

## Information on Bats Protection and Investigation in Belarus in 2000 – first half 2003

### A. General Information.

Name:	Republic of Belarus
Period:	2000 – first half 2003
Place and date of information:	Brest, 15 September 2003
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### B. Status of Bats in Belarus.

In Belarus during the period from 1930s till 2003 there were found 19 bats species. The three of them are rare, not resident: *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, *Nyctalus lasiopterus*, *Myotis myotis*. The two of them (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*, *Nyctalus lasiopterus*) have not been noticed since 1930s. At present in Belarus there are 17 resident species.

— In June 2002 *Pipistrelle* 55 were found by detector method in the outskirts of Brest. It gives the reason to presuppose the dwelling of *Pipistrellus pigmaeus* on the territory of Belarus.

— In July 2002 for the first time in Belarus there was found a maternity colony of the gray long-eared bat (*Plecotus austriacus*) in Brest District.

— In 2002 in Brest Region there were found maternity colonies of *Vespertilio murinus*, *Eptesicus nilssonii*, *Nyctalus leisleri*, *Myotis nattereri*, *Pipistrellus nathusii*. The facts of breeding of these species are very rare in Belarus.

— In 2003 on Vygonoschanskoje Lake in Brest Region there was found a breeding colony *Myotis dasycneme* – the 3<sup>rd</sup> fact of this species reproduction in Belarus.

Table 1. Distribution, Seasonal Roost and Relative Population Status of Bats in Belarus (1993 – 2002).

Species	Distribution, area	Summer Roost	Winter Roost	Status
<i>Myotis myotis</i>	Beyond the western border	+		Rare, not resident
<i>Myotis brandti</i>	Break in its population area on the largest part of Belarus	+		Very rare
<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	On all the territory	+	+	Common
<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	Spread	+	+	Rare
<i>Myotis dasycneme</i>	Restricted	+	+	Rare
<i>Myotis mustacinus</i>	Spread	+		Rare
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	On all the territory	+	+	Common

<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>	The north-east border of its population area	+	+	Rare
<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	The eastern border of its population area	+	+	Rare
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	On all the territory	+		Common
<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	On all the territory	+		Common
<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	In 2001 – a colony on the Polish-Belarusian border (Rachwald, Szkudlarek, 2001); 2002 – one individual detected in Brest	+		?
<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	The northern border of its population area	+		Rare
<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	On all the territory	+	+	Common
<i>Nyctalus lasiopterus</i>	Not known after the 1930s			Very rare, not resident, in the past
<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	The northern border of its population area	+	+	Common
<i>Eptesicus nilsoni</i>	The southern border of breeding area	+	+	Rare
<i>Vespertilio murinus</i>	On all the territory	+		Rare
<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	Not known after the 1930s			Very rare, not resident, in the past

Table 2. Trends of Population and Protection Status of Bats in Belarus.

Species	Estimated trend	RDBB – 1993	RDBB – 2003
<i>Myotis myotis</i>	0	III	?
<i>Myotis brandti</i>	-		?
<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	++		
<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	0	III	+
<i>Myotis dasycneme</i>	0	III	+
<i>Myotis mustacinus</i>	-		
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	-		
<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>	+		
<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	-	III	+
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	+		
<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	++		
<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	?		
<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	0	III	+
<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	-		
<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	++		?
<i>Eptesicus nilsoni</i>	+	III	+
<i>Vespertilio murinus</i>	--		

**Estimated trend** – Estimated trends during the last 30 years:

0 changes in population were not found;

- decrease in population;

+ increase in population;

-- considerable decrease in population

++ considerable increase in population;

**RDBB – 1993** – Red Data Book of Belarus, 1993 (III – protection category, rare)

**RDBB – 2003** – Red Data Book of Belarus, 2003 (project)

## C. Preservation (Bats Protection)

### 1. Official measures of protection of Chiroptera in Belarus

1. Law on hunting and hunting management (1997).
  - hunting and catching of hiroptera is forbidden;
  - penalty for killing hiroptera.
2. Provision on zoological collection (1997).  
provides set of rules on collection, preparation, use, storage and exchange of objects of wild life, including hiroptera.
3. Provision on creation of nature reserves in the Republic of Belarus (1995).  
provides legislation on creation of nature reserves for wild animals, including hiroptera.
4. Provision on the Book of rare species of animals and plants – Red Data Book of Republic of Belarus (1979).  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Red Data Book (1993) includes 7 species of hiroptera. All hiroptera species are listed under category III of the Book: rare species, which are not threatened with extinction on the territory of the country, but which are registered in such low numbers or on such a limited area that they could become extinct because of unfavorable change of living environment influenced by natural or anthropogenic factors.

