

BIRDING IN LITHUANIA NEMUNAS DELTA REGION

Marius Karlonas



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Vilnius, 2017

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Front cover : Great Snipe (*Gallinago media*) © **Kęstutis Čepėnas**

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Acknowledgements:

For assistance in the preparation to: **Agnė Račkauskaitė**

For technical assistance to: **Justina Liaudanskytė**

Prepared: **Lithuanian Ornithological Society (LOS)**

The book is produced within the frame of the LIFE+

Environment Policy and Governance project

“Integrated planning tool to ensure viability of grasslands”

(LIFE Viva Grass, project No. LIFE13 ENV/LT/000189).



Lithuanian Ornithological Society takes the responsibility for the content of and information used in the publication. The content of the publication does not necessarily coincide with the opinion of the European Commission.



Project coordinator

Baltic Environmental Forum



Project partner

Šilutė District Municipality



Publishing supported: EU LIFE Programme,

The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania



Printed using ecological paint on ecological paper



Bibliographic data of the publication provided to the National Bibliographic Data Bank (NBDB) of Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania.

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ISBN 978-609-95816-4-4

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NEMUNAS DELTA - A PARADISE OF WATER AND BIRDS

The publication describes the Nemunas Delta and the coastal meadows stretching on the eastern coast of the Curonian Lagoon, one of the most unique natural areas in the East Baltic region. Its greatest value, without any doubt, is the vast flooded areas adjoining Nemunas, the longest river in Lithuania, the widely branching out Nemunas Delta and a shallow Baltic lagoon - the Curonian Lagoon.

In different seasons of the year this site of unique nature attracts a lot of bird species that come here with the first cracks in the ice, floods caused by ice hummocks, and stay until the lagoon and flooded meadows are locked up by ice again. Currently, in the Nemunas Delta and its vicinity over 300 bird species are found, i.e. exceeding 90 percent of all bird variety recorded nationally. Such abundance of birds in the area is also caused by, possibly, the biggest bird migration route in the Western Palearctic. Along the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea and the Curonian Lagoon on certain days over a million birds fly through. That's why it is not astonishing that in the Nemunas Delta within the last century the greatest number of new bird species were found - 46. In 1929, in the Ventė Cape the bird ringing station, one of the first stations in the world, was founded. At present the biggest bird catching trap in the world is erected here. It is also the place where the stationary zigzag traps were designed and used for the first



A road across the flooded meadows at the Sakūčiai forest © Žymantas Morkvėnas



time globally. Each year tens of thousands of migrating birds are ringed in the Ventė Cape Ornithological Station, while welcoming nearly the same number of visitors interested in the the work that is done here.

The variety of birds, the endangered bird species breeding in the Nemunas Delta, a plenty of birds flying through in autumn and spring migrations determined that several areas of the Nemunas Delta region

were designated as protected areas. The Nemunas Delta Regional Park, 29 069 ha, is the biggest among them. **The distinctive phenomenon of this territory is floods occurring in spring, flooding several tens of thousands of hectares.**

In 1993, according to seven criteria of the International Ramsar Convention taking care of protection of wetlands, the Nemunas Delta was included into the List of wetlands of international importance. In Europe, only several wetlands of such natural value exist - the Danube Delta in Romania and the Doñana wetlands in Spain. In 2004, due to the abundance and variety of migrating birds and rare breeding species the major part of the Nemunas Delta Park was included into the international network of protected areas - Natura 2000. The Nemunas Delta is an area protecting the greatest number of bird species in Lithuania. It is important for 21 endangered breeding species. Here agglomerations of more than 14 migrating bird species, of international importance, are recorded. Such globally endangered species as the Greater Spotted Eagles, Great Snipes, Black-tailed Godwits, Eurasian Curlews, Aquatic Warblers breed in specific habitats here in Nemunas Delta. The list can be continued with more than twenty breeding bird species included into the list of the Red Book of Lithuania, or flocks of hundreds of thousands of waterfowl or wetland birds, such as geese, ducks, waders, agglomerating in the flooded Nemunas Delta in spring!

In late autumn months, besides plentiful of waterfowl, no one can stay unmoved by the numerous passerines and raptors flying by, that leave an indelible impression for visitors in the Ventė Cape.

The Nemunas Delta is important not only for birds. The Nemunas river and the Curonian Lagoon are of European importance for migrating salmon. Here endangered species such as the European Bitterling, the Spined Loach, the Pond Loach live, and the Asp, which is rather common and is available for fishing. Local people are not astonished to see an otter, endangered in many European countries, but couldn't even imagine that next to them, in the Nemunas Delta, the Great Nested Newt, the Green Pomphid, both protected, and pond



Water runs out of the Nemunas Delta meadows through canals, after the water level drops © Žymantas Morkvėnas



bats, dissecting the night sky and spending days in garrets at local farmers, being under strict protection in Lithuania, feel splendidly here.

In addition to that, natural habitats not found in many European countries exist here: vast raised bogs in the Aukštumala and Svencelė swamps, marshy deciduous forests and not to mention the flooded (scientifically called alluvial) meadows. And all of this you can find in Nemunas Delta - a natural area, though tiny at the European scale, but very unique.

The Nemunas Delta as well stands out in the Baltic region in terms of its landscape shaped by the constant interaction of nature and people. Having come to the area we get into a complicated system of polders, encounter distinctly shaped willow alleys and feel the boundless spaces that take us to the times when the very interesting culture of meadowers, gardeners and wetlanders flourished upon this land. Welcome to Nemunas Delta!

MEADOWS OF NEMUNAS DELTA: FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE

Since the old days, the fertile meadows of the Nemunas Delta earned their fame because of its pasture lands and fodder production. Assoc. Prof. Martynas Purvinas, a researcher of culture of Lithuania Minor, compared the strategic significance of the fertile grasslands, tended carefully by cultivators, in the 17th-19th centuries, with oil businesses nowadays. It does not surprise, as in those days horses were the main means of transport for the army, post and other services. Today, the meadows of the Nemunas Delta continue to be of particular importance, as they are the essential condition for agriculture developed in the area. The annual floods of the Nemunas river bring deposits and nutrients dissolved in water, that make the meadows of the region known for its high yields.

In modern culture of consumer society, we are accustomed to value things containing measurable benefits to people, furthermore, it is even better if they can be assessed in monetary terms as well. But how to measure pure air, fertile lands and plant abilities to deliver new yields every year, the benefits of insects pollinating plants? Our consciousness takes it for granted and underrates it. However, already now, we can observe increasing disastrous or highly costly consequences of disturbed natural processes. Scientists, being aware of the necessity to draw attention of the modern society to the benefits delivered by nature and the importance of natural processes, proposed the concept of ecosystem services. Ecosystem services are benefits or added value that the ecosystem provides to people. According to the nature of provided benefits the



services are divided into *provisioning services* (for example, fodder, food, medicinal raw material, biomass for energy production, etc.), *regulating services* (for example, management of natural water regime dynamics, sustaining richness of soil, pollination of plants, etc.) and *cultural services* (for example, aesthetic satisfaction, recreational opportunities, relaxation, inspiration, etc.).



Extensive farming - a key to preserve rare bird species © Žymantas Morkvėnas

The concept of ecosystem services calls us to more widely evaluate the benefits that Nemunas delta meadows bring to people. One of the services provided by the meadows is an opportunity to discover and enjoy birds living there. Besides the possibility for an individual birdwatcher to rejoice the surrounding nature, it is also an opportunity to attract local and foreign tourists into the region.

While discovering the diversity of birds and uniqueness of the Nemunas Delta, tourists spend their money on accommodation, catering, transport and other services, helping to sustain the economical viability of the region. Furthermore, by sharing their impressions they spread the word about the region in the world. Such ecosystem services provided by the meadows, water bodies and birds in the Nemunas Delta are beneficial for the local people too. It is not just an aesthetic benefit that the ecosystem provides for the population of the country and foreign guests, more important – it can also bring a solid contribution to the development of regional welfare and bring practical benefits for the local people.



Fishing is one of the main means of livelihood in the Nemunas Delta © Žymantas Morkvėnas

HOW TO USE THE FIELD GUIDE

The map of described sites. To easily find the area you are looking for, open the map at the end of the book and find the number of this area ❶. This number in the Content and Index will refer you to the page containing the area description; or you may use the numbering on the margins of the book pages ❶ - turning the pages you'll easily find the area.

The List of bird species recorded in the Nemunas Delta area is placed at the end of the publication. Each species is indicated the period, when the probability to observe the species in the Nemunas Delta is highest.

Explanations and symbols used in the area descriptions

TOP 3 indicates three most important species in the described area, with a higher probability to watch them in the mentioned area, compared to other places.

Notable species means species of birds with a high probability to find them in the described area, however, in most cases these are rare species or the ones recorded only in this Nemunas Delta region. The list does not include common bird species that occur everywhere.

The best season of the year for birdwatching is marked in colours: ● - spring; ● - summer; ● - autumn; ● - winter.

⌚ - Approximate duration of your stay in the described area. The period will depend on the number of sites or routes you will choose for birdwatching.

🛂 - A significant part of the Nemunas Delta falls under the boundaries of the state border guard zone, thus the visitors to this area must possess his/her identification document with them, i.e. the passport or identification card (no driving license is accepted). The State Border Guard Service carry out regular patrolling in this area and check personal identification documents.

🔭 - The visitors are advised to have both binoculars and a spotting scope. In most cases the symbol is linked to the areas where waterfowl or waders are watched, as birdwatching there might be done from long distances.

❶ - A birdwatching site or any other important site described in the text.

—, — - Described birdwatching routes or important roads.



- The North direction will enable to better read the map.

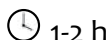


- The scale will enable to assess distances more precisely.



VELNEŽERIS AND SURROUNDING MEADOWS

1



TOP 3: Black-necked Grebe, Little Bittern, Whiskered Tern.

Notable species. Agglomerations of migrating geese, ducks and waders. Breeding period: Greylag Goose, Gadwall, Graganey, Northern Shoveler, Common Pochard, Grey Partridge, Black-necked Grebe, Eurasian Bittern, Little Bittern, Black Kite, Red Kite, Marsh Harrier, Montagu's Harrier, Little Crake, Water Rail, Com-

mon Moorhen, Corn Crake, Common Crane, Black-tailed Godwit, Eurasian Curlew, Marsh Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Whiskered Tern, Black Tern, White-winged Tern, Western Yellow Wagtail (*M. f. f.*), River Warbler, Red-backed Shrike, Common Rosefinch, Eurasian Penduline Tit.



Site description. It is an oval shaped fluvial origin lake 2 km south from Pagėgiai. The shores are low, marshy, abundantly overgrown with floating aquatic plants. Here the Gėgė river has its source and further flows through the cultural meadows surrounding the lake. Lake Velnežeris is well known due to its ornithological importance for protected species.

Birdwatching sites and tactics.

Migration. At the end of March and beginning of April, when the contours of the lake are still hardly seen because of the flooded meadows, here thousands of migrating geese and ducks start flocking together, and they stay on this territory until the water fully subsides. Having the water level become low, damp meadows of the catchment area of Velnežeris turn into an ideal feeding and resting place

for migrating waders that base themselves here in numerous flocks.

Breeding. After migration the importance of the territory does not diminish, vice versa, increases. In the lake various species of ducks breed, including Garganeys, Gadwalls, Northern Shovelers, Common Pochards, also Black-necked Grebes, the young are brought here from the meadows by Greylag Geese. The aquatic vegetation of Velnežeris is a perfect breeding suit for rare species of terns, thus more than 50 pairs of Whiskered Terns and more than 20 pairs of Black Terns settle here. In some years, White-winged Terns also hatch here. The line of reed beds around the lake - homes two more protected species - the Eurasian Bittern and Little Bittern, so you'll have to spend an evening at the lake in order to hear these rare birds. Another



Whiskered Tern (*Clidonias hybridus*) © Marius Karlonas





Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*) © Simonas Minkevičius

reason to stay at Velnežeris in the evening is crakes. After the sunset, in the reed beds and meadows of the lake catchment you may hear Little Crakes, Water Rails and Corn Crakes.

The meadows adjacent to the lake are also liked by rare birds, waders in particular, among which you may hear or see Eurasian Curlews, Black-tailed Godwits, Common Snipes; and sometimes Marsh Sandpipers, a rare species, settle here. Birds of prey like this area too, Montagu's and Marsh Harriers in particular, breeding on the lake shores each year. Besides harriers, you may also watch other rarer hooked beak birds: Red and Black Kites come to hunt in the catchment meadows of the lake.

On the shores of the lake you may discover Common Rosefinches, Eurasian Penduline Tits; and in adjacent bushes or bigger canals Common Cranes and Common Moorhens breed.

The most convenient place to have a view of the lake and meadows is a dyke at the northern part of the lake ①, and after the water sinks you are able to drive or walk around the lake — —. The meadows at the southeast of the lake are valuable for waders.

Other animals. In the lake and catchment area meadows Canadian Minks, Red Rooks, European Beavers and Roe Deers may be observed.



SENRUSNĖ AND SENNEMUNĖ LAKES WITH ADJACENT MEADOWS



2-4 val.



TOP 3: Marsh Sandpiper, Ruff, Eurasian Curlew.

Notable species. Agglomerations of migrating Swans, Geese, Ducks and Waders. Breeding: Greylag Goose, Gadwall, Eurasian Teal, Garganey, Common Pochard, Northern Shoveler, Common Merganser, Grey Partridge, Common Quail, Eurasian Bittern, Grey Heron, European Honey Buzzard, Black Kite,

Red Kite, White-tailed Eagle, Marsh Harrier, Montagu's Harrier, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Water Rail, Spotted Crake, Little Crake, Corn Crake, Common Moorhen, Common Crane, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Ruff, Common Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit, Eurasian Curlew, Common Redshank, Marsh Sandpiper, Whiskered Tern, Black



Tern, White-winged Tern, Eurasian Penduline Tit.

Site description. The area ca. 10 km to the west from Pagėgiai belongs to the Pagėgiai municipality. Sennemunė and Senrusnė are fluvial origin lakes, as Velnežeris. The lakes are overgrown with abundant aquatic plants, the shores are swampy. The lakes are surrounded by cultural meadows that are flooded in the spring snowmelt period and then part of roads become impassable. In Senrusnė Lake the Senoji Rusnė Ornithological Reserve was established.

Birdwatching sites and tactics.

Migration. Access to the area highly depends on spring snowmelt: in some years all roads are passable easily, however, in some springs off-road vehicles couldn't enter until mid-April. As soon as migration starts (the second half of March), geese and ducks land on the flooded meadows surrounding the lakes. The uniqueness of the meadows, in view of the Nemunas Delta, is revealed when the water level starts to drop and the first meadow patches open here, whereas the best places in the low-lying delta are still under water; and such condition lasts approximately until the end of the first decade in April. In this period the vicinity of Senrusnė attracts the largest flocks of geese and the first migrating waders. After the water level goes down in the low delta, the biggest agglomerations concentrate there, and the uniqueness of Senrusnė begins to

express a different aspect, namely the variety of breeding rare species.

Breeding period. In the breeding period the most valuable sites are Senrusnė Lake and the lakeside meadows. In the lake rare in Lithuania duck species breed, namely Eurasian Teals, Garganeys, Gadwalls, Common pochards, Northern Shovelers, Common Mergansers bring the young bred in old poplars, and Greylag Geese take their goslings here from the adjacent meadows. Colonies of rare terns settle themselves on the aquatic plants, Black and Whiskered Terns, and sometimes even White-winged Terns, breed on the lake. In the corners of the lake, overgrown richly with aquatic plants and swampy, in evenings Water Rails vocalize their sharming, accompanied by yapping and whiplash-like sounds of Spotted and Little Crakes. In the shore reed beds of the lake Eurasian Bitterns produce deep booming calls, Marsh and Montagu's Harriers nest. In the lakeside meadows, waders rapidly becoming extinct in Lithuania, still breed, including the most rare ones, namely Ruffs, Eurasian Curlews, Black-tailed Godwits, Common Redshanks and Eurasian Oystercatchers. No specific infrastructure for birdwatching exists in this area, and the best site to observe Senrusnė Lake is the hill at the settlement of Lazdėnai ①, this birdwatching site is on the private real estate, and though the owners are friendly to the birdwatchers, it is necessary to respect the private property. Another site to watch onto the lake and lakeside meadows is the



“inside” of the lake, i.e. standing on the peninsula surrounded by the lake ②. In the breeding period, the visitors are advised to avoid intensive walking around the lake in order not to disturb rare birds breeding here.

Sennemunė Lake reminds of Senrusnė, but the variety of waders is smaller here. Nevertheless, several years ago in the pine grove at the village of Kucai, situated on the other side of the lake, a rich colony ③ of Grey Herons and White Storks was found, including Black and Red Kites that bred there. Two years ago a strong storm severely damaged or destroyed the bird nests, currently the number of breeding herons and storks reduced significantly, and Red Kites withdrew. It is expected that in a few years the colony may be restored and regain its significance.

In this area another place important from the ornithological point of

view is Vičiai Lake ④ situated 1,5 km east from Kucai. The lake is richly overgrown with aquatic plants where a numerous colony of Black Terns (up to 150 pairs) is settled. The lakeshores and the lakeside of the Gėgė river are preferred by rare crakes, namely Water Rail, Little Crakes, Spotted Crakes, Common Moorhen. In the meadows adjacent to the lake, raptors hunt, namely White-tailed Eagle, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Montagu's and Marsh Harriers, Red and Black Kites, Honey Buzzards. In evenings you may hear sounds of Corn Crakes, grating *kek kek*, and sometimes you may hear Common Quails.

