

## NE POLAND BIRD REPORT 2005

### MAY 2005

Little Egret - single bird on 1st May in Brzostowo, Biebrza Marshes

White Stork - surprisingly low numbers with numerous nest unoccupied late May and some birds still passing north. Could it be some problem on wintering grounds ???

Whooper Swan - first chicks raised by local pair on 26th May, new breeding pair continues spreading of the species

Snow Goose - 1 bird on 11th May near Kosodka joint with Biebrza

Short-toed Eagle - 1 Osowiec, Biebrza Marshes

Osprey - single birds in Siemianowka Reservoir and Dojlidy fish ponds near Bialystok during the month

Booted Eagle - possibly a breeding pair near Budy/Biebrza Marshes (several records there)

Steppe Eagle - one or two birds staying in Biebrza Marshes, showing characters of adult and 1-2nd year bird

Golden Eagle - adult on 21th May, Siemianowka Reservoir

Red-footed Falcon - good numbers in beginning of May, including 8 (8th May) in Brzostowo, Biebrza Marshes

Peregrine - one or two bird hunting Ruff in Biebrza Marshes since beginning of the month

Tengmalm's Owl - good year for this species in NE Poland with ca 20 new territories in Knyszynska Forest and males still active end of May

Pygmy Owl - 1-2 new males in Knyszynska Forest and traditional ones in Bialowieza Forest active

Arctic Tern - 1-2 birds near Wizna, Narew Valley

White-winged Black Terns - unusual numbers of breeding birds in Biebrza Marshes near Zajki (1000), Brzostowo (max 3000 non breeding), Bronowo (900 colony)

Citrine Wagtail - new locations near Narew village/Narew Valley and Barwik / Biebrza Marshes

---

### JUNE 2005

Black-throated Diver - late, long staying summer plumaged bird in Siemianowka Reservoir (19-25 VI). Bird probably suffering because of swollen fishing line

Whooper Swan - 3 chicks in Dojlidy fish-ponds

Black Stork - first birds collecting food for youngsters observed in Narew Valley near Bialystok, Siemianowka Reservoir

Red Kite - breeding pair with one chick in Knyszynska Forest, single bird on 10th Jun in Biebrza village

Lesser Spotted Eagles - chicks hatched and fed by parents in various locations in Knyszynska Forest and Biebrza Marshes

Tengmalm's Owl - chicks observed in two locations in Knyszynska Forest

Pygmy Owl - one record from Knyszynska Forest on 4th June

Bee-eater - at least one pair breeding near Tykocin and another pair observed 12th June near Wizna, Narew Valley

Roller - birds located in at least 9 territories in the Region. Numbers are unfortunately going down every year

Greenish Warbler - singing birds: 6, 11th of June in Bialystok

---

## **JULY 2005**

Great White Egrets - only single birds recorded in Siemianowka Reservoir and Dojlidy fish-ponds. Quite low numbers in comparison to recent years.

Wigeon - early migrants already in regional fish ponds near Knyszyn (female) and at lake Zygmunta Augusta (pair) on 9th July

Red Kite - single bird, probably local breeder (only 2-3 pairs in teh Region) hunting near Biebrza village on 4th July

**! BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE** - single adult bird observed on 22th July near Lomza. Bird was observed while flying over small river valley in very good light conditions. It is first for the Region and just the second Polish record with previous from south of Poland (May 1984). Bird seemed to be migrating north.

Long-legged Buzzard - adult typical plumaged bird passing over Bialowieza village on 3rd July

Booted Eagle - pale morph individual passing over Knyszynska Forest near Rybniki on 3rd July

Lesser Spotted Eagle - roughly 90% of nests in Knyszynska Forest with breeding success so far with previous years at the level of 50-70%.

Eagle Owl - territorial bird calling at Siemianowka Reservoir near local ringing site (close to the nets!)

Pygmy Owl - another territory discovered in Knyszynska Forest (3rd this year) on 2nd July

Roller - birds present in 3 territories, observed with food, while 3 other territories dated 1996 already abandoned.

Still some 20-25 breeding pairs in the Region

---

## **AUGUST 2005**

Rather warm and sunny month with just few showers at the beginning of the month , birds slowly moving south.

Shelduck - two birds on 15th Aug at Zygmunt August Lake (rare visitor in the Region)

Great White Egret - numbers grew up to 30-40 birds in Siemianowka Reservoir and other places

White Stork - a total of over 500 birds recorded in flocks migrating south, including groups of >100

Red Kite - Biebrza birds (a single pair) raised at least one young this year

Red-footed Falcon - on 5th Aug immature bird at Siemianowka Reservoir approached by half a meter by a group of observers

Tawny Owl - autumnal activity started in Bialystok town with birds calling in local parks

Caspian Tern - regular August visitor to Siemianowka Reservoir, this month 2-5 birds

Whimbrel - four birds recorded on 5th Aug at Wigry Lake

Temminck Stint - 5 birds recorded on 7th Aug in Topilec, Narew Valley

---

## **SEPTEMBER 2005**

*After warm summer, September was also not rainy, with nice temperatures and good currents for migration. Most of the news come from frequently visited Siemianowka Reservoir (located north of Bialowieza Forest)*

Great White Egret - numbers grew at Siemianowka Reservoir, up to 200 by the end of the month

Osprey - single birds recorded in various ponds and lakes during passage. Up to 4 at Komosa Lake near Bialystok on 3rd Sep

Rough-legged Buzzard - first birds reached the region on 19 and 25th Sep

Greater Spotted Eagle - single adult 3rd Sep in Laskowiec, Biebrza Marshes; one adult also in Siemianowka on 21st Sep; another one 25th Sep near Hajnowka

Lesser Spotted Eagles - good conditions for migration resulted in 29 birds on 18th Sep (Siemianowka Reservoir) and 1-3 seen migrating in the next days

Booted Eagle - dark-morph bird seen on 25th Sep near Hajnowka (edge of Bialowieza Forest)

Red-footed Falcon - single imm at Siemianowka Reservoir on 11th Sep

Merlin - two birds mobbing Short-eared Owl in Siemianowka on 18th Sep

Crane - good passage in the middle of the month with flocks reaching 300 birds. Still some 500 individuals at the end of the month in Siemianowka Reservoir at roosting place.