### 2. The Creation of Bats Working Group in Belarus.

- Amendments, September 2003.

“Ahova Ptushak Belarusi” APB (“Birds Protection in Belarus”) is the leading public (non-state) organization on nature protection in Belarus. APB is supported by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, partner of BirdLife International (United Kingdom). APB is the best known organization in Belarus. It created protected areas for disappearing species: *Acrocephalus paludicola*, *Aquila clanga*, *Crex crex*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Gallinago media*. It is also known for its educational work among population.

In 1997-2000 in Belarus with APB support there was organized mass ringing of birds in the first reserve for wintering protection of 8 bats species “*Barbastella*”. During the winter season up to 3000 (max) individuals of bats stay in the reserve. *Barbastella barbastellus* make 90% of them, *Myotis dasycneme* (with global status VU A2c) are rare. APB spread new information about necessity to protect bats.

In March 2002 at the meeting of the Central Council of APB in Minsk there was taken a decision to create the *Working Group of Bats Research*. There was adopted the project of the statute of the *Working Group of Bats Research*. Officially adopted 12.09.03r. The following national long-term programmes for bats research and protection are recommended for working out:

- “*Pipistrelle* in Belarus — a guest or a host?” The programme to make the status of bats in 6 regions of Belarus precise.
- “Bats and biodiversity.” Bats monitoring programme in Belarus.
- “Bats at home — fear or admiration?” Propaganda programme to stop killing of bats and biotechny of bats preservation in domestic and other man’s buildings.
- “Bats and forestry.” Programmes of development and introduction of measures to protect bats in forests, parks and gardens.
- “The Best.” Educational and entertainment programme to attract attention to bats and spread knowledge about them among students.
- “Bats and nature protection.” The system of official measures to make Belarus a member of EUROBATS, to update official norms of bats protection and licensed inspection of bats colonies and creation of new specialized protected areas, important for bats.

### 3. Other Forms of Protection and Propaganda.

- In 2000 a specialized reserve «Barbastella» was created in Brest Region.
- 2 winter (hibernation) colonies of bats are protected in the National Park Belovezhskaja Puscha.
- A new (third) edition of Red Data Book of Belarus is being prepared.
- 15 articles were published in central and local newspapers.
- In 2000 – 2003 a scientific-popular film “In the Kingdom of Bats” was run on the National and regional channels for 8 times.

### D. The Main Scientific Publications.

Published during the period 1999 – first half 2003.

#### Books

1. Demjančik V.T., Demjančik M.G. Bats of Belarus – Information Edition: Brest 2000. 216 p.
2. Demjančik V.T., Demjančik M.G. Ecological Biotechny. Minsk-Brest 2001. 120 p.
3. The Mammals of Belarus. Minsk 2003. (*in press*). Kurskov A.N., Demjančik V.T., Demjančik M.G. (Part *Bats* – 30 p).

#### Articles

4. Demjančik M.G., Demjančik V.T., Makovei V.I. Problemy ohrany lesnyh vidov rukokrylyh jugo-zapada Belarusi. In Book “Les, nauka, molodiosz” Gomel 1999 p. 173-175.
5. Demjančik M.G., Demjančik V.T. Sravnitelno-ekologičeski aspect massovyh gibernacionykh gruppirovok rukokrylyh v inženernykh soorugenijah Bresta i GNP “Belovežskaja puša”. In Book “Belovežskaja puša”. Minsk, 1999. p. 273-275.
6. Demjančik M.G., Demjančik V.T. Zimovki širokoushki evropeiskoi (*Barbastella barbastellus*) na territorii GNP “Belovežskaja puša” i koncepcia tehniko-ekologičeskoj standartizacii. In Book “Belovežskaja puša”. Minsk, 1999. p. 276-278.
7. Demjančik M.G., Demjančik V.T. Gibernacionnaia ekologia rukokrylyh (Chiroptera) v g. Breste. In Book “Problemy ekologii”. Mozyr, 2000. p. 167-171
8. Demjančik M.G. Pervye zimovki koganka severnogo (*Eptesicus nilssoni*) i vechernicy rygei (*Nyctalus noctula*) na territorii Belarusi. In Book “Raznoobrasie givotnogo mira Belarusi”. Minsk, 2000. p. 173-174.
9. Demjančik M.G. Massovyje zimovki rukokrylyh Belarusi. In Book “Raznoobrasie givotnogo mira Belarusi”. Minsk, 2000. p. 176-177.
10. Shpak A.W., Shkliarov L.P. Rukokrylye vostočnoj časti Belarusi. // In Book “Raznoobrasie givotnogo mira Belarusi”. Minsk, 2000. p. 259-260.
11. Demjančik M.G. Sovremennye metodičeskie formy i naučnaia rezul'tativnost' polevogo izučenia rukokrylyh v sisteme podgotovki studentov-biologov. In Book “Sredstva nagliadnosti” Brest, 2002. p. 63-67.
12. Demjančik M.G. Gladkonosye letuchie myšy v kachestve auditornoj nagliadnosti v kurse zoologii. In Book “Sredstva nagliadnosti” Brest, 2002. p. 61-63.
13. Shimalov V.V., Demjančik M.G., Demjančik V.T. A study on the helminth fauna of the bats (Mammalia, Chiroptera, Vespertilionidae) in Belarus // Parasitology Research. – 2002. – Vol. 88. N 11 p. 1011.
14. Shimalov V.V., Demjančik M.G., Demjančik V.T. A study on the helminth fauna of the bats in West Polesie (Belarus) // Nietiperze III, 2. 2002. p. 283-287.
15. Shimalov V.V., Demjančik M.G., Demjančik V.T. Dopolnenia k helmintofaune rukokrylyh (Chiroptera) Belarusi // Vesci NAN Belarusi, ser.biol. 2003. № 1. p 114-116.