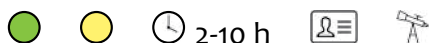
Other animals. You may easily see grazing Roe Deer in the meadows. European Beavers and Canadian Minks inhabit the lakes, the meadows are abundant in Red Foxes. Sometimes you may succeed in seeing a Stoat.



Eurasian Curlews (Numenius arquata) at Senrusnė Lake © Marius Čepulis



MEADOWS OF SAUSGALVIAI



3



TOP 3: Marsh Sandpiper, Aquatic Warbler, Great Snipe.

Notable species. Agglomerations of migrating Swans, Geese, Ducks and Waders. Breeding: Greylag Goose, Euroasian Teal, Garganey, Black Stork, European Honey Buzzard, Black Kite, Red Kite, White-tailed Eagle, Marsh Harrier, Montagu's Harrier, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Greater Spotted Eagle, Common Kestrel, Euroasian Hobby, Water Rail,

Spotted Crake, Little Crake, Corn Crake, Common Moorhen, Common Crane, Little Ringed Plover, Ruff, Common Snipe, Great Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit, Eurasian Curlew, Common Redshank, Marsh Sandpiper, Whiskered Tern, Eurasian Eagle-Owl, Sand Martin, Western Yellow Wagtail (*M. f. f.*), Bluethroat, Aquatic Warbler, Common Rosefinch.





Birdwatchers enjoy seeing flocks of waders in the meadows near the village of Sausgalviai © Marius Karlonas

Site description. The village of Sausgalviai, 8 km south from Šilutė, is situated in a unique area from the standpoint of nature, within the boundaries of the Nemunas Delta Regional Park. When snowmelt starts in spring and the adjacent meadows are abundantly flooded, the village remains unflooded and looks like an island. For ornithologists and botanists, this area is known due to its natural values, and in 2005 here a botanical-zoological reserve of meadows was established.

Birdwatching sites and tactics.

Migration. The name of this area is mentioned among ornithologists most often in spring when the meadows of Sausgalviai are widely flooded and become a real paradise for birds and birdwatchers. As early as end of March, the flooded meadows are full of swans, ducks and geese, numerous flocks of which perch the water surface and patches of land emerged there. Ducks and geese stay here until water disappears on the meadows

(beginning of May), but Tundra and Whooper Swans do not stay long, so visitors who wish to see flocks of thousands of these birds have to come here in the first decade of April. The number of geese in the low-lying delta increases in the second decade of April when in the higher delta (Pagėgiai municipality) the flooded meadows become very scarce, while here abundance of water attracts geese; flocks of geese migrating in Western Lithuania concentrate mainly in the area of the Nemunas Delta Regional Park. Waders also took to the vicinity of Sausgalviai, here they land from the migration start, the second half of March, as small hills and roads make a perfect place for them to rest and feed. Depending on the water level, you may access to the area by four roads:

1. To come from Šilutė via the village of Užliekniai. If you choose this road you will have to bear in mind that sometimes the main road from Užliekniai to Sausgalviai is flooded; in that case you will have to make a detour via the Kūlynai forest. This route is most reliable when the water level is extremely high.

2. To take the road from Šilutė and turn to the left at the Žalgiriai forest. This road stays flooded until the latest dates, that's why it is advised to choose this road not earlier than May or at the time when the water level in the meadows is very low.

3. To take the road along the Nemunas river from Pagėgiai, via the village of Tatamiškiai. Sometimes the





The village of Sausgalviai from the air © Irmantas Gelūnas

road is flooded near Sausgalviai, at the Leitė river, but in the second half of April the water level drops and the road becomes passable by car.

4. To come from Rusnė via the Žalgiriai forest and the village of Tatamiškiai. This road is impracticable until mid-April.

In Sausgalviai, few main birdwatching sites are offered, depending where bird flocks concentrate at that time. If you take the first route, from Šilutė and turn to the right at Užliekniai towards Sausgalviai, you will be able to make the first stops before you come to the village as geese often flock on both sides of the road at the very start in this direction. You will reach the first birdwatching site having come to Sausgalviai. You will enter the village and having passed the first two farmhouses on the left hand side, you will see the narrow road to the left direction, and having moved 100 m, you will view the flooded val-

ley of Leitė and a small hill in front of you ①. This site is one of the main birdwatching sites in Sausgalviai as in the flooded valley numerous flocks of ducks, geese and swans agglomerate, and on the small hill further in front or in edge waters waders feed and geese rest. The second observation site is not far away from the first one: beyond the village stop at the flooded road ②. From this site you will partly observe the same birds on the left side of the road, also you will have an opportunity to observe birds on the right side of the road in the flooded meadows and on the small hill at the village. Ruffs and waders are fond of the small gravel road edges, and in the second half of April you will find flocks of these birds right on the road. If the road is passable at this point, it is advisable to move further to the pump station building ③, as this site has two advantages: 1. being on the dyke you will be able to observe the area from



a higher point; 2. if you come here in the afternoon the sun will shine onto your back and you will have better conditions to watch the valley. For the fourth birdwatching site, you will have to come back to the village and turn to the left in the centre. Drive nearly 900 m to the crossing where the road forks ④. In early spring, if the water level is very high and you may not access to this site, you may come close to it. From this site you may birdwatch onto three different sides: 1. the village of Sausgalviai on the hill - most often flocks of geese feed or rest here, and waders run at the water; 2. the flooded meadows on the Žalgiriai forest side - here water stays until the latest in the delta, so it depends much on the time of your visit, here you may see nearly all species of ducks, grebes, geese and swans; 3. the side of Šilutė, or north-eastwards, - here water is present until late, so you may also see a variety of ducks, swans and resting geese. This side deserves a more attentive look, but to do so it is necessary to go to birdwatching site ⑤. In order to come to the fifth birdwatching site, drive out of the village of Sausgalviai taking the direction towards Užliekniai, and drive 1,4 km to the first farmhouse on the left side of the road. Pass it and immediately turn to the left taking the small sandy road, follow it 1,8 km, and beyond the pine grove again turn to the left. Follow this small road to the flooded meadows until the road is passable, or it becomes dangerous because of soft mud on the road ⑤. At this site the

water level in the meadows usually is low, and around you will see open meadow areas, liked very much by waders. Here numerous flocks of ruffs feed and rest, sometimes Eurasian Curlews, in flocks of hundreds, land, as well as numerous flocks of Wood Sandpipers and other waders. Being at site from time to time look into the sky: sometimes the Greater Spotted Eagle, breeding in the forest, flies out to hunt over the meadows.

Breeding. In May-June water usually is fully out of the meadows and the areas around Sausgalviai become a home to hundreds of rare and common birds. Late spring and summer provides the opportunity to reach the sites which in spring are under water, thus in this period you are advised to leave your car in Sausgalviai and go birdwatching on foot or by bicycle. The best time for a hike is early morning, an hour before sunrise, or late evening - three hours before sunset and two hours after sunset. At these intervals of the day birds are most active - you may hear the most secret and rarest birds. You will see the greatest number of rare and beautiful birds taking the two different routes from the village of Sausgalviai, as follows:

1. — it is the route, 6,5 km, following the gravel road and small road across the meadow, and it will take you about 4 hours to cover the entire circle. The habitat includes the natural and cultural meadows, the Leitė river, the canals of the drainage system, the bushy areas. Taking this route you will have the opportunity to see the major





A Mash Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) in the meadows of Sausgalviai © Marius Karlonas

share of the species included under the subtitle *Notable species* above: Greylag Geese, different species of ducks, you will hear Crakes, watch waders (Great Snipes near site ④), pass by two colonies of Sand Martins (at sites ④ and ③), late in the evening or early in the morning you will hear Bluethroats, and in the meadows near site ④ - songs of Aquatic Warblers, a rare species. Following this route on a sunny day, you will also see raptors, among which you may observe Greater and Lesser Spotted Eagles, Red and Black Kites. Late in the evening, after dark, the Eurasian Eagle-Owl comes out of the Žalgiriai forest to hunt in the meadows, and if success accompanies you may see this species.

2. — it is the route, 5,9 km, following the gravel road and small road across the meadow, and it will take you about 3,5 hours to cover the entire circle. This route is similar

to the first one, but with less bushes, an open landscape with haymaking fields and pastures prevails. In the canals you will watch ducks, hear Crakes, in the meadows rare species of waders breed (Marsh Sandpipers like ravines between small hills 300 m to the south from site ①), you will be able to hear Bluethroat and Common Rosefinches. When it is broad daylight Montagu's and Marsh Harriers, Honey Buzzard, Red Kites, Common Kestrels and Hobbies hunt. At noon activity of other birds drops fiercely, so if you come to birdwatch raptors you will not hear and see many other birds.

Other animals. In the river and canals European Beavers and Canadian Minks are found. Early in mornings and evenings Moose may be observed in the meadows near the Žalgiriai forest. Roe Deer are common in the meadows.



ŽALGIRIAI FOREST



TOP 3: Greater Spotted Eagle, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Eurasian Eagle-Owl.

Notable species. Black Kite, White-tailed Eagle, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Greater Spotted Eagle, Common Crane, Common Snipe, Eurasian Woodcock, Green Sandpiper, Eurasian Eagle-Owl, Tawny Owl, European Nightjar, Grey-headed Woodpecker, Black Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Dunnock, River Warbler, Eurasian Golden Oriole, Red-backed

Shrike, Red Crossbill, Common Rosefinch, Hawfinch.

Site description. The forest, 2,5 km to the southwest from Šilutė, is partially flooded by snowmelt water each year. The Žalgiriai forest, nearly quadratic, 1231 ha, with the Rupkalviai raised bog in its centre, is surrounded by cultural meadows from three sides, in the western side it borders



with the Nemunas river. Due to the abundant biodiversity of habitats, plants and animals the forest is included into the EU network of nature protected areas NATURA 2000; the forest is within the boundaries of the Nemunas Delta Regional Park.

Birdwatching sites and tactics.

Though from the point of view of nature the area is exceptional, for bird-watchers this forest is not gratifying. Scarce roads or paths going deeper into the Žalgiriai forest exist, and the existing ones are flooded by snow-melt water in spring.

As it is difficult to get into the forest in the period best for watching owls and woodpeckers, you may watch and hear these birds when you stay on the main roads or hike along the Voryčia river. The Žalgiriai forest is accessible by two gravel roads starting from the road Šilutė-Rusnė.

The roads, marked in — —, are passable to the end of the forest in all seasons of the year, at the meadows of Sausgalviai, where flood water stays on the road in many cases until May. Having entered the forest, drive up to the bridge over the Voryčia river, and here you may leave your car ①. From this point you may go to all four directions.

Hiking back towards the road you will watch birds as follows: Grey-headed Woodpeckers, Black Woodpeckers, Thrushes, Hawfinches, Red Crossbills and others. The road, 1,5 km, takes you to the meadows, walk 200 m further and stop for at least 20



Greater Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*) at the Žalgiriai forest © Marius Karlonas

minutes ②: Greater Spotted Eagles, Lesser Spotted Eagles, Common Buzzards, Montagu's Harriers and Marsh Harriers fly out to hunt in the meadows. When hiking from your car southwards, on the left side of the road you will see the meadows over which birds of prey, White-tailed Eagles in particular, like to hunt when in early spring the meadows are flooded and full of waterfowl. In May-June hiking along this road ③ you may hear River Warblers, Barred Warblers, Common Rosefinches, watch Red-backed Shrikes and European Nightjars flying at the forest outskirts in the evening. The road distance to the end of the forest is 1,2 km. Hiking from the car along the small road overgrown with grass along the Voryčia river eastwards; beyond 600 m you will come to the meadows ④, and in-





Grey-headed Woodpecker (*Picus canus*) © Armandas Naudžius

stead of turning and going back stop and wait for birds of prey. In the forest located on both sides of the river you may find numerous Wrens, Robins, Thrushes, sometimes you may see Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers. If you walk from your car eastwards the small road along the river will shortly end, and this site is liked by Green Sandpipers. When the day is closing, at site ① you may hear Eurasian Eagle-Owls but it is strictly prohibited to provoke them using audio recordings or to approach the bird closer having heard its sound - it is a very rare species in Lithuania.

When you turn into the gravel road at the bridge of Rusnė, marked in — —, it may be difficult to pass because of water on the beginning of the gravel road, but when it is waterless you may drive to its very end, where in spring the road is flooded at the Leitis river. Having entered the forest move very slowly as the entire

piece of the forest is liked by moose very much, here sparse black alders dominate ⑤. Drive further until you reach the bridge over the Voryčia river and leave your car there ⑥. From this point you may hike back via the forest, 1,8 km, to point ⑤. Besides Woodpeckers, Thrushes, Dunnocks and other forest birds, at this end of the forest in the evenings and mornings Eurasian Woodcocks fly. At the end of the forest you may turn and come back on the small road up to point ⑥, or to turn to the left (the south-west direction) across the meadow, and within 300 m you will reach the small road along the Nemunas banks, and returning on it you will come to birdwatching points ⑦ and ⑥. Taking this route you will hear many different warblers and other bush and forest birds.

Other animals. European Beavers, Canadian Minks, Red Foxes, Roe Deer, Moose.



RUPKALVIAI ORNITHOLOGICAL RESERVE AND MEADOWS AT ŠLAŽAI BRIDGE



2-6 h



5



TOP 3: Aquatic Warbler, Great Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit.

Notable species. Agglomerations of migrating swans, geese, ducks and waders; Lesser White-fronted Goose. In breeding season: Greylag Goose, Garganey, Grey Partridge, Black Stork, White-tailed Eagle, Marsh Harrier, Montagu's Harrier, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Greater Spotted Eagle, Water

Rail, Spotted Crake, Corn Crake, Little Ringed Plover, Ruff, Common Snipe, Great Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit, Eurasian Curlew, Common Redshank, Sand Martin, Western Yellow Wagtail (M. f. f.), Bluethroat, Northern Wheatear, Common Grasshopper Warbler, Aquatic Warbler, Common Rosefinch.



Site description. The Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve and its surrounding meadows are a unique territory in the Nemunas Delta, the importance of which occurs in flood and breeding seasons in spring time. The Reserve's territory starts in the distance of 1 km from Šilutė towards Rusnė and extends on the right side of the road, nearly up to the bridge to Rusnė. Cultured meadows with abundant drainage systems, serving as cattle pastures and haymaking fields, cover the entire territory. Only several farmhouses are scattered around in the territory.

Birdwatching sites and tactics.

Migration. In the migration period the variety of species of the agglomerations is similar to that in the meadows of Sausgalviai - in early spring tens of thousands of geese and ducks, hundreds of Whooper and Tundra Swans feed and rest here. In

the second half of April, waders appear in greater numbers and perch on patches of meadows above water, on edges of small roads. Ruffs, that are convenient to watch when feeding or resting on small roads to the flooded meadows, like this territory, in particular. When water is high in the meadows you may be astonished by a variety of duck species: during the migration period Eurasian Wigeons, Gadwalls, Eurasian Teals and Garganeys, Mallards, Northern Pintails, Northern Shovelers, Common Pochards, Tufted Ducks, Common Goldeneyes, Smews and Common Mergansers land here. The Rupkalviai flooded meadows are the best place to watch the Common Shelduck in spring, sometimes you may count tens of them here.

In this area the observation opportunity highly depends on the water level on the meadows and roads, and in the regular spring circumstances in our country, when the ma-



Birdwatchers in Rupkalviai watching the rare Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*)
© Marius Karlonas





Ruffs (*Philomachus pugnax*) © Marius Čepulis

for part of the meadows are flooded, 6 main watching sites occur.

The first birdwatching site ①, when coming from the direction of Šilutė, you may reach by turning to the gravel road on the right hand side, before the Šlažai bridge. From here to the farmhouse located in the field, the road is usually passable, but further on it is flooded until the end of April. The meadows on the left side of the road are flooded rarely, so geese alight here to feed. The second birdwatching site ② is on the other side of the Šlažai bridge, at the road to the village of Pagryniai. Here the birds are scattered on a large area, and they are difficult to observe, but this point is convenient, as the agglomerations can be observed from a shorter distance. The same territory, from the other side, can be observed from this site ③. Hav-

ing crossed the Šlažai bridge, you have to make a left turn before the Žalgiris forest, and follow 1 km along the gravel road, at the farmhouse, again turn to the left towards the meadows. At this point, geese like the edges of the flooded meadows, as well as waders.

The ④ observation point is the most popular among birdwatchers, covering the Rupkalviai flooded meadows. Having turned to the right from the main road, at the sign directing to the Rupkalviai ornithological reserve, follow the gravel road via the settlement of Rupkalviai up to the wood processing workshop, pass it and turn to the left, go forward 100 m and park your car on the hill. Large flocks of geese, among which sometimes it is possible to see the endangered Lesser White-fronted Geese, land here to feed on this hill and around the cem-

etery on the northern side. Ducks and other waterfowl scatter around on these meadows and make birdwatching comfortable, if to walk around the wood processing workshop. Waders, ruffs in particular, alight on the road to feed and rest on the western side of the meadows ⑤, and it is advisable to walk here on foot, as some parts of the road are flooded or muddy. Having returned from the fourth point to the main road, drive to the bridge to Rusnė, and before it turn to the right towards the village of Šyša. Sometimes geese flock in the meadows adjacent to the village of Šyša and you will be able to stop your car at the point closest to the birds. You will reach one of the main birdwatching points at the village of Šyša, within 1,4 km from the bridge towards Rusnė. You are advised to leave your car at the pathway into the meadows ⑥, on the right hand side. Through the space between the trees, or having walked a little bit along the pathway into the meadow, you will be able to observe the Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve from the western side.

