | **349,86** | **0,14** | **1 750,88** | **1 750,18** | **0,70** | |
| **Transport and travel expenses** | | | | | | | |
| Car rent (50 days x 50 USD) | 2 500,00 | 2 498,75 | 1,25 | 12506,25 | 12500,00 | 6,25 | 8,9 |
| Daily fees (3 people x 50 days x 5 USD, 1 person x 25 days x 5 USD - botanist) | 875,00 | 749,63 | 125,37 | 4377,19 | 3750,00 | 627,19 | 1-6 |
| **Subtotal** | **3 375,00** | **3 248,38** | **126,62** | **16883,44** | **16250,00** | **633,44** | |
| Equipment and materials (sleeping bags, photofilm) | 500,00 | 499,79 | 0,21 | 2501,25 | 2500,19 | 1,06 | 10-11 |
| Translation of the report | 60,00 | 59,97 | 0,03 | 300,15 | 300,00 | 0,15 | 12-13 |
| **Subtotal** | **560,00** | **559,76** | **0,24** | **2 801,40** | **2 800,19** | **1,21** | |
| Contingencies, bank | 214,00 | 134,90 | 79,10 | 1070,54 | 674,84 | 395,70 | |
| Overhead | 429,00 | 429,00 | 0,00 | 2146,07 | 2146,07 | 0,00 | |
| **TOTAL** | 4 928,00 | 4 721,90 | 206,10 | 24 652,32 | 23 621,28 | 1 031,04 | |

***Payment (money transfer)*:** 14.06.06 - USD 3928

Exchange rate: USD 1.000 = UAH 5,0025

After exchange USPB got UAH 19589,79

## ANNEX 6. Pictures

See list of pictures with references to descriptions in the table of Annex 4.