Bar-tailed Godwit - one bird at Zygmunt August Lake. Third record for the region of NE Poland.

Short-eared Owl - one bird at Siemianowka Reservoir on 18th Sep

Red-throated Pipit - first passing bird heard on 10th Sep near Ostrowek

**YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** - first for the Region ringed at Siemianowka Reservoir on 29th Sep

---

---

## **OCTOBER 2005**

*The month was unusually sunny but also quite windy what caused some nice birds to arrive to Poland:*

Black-throated Diver - usual time for those birds to arrive. First large flock passed over Siemianowka on 1st Oct (70 birds). 2 ind at Dojlidy Ponds (2nd, 11th Oct), 2-3 at Siemianowka (23, 30th Oct)

Red-throated Diver - 2 birds on 30th Oct

Great White Egret - up to 90 birds at the Siemianowka Reservoir, number going down to 30 birds at the end of the month. Smaller numbers showing up in other places eg Dojlidy fish-ponds, jez Zygmunta Augusta, Popielewo (14 birds on 15th Oct)

Whooper Swan - migrating birds gathered at Dojlidy Fish-ponds (up to 21 on 30th Oct, with yellow neckbanded 1R63). Another location was Knyszyn-Zamek with 36 birds on 27th Oct

Bewick Swan - flock of 15 birds stayed at Dojlidy fish-ponds in the second half of the month, 10 birds on 27th Oct at Knyszyn-Zamek

White-tailed Eagle - flocks gathering at emptied fish-ponds reached 20 birds in one location (jez Zygmunta Augusta). Numerous young birds make us optimistic about breeding success in recent years. Every 2-3 years new territory is discovered.

**POMARINE SKUA** - at least one bird staying at Siemianowka Reservoir 23-30 Oct, This record comes with several other skuas spotted in whole Poland and it's a first one for the Region.

Arctic Skua - one or two birds staying at Siemianowka reservoir 23-30 Oct

Mediterranean Gull - 2 immature (1st winters) birds on 23rd and 30th Oct at Siemianowka Reservoir (some 20 records co far in the Region)

Baltic Gull (fuscus) - 4 birds at Popielewo Ponds on 15th Oct

ARCTIC TERN - 1st winter individual recorded at Knyszyn-Zamek after a period of strong northerly winds (4th record for region)

Pygmy Owl - calling birds located in Knyszynska Forest on 8th, 9th, 23rd, 30th Oct in

Tengmalm's Owl - one exhausted bird found on the street of Bialystok town on 7th Oct

Shore Lark - first flocks (4 and 15) reached the region on 29th Oct

---

---

## **NOVEMBER 2005**

Red-throated Diver - 1 on 11th Nov, 4 on 13th Nov at Siemianowka Reservoir

Black-throated Diver - 5 birds on 6th Nov, 1 on 13th Nov at Siemianowka Reservoir

Great White Egrets - latest birds staying at Siemianowka till 21st Nov

Velvet Scoter - 1 on 21st Nov at Siemianowka

Common Scoter - 4 on 21st Nov at Siemianowka

Scaup - 16 birds on 6th Nov at Siemianowka Lake

Merlin - male hunting Redpolls at 19th Nov, Ostrowek

Common Gull - one small-billed individual recorded and photographed at Siemianowka Res on 26th Nov

**POMARINE SKUA** - one bird remaining at Siemianowka Reservoir till 11th Nov. First well documented record from the Region

Pygmy Owl - calling birds on 5th, 6th (at least 5 birds) in Knyszynska Forest

Woodcock - late record on 6th Nov in Knyszynska Forest

House Martin - 2 late birds on 11th Nov near Korycin

Waxwing - flock reaching 400 birds on 11th Nov in Hajnowka and smaller daily

Redpoll - recorded almost daily with flocks up to 300 birds on 11th in Hajnowka

---

## **DECEMBER 2005**

Three-toed Woodpecker - one bird recorded on 2nd Dec in Knyszynska Forest, outside known breeding areas

**RUFOUS-TAILED ROBIN (*Luscinia sibilans*)** - single 1st winter bird recorded on 30-31st Dec on the outskirts of Bialystok town. Second for Western Palearctic and first for Poland. Apparently wild bird.

Redwing - single late bird on 9th Dec in Bialystok town

Fieldfare - flock of ca 500 birds on 10th Dec in berry plantation near Belarus border

Black Redstart - late male on 11th Dec in Czeremcha

Redpolls - wintering flocks smaller than in November, though still higher numbers than usual

Arctic Redpoll - single bird in flock of 30 Redpolls on 16th Dec in Bialystok town

Snow Bunting - 100 birds in fields near Elk on 28th Dec

Reed Bunting - single late bird on 8th Dec in Bialystok

Hawfinch - flock of 42 feeding in a park in Bialystok on 28th Dec

Chaffinch - late (wintering?) birds on 25th Dec in Bialystok town

---

Bird news from NE Poland, updated weekly:  
[http://www.ave stom.com/eng/en\\_field.htm](http://www.ave stom.com/eng/en_field.htm)

Recent photos in FotoNotes:  
<http://www.ave stom.com/fotonotes/fotonotes.htm>