Breeding. In the breeding period this site becomes known due to the abundant population of the Aquatic Warbler breeding here. In the Reserve meadows several tens of these endangered birds breed, and without any disturbance to them, you are able to observe standing on the pathways across the meadows. Also, in the meadows several pairs of Black-tailed Godwits, Common Snipes, Great Snipes, Common Redshanks, Spotted

Crakes and Corn Crakes breed, you may hear Bluethroats at the edges of the canals in late evenings or at night. You may see or hear all these birds following the route marked in — —. The distance of the route is 7,1 km, and you are advised to devote at least 4 hours for the hike. The best season for the hike across the meadows of Rupkalviai is from the middle of May to the end of June. Within that period, even the latest home-coming song-birds are here and they are active throughout the major period of the 24 hours of a day. If you wish to hear such secret birds, as the Spotted Crake, the Water Rail, the Great Snipe, the Aquatic Warbler or the Bluethroat, you are advised to delay your hike until dusk, thus starting around 7-8 p.m.

Other animals. European Beavers and Canadian Minks are met in the canals, sometimes Moose come out from the forest of Žalgiriai, and at its edges, in the evenings bats of various species are common. In the meadows Red Foxes and Roe Deer are frequent.



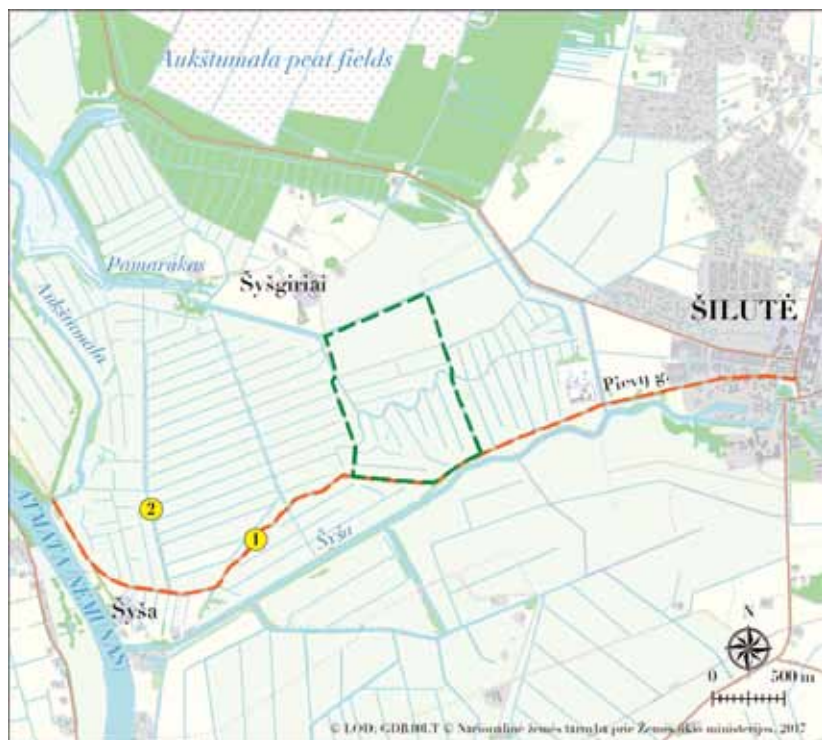
Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)
© Marius Karlonas



MEADOWS OF ŠYŠGIRIAI



2-3 h



6

TOP 3: Black-tailed Godwit, Great Snipe, Corn Crake.

Notable species. Agglomerations of migrating swans, geese, ducks and waders, Lesser White-fronted Goose. Breeding: Garganey, Grey Partridge, White-tailed Eagle, Black Kite, Marsh Harrier, Montagu's Harrier, Lesser-spotted Eagle, Water Rail, Spotted Crake, Corn Crake, Common Crane, Common Snipe, Great Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit, Common Red-

shank, Eurasian Wryneck, Western Yellow Wagtail (*M. f. f.*), Bluethroat, Common Grasshopper Warbler, River Warbler, Red-backed Shrike, Common Rosefinch.

Site description. The meadows of the Šyša polder extending on the western outskirts of the town of Šilutė adjoin the village of Šyšgiriai





Birdwatchers in the meadows of Šyšgiriai © Marius Karlonas

and the Aukštumala peat fields to the north, the Aukštumala river to the west, and the Šyša river to the south. The area of 830 ha has heavy drainage systems, and solely the Pamarukas river flowing across the middle of the meadows is intact by human activities, so rare bird species are fond of it in their breeding period. When snowmelt starts in spring the area is abundantly flooded, water lies on the meadows until May. Many drainage canals and field roads are overgrown with bush belts fragmenting the meadows. Nearly all meadows in this part of the Nemuonas Delta Regional Park are haymaking fields or cattle pastures producing favourable conditions for birds. The major part of the Nemunas Delta meadows are private and it is important to respect the private properties, and not to use motor vehicles outside the roads.

Birdwatching sites and tactics.

In spring, when the water level is high access to the meadows of Šyšgiriai may be rather complicated, as some parts of the gravel road is flooded. However, the road is not flooded every year and it is worth checking on-site. Usually, from mid-April the road becomes practicable. The only road to the site exists: in Šilutė, at the Turgaus aikštė (Eng. Market Square) turn to Pievų street, and having passed one residential block you will come to the gravel road leading to the meadows of Šyšgiriai (— —).

Migration. In spring, when the meadows are flooded this area becomes a paradise for migrating waterfowl, numerous agglomerations of which stay here until water fully drains out in the meadows. Flocks of migrating ducks, geese and waders particularly are fond of the flooded



meadows during their migration to the breeding places in the North, they make brief stops here to rest and feed. In these meadows nearly each year individual Lesser White-fronted Geese are found, and in 2012 a record number of individuals of this species was recorded, i.e. 15 Lesser White-fronted Geese in one flock. On this site birdwatching of agglomerations is comfortable due to the gravel road next to the Šyša river, as here birds land on both sides of the road. Waterfowl like the entire meadow segment from Šilutė to the Aukštumala river, and no individual birdwatching site for swans, geese or ducks may be highlighted, the entire distance of 4,3 km is suitable for birdwatching staying on the road. Waders, particularly Ruffs and Black-tailed Godwits, prefer the meadows at the village of Šyša. The birdwatching site depends greatly on the water level, however, for ruffs at the

migration peak, in the second half of April, two birdwatching sites could be recommended: ① Low-lying area of the meadows at the village of Šyša where water goes closely to the road - ruffs stay on both sides of the road; ② The cobble road from the village of Šyša to the north; in spring, this road is partially flooded nearly until end of April but on some patches above the water various waders land to rest and feed, such as Little Ringed Plovers, Common Snipes, Wood Sandpipers, Ruffs, Black-tailed Godwits and others.

Breeding. In the breeding period the set of bird species is similar to that of the Rupkalviai Ornithological Reserve (page 23) located on the other side of the Šyša river: Black-tailed Godwits, Great Snipes, Common Snipes breed in the meadows, Water Rails and Corn Crakes are heard at the canals and the river-side, River and Common Grasshop-



A flock of migrating geese in Šyšgiriai meadows © Marius Karlonas





Great Snipes (*Gallinago media*) © Kęstutis Čepėnas

per Warblers reel here. At daytime you may watch hunting Montagu's and Marsh Harriers, White-tailed Eagles, Black Kites. After dark drive on the road very slowly and try to discern a "radiant" eye of the European Nightjar on the road. At summer nights they like to land on warm gravel roads, and it is easy to find them when you drive slowly on small roads at edges of woods.

The visitors who want to hike in these meadows and hear the most interesting birds breeding here are advised to follow this route ——. The route follows small field roads across the meadows with drainage systems and along the Pamarukas river. You are recommended to choose this route, 4 km, only at the end of spring and in the first half of summer because the road partly

may be flooded up to May, and activity of birds drops from July. You are advised to start the hike in the evening before sunset, or early in the morning - just before sunrise. Great Snipes become most active one hour after sunset and sing until morning; if you wish to hear them start the 2-hour hike around 9-10 p.m. Great Snipes are very rare and protected in our country, so listen to them only from a long distance in order not to scare them from the leking places.

Other animals. In canals European Beavers and Canadian Minks are found, sometimes Moose come out of the Aukštumala raised bog, and in evenings various species of bats are common on its edges. Red Foxes, Roe Deers and Grey Hares are frequent in the meadows.



TULKIARAGĖ POLDER AND KROKŲ LANKA LAKE



7

TOP 3: Water Rail, Little Crane, White-tailed Eagle.

Notable species. Greylag Goose, Common Shelduck, Gadwall, Eurasian Teal, Garganey, Northern Shoveler, Crested Grebe, Tufted Duck, Common Goldeneye, Eurasian Bittern, Great Cormorant, White-tailed Eagle, Black Kite, Marsh Harrier, Montagu's Harrier, Eurasian Hobby, Water Rail, Spotted Crane, Little Crane, Corn

Crane, Common Crane, Common Snipe, Common Redshank, Black-tailed Godwit, Western Yellow Wagtail (*M. f. f.*), Bluethroat, Common Grasshopper Warbler, River Warbler, Savi's Warbler, Aquatic Warbler, Red-backed Shrike, Common Rosefinch, Common Reed Bunting.



Site description. When farming was ceased in the Tulkiaragė polder the meadows became overgrown with bushes and reed beds which made the diversity of bird species in this area rather poor, but in 2010-2015 the implementation of the project for protection of the Aquatic Warbler was started and many reed beds in the Tulkiaragė polder were cut each year. This process in the course of a few successive years restored the conditions suitable for other very rare bird species to breed. Common Redshanks came back to the area, partition of the reed beds increased the populations of Marsh Harriers and crakes, and in 2016 the first singing Aquatic Warbler male was recorded. It is expected that in the future these endangered birds will start breeding in these meadows of the Nemunas Delta Regional Park.

Birdwatching sites and tactics. You may come to the Tulkiaragė polder on the same road as to the meadows of Šyšgiriai ——. The polder starts immediately after you pass the bridge over Aukštumala and extends to Krokų Lanka lake. One of the best sites for birdwatching in Tulkiaragė is the bird observation platform on the pump station ①. From the bridge over Aukštumala drive 2,3 km, then turn into the small road on the right hand side and, having passed 1,3 km, you will come to the pump station beautified with a picture of the Aquatic Warbler, with an observation platform on top. Looking through binoculars or a spotting scope you may watch the nest of the White-tailed Eagle, where “the king of the delta” has been nesting many years in a row. Closer to the lake, in dried off black alders the Black



Bird observation platform in Tulkiaragė © Marius Karlonas





Moose (*Alces alces*) © Marius Karlonas

Kite, a rare raptor, started nesting in recent years. You may watch these birds from the small roads or the observation platform: both species are included into Red Data Book of Lithuania. In May-June, from the observation platform you may watch up to 60 different bird species. Crakes and Bitterns make noise in the reed beds, over the meadows Common Snipes and Common Redshanks perform their courtship flies, Montagu's and Marsh Harriers, Hobbies hunt, Common Grasshoppers, River and Savi's Warblers produce their insect-like reeling. If you stay a bit longer, in Kampupė you will wait to see Common Shelducks nesting here. If you observe the lake through a spotting scope you will watch Greylag Geese with goslings, various species of ducks, Great Cormorants, Crested Grebes.

From the pumping station having turned to the west, towards the lake, you will come to the birdwatching path, 1,2 km in one way ——. Taking this path you will come to the observation platform ②, from there you will be able to observe the lake from a closer distance. In the shore reed beds many different warblers are abundant. The best season and time to visit this area are mornings and evenings in May-July.

Other animals. The observation platform in Tulkaragė, probably, is the best point in the Nemunas Delta to watch Moose. In evenings and mornings you may watch them wading through edges of the reed beds or in the open field. Also, European Beavers and Roe Deer are common.

ISLAND OF SKIRVYTĖ



TOP 3: Eurasian Oystercatcher, Common Ringed Plover, Common Sandpiper.

Notable species. Agglomerations of migrating ducks, waders, gulls and terns. **Breeding:** Common Shelduck, Common Merganser, Grey Partridge, Great Cormorant, White-tailed Eagle, Marsh Harrier, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Little Ringed Plover, Common Ringed Plover, Common Sandpiper, Black-tailed Godwit, Little Gull, Little Tern, Common Tern, Common Kingfisher, Sand Martin.

Site description. The Skirvytė river is one of the two branches of the Nemunas river which together with the Atmata river flows around Rusnė Island. This river marks the border between Lithuania and the Kaliningrad Region of the Russian Federation and is actively observed by the State Border Guard Service, which patrolling on Rusnė Island stop visitors and request to provide with





Birdwatchers watching Eurasian Oystercatchers on Skirvytė island © Marius Karlonas

personal identification documents. In the Skirvytė river several small sand islands were naturally formed and in the course of time overgrew with bushes and high grass. Birds are found in the island of the Skirvytė river located 1 km westwards from the small town of Rusnė; its area is 0,7 ha excluding shoals emerging in summer. The entire island of Rusnė including the Skirvytė river and its islands are within the boundaries of the Nemunas Delta Regional Park.

Birdwatching sites and tactics.

Access to this island is easy as the island is very close to the small town of Rusnė, from which a good quality gravel road — goes to the Skirvytė river at the point of the island. In the small town of Rusnė having crossed the bridge over the

Pakalnė river, pass by the fuel station and at the point where the main road forks into two, stay on the left road. From the sign of the small town of Rusnė continue on the gravel road 770 m, having gone up on the dyke you will see two contiguous small roads to the left side, one of them will stretch over the top of the dyke, while the other - at the bottom. You will reach the Skirvytė river following any of them, and at the concrete bank turn onto the small road to the left. From the point ①, in the river, you will see the island abundantly overgrown with bushes,

In early spring, when the water level in the river is high, the island is not liked by birds, as it is difficult for bigger birds to land on the surface overgrown with bushes. But in May when the water level starts to drop



Eurasian Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) © Marius Čepulis

and sandy shores emerge, this habitat becomes home or a feeding place for numerous birds. On the island Eurasian Oystercatchers, Little Ringed Plovers and Common Ringed Plovers, Common Sandpipers, Little Terns and Common Terns breed, and besides the birds living on the island, birds breeding in adjacent areas and the young from there gather on the island. From mid-summer particularly, when water shrinks more and in front of the island sandy dry patches and shoals emerge, hundreds of various birds perch on the island. Birds that bred in nearby areas gather here, such as Lapwings, Black-tailed Godwits, Ruffs, Common Sandpipers, Whiskered Terns, Black Terns, also gulls: Black-headed, Little, Herring and Caspian. Common Shelducks and Common Mergansers

with the young often come here to rest. Over the river you may observe White-tailed Eagles looking around for search of fish in shallow waters, and Marsh Harriers fly over the shores aiming at their prey.

In August, when intensive migration of waders starts this island turns into the second best site in the Nemunas Delta to watch these birds, following the fish ponds in Kintai (page 55) . If the water level in the river does not rise and flood the sandy shoals the area continues to be of major importance for migrating birds throughout the entire migration period until November.

Other animals. European Beavers, Eurasian Otters, Canadian Minks, Roe Deers, Grey Hares.



BEVARDIS STREAM AND SURROUNDING MEADOWS



9

TOP 3: Common Redshank, Black Tern, Short-eared Owl.

Notable species. Agglomerations of migrating swans, geese, ducks and waders. Breeding period: Garganey, Gey Partridge, Eurasian Bittern, White-tailed Eagle, Marsh Harrier, Montagu's Harrier, Water Rail, Spotted Crake, Little Crake, Corn Crake, Common Crane, Ruff, Common Snipe, Black-tailed God-

wit, Common Redshank, Black Tern, Short-eared Owl, Western Yellow Wagtail (M.f.f.), Northern Wheatear, Common Grasshopper Warbler, Savi's Warbler, Red-backed Shrike.

Site description. The pastures and hayfields stretching in the south-

western part of the island of Rusnė have abundant drainage systems, however, as a part of the territory remains marshy human activities are not in progress there. Numerous narrow fluvial origin small eutrophic lakes, old river beds, the shores of which are overgrown with plentiful reed beds, lie in the meadows. Two of them, lakes Kalnupžiogis and Juodvilké, are linked by the Bevardis stream, sometimes also called Pelintakis. As the entire island of Rusnė, this area is also within the boundaries of the Nemunas Delta Regional Park.

Birdwatching sites and tactics.

You may drive to the bridge over the Bevardis stream ① from the direction of Rusnė, having crossed the Pakalnė river and following the main road up to the stream ——. The

distance from the bridge over the Pakalnė river to the Bevardis stream is 4,4 km, the major part being a gravel road. The road to the Bevardis stream is flooded extremely rarely, so you will be able to reach the watching point even in early spring.