### Abstracts

16. Demjanichik M.G., Demjanichik V.T. The problem of preserving of frontier population of Chiroptera in the south-west of Belarus // XIII th European Bat Research Symposium Abstracts. Krakow, 1999. p. 15.

17. Pickoolick M.M., Demjanichik M.G., Demjanichik V.T. Today's status and preservation of Chiroptera in Republic of Belarus. // XIII th European Bat Research Symposium Abstracts. Krakow, 1999. p. 49.

18. Demjanichik M.G., Demjanichik V.T. *Barbastella barbastellus* in the southern-western part of Belarus. // W zborniku Mater. XIII Ogulne K.H. Poznan, 1999, p. 14-16.

19. Demjanichik M.G., Demjanichik V.T. Predation of European weasel (*Mustella nivalis*) on Chiroptera. // W zborniku Mater. XIII Ogulne K.H. Poznan, 1999, p. 17-19.

20. Demjanichik M.G., Demjanichik V.T., Levij S.W. Winter migration of Chiroptera in Brest, Belarus and its vicinity. // W zborniku Mater. XIII Ogulne K.H. Poznan, 1999, p.20-22.

21. Demjanichik M.G. Invasia netopyria lesnogo (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) na krainem iugo-zapade Belorusi. // In Book "Problemy landshaftnoi ekologii givotnyh". Minsk, 1999. p. 68-70.

22. Pikulik M.N., Demjanichik M.G. Sovremennyi sostav, strayegii izuchenia i ohrana rukokrylyh Belorusi. // zbornik VIII zoologicheskoi konferencii Belorusi. Minsk, 1999. p. 17-18.

23. Demjanichik M.G., Demjanichik V.T. Obshie factory biotopicheskogo raspredelenia i ugrozy rukokrylym. // zbornik VIII zoologicheskoi konferencii Belorusi. Minsk, 1999. p. 59.

24. Demjanichik M.G., Demjanichik V.T., Levij S.W. Arhitekturno-tehnicheskie objekty kak mestoobitania ptic i mlekopitaiushih. // zbornik VIII zoologicheskoi konferencii Belorusi. Minsk, 1999. p. 60-61.

25. Demjanichik M.G. Razmeshenie roditelnyh kolonei lesnyh vidov letuchih myshei na iugo-zapade Belorusi. // "Ekologicheskie problemy Polesia". Gomel, 2002. p. 86-87.

26. Demjanichik M.G., Demjanichik V.T. Aktivnaia sinantropizacia rukokrylyh (Chiroptera) – novoe iavlenie v faune Belorusskogo Polesia. // "Ekologicheskie problemy Polesia". Gomel, 2002. p. 87-88.

27. Demjanichik M.G. O morfometricheskoi harakteristike shirokoushki evropeiscoi (*Barbastella barbastellus*). // "Ekologicheskie problemy Polesia". Gomel, 2002. p. 88-89.

28. Demjanichik M.G. Razmeshenie roditelnyh kolonei lesnyh vidov letuchih myshei Belorusi. // "Ekologicheskie problemy Polesia". Gomel, 2002. p. 90-91.

29. Demjanichik M.G. Problema ohrany redkih vidov letuchih mychei v seleniah cheloveka. // "Krasnaia kniga Respubliki Belarus". Vitebsk, 2002. p. 77-78.

30. Kashtalian A.P. Predlogenia po vklucheniu rukokrylyh v novoe izdanie Krastnoi knigi. // "Krasnaia kniga Respubliki Belarus". Vitebsk, 2002. p. 115-116.