Migration. In early spring, some areas of the meadows around the Bevardis stream are flooded, and due to that, geese, ducks and waders land here in numbers. Geese cluster mainly

on both sides of the gravel road, far before you will reach the Bevardis stream, because the more eastern meadows are higher, with scarce water. Closer to the Bevardis stream, more water appears in the meadows, thus greatly accommodating flocks of migrating ducks and waders. Along with water, high



Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) © Marius Čepulis



number agglomerations crowd also in the meadows on the western side of the Bevardis stream, between lakes Kalnupžiojis and Juodvilkė.

Breeding. Having water fallen off in the meadows, the Bevardis stream, the lakes, old river beds, and the surrounding meadows become home for numerous species of protected birds. If you come to the bridge over the Bevardis stream as early as end of May, you will be met, in a very close distance, by a numerous Black Tern flock, hatching on water soldiers. For breeding, waders choose the meadows between lakes Kalnupžiojis and Juodvilkė, here you may watch Common Redshanks, Black-tailed Godwits, Common Snipes and Ruffs. The shores of the stream and lakes are richly overgrown with reeds, are marshy and preferred by crakes. In this area you may hear 4 species of crakes: the Water Rail, the Little Crake, the Spotted Crake and the Corn Crake. In the shore reed beds the Eurasian Bittern delivers its foghorn sound, the Savi's Warbler produces its buzzing songs, the Marsh and Montagu's Harriers nest and hunt here. This is one of the best spots in the Nemunas Delta to watch the Short-eared Owl. These mysterious owls set out hunting at or after sunset, and at that time the highest possibility to see the Short-eared Owl, sitting or flying low over the meadows, exists.

From the bridge over the Bevardis stream, or within a short walking distance from there you may watch

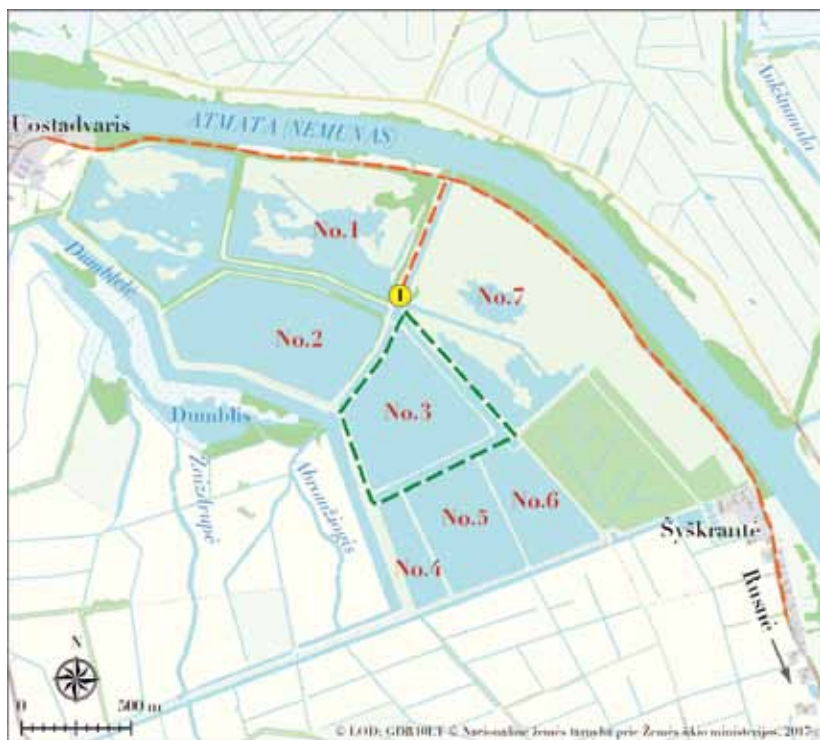


Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)
© Simonas Minkevičius

or hear a substantial number of birds breeding in this area, however, you will observe the most of interesting birds, having started out for a hike to the four lakes, old river beds, and three streams. This route — of 4,6 km follows small roads you may go on a bicycle or drive by car. Early morning or evening before sunset is the best time to set out, as crakes, bitterns and owls are most active before sunrise or after sunset. Thus, if you wish to see a big variety of birds, in summer, it is advisable to start a 3-hour hike at around 4-5 a.m. in the morning or at 8-9 p.m. in the evening.

Other animals. European beavers, Canadian Minks, Roe Deers and Grey Hares are common in the meadows.

FISH PONDS OF RUSNĖ



TOP 3: Black-necked Grebe, Little Grebe, Northern Shoveler.

Notable species. Greylag Goose, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Common Pochard, Tufted Duck, Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Black-necked Grebe, Great Cormorant, Eurasian Bittern, Grey Heron, Western Marsh Harrier, White-tailed Eagle, Water Rail, Common Moorhen, Eurasian Coot, Common Sandpiper, Black Tern, Common Kingfisher, Lesser Spotted

Woodpecker, Savi's Warbler, Bearded Reedling, Eurasian Penduline Tit.

Description. The fish ponds erected on the northern part of Rusnė island have not been used for intense commercial fishery for over two decades. Half of the ponds' area is richly overgrown with reeds and bushes and few ponds are not filled with wa-



ter. Though intense fishery activities have been ceased in this aquaculture farm, the area is taken care of by a watchman who issues permits for fishermen to get into the pond area.

Birdwatching sites and tactics.

You will see the information sign concerning entrance to the pond area on the left side of the road, when driving from Šyškrantė towards Uostadvaris — —. If you want to bird watch in the ponds you will have to contact the watchman who usually is present in the area, and you will have to look for him in the house at the gate ①. Having agreed with the watchman, it is best to leave your vehicle here and continue birdwatching on foot, as the roads in the pond area are of poor condition.

You will be able to see the major share of the ponds taking the 3,6 km route — — around the third pond (No 3). Starting to walk along the route from the watchman's house, you may have a look at the first pond and continue the hike in the south-west direction. Following the small road, in the reeds and bushes you may hear the first Eurasian Penduline Tits and Bearded Reedlings, generally common in this area. In the distance of 600 m from the watchman's house you will come to the dyke, and having climbed it, you may observe the second pond. In 2017, in the trees at the end of the pond Great Cormorants started to breed, and within the first year ca. 1000 pairs settled here. Having examined the second pond, continue on the top of the dyke, along



Black-necked Grebe (Podiceps nigricollis) © Marius Čepulis



Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) © Simonas Minkevičius

the edges of the third pond. In this pond grebes like to breed, among common Great Crested Grebes you may also watch rare Black-necked Grebes. Having reached the fourth pond, turn into the small road on the left side, to the eastern direction. Following this small road, you may observe three ponds on the right side (No 4, 5, 6). In the fourth pond, Little Grebes and Common Moorhens breed, however, you may fail to succeed to watch them emerging out of the aquatic vegetation. Usually, the fifth and sixth ponds are the most interesting ones, Gadwalls, Northern Shovelers, Common Pochards and Tufted Ducks, Eurasian Coots breed here; Greylag Geese bring the young from the meadows to these ponds. Migrating water birds also like these two ponds, in autumn and spring here you may watch a paddling of

hundreds of ducks, including also Eurasian Wigeons, Northern Pintails, Common Goldeneyes, Garganeys and Eurasian Teals. In the migration period, Tundra and Whooper Swans land here and in late autumn it is one of the best sites to see these species in the Nemunas Delta. Having come to the seventh pond, turn to the left and proceed towards the watchman's house. The seventh pond is very shallow, abundantly overgrown with reeds, and thus liked by water birds, such as ducks and Greylag Geese; the edges of the pond are the best place to discover Bearded Reedlings, Eurasian Penduline Tits, Savi's Warblers, Western Marsh Harriers, also to hear Eurasian Bitterns and Water Rails.

Other animals. European Beavers, Canadian Minks, Eurasian Otters, Raccoon Dogs, Red Foxes, Roe Deers.



COASTAL AREA AT UOSTADVARIS



2-6 h



11

TOP 3: Little Bittern, Short-eared Owl, Citrine Wagtail.

Notable species. Agglomerations of geese, ducks and waders. Breeding: Greylag Goose, Garganey, Grey Partridge, Eurasian Bittern, Little Bittern, White-tailed Eagle, Western Marsh Harrier, Montagu's Harrier, Water Rail, Corn Crake, Common Crane, Common Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit, Common Redshank, Black Tern, Short-eared Owl, Common Kingfisher, West-

ern Yellow Wagtail (M.f.f.), Citrine Wagtail, Bluethroat, Northern Wheatear, Common Grasshopper Warbler, Savi's Warbler, River Warbler, Aquatic Warbler, Bearded Reedling, Common Rosefinch.

Site description. The cultured meadows with heavy drainage systems extending in the south-west-



ern part of Rusnė island adjoin the wide reed bed belt in the Curonian Lagoon to the west, the Atmata river to the north, and the Rusnaitė river to the south. After snowmelt runoff in spring cattle pasture in the meadows, grass is mowed. Due to these extensive farming methods applied here very rare birds for Lithuania occur in the meadows. As the entire Rusnė island, this area also falls under the boundaries of the Nemunas Delta Regional Park.

Birdwatching sites and tactics.

Entrance to this area depends on seasons of the year, as in spring the meadows are flooded heavily with snowmelt water and often the

small roads are under water until mid-April. Though in May water still lays sporadically in the meadows the small roads usually are dry and you may go by car from the directions of Uostadvaris or Pakalnė. The main watching point and site, from where birdwatching will be continued hiking, is the birdwatching tower ① of Uostadvaris in the coastal area.

Migration. The observation tower is a perfect place to look around, to enjoy the landscape of Rusnė island, the Curonian dunes in the distance of few kilometres and the Ventė Cape Ornithological Station (*Lith. Ventės rago ornitologinė stotis*). From this tower, the meadows may be seen very well where in spring and au-



Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*) © Marius Čepulis



tumn geese flock, also you may observe the reed belt where you could see the Eurasian Bittern or a wading moose, and the coastal area of the Curonian Lagoon liked by flocks of resting ducks so much. Each autumn and spring millions of birds come back flying on the coastal area, and the tower is one of the best places to watch autumn and spring migrations in the district of Šilutė.

Breeding period. From the tower or standing next to it you may nearly always hear “ping” calls of Bearded Reedlings very close to you in the reed beds or reeling Savi’s Warblers. If you walk along the reed bed you will find the rare Citrine Wagtails, each year at least three pairs of these breed here.

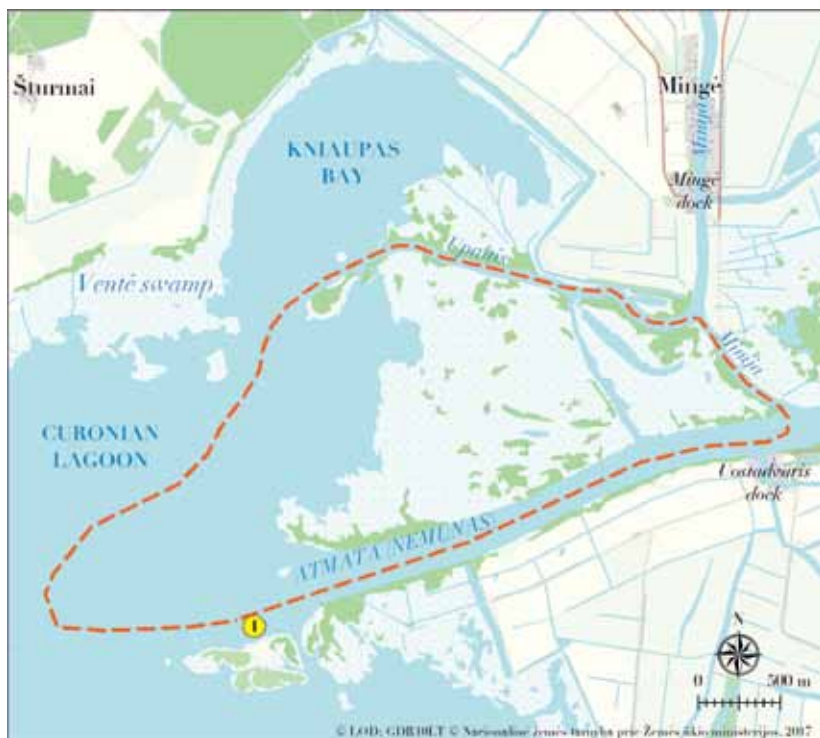
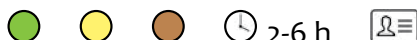
As other places, this area reveals itself to its best early in the morning or late in the evening when dusk birds become more active. If you want to find the most interesting birds in this area you are advised to choose the route — of 8 km across the fields that is fit for hiking and bicycling. The hiking duration following this route is 4-5 hours, it is advisable to start the hike around 7-8 p.m., from the tower eastwards (choosing this direction you will find the greatest number of birds). Before the dark falls, in the meadows between Pakalnė and the Uostadvaris port you will observe hunting Montagu’s Harriers and Western Marsh Harriers, White-tailed Eagles,

meadow and bush birds: Common Grasshopper, River Warbler, Savi’s Warble, Marsh Warblers, Meadow Pipits, Common Rosefinches. The Sun disappearing below the horizon, you will be halfway of the route, and from the Uostadvaris port you will hike in the direction of the tower across the meadows with heavy drainage systems. Covering this segment try to keep a slow pace and stop occasionally to listen: in the evenings the Aquatic Warbler, the rarest songster in Europe, sings in the meadows. Nearby, Common Redshanks and Black-tailed Godwits breed, Greylag Geese with the young swim in the canals, Corn Crakes deliver their *kek kek* calls, Common Snipes utter their stutter songs in the air. After sunset, it is advisable to pay attention to each bigger bird flying above the reeds or meadows as Short-eared Owls set for hunting at that time. You will be back at the tower when it is nearly dark, but enthusiastic hikers are advised to walk further along the dyke —, about 600 m, towards the Rusnaitė river. Walking on the dyke along the reed beds be attentive and listen, at night here you may hear Eurasian and Little Bitterns accompanied by sharming vocalisations and piglet-like squeals of Water Rails.

Other animals. Moose, Roe Deer, European Beavers, Eurasian Otters, Canadian Minks, Grey Hares.



NEMUNAS DELTA FROM BOAT



TOP 3: agglomerations of migrating ducks, Little Gull, Bearded Reedling.

Notable species. Agglomerations of migrating ducks; Great White Egrets, various species of gulls. Breeding period: Greylag Goose, Garganey, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Common Pochard, Tufted Duck, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Eurasian Bittern, Great Crested Grebe, White-tailed Eagle, Western Marsh Harrier, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Common Sandpiper, Green Sandpiper,

Common Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit, Common Redshank, Black Tern, Whiskered Tern, Little Gull, Common Kingfisher, Citrine Wagtail, Savi's Warbler, Bearded Reedling, Eurasian Penduline Tit, Common Rosefinch.

Site description. To explore the Nemunas Delta travelling by boat is a unique opportunity to look at the littoral area nature from a different



angle. Travelling by boat you may visit the most remote places of the delta, not accessible by road, and to see the realm of waterfowl. The Curonian Lagoon, the Kniaupas bay, the rivers of Atmata, Miniija and Upaitis, the islands of Atmata, the shallow of the Kniaupas bay and the Ventė swamp - these are habitats preferred by birds, that you may see taking the 12 km route from Uostadvaris or Mingė by boat.

Birdwatching sites and tactics. If you wish to make a reservation for a trip by boat, you will have to contact the captains in the villages of Mingė or Uostadvaris in advance and to agree regarding the exact time, route and duration (For more information concerning boat rent see website of the Šilutė Tourist Information Centre www.siluteinfo.lt). If to take the route, marked in the yellow dotted

line, the trip by boat will take up to two hours, depending on the number of stops you may wish to have and look around.

If you start from the small river port in Atmata, go into Miniija, and very soon, beyond 800 m, turn to the Upaitis river, and proceed to the Kniaupas bay. In this segment you will see Grey Herons, Little and Black-headed Gulls that breed nearby, also Common Kingfishers often sitting at the riverside. As the Kniaupas bay is very shallow in some places, you will be able to go only along it without any turnings, following the straight route for boats. The bay is a valuable territory for breeding and migrating waterfowl. In the breeding period you may observe Greylag Geese, Gadwalls, Northern Shovelers and Common Pochards, Common Goldeneyes, Common Mergansers, Eurasian Coots, Great Cormorants, Great



Birdwatchers aboard © Marius Karlonas

Crested Grebes, at the edges of the bay Whiskered Terns breed. In the migration period numerous agglomerations of ducks and migrating waterfowl exceeding several thousand are observed.

Having reached the Curonian Lagoon, you will not be able to turn immediately towards the small islands in Atmata, as waters at the banks are too shoal for boats. The captain will be able to turn into the direction of the river mouth of Atmata, having gone ca. 1,5 km into the Lagoon. The variety of waterfowl, gulls and turns also like this area of the Curonian Lagoon, and here an awesome panoramic view onto the Ventė Cape Ornithological Station (*Lith. Ventės rago ornitologinė stotis*) and the dunes of the Curonian Spit will open in front of you. Having reached the islands

in the river mouth of Atmata, ask the captain to come as close as possible to them ① and to turn the engine off, for at least ten minutes. Besides common birds, Garganeys and Eurasian Teals, Gadwalls, Eurasian Oystercatchers, Northern Lapwings, Common Redshanks, Black-tailed Godwits, Common Snipes, Little and Common Terns, Citrine Wagtails breed here. To walk on the island during the breeding period (May 20 - July 31) is prohibited, so at that time you may watch the birds staying on board the boat only. Having looked around the islands in Atmata, return to the small river port via the Atmata river.

Other animals. European Beavers, Eurasian Otters, Canadian Minks. Going by boat you may observe Moose and Roe Deer on the river banks.



Great Egret (*Egretta alba*) © Simonas Minkevičius



LAKESIDE OF KROKŲ LANKA AND OLD RIVER BED OF MINIJA



13

TOP 3: Montagu's Harrier, Common Redshank, Aquatic Warbler.

Notable species. Flocks of migrating swans, geese, ducks and waders. Breeding: Greylag Goose, Gadwall, Garganey, Northern Shoveler, Common Pochard, Tufted Duck, Grey Partridge, Great Crested Greebe, Eurasian Bittern, White-tailed Eagle, Marsh Harrier, Montagu's Harrier, Eurasian Hobby, Water Rail, Spot-

ted Crane, Little Crane, Corn Crane, Common Moorhen, Common Crane, Common Snipe, Common Redshank, Black-tailed Godwit, Black Tern, Whiskered Tern, Western Yellow Wagtail (*M. f. f.*), Northern Wheatear, Common Grasshopper Warbler, Savi's Warbler, Aquatic Warbler, Red-backed Shrike, Common Rosefinch.



Site description. Krokų Lanka is a lagoon type lake in the Nemunas Delta Regional Park, halfway to Šilutė, a town, and Ventės Ragas (Ventė Cape). At the shores of the lake two villages, Rūgaliai and Minija, were established. The shores are nearly entirely overgrown with rush and reed beds. In deeper waters aquatic plants, such as yellow pond lilies, pondweed, parrot feather water milfoil, grow. The lake is 4,4 km wide and 3,3 km long. The lakeside meadows are flooded each spring, but a heavy drainage system usually drains water out in the meadows prior to May. The Minija river flows on the western side of the lake, and in the meadows the old river bed is seen.

Observation sites and tactics.

Migration. As in the biggest part of the Nemunas Delta, the lakeside meadows in the flood season in spring are highly flooded, thus access to the area may be impossible due to flooded roads. However, the roads are not flooded every year and water presence in the meadows lasts differently, thus, the best way to learn the situation is to come here. To come here you may take only two roads: from the road Šilutė-Kintai, at the village of Rūgaliai or at the old river bed of Minija, you will have to turn to the direction of the village of Minija (Mingė) —. Then, following the gravel road towards the lake you may, just from the road, observe flocks of swans, geese, ducks and waders feeding and resting on the flooded meadows. If



Birdwatchers from England at Krokų Lanka lake © Marius Karlonas

all the field roads are passable, you may observe the biggest part of the agglomerations in the meadows and lake at 6 observation sites marked on the map: ① The lowland in the meadows, where water is preserved rather long, and this place is liked very much by flocks of migrating ducks. ② The birdwatching tower at the lakeside of Krokų Lanka, from here you may overlook the lakeside meadows and the lake. This site is of particular importance in the autumn migration period when the water level in the meadows becomes lower and ducks flock in the lake. ③ The area of meadows lying in the lowland preserves water longer, and here migrating ducks and waders land to feed. ④ These meadows possess scarce water, and geese land here to feed. ⑤ In the flooded meadows geese and ducks flock, and in the outskirts of the wood, in trees, breeding White-tailed Eagles sit. In late autumn, all western lakeside area is one of the best places in the Nemunas Delta to watch Northern Harriers.



Breeding period. From the beginning of May to the second half of July, Krokų Lanka lake and the lakeside meadows become home for tens of rare birds. On the shores of the lake several families of Greylag Geese breed, as well as rare ducks: Gadwalls, Northern Shovelers, Common Pochards, Tufted Ducks and Garganeys. Common Redshanks, Black-tailed Godwits, Common Snipes breed in the meadows. White-tailed Eagles, Marsh and Montagu's Harriers, Eurasian Hobbies hunt here. In the reed beds of the lake Eurasian Bitterns are rather frequent, and at the edges of the canals Water Rails and Spotted Crakes are heard in the evenings.

You will encounter the biggest number of breeding birds' species if you take the 4,3 km route, marked in green, across the lakeside meadows. It is advisable to start the route from watching point ②. Having left your car, climb the highest birdwatch-

ing tower and observe the lake. It's worthwhile to wait in the tower for at least 20 minutes, as you may not hear or see all birds coming out of the reeds simultaneously. Having observed the lake, continue the hike following the field pathway, as shown on the map. Taking this route you'll come back to the tower in about two hours. The best time for birdwatching is early morning or late evening. It's important to plan your time so that you were in route at sunrise or sunset.

Visitors who wish to hear the rare Aquatic Warbler are advised to enjoy birdwatching from sites ① and ⑥. If you happen to have a spotting scope, observe the grass tops - the Aquatic Warbler sings most often on the highest grass tops and is easy to notice in a far distance.

Other animals. Moose, Roe Deer, European Beavers, Eurasian Otters, Canadian Minks, Grey Hares.



Montagu's Harrier male (*Circus pygargus*) © Marius Čepulis

AUKŠTUMALA NATURE TRAIL



TOP 3: Black Grouse, Golden Plover, Great Grey Shrike.

Notable species. Black Grouse, White-tailed Eagle, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Eurasian Hobby, Common Crane, Golden Plover, Common Snipe, Eurasian Woodcock, Green Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, European Nightjar, Eurasian Wryneck, Black Woodpecker, Woodlark, Golden Oriole, Great Grey Shrike, Hawfinch.

Site description. The former Aukštumala wetland used to be one of the most unique raised bogs in Lithuania previously, however, currently it has been deeply hurt by human activities - in the course of over half a century the peat mining company has been operating there. The entire territory of the raised bog and the mining fields are within the





Birdwatchers from Norway on the Aukštumala Nature Trail © Eugenijus Ostašenkovas

boundaries of the Nemunas Delta Regional Park, and only in its western part a telmological nature reserve was established, where in 2013-2017, in the implementation of the wetland restoration project the hydrological regime of the survived raised bog was restored, trees and bushes are being managed, the nature trail including an observation tower was erected. In 1900, this raised bog was explored thoroughly by C. A. Weber, a German botanist, and Aukštumala became the first raised bog in the world that was scientifically researched. In 1902, the botanist described it and published a monograph on research of bogs, the first one in the world. The book is published in English and Lithuanian.

Birdwatching sites and tactics.

Going from Šilutė to the direction of Kintai, just before the village of Rūgaliai, on the right side of the road

you will see the information board and the sign directing to the Aukštumala Nature Trail. Leave your vehicle in the small forest ① on the other side of the road, and from here continue walking. The one way distance of the Nature Trail is 1,2 km — —, thus the hike will take you at least an hour. Covering the first part (370 m) of the Nature Trail you will pass through a birch grove, and that is the only part of the Nature Trail where you are able to watch forest birds, Here you may observe Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Black Woodpeckers, to hear Eurasian Golden Orioles, Hawfinches and other common forest birds. The second part of the Nature Trail will start after you cross a small bridge over the drainage ditch. From here onwards, you will follow the wooden trail of 480 m across an open habitat - the edge of the raised bog overgrown with scarce birch trees. In this segment

you may observe Woodlarks, Tree and Meadow Pipits, in the mornings and evenings Common Snipes, Eurasian Woodcocks and Green Sandpipers fly here. The third section of the Nature Trail extends along the new wooden trail 350 m long, from the old bird watching tower via the open raised bog to the new observation tower located in the middle of it ②, at the marshy small lakes. Walking along this section or watching birds from the observation tower, you will have an opportunity to see the rare Golden Plovers, Wood Sandpipers, and early in the morning you may listen to uttering mating calls of Black Grouses. If you have a more attentive look from the tower, you may notice Great Grey Shrikes on top of small pine trees, White-tailed Eagles flying in the sky, trumpeting Common Cranes, announcing of their presence. The best



Common Crane (*Grus grus*)
© Dalia Račkauskaitė

time to visit this habitat is the breeding season, in April - July.

Other animals. In the bog and its edges Grass Snakes occur abundantly, Common Wipers are not rare, at the trail you may notice Viviparous Lizards. Moose, Roe Deer, Grey Hares are met here.



European Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis apricaria*) © Renatas Jakaitis



FISH PONDS OF KINTAI



15

TOP 3: Common Shelduck, White-tailed Eagle, agglomerations of migrating waders.

Notable species. Agglomerations of migrating geese, ducks and waders; various species of gulls. Breeding period: Greylag Goose, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Tufted Duck, Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Great Cormorant, Grey Heron, White-tailed Eagle, Western Marsh Harrier, Water Rail, Common Moorhen, Eurasian Coot,

Little Ringed Plover, Common Ringed Plover, Common Sandpiper, Common Tern, Savi's Warbler, Eurasian Penduline Tit, Common Rosefinch.

Site description. It is one of the largest areas of commercial fish ponds (600 ha) in Lithuania established in the northern part of the



White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) © Marius Čepulis

Nemunas Delta Regional Park, at the riverside of Miniija near Kintai, a small town. In the area of the ponds the hotel and restaurant *Mėlynasis karpis* (*The Blue Carp*) operates, rent services of boats are rendered, the opportunity to photograph birds from nature inbuilt hides is provided. Before going into the pond area it is necessary to contact the administration via telephone or to go to the complex *Mėlynasis karpis* ① and to make reservation with the administrator concerning birdwatching. You may find all information regarding the ponds, the services and contacts at www.kintai.lt. When watching birds in the ponds, it is necessary to respect private property - for travelling by car use only gravel roads, you may not go onto the dykes or damage road coating. When roads are wet traffic is prohibited and visitors are admitted to the ponds on foot only.

Birdwatching sites and tactics.

The ponds of the fishery are one of

the best bird watching sites in western Lithuania, in particular, because of their importance for White-tailed Eagles, migrating waders and ducks, that can be met here from early spring to late autumn. Ducks like the entire area, but the largest flocks land in the biggest pond next to the main road (No. 1). In the ponds Greylag Geese, Gadwalls, Northern Shovelers, Tufted Ducks and rare Common Shelducks breed, and you may watch them mainly in the southern part of the ponds (No. 2 and No. 3). Waders like this area, in particular when the ponds are pumped out of water and the muddy bottom of the ponds becomes a perfect feeding place for hundreds, or sometimes even thousands of migrating Golden Plovers, Lapwings, Gulls, and other waders. Seeking to save time in the search of accumulation of birds, having come to the pond area it is important to ask the local staff about drained ponds. In spring and summer such drained ponds are rare cases, and sometimes not available at



all, as it depends on the decision of the fishery owners to catch fish or, vice versa, to fill the ponds in with water for introducing young fish. In autumn, usually at the end of September more ponds are drained, and stay not filled with water until winter. Then the fisheries turn into the best sites to watch migrating waders. But it is not necessary to wait for the moment when pond waters are drained, as migration of waders from the Far North starts at the end of July, and August as well as the first half of September is the best time to discover these birds. If at that time no drained ponds exist, it is worthwhile exploring muddy shores or edges of small islands. The Kintai fishery farm has 5 ponds where small islands, so much liked by waders, are situated: 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Among these, the small islands in ponds No. 3 and No. 6 are extremely attracting waders.

The area of the Kintai fishery farm is the best site in the Nemunas Delta and Lithuania to observe White-tailed Eagles. In cold winters you may come across them throughout the year. In the ponds White-tailed Eagles catch fish to feed themselves or to bring to the young in nests. You may watch the largest agglomerations of White-tailed Eagles after the young leave their nests in August-October. In that period up to 40 White-tailed Eagles of different age may be counted in the ponds. The best time of the day to enjoy the view is the noon, when having the weather got warmer these majestic birds soaring in the sky.

Other animals. Moose, Roe Deer, European Beavers, Eurasian Otters, Canadian Minks, Muskrats, Raccoon Dogs, Red Foxes, Grey Hares.



A family of Common Shelducks (*Tadorna tadorna*) in Kintai fish ponds © Marius Karlonas

MEADOWS OF STANKIŠKIAI AND KNIAUPAS BAY



TOP 3: Ruff, Black-tailed Godwit, agglomerations of migrating geese.

Notable species. Agglomerations of migrating swans, geese, ducks and waders. Breeding: Greylag Goose, Eurasian Teal, Garganey, Northern Shoveler, Tufted Duck, Grey Partridge, Eurasian Bittern, Great Egret, White-tailed Eagle, Western Marsh Harrier, Eurasian Hobby, Montagu's Harrier, Water

Rail, Little Crake, Corn Crake, Common Moorhen, Ruff, Common Snipe, Great Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit, Common Redshank, Green Sandpiper, Little Gull, Black Tern, Whiskered Tern, Western Yellow Wagtail (*M. f. f.*), Bluethroat, Northern Wheatear, Common Grasshopper Warbler, River Warbler, Savi's War-



bler, Bearded Reedling, Eurasian Golden Oriole, Common Rosefinch.

Site description. The Kniaupas bay is in the northern part of the Nemunas Delta Regional Park. The shores of this water body are very shallow, overgrown with submerged and emerged vegetation, some places are marshy. The Ventė Forest and the flooded meadows of the village of Stankišķiai extend in the northern part, the Ventė mire - in the western part, and the Curonian Lagoon - in the southern part. The entire complex of the area is extremely valuable due to breeding rare birds here and numerous flocks of geese and ducks staying here in the migration periods.

Birdwatching sites and tactics.

Migration. For the spring and autumn migration periods, three main

birdwatching sites may be indicated:

- ① The main site to observe this area is the birdwatching tower in the northern part of the Kniaupas bay. From here you will see the migrating waterfowl flocking in the Kniaupas bay and the flooded meadows where geese land. You may come here taking the only road, at Stankišķiai having turned southwards, but in early spring the road at the tower may be flooded.
- ② The lowland in the meadows between the village of Stankišķiai and the fishery ponds of Kintai. Water stays in the meadows until late, sometimes as late as the second half of spring, and it is possible to watch ducks and flocks of migrating waders then. This site is very valuable in autumn when wet places in the surroundings are scarce, and because of this, geese, waders land on this lowland. In early spring the gravel road across this low-



Greater White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons*) © Žymantas Morkvėnas



Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa)
© Dalia Račkauskaitė

land is often flooded. ③ The meadows around the village of Miniša (Mingė). Migrating geese are fond of this site, both in spring and autumn migration periods, in spring active fights of Ruffs take place. In early spring the gravel road to the village may be flooded.

The meadows between the village of Stankišķiai and the Kniupas bay are a hunting area liked by Northern Harriers.

Breeding period. In May-July the water level in the meadows usually shrinks and bird species that are very rare in Lithuania nest here. Corn Crakes, Ruffs, Great Snipes, Black-tailed Godwits, Common Redshanks breed, here breeding Montagu's and Western Marsh Harriers, White-tailed Eagles and Eurasian Hobbies hunt in the meadows. In the reed beds and shore bushes of the Kniupas bay you may hear Eurasian Bitterns, Water Rails and Little Crakes, Bluethroats, Common Grasshopper, River and Savi's Warblers, Bearded Reedlings

and Common Rosefinches. From the watch tower of the Kniupas bay you may watch Greylag Geese, various species of ducks, Little Gulls, Black and Whiskered Terns. You may see or hear the majority of these birds living in the bay and surrounding meadows, if you walk along the route — of 5 km. It is advisable to start the route from the observation tower, you may leave your car here, and continue hiking. The route leads from the watching tower along the edge of the Ventė forest to the village of Stankišķiai, and having reached the village turn to the right in the direction of the fish ponds of Kintai. Having come to the ponds turn again to the right onto the gravel road and walk 900 m, and on the right hand side you will see a small road across the meadows. Take this small road and you will reach the dyke of the Kniupas bay, and following it you will come back to the tower. When hiking along this route make a stop every several minutes, look around and listen: tens of birds of different species sing in the meadows and on the coast of the Kniupas bay. Time duration of the route is ca. 3 hours.

Hikers wishing to hear and see more forest and reed bed birds may choose the small road on the dyke between the Kniupas bay and the Kintai forest —. The one way distance of the route is 1,2 km.

Other animals. Moose, Roe Deer, European Beavers, Eurasian Otters, Canadian Minks, Grey Hares, Raccoon Dogs, Red Foxes.



VENTĖS RAGAS ORNITHOLOGICAL STATION

●
●
●
⌚ 2-4 h



TOP 3: Barred Warbler, Common Rosefinch, intensive migration of birds.

Notable species. Greylag Goose, Grey Partridge, Eurasian Bittern, Eurasian Hobby, Marsh Harrier, Eurasian Wryneck, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Common Grasshopper Warbler, River Warbler, Savi's Warbler, Barred Warbler, Firecrest, Long-tailed Tit, Bearded Reedling, Eurasian Pendu-

line Tit, Eurasian Golden Oriole, Red-backed Shrike, Common Redpoll, Common Rosefinch.

Site description. The Ventė Cape Peninsula (*Lith.* Ventės ragas) located in the north-western part of the Nemunas Delta Regional Park is



Birdwatchers in Ventė Cape at dawn © Marius Karlonas

widely known due to the bird ringing station, the biggest one in the world. The station was founded in 1929, after the lighthouse keeper M. Posingis had noted the unique features of the peninsula resulting from abundance of migrating birds and had informed Tadas Ivanauskas, a famous Lithuanian natural scientist and the founder of this ornithological station. Each year millions of birds fly via the Ventė Cape and at the peak of autumn migration the number of migrating birds comes to around half a million per day.

Birdwatching sites and tactics. Having gone 7 km in the south-west direction from Kintai along the coastal area, you will reach the village of Ventė; if you continue 1 km further, you will come to the Ventės

Ragas Ornithological Station (*Lith. Ventės rago ornitologinė stotis*). You will have to leave your vehicle in the parking lot ① near the shop as access close to the pier by transport means is prohibited.

The ornithological importance of the Ventė Cape is best revealed in the autumn migration when millions of birds take the migration route via the peninsula. In spring numerous flocks take the migration route too, though less, compared to autumn. Strategically the best site to watch the bird migration is the extreme end of the Cape, at the lighthouse ②, from where the concrete pier extends into the lagoon. Standing at this point you will be able to watch birds flocking in hundreds, migrating ducks, gulls and terns over the lagoon, to watch waders, gulls, terns and passerine



birds landing on the pier for rest and night, also to watch agglomerations of waterfowl in the lagoon at the Ventè swamp and the Kniapus bay. The best time to watch the annual ornithological phenomenon is the peak of the autumn migration starting each year around mid-September and lasting approximately until mid-October. For visitors wishing to get the best view of intensively flying birds the time of the day is also important: the most numerous flocks start at early dawn, the migration slows down at around 10-11a.m. Some days occur when birds fly uninterruptedly the entire day, in most cases such distinctive days follow very poor weather conditions that lasted several days or weeks.

Autumn migration of Common Starlings is worth mentioning separately; it starts as early as mid-June and lasts to the end of July. About 30 000 Common Starlings are ringed within that period.



Sand Martins (*Riparia riparia*) in the trap in the Ventè Cape © Vytautas Jusys

Visitors wishing to better learn the history of the Ventès Ragas Ornithological Station may visit the museum and see the exhibits there ③. You may see the routine of the bird ringers in a small house at the biggest trap ④, here the ornithologists of the Station ring birds. You may also make reservation for a tour around the Ventè Cape guided by an ornithologist. For more information see website www.vros.lt.

If you come in spring or summer, you may allocate more time to explore the village of Ventè. Having visited the Ventès Ragas Ornithological Station, you may observe the lagoon from the birdwatching tower built on the coast of the lagoon ⑤, and continue observation following the route marked as — on the map. The distance of the route is 2,5 km, and it will take you more than an hour if you do birdwatching on route. The meadows, bushes and shores of the lagoon in the territory of the village is a perfect site to watch birds. Here you may find Eurasian Bittern, Grey Partridges, Eurasian Hobbies, Marsh Harriers, Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers, Barred Warblers, Eurasian Penduline Tit, Red-backed Shrikes, Eurasian Golden Orioles, Common Rosefinches, and in recent years Common Redpolls started to breed.

Other animals. Roe Deer, Grey Hares, European Beavers, Canadian Minks, Eurasian Otters.

SAKUČIAI FOREST AND ADJACENT FLOODED MEADOWS



TOP 3: Montagu's Harrier, Aquatic Warbler, Agglomerations of migrating ducks and geese.

Notable species. Agglomerations of migrating geese, ducks and waders. Breeding: Greylag Goose, Eurasian Teal, Garganey, Grey Partridge, Common Quail, Red Kite, White-tailed Eagle, Lesser Spotted Eagle, European Honey Buzzard, Northern Goshawk, Eurasian Hobby, Spotted Crake, Wa-

ter Rail, Corn Crake, Common Crane, Great Snipe, Common Snipe, Eurasian Woodcock, Common Redshank, Green Sandpiper, Black-tailed Godwit, Eurasian Eagle-Owl, Western Yellow Wagtail (*M. f. f.*), Bluethroat, Common Grasshopper Warbler, River Warbler, Aquatic Warbler, Common Rosefinch.



Site description. To the south of the Aukštumala raised bog, between the settlements of Sakūčiai and Alka, the cultural flooded meadows surround two forest areas - Bundulai and Sakūčiai.

In spring, when the Minija and Tėnėnė rivers overflow, the meadows and forests are flooded by snowmelt water staying here rather often as late as the end of April. Sometimes the meadows are partially flooded in autumn, winter or summer. Therefore, in the Soviet period a polder water regulation system was erected, named the Alka polder.

Birdwatching sites and tactics.

Migration. You may come to this area from the village of Sakūčiai, having crossed the bridge over Minija; or you may drive from Šilutė towards

Klaipėda, then turn to the direction of Žemaitkiemis and within the distance of 5 km you will come to the village of Alka. In early spring or other seasons, the biggest number of minor field roads are not practicable, and birdwatching could be done solely from the main roads crossing this area.

In spring (sometimes in autumn), numerous migrating ducks, geese and waders land in the flooded areas. You may watch the area from 6 (1-6) birdwatching sites, moving along the main road across the meadows or the gravel road alongside the Minija river.

Breeding. In May, water in the meadows usually disappears, and small field roads become passable by motor vehicles. Then the area harbours breeding birds. From mid-May to mid-July in the meadows Grey Partridges, Common Quail, Spot-



Spotted Crane (Porzana porzana) © Simonas Minkevičius



Lesser Spotted Eagle (*Aquila pomarina*)
© Marius Karlonas

ted Crakes, Water Rails, Corn Crakes, Great Snipes, Common Snipes, Common Redshanks, Black-tailed Godwits are found, Common Rosefinches sing in the bushes. Globally endangered Aquatic Warblers are found in the meadows around Sakūčiai and Būndalai forests. Each year several tens of singing male birds are recorded here. In the canals of the drainage system Eurasian Teals, Garganey breed, from the meadows Greylag Geese bring their goslings. Over the meadows you may watch breeding and hunting here White-tailed Eagles, Lesser Spotted Eagles, Montagu's and Marsh Harriers, Eurasian Hobbies, and in some years Red Kites, Northern Goshawks and European Honey Buzzards live in the forest.

The biggest number of birds living in this area can be seen taking the

routes marked in — or red dotted lines. The meadows in this territory are private and it is required to respect private property, not to drive by motor vehicles onto the meadows. The distance of the route marked in green is 4,7 km, hiking on the small field roads will take ca. 2 hours. Following this route you will see and hear various meadow birds, including Aquatic Warblers and Montagu's Harriers. The best time of the day to take this route is evening, at sunset.

The distance of the route marked in — is 9,2 km, hiking will take ca. 4-5 hours, but you may also ride a bicycle, with stops every several hundred meters. Following the route you will see and hear birds of wet meadows, such as Black-tailed Godwits, Common Redshanks, Green Sandpipers, Common Snipes, Great Snipes, Eurasian Woodcocks, woodpeckers, raptors. The most appropriate time for the route is from early morning until noon.

To hear Bluethroats after dark you have to come to site ⑦ and hike on the banks of the canals and the Tenenis river overgrown with bushes. Next to this site you may hear Aquatic Warblers.

Other animals. In mornings and evenings Moose come out of the Sakūčiai forest. Also, Roe Deer, Grey Hares, European Beavers, Foxes, Canadian Minks, Eurasian Otters are found.



KINTAI FOREST



TOP 3: Tawny Owl, Black Woodpecker, Middle Spotted Woodpecker.

Notable species. White-tailed Eagle, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Common Crane, Green Sandpiper, Eurasian Woodcock, Stock Dove, Tawny Owl, Eurasian Wryneck, Black Woodpecker, Middle Spotted Woodpecker, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Woodlark, Tree Pipit, Eurasian Golden Oriole, Red Crossbill, Hawfinch.

Site description. Northwards from the small town of Kintai, on the coastal zone of the Curonian Lagoon, the Kintai forest extends over 800 ha adjoining the Svencelė raised bog on the north. The northern and western parts of the forest are wet, in some places marshy, and there mainly deciduous trees grow - black



alders, birches, aspens. In the central and southern parts of the forest the soil is dryer, here coniferous trees dominate. A gravel road ——— crossing the forest longitudinally, from Kintai to Svencelė, usually is in good condition.

Birdwatching sites and tactics.

The forest suits for birdwatching in all seasons of the year, as part of the birds, such as woodpeckers, tits, nuthatches live here throughout the year. In spring and the first half of summer, the number of birds in the forest increase; raptors, Green Sandpipers, Eurasian Woodcocks, Tree Pipits, Dunnocks, flycatchers, Eurasian Golden Orioles and others come to breed here. At night, Tawny

Owls hoot. What species you will succeed to see also depends on the area of the forest you will choose for birdwatching.

You will discover the greatest number of birds, if you take the small road crossing the forest longitudinally - a route from Kintai to Svencelė, 5 km one way. In the forest you may go by car, with three stops in different parts of the forest. ① If you go northwards via Kintai, a small town, just before Uogaliai, a village, turn to a small road on the left side, and beyond 100 m you will enter the Kintai forest. The first stop will be at the very beginning of the forest. In this area of the forest you may watch forest and settlement birds, such as Mottled Woodpeckers, flycatchers, Eurasian



Black Woodpecker (Dryocopus martius) © Dalia Račkauskaitė





Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) © Marius Karlonas

Golden Orioles, Eurasian Wrynecks, Hawfinch and others. At night here you may hear Tawny Owls. ② The second stop is within the distance of 2 km from the entrance road, in the middle of the forest. Leave your car at the sudden turn to the right, on the lot with wooden benches and a table, on the left hand side. In this area of the forest pineries and spruce groves prevail, and these are liked by Wood Warblers, Dunnocks, Black Woodpeckers, Spotted Flycatchers, Tree Pipits, Coal and European Crested Tits, Red Crossbills. ③ The third stop is in the northern part of the forest, within the distance of 750 m to the exit from the forest. At this point you will see a small road to the left, and here you may leave your car and continue on foot following this small road eastwards —→. The small road

goes through a wet marshy forest in which deciduous trees prevail. Going eastwards from your car, beyond 1,8 km you will come out to the fields at the settlement of Kiškiai. In this area of the forest Green Sandpipers, Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Middle Spotted Woodpeckers, Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers, Common Cranes breed; at night Tawny Owls hoot. Eurasian Woodcocks are found in the entire forest, but if you wish to see and hear them you have to come into the forest before sunset or sunrise.

Other animals. European Badgers, Beavers, Red Deers, Fallow deers, Roe Deers, Mooses, European Polecats, Canadian Minks, Red Foxes, Raccoon Dogs, Common Martens, Stone Martens, Muskrats, Grey Hares, Wild Boars.

COASTAL AREA AT SVENCELĒ



TOP 3: Short-eared Owl, Citrine Wagtail, Eurasian Hoopoe.

Notable species. Agglomerations of migrating ducks, Whooper Swans and Tundra Swans. Breeding: Grey-lag Goose, Garganey, Grey Partridge, Eurasian Bittern, White-tailed Eagle, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Marsh Harrier, Montagu's Harrier, Water Rail, Corn Crane, Common Crane, Little Ringed Plover, Common Snipe, Common Redshank, Short-eared Owl, Short-

eared Owl, Western Yellow Wagtail (*M. f. f.*), Citrine Wagtail, Bluethroat, Northern Wheatear, Common Grasshopper Warbler, Savi's Warbler, River Warbler, Aquatic Warbler, Barred Warbler, Bearded Reedling, Common Rosefinch.

Site description. In the coastal zone of the Curonian Lagoon for pro-



tection of the Aquatic Warbler the Botanical Zoological Reserve of Svencelė Meadows, borders upon the Svencelė swamp to the east, the Kintai forest to the south, and the village of Svencelė to the north. The Reserve covers the area of ca. 50 ha, however, the wet meadows between the Kintai forest and the Curonian Lagoon adjoining the northern boundaries of the Reserve are equally valuable.

Birdwatching sites and tactics.

The area is most valuable in the breeding period of birds when in the reserve meadows rare birds breed, and in the autumn migration period when numerous waterfowl flocks agglomerate in the Curonian Lagoon at Svencelė.

Migration. When the autumn waterfowl migration starts usually there is no water in the Nemunas Delta meadows, and due to this the

biggest number of migrating waterfowl land in ponds, lakes, bays and certain coastal areas of the Curonian Lagoon. The village of Svencelė is a site like that. However, the wide reed bed belt at the shores of the lagoon as well as private estates in many cases limit the observation space onto the lagoon, thus it is not easy to explore this coastal zone in detail. The Kiteboarding Centre located in the northern part of Svencelė, on the bank of the lagoon, is a suitable place to watch waterfowl ①. The Centre also provides catering and accommodation services, you will find more information on website www.kaitumokykla.lt. When strong wind blows a lot of people gather near this Centre, so ducks, swans and other waterfowl move further to other places. Kiteboards in the lagoon are seen from long distances and if you



Eurasian Hoopoe (Upupa epops) © Kastytis Vainauskas



notice them it is not worth going close there. The best time to visit this watching site is September-October.

Breeding period. If you come from the Kintai forest, in its northern part you will come into the meadows and will see the oil pumping station. Leave your car at the edge of the forest ② and start hiking westwards, taking the small road — leading to the coastal meadows. The small road twists along the edge of the forest up to the meadows, and soon you will reach the coastal area of the Curonian Lagoon overgrown with reeds, then the small road turns to the right and continues 300 m more. The one way distance from your car to the end of the small road is 800 m. Taking this route for hiking you will be able to watch birds of wetlands and reed beds: Common Redshanks, Common Snipes, Western Yellow Wagtails, Barred Warblers, Bearded Reedlings, Common Rose-

finch, Eurasian Reed Warblers, Great Reed Warblers and other common birds. Above the meadows White-tailed Eagles, Lesser Spotted Eagles, Montagu's and Marsh Harriers hunt. At sunset the secret Short-eared Owls set out for hunting in the meadows, and after dark the sounds of Eurasian Bitterns, Spotted Crakes, Water Rails, Corn Crakes and Bluethroats are heard in the meadows and reed beds. A good observation space opens when you come to the end of the small road and climb the dyke, from this site you will see the meadows and the lagoon from a higher point ③.

You are recommended to walk around in the village of Svencelė, each year the Eurasian Hoopoe breeds in it.

Other animals. Moose, Roe Deer, European Beavers, Eurasian Otters, Canadian Minks, Raccoon Dogs, Red Foxes, Grey Hares.



Citrine Wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*) © Dalia Račkauskaitė



FIELDS OF DREVERNA AND OBSERVATION TOWER IN COASTAL AREA



TOP 3: Numerous agglomerations of migrating ducks, raptors and passerine birds.

Notable species. Numerous agglomerations of migrating geese, ducks, raptors and passerine birds. Breeding period: Grey Partridge, Eurasian Bittern, Common Moorhen, Little Ringed Plover, Common Kingfisher, Northern Wheatear, Savi's Warbler, Bearded Reedling.

Site description. Halfway between Šilutė and Klaipėda, the village of Dreverna is situated, surrounded by cultivated fields and waters of the Curonian Lagoon. The Dreverna river that falls into the Curonian Lagoon flows via the village, so does the historic Klaipėda Canal (King Vil-



Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) © Saulius Karalius

helm Canal), where ships used to ply waters of Nemunas to Klaipėda without entering the Curonian Lagoon.

Birdwatching sites and tactics.

The area becomes unique when spring and autumn migration period comes, migrating birds land in the vicinity to rest and feed. There are scarce cultivated lands in the Nemunas Delta, and because of that, these fields are the best place to watch raptors and passerine birds in the district of Klaipėda. In autumn, you may observe flocks of thousands of Common Chaffinches and Bramblings, Common Linnets, Yellowhammers and flocks of other granivorous. From late autumn to early spring (October-March), in these fields you may observe rare guests of the North, such as Horned Lark, Twites or Snow Buntings. Raptors also like these fields, and migrat-

ing Lesser-spotted Eagles, White-tailed Eagles, Montagu's, Marsh and Northern Harriers, Eurasian Sparrowhawks and Northern Goshawks, Common and Rough-legged Buzzards, Common Kestrels stop here to hunt. Merlins and Peregrine Falcons deserve mentioning too, and they are easiest to find them in these fields end of September-October. Falcons are attracted here by numerous flocks of passerine birds that are often attacked by falcons. Sometimes, within a few kilometres, you may happen to watch 5 or more Merlins. Look for falcons not only flying in the sky, as more often these birds may be watched sitting in the middle of arable land, thus it is important to observe each shady ground clod.

In these fields Northern Lapwing, European Golden Plover, Eurasian Curlews, Whimbrels and Ruffs land.



In spring and autumn, the field roads most often are in poor condition due to driving agriculture vehicles on the roads, however, two main routes are nearly always passable by car. The first route —, marks roads to the south and east of the village of Dreverna. The second route —, marks the road in the fields to the north of the village of Dreverna, between the rivers Klišupė and Dreverna.

Waterfowl also like the vicinity of the village of Dreverna, but for rest they prefer the Curonian Lagoon, instead of the arable fields. The best sites to watch them are as follows:

① The observation tower at the river mouth of Dreverna. You may come to the tower via the village of Dreverna. Go up to the Dreverna river port, park your car on the parking lot, walk 200 m towards the river mouth, and you will find yourself at the observation tower, and climb it. From the top of the tower a wide view onto the Curonian La-

goon and neighbouring fields opens. Sometimes you may observe small flocks of waders in the river mouth and the sandy coastal area. ② The river mouth of Klišupė. You may come to this observation site following the route —. Having come to the dyke at the coastal area, park your car here, as the small road on top of the dyke is of poor condition. From your car, walk in the northern direction 300 m until you reach the river. Ducks, swans and grebes like the lagoon area at the river mouth. In the coastal reed-beds you may hear Savi's Warbler, Bearded Reedling, Eurasian Bitterns. On the other side of the river, you will see the Kliošai meadows where often harriers hunt. Common Moorhens breed in the Klaipėda Canal and Common Kingfishers stop here in the migration period.

Other animals. Roe Deer, European Beavers, Canadian Minks, Eurasian Otters, Raccoon Dogs, Red Foxes.



A flock of migrating Common Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) © Marius Karlonas



MEADOWS OF KLIOŠIAI

● ● ⌚ 1-3 h



TOP 3: Common Redshank, Aquatic Warbler, Citrine Wagtail.

Notable species. Agglomerations of migrating waders, Wood Sandpipers and Ruffs in particular. Breeding: Eurasian Bittern, White-tailed Eagle, Marsh Harrier, Montagu's Harrier, Corn Crake, Water Rail, Common Snipe, Common Redshank, Black-tailed Godwit, Western Yellow Wagtail (*M. f. f.*), Citrine Wagtail, Savi's

Warbler, River Warbler, Aquatic Warbler, Common Rosefinch.

Site description. 10 km south from the city of Klaipėda and 3 km west from Priekulė, on the littoral area of the Curonian Lagoon, flooded meadows extend, on the biggest part of which the Kliošiai Landscape Na-



ture Reserve was established. In the center of the Reserve the Tyrai mire is located, which was damaged by the Soviet drainage system, and taken under protection currently. In the middle of the mire the Klaipėda Canal (King Vilhelm Canal) and a gravel road extends, and the edges are overgrown with bushes expanding also into the valuable sedge meadows of the Reserve. Currently, environmental organisations look after the meadows, remove trees and bushes, cut the grass down. Due to these nature management measures and extensive nature friendly farming methods, the biggest share of the Aquatic Warblers' population in Lithuania breed in the meadows of Kliošiai.

Birdwatching sites and tactics.

Coming to this area from Šilutė, you may go by the forest of Kintai and Svencelė, or from Šilutė you may go to Priekulė, then turn to the direction of Dreverna. Coming from Priekulė, beyond 4,5 km you will cross the Klaipėda Canal (King Vilhelm Canal), beyond 50 m turn into the small road on the right hand side. Follow it westwards up to the birdwatching site at the edge of the meadows ①. This road is public, though going by a private estate, and it is not prohibited to watch birds or leave a car. Leave your car at the road and walk a few tens of meters into the meadow to have a wider observation field. From this site you'll be able to enjoy Aquatic Warblers singing on top of grasses, mating flies of Common Snipes and

Common Redshanks, loud *kek kek* calls of Corn Crakes in the meadows, and Montagu's and Marsh Harriers hunting over them. Walking on a wider area in the meadows in the breeding period is not allowed, because of breeding rare species here.

You will reach the second birdwatching site, having come to the northern area of the meadows ②. From the first birdwatching site come back to the Klaipėda Canal and, having turned northwards, cover the distance of 2,6 km along the gravel road across the Tyrai mire, next to the Klaipėda Canal (you will not be able to see the mire because of trees growing at the edge). Having come into the open meadows, leave your car on the left side of the road, and continue on foot. Moving northwards, on the small road next to the meadows, stop every ten meters and look around: here you may



Aquatic Warbler (Acrocephalus paludicola) in the meadows of Kliošiai © Marius Karlonas

see and hear Corn Crakes, Aquatic Warblers, Common Redshanks, Black-tailed Godwits, Common Snipes, Citrine Wagtails, Common Rosefinches, hunting Harriers. Do not get astonished if you hear shots or blasts from the Klaipėda direction, such sounds might come from the military polygon situated just in few kilometres northwards from the meadows and is intensely used, but it is absolutely safe to watch birds in the meadows.

Another area, i.e. the meadows on the other side of the Klaipėda Canal, where nature management works have been started recently, expanded the natural area of the meadows of Kliošiai. If you wish to walk next to them, from the bridge over the Klaipėda Canal you have to go by car westwards, along the right (eastern) border of the canal. In the distance of 3,2 km from the bridge, you will pass the canal on the right hand side, where you may leave your car ③. Walking next to the canal and around the water body at the settlement of Dercekiai, following the route marked as — — —, you will watch rare birds living in the recently restored meadows. Besides the species mentioned in the above birdwatching sites, you will also have an opportunity to hear Eurasian Bitterns and Water Rails. The distance of this route is 4,9 km, the hiking will

take ca. 2-3 hours. On the entire territory of the meadows of Kliošiai, the best time for birdwatching is early morning at sunrise and late evening, an hour before sunset. The best season for birdwatching in this area starts mid-May, with Aquatic Warblers already back in the meadows, and lasts until mid-July when activity of the birds reduces.

The meadows are also worth visiting in the spring migration season to see abundant flocks of waders that stop here for short rest. The migration peak for waders starts in mid-April and lasts until the first decade in May, in this period numerous flocks of Ruffs, Wood Sandpipers, Common Snipes and other waders may be watched in the flooded meadows of Kliošiai.

Other animals. Moose, Roe Deer, European Beavers, Canadian Minks, Eurasian Otters, Red Foxes, Raccoon Dogs, Grey Hares.



European Beaver (Castor fiber)

© Romualdas Barauskas



USEFUL INFORMATION



Information centres

Information centre	Address	Contacts
Šilutė Tourism Information Centre Provides information about: sights of interest in the district, accommodation, catering services, tourism services, entertainment, events, organises excursions, boat rent, etc.	Lietuvininkų street 4, Šilutė Open: Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-15:00 p.m. Sunday: closed	+370 441 77 785 +370 659 60 463 info@siluteinfo.lt www.siluteinfo.lt
Nemunas Delta Regional Park	Kuršmarių street 13, Rusnė, Šilutė district	+370 441 75 050 info@nemunodelta.lt www.nemunodelta.lt
Ventė Cape Ornithological Station	Marių street 24, Ventė, Šilutė district	+370 638 90 619 vrventragis@gmail.com www.vros.lt
Rusnė Island Ethnoculture and Information Centre	Neringos street 7, Rusnė, Šilutė district	+ 370 441 50 010 contact@rusne.org birute.serviene@gmail.com

Birdwatching guides and photography









Nature guides	Languages	Contacts
<i>Birding Lithuania Tours</i> - UAB "Gamtos turai LT"	LT, EN, RU	+370 651 20 363 birdinstreetlithuania@gmail.com www.birdinglithuania.com
Povilas Bagdonas	LT, EN	+370 678 08 018 povilas.bagdonas@gmail.com
Boris Belchev	LT, EN, RU	+370 638 01 820 boris.belchev@alcedowildlife.com
Kristina Mudinaitė	LT	+370 688 70 557

Local production



Crafts			
Producer	Address	Contacts	Goods and services
Alfonsas Edmundas Demereckas 	Skirvytėlės street 13, Rusnė, Šilutė district	+370 699 53 964	Traditional production of reed
Simas Knapkis 	Skirvytėlės street 9, Rusnė, Šilutė district	+370 612 31 881	Traditional boat building

Angelė Rauktienė		Balčiai village, Šilutė district	+370 650 96 658	Traditional Easter eggs, toys made of bone
Vaidotas Bliūdžius		Šilutė	+370 687 80 992	Traditional wooden roofs, wooden boats, weathervanes
Vytautas Rauktys		Balčiai village, Šilutė district	+370 650 96 658	Traditional wood handicraft
Valdas Jurkšaitis			+370 620 53 391	Traditional boat elements
UAB „3K Grupė“		Vydūno street 5A, Kintai, Šilutė district	+370 671 98 415	Traditional weat- hervanes of the Curnian Lagoon
UAB „Pamario žuvis“		Kintai, Šilutė district	+370 617 02 274	Fishing with towed nets
Aurelija Jakštaitė		A. Dėvilaičio street 16, Šyša village, Šilutė district	+370 688 39 447	Traditional mould candles

Food

Producer		Address	Contacts	Goods and services
Jurijus Belokopy- tovas		Skalvių street 6, Rusnė, Šilutė district	+370 615 47 250	Smoked fish
Valentina Baužienė		Neringos street 4-14, Rusnė, Šilutė district	+370 674 42 171	Herbalist
Algimantas Diršė		Alyvų street 4, Rusnė, Šilutė district	+370 685 79 637	Coastal fish soup
UAB „Danu- tės šakotis“		Statybininkų street 31, Šilutė	+370 687 70 136	Cake Šakotis
Česlovas Ramoška		Virkytų k. 1, Žagatpurviai village, Šilutė district	+370 607 85 353	Wine production
Indrė Šatkienė		Skalvių street 6, Rusnė, Šilutė district	+370 655 00 705	Smoked perch
UAB „Smaližiaus kertelė“		Žalgirio street 25, Šilutė	+370 698 73 717	Cake Šakotis
Ramūnas Asiulevičius		Skirvytėlės street 6A, Rusnė, Šilutė district	+370 615 91 614	Smoked fish



Romualdas Berčys		Pakalnės street 70, Rusnė, Šilutė district	+370 685 50 400	Smoked perch and carp
Bronius Kalvaitis		A. Dėvilaičio street 16, Šyša village, Šilutė district	+370 612 42 171	Fish soup
UAB „Kintų rūkytos žuvis“		Jaunimo street 1-6, Kintai, Šilutė district	+370 644 82 099	Smoked fish
UAB „Smiltalė“		Kuršių street 18, Kintai, 99358 Šilutė district	+370 698 89 081	Smoked fish
IĮ „Anitos žuvis“		Skalvių street 6, Rusnė	+370 687 36 917	Smoked fish
„Ingos rūkyklėlė“		Skalvių street 6A-4, Rusnė	+370 655 00 705	Smoked fish
I. Lioransienės IĮ „Žuvis iš Rusnės“		Neringos street 57C, Rusnė	+370 614 57 436	Smoked fish
Asta ir Remigijus Marozai		Plento street 28, Laučiai, Šilutė district	+370 653 47 585	Dairy products

We encourage you to choose the local production. Consumption of the local production helps to develop the region, nature tourism and supports sustainable attitude towards our environment.



Holder of the sign “Nemunas Delta Regional Park product”. The sign enables you to recognise that the service is provided or product was produced by a local person. A holder of the sign is a person who lives or works in the Nemunas Delta Regional Park, also his/her activities do not infringe the protected values of the area, the products produced are characteristic to the ethnographical region and benefit the local community.



Certified products of the national heritage. These are certified non-mass production wares of craftsmen, handmade from traditional raw materials or by using old, or equivalent to them, new technologies, preserving unique quality characteristics and structure.

Important information

Šilutė Bus Station shedules: www.silutesautobusai.lt: online bus tickets booking www.autobusbilietai.lt

Car rent in Šilutė - www.nuoma123.lt

Šilutė taxi - www.taksisilute.lt; www.pigustaksisilute.lt

Boats to Nida - www.mingeskaimas.lt; www.kintai.lt; www.ventaine.lt; <http://kintai.lt/uab-kintai/>

Ferry boats - <http://siluteinfo.lt/turizmo-paslaugos/keltai/>

Petrol stations in Šilutė district: Šilutė, Rusnė, Kintai, Žemaičių Naumiestis, Žemaitkiemis (at the village of Usėnai)

Medical services: Šilutė Primary Health Care Services Centre - Rusnės street 1, Šilutė, www.silutespspc.lt (tel. 112)

Emergency call - 112

Airports: Palanga +370 612 44 442, www.palanga-airport.lt

Kaunas +370 612 44 442, www.kaunas-airport.lt

Vilnius +370 612 44 442, www.vilnius-airport.lt

Currency in Lithuania - Euro

Country code +370



THE OFFICIAL LIST OF BIRD SPECIES RECORDED IN THE NEMUNAS DELTA AREA

Nr.	Paukščių rūšis Bird Species	Laikotarpis, kuriuo rūšis yra aptinkama Nemuno deltoje Time period when the species is found in Nemunas delta region
	ŽĄSINIAI PAUKŠČIAI – ANSERIFORMES	
1	Gulbė nebylė (<i>Cygnus olor</i>) Mute Swan / Höckerschwan / Лебедь-шипун	Visus metus All year round
2	Mažoji gulbė (<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>) Tundra Swan / Pfeifschwan / Лебедь малый	03-01–05-14, 09-01–11-30
3	Gulbė giesmininkė (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) Whooper Swan / Singschwan / Лебедь-кликун	03-01–11-30
4	Želmeninė žąsis (<i>Anser fabalis</i>) Bean Goose / Saatgans / Гуменник	03-01–05-19, 09-11–11-30
5	Trumpasnapė žąsis (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>) Pink-footed Goose / Kurzschnabelgans / Короткоклювый гуменник	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
6	Baltakaktė žąsis (<i>Anser albifrons</i>) Greater White-fronted Goose / Blässgans / Гусь белолобый	02-29–06-01, 09-10–12-01
7	Mažoji žąsis (<i>Anser erythropus</i>) Lesser White-fronted Goose / Zwerggans / Пискулька	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
8	Pilkoji žąsis (<i>Anser anser</i>) Greylag Goose / Graugans / Гусь серый	12-01–02-29
9	Kanadinė berniklė (<i>Branta canadensis</i>) Canada Goose / Kanadagans / Казарка канадская	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
10	Baltaskruostė berniklė (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) Barnacle Goose / Weißwangengans / Казарка белощекая	02-29–06-01, 09-10–12-01
11	Paprastoji berniklė (<i>Branta bernicla</i>) Brant Goose / Ringelgans / Казарка черная	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, B. b. hrota – reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
12	Rudakaktė berniklė (<i>Branta ruficollis</i>) Red-breasted Goose / Rothalsgans / Казарка краснозобая	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
13	Rudoji urvinė antis (<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>) Ruddy Shelduck / Rostgans / Огарь	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
14	Urvinė antis (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) Common Shelduck / Brandgans / Пеганка	03-10–11-01
15	Mandarininė antis (<i>Aix galericulata</i>) Mandarin Duck / Mandarinente / Мандаринка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
16	Eurazinė cyplė (<i>Anas penelope</i>) Eurasian Wigeon / Pfeifente / Свиязь	02-29–12-01
17	Amerikinė cyplė (<i>Anas americana</i>) American Wigeon / Kanadapfeifente / Американская свиязь	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
18	Pilkoji antis (<i>Anas strepera</i>) Gadwall / Schnatterente / Утка серая	02-29–12-01
19	Rudagalvė kryklė (<i>Anas crecca</i>) Eurasian Teal / Krickente / Чирок-свистунук	02-29–12-01
20	Didžioji antis (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) Mallard / Stockente / Кряква	Visus metus All year round
21	Smailiauodegė antis (<i>Anas acuta</i>) Northern Pintail / Spießente / Шилохвость обыкновенная	02-29–12-01
22	Dryžagalvė kryklė (<i>Anas querquedula</i>) Garganey / Knäkente / Чирок-трескунок	02-29–12-01



23	Šaukštasnapė antis (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) Northern Shoveler / Löffelente / Широконоска	02-29–12-01
24	Šalminė antis (<i>Netta rufina</i>) Red-crested Pochard / Kolbenente / Красноносый нырок	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
25	Rudagalvė antis (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) Common Pochard / Tafelente / Нырок красноголовый	02-29–12-01
26	Rudė (<i>Aythya nyroca</i>) Ferruginous Duck / Moorente / Нырок белоглазый	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
27	Kuoduotoji antis (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) Tufted Duck / Reiherente / Чернеть хохлатая	Visus metus All year round
28	Žiloji antis (<i>Aythya marila</i>) Greater Scaup / Bergente / Чернеть морская	Visus metus All year round
29	Paprastoji gaga (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>) Common Eider / Eiderente / Гага обыкновенная	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
30	Islandinė antis (<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>) Harlequin Duck / Krägenente / Каменуха	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
31	Ledinė antis (<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>) Long-tailed Duck / Eisente / Морянка	08-31–06-01
32	Juodoji antis (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) Black Scoter / Trauerente / Синьга	08-31–06-01
33	Nuodėgulė (<i>Melanitta fusca</i>) Velvet Scoter / Samtente / Тупнан	08-31–06-01
34	Klykuolė (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) Common Goldeneye / Schellente / Гоголь	Visus metus All year round
35	Mažasis dančiasnapis (<i>Mergus albellus</i>) Smew / Zwergsäger / Люток	08-31–05-15
36	Vidutinis dančiasnapis (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) Red-breasted Merganser / Mittelsäger / Крохаль длинноносый	08-31–05-01
37	Didysis dančiasnapis (<i>Mergus merganser</i>) Common Merganser / Gänssäger / Крохаль большой	Visus metus All year round
VIŠTINIAI PAUKŠČIAI – GALLIFORMES		
38	Jerubė (<i>Bonasa bonasia</i>) Hazel Grouse / Haselhuhn / Рябчик	Visus metus All year round
39	Žvyrė (<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>) Willow Ptarmigan / Moorschneehuhn	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
40	Tetervinas (<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>) Black Grouse / Birkhuhn / Тетерев	Visus metus All year round
41	Kurapka (<i>Perdix perdix</i>) Grey Partridge / Rebhuhn / Куропатка серая	Visus metus All year round
42	Putpelė (<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>) Common Quail / Wachtel / Перепел	04-15–10-01
43	Paprastasis fazanas (<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>) Common Pheasant / Jakdfasan / Фазан	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
NARINIAI PAUKŠČIAI – GAVIIFORMES		
44	Rudakaklis naras (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) Red-throated Loon / Sterntaucher / Гагара краснозобая	08-31–06-01
45	Juodakaklis naras (<i>Gavia arctica</i>) Black-throated Loon / Prachtaucher / Гагара чернозобая	Visus metus All year round
KRAGINIAI PAUKŠČIAI – PODICIPEDIFORMES		
46	Mažasis kragas (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) Little Grebe / Zwergtaucher / Поганка малая	02-29–12-01
47	Ausuoasis kragas (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) Great Crested Grebe / Haubentaucher / Поганка большая	Visus metus All year round
48	Rudakaklis kragas (<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>) Red-necked Grebe / Rothalstaucher / Поганка серощекая	03-15–12-01
49	Raguotasis kragas (<i>Podiceps auritus</i>) Horned Grebe / Ohrentaucher / Поганка красношейная	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
50	Juodakaklis kragas (<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>) Black-necked Grebe / Schwarzhalsstaucher / Поганка черношейная	03-15–11-01

51	Šiaurinis padūkėlis (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) Northern Gannet / Basstölpel /	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
52	Didysis kormoranas (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) Great Cormorant / Kormoran / Баклан большой	Visus metus All year round
53	Mažasis kormoranas (<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>) Pygmy Cormorant / Zwergscharbe / Баклан малый	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
54	Rožinis pelikanas (<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>) Great White Pelican / Rosapelikan / Пеликан розовый	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
55	Garbanotasis pelikanas (<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>) Dalmatian Pelican / Krauskopfpelikan / Пеликан кудрявый	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
GANDRINIAI PAUKŠČIAI – CICONIIFORMES		
56	Didysis baublys (<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>) Eurasian Bittern / Rohrdommel / Выпь большая	02-29–12-01
57	Mažasis baublys (<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>) Little Bittern / Zwergdommel / Выпь малая	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
58	Naktikovis (<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>) Black-crowned Night Heron / Nachtreiher / Кваква	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
59	Mažasis baltasis garnys (<i>Egretta garzetta</i>) Little Egret / Seidenreiher / Цапля малая белая	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
60	Didysis baltasis garnys (<i>Egretta alba</i>) Great Egret / Silberreiher / Цапля большая белая	03-15–11-16
61	Pilkasis garnys (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) Grey Heron / Graureiher / Цапля серая	Visus metus All year round
62	Juodasis gandas (<i>Ciconia nigra</i>) Black Stork / Schwarzstork / Аист черный	03-20–09-15
63	Baltasis gandas (<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>) White Stork / Weißstork / Аист белый	03-15–09-15
64	Rudasis ibis (<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>) Glossy Ibis / Sichler / Каравайка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
65	Gimnė (<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>) Eurasian Spoonbill / Löffler / Колпица	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
FLAMINGINIAI PAUKŠČIAI – PHOENICOPTERIFORMES		
66	Flamingas (<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>) Greater Flamingo / Rosaflamingo / Фламинго обыкновенный	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
PLĖŠRIEJI PAUKŠČIAI – FALCONIFORMES		
67	Vapsvaėdis (<i>Pernis apivorus</i>) European Honey Buzzard / Wespenbussard / Осоед	04-15–10-01
68	Juodasis peslys (<i>Milvus migrans</i>) Black Kite / Schwarzmilan / Черный коршун	03-15–10-01
69	Rudasis peslys (<i>Milvus milvus</i>) Red Kite / Rotmilan	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
70	Jūrinis erelis (<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>) White-tailed Eagle / Seeadler / Орлан-белохвост	Visus metus All year round
71	Gyvėdėdis (<i>Circus gallicus</i>) Short-toed Snake Eagle / Schlangenadler / Змеяя	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
72	Nendrinė lingė (<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>) Western Marsh Harrier / Rohrweihe / Лунь болотный	03-15–11-01
73	Javinė lingė (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) Northern Harrier / Kornweihe / Лунь полевой	02-29–05-15, 08-31–12-01
74	Stepinė lingė (<i>Circus macrourus</i>) Pallid Harrier / Steppenweihe / Лунь степной	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
75	Pievinė lingė (<i>Circus pygargus</i>) Montagu's Harrier / Wiesenweihe / Лунь луговой	03-15–10-01
76	Vištvėnagis (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>) Northern Goshawk / Habicht / Ястреб-тетеревятник	Visus metus All year round
77	Paukštvėnagis (<i>Accipiter nisus</i>) Eurasian Sparrowhawk / Sperber / Ястреб-перепелятник	Visus metus All year round
78	Paprastasis suopis (<i>Buteo buteo</i>) Common Buzzard / Mäusebussard / Канюк обыкновенный	Visus metus All year round



79	Stepinis suopis (<i>Buteo rufinus</i>) Long-legged Buzzard / Adlerbussard / Куранник	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
80	Tūbuotasis suopis (<i>Buteo lagopus</i>) Rough-legged Buzzard / Raufußbussard / Зимняк	09-15–05-01
81	Mažasis erelis rėksnys (<i>Aquila pomarina</i>) Lesser Spotted Eagle / Schreiadler / Подорлик малый	03-15–10-01
82	Didysis erelis rėksnys (<i>Aquila clanga</i>) Greater Spotted Eagle / Schelladler / Подорлик большой	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
83	Nepalinis erelis (<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>) Steppe Eagle / Steppenadler / Орел степной	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
84	Karališkasis erelis (<i>Aquila heliaca</i>) Eastern Imperial Eagle / Kaiseradler / Могильник	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
85	Kilnasis erelis (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) Golden Eagle / Steinadler / Беркут	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
86	Nykštukinis erelis (<i>Aquila pennata</i>) Booted Eagle / Zwergadler / Орел-карлик	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
87	Žuvininkas (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>) Western Osprey / Fischadler / Скопа	03-15–10-15
88	Paprastasis pelėsakalis (<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>) Common Kestrel / Turmfalke / Пустельга	03-15–11-01
89	Raudonkojis sakalas (<i>Falco vespertinus</i>) Red-footed Falcon / Rotfußfalke / Кобчик	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
90	Startsakalis (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) Merlin / Merlin / Дербник	03-15–05-01, 09-10–12-01
91	Sketsakalis (<i>Falco subbuteo</i>) Eurasian Hobby / Baumfalke / Чеглок	04-15–10-01
92	Medžioklinis sakalas (<i>Falco rusticolus</i>) Gyrfalcon / Gierfalke / Кречет	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
93	Sakalas keleivis (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) Peregrine Falcon / Wanderfalke / Скансан	02-29–05-01, 08-15–12-01
GERVINIAI PAUKŠČIAI – GRUIFORMES		
94	Ilgasnapė vištelė (<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>) Water Rail / Wasserralle / Пастушок	03-15–12-01
95	Švygžda (<i>Porzana porzana</i>) Spotted Crane / Tüpfelsumpfhuhn / Погоныш	03-31–10-01
96	Plovinė vištelė (<i>Porzana parva</i>) Little Crane / Kleines Sumpfhuhn / Погоныш малый	04-25–09-15
97	Griežlė (<i>Crex crex</i>) Corn Crane / Wachtekönig / Коростель	04-15–10-01
98	Nendrinė vištelė (<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>) Common Moorhen / Teichhuhn / Камышница	02-29–12-01
99	Laukys (<i>Fulica atra</i>) Eurasian Coot / Blässhuhn / Лысуха	Visus metus All year round
100	Pilkoji gervė (<i>Grus grus</i>) Common Crane / Kranich / Журавль серый	02-29–12-20
SĖJIKINIAI PAUKŠČIAI – CHARADRIIFORMES		
101	Jūršarkė (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) Eurasian Oystercatcher / Austernfischer / Кулик-сорока	03-15–11-01
102	Kojūkas (<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>) Black-winged Stilt / Stelzenläufer / Ходулочник	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
103	Avocetė (<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>) Pied Avocet / Säbelschnäbler / Шилоклювка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
104	Upinis kirlikas (<i>Charadrius dubius</i>) Little Ringed Plover / Flussregenpfeifer / Зуёк малый	03-31–10-01
105	Jūrinis kirlikas (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) Common Ringed Plover / Sandregenpfeifer / Галстучник	03-15–11-01
106	Mornelis (<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>) Eurasian Dotterel / Mornelregenpfeifer / Хрустан	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
107	Tundrinis sėjikas (<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>) Pacific Golden Plover / Sibirischer Goldegenpfeifer / Ржанка бурокрылая	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK

118	Dirvinis sējikas (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) European Golden Plover / Goldregenpfeifer / Ржанка золотистая	02-29-12-01
119	Jūrinis sējikas (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) Grey Plover / Kiebitzregenpfeifer / Тулеч	04-15-06-01, 07-10-12-01
110	Baltaudogē pēmpē (<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>) White-tailed Lapwing / Weißschwanzkiebitz / Белохвостая пегалица	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
111	Paprasťoj pēmpē (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) Northern Lapwing / Kiebitz / Чибис	02-29-12-01
112	Islandinis bēgikas (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) Red Knot / Knutt / Песочник исландский	04-30-11-01
113	Smiltinukas (<i>Calidris alba</i>) Sanderling / Sanderling / Песчанка	07-15-11-01
114	Mažasis bēgikas (<i>Calidris minuta</i>) Little Stint / Zwergstrandläufer / Кулик-воробей	05-10-10-15
115	Teminko bēgikas (<i>Calidris temminckii</i>) Temminck's Stint / Temminckstrandläufer / Песочник белохвостый	05-01-10-01
116	Raibakrūtis bēgikas (<i>Calidris melanotos</i>) Pectoral Sandpiper / Graubrust-Strandläufer / Дутиш	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
117	Riestasnapis bēgikas (<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>) Curlew Sandpiper / Sichelstrandläufer / Краснозобик	05-20-09-20
118	Jūrinis bēgikas (<i>Calidris maritima</i>) Purple Sandpiper / Meerstrandläufer / Песочник морской	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
119	Juodakrūtis bēgikas (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) Dunlin / Alpenstrandläufer / Чернозобик	04-15-11-15
120	Plokščiasnapis bēgikas (<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>) Broad-billed Sandpiper / Sumpfläuer / Грязовик	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
121	Gaidukas (<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>) Ruff / Kampfläuer / Турухтан	03-31-11-01
122	Oželis nykštukas (<i>Lyminocryptes minimus</i>) Jack Snipe / Zwergschnepfe / Гаршнеп	08-31-12-01, 02-29-05-15
123	Perkūno oželis (<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>) Common Snipe / Bekassine / Бекас	02-29-12-01
124	Stulgys (<i>Gallinago media</i>) Great Snipe / Doppelschnepfe / Дупель	03-31-09-01
125	Slanka (<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>) Eurasian Woodcock / Waldschnepfe / Вальдшнеп	03-15-12-01
126	Paprastasis gričiukas (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) Black-tailed Godwit / Uferschnepfe / Большой веретенник	03-20-10-15
127	Laplandinis gričiukas (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) Bar-tailed Godwit / Pfuhlschnepfe / Малый веретенник	04-30-11-01
128	Vidutinė kuolinga (<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>) Whimbrel / Regenbrachvogel / Средний кроншнеп	07-31-09-01, 04-15-05-01
129	Didžioji kuolinga (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) Eurasian Curlew / Großer Brachvogel / Большой кроншнеп	03-20-10-15
130	Terekija (<i>Xenus cinereus</i>) Terek Sandpiper / Terekwasserläufer / Мородунка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
131	Krantinis tilvikas (<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>) Common Sandpiper / Flussuferläufer / Перевозчик	04-15-10-01
132	Brastinis tilvikas (<i>Tringa ochropus</i>) Green Sandpiper / Waldwasserläufer / Черныш	03-15-10-01
133	Tamsusis tilvikas (<i>Tringa erythropus</i>) Spotted Redshank / Dunkler Wasserläufer / Щеголь	03-31-11-01
134	Žaliakojis tulikas (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) Common Greenshank / Grünschenkel / Большой улит	03-31-11-01
135	Kūdrinis tilvikas (<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>) Marsh Sandpiper / Teichwasserläufer / Поручейник	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
136	Tikutis (<i>Tringa glareola</i>) Wood Sandpiper / Bruchwasserläufer / Фи́фи	04-20-10-10
137	Raudonkojis tulikas (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) Common Redshank / Rotschenkel / Травник	03-15-11-01



138	Akmené (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) Ruddy Turnstone / Steinwälzer / Камнешарка	04-30-10-15
139	Arvaliasnapis plaukikas (<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>) Red-necked Phalarope / Odinshühnchen / Круглоносый плавунчик	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
140	Ploksčiasnapis plaukikas (<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>) Red Phalarope / Thorshühnchen / Плосконосый плавунчик	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
141	Bukauodegis plėšikas (<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>) Pomarine Skua / Spatelraubmöwe / Средний поморник	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
142	Smaillauodegis plėšikas (<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>) Parasitic Jaeger / Schmarotzerraubmöwe / Короткохвостый поморник	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
143	Kiras kvatoklis (<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>) Pallas's Gull / Fischmöwe / Хохотун черноголовый	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
144	Juodagalvis kiras (<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>) Mediterranean Gull / Schwarzkopfmöwe / Чайка черноголовая	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
145	Rudagalvis kiras (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) Black-headed Gull / Lachmöwe / Чайка озерная	Visus metus All year round
146	Paprastasis kiras (<i>Larus canus</i>) Mew Gull / Sturmmöwe / Чайка сизая	Visus metus All year round
147	Silkinis kiras (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) Lesser Black-backed Gull / Heringsmöwe / Клуша	03-15-12-01, L. f. heuglini, L. f. graellsii – reta visus metus Rare all year round, L. f. intermedia – reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
148	Sidabrinis kiras (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) European Herring Gull / Silbermöwe / Чайка серебристая	Visus metus All year round
149	Kaspijinis kiras (<i>Larus cachinnans</i>) Caspian Gull / Steppenmöwe / Хохотунья	Visus metus All year round
150	Geltonkojis kiras (<i>Larus michahellis</i>) Yellow-legged Gull / Mittelmeermöwe / Средиземноморская чайка	Visus metus All year round
151	Balnuotasis kiras (<i>Larus marinus</i>) Great Black-backed Gull / Mantelmöwe / Чайка морская	Visus metus All year round
152	Rožinis kiras (<i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>) Ross's Gull / Rosenmöwe / Чайка розовая	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
153	Tripirštis kiras (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) Black-legged Kittiwake / Dreizehenmöwe / Моевка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
154	Mažasis kiras (<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>) Little Gull / Zwergmöwe / Чайка малая	03-10-11-16
155	Plėšrioji žuvėdra (<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>) Caspian Tern / Raubseeschwalbe / Чергавя	07-10-05-20
156	Margasnė žuvėdra (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) Sandwich Tern / Brandseeschwalbe / Пестроногая крачка	04-15-10-01
157	Upinė žuvėdra (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) Common Tern / Flusseeschwalbe / Речная крачка	04-05-10-15
158	Poliarinė žuvėdra (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) Arctic Tern / Brandseeschwalbe / Полярная крачка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
159	Mažoji žuvėdra (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>) Little Tern / Zwergseeschwalbe / Малая крачка	04-20-09-01
160	Baltaskruostė žuvėdra (<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>) Whiskered Tern / Wießbart-Seeschwalbe / Белощёкая крачка	04-30-09-01
161	Juodoji žuvėdra (<i>Chlidonias niger</i>) Black Tern / Trauerseeschwalbe / Чёрная крачка	04-20-10-01
162	Baltasparnė žuvėdra (<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>) White-winged Tern / Weißflügel-Seeschwalbe / Белокрылая крачка	04-30-09-01
163	Laibasnapis narūnėlis (<i>Uria aalge</i>) Common Murre / Trottellumme / Тонкоклювая кайра	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
164	Mažoji alka (<i>Alle alle</i>) Little Auk / Krabbentaucher / Люрик	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK

	KARVELINIAI PAUKŠČIAI – COLUMBIFORMES	
165	Uolinis karvelis (<i>Columba livia f. domestica</i>) Common Pigeon / Staŕtentaube / Голубь сизый	Visus metus All year round
166	Uldukas (<i>Columba oenas</i>) Stock Dove / Hohltaube / Клинтух	02-29–12-01
167	Keršulis (<i>Columba palumbus</i>) Common Wood Pigeon / Ringeltaube / Вяхирь	02-29–12-01
168	Pietinis purplėlis (<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>) Eurasian Collared Dove / Türkentaube / Горлица кольчатая	Visus metus All year round
169	Paprastasis purplėlis (<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>) European Turtle Dove / Turteltaube / Горлица обыкновенная	04-20–09-15
	GEGUTINIAI PAUKŠČIAI – CUCULIFORMES	
170	Paprastoji gegutė (<i>Cuculus canorus</i>) Common Cuckoo / Kuckkuck / Кукушка обыкновенная	04-10–10-01
	PELĖDINIAI PAUKŠČIAI – STRIGIFORMES	
171	Liepsnotoji pelėda (<i>Tyto alba</i>) Western Barn Owl / Schleiereule / Сипуха	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
172	Didysis apuokas (<i>Bubo bubo</i>) Eurasian Eagle Owl / Uhu / Филин	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
173	Baltoji pelėda (<i>Bubo scandiacus</i>) Snowy Owl / Schneeeule / Сова белая	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
174	Raiboji pelėda (<i>Surnia ulula</i>) Northern Hawk Owl / Sperebureule / Ястребиная сова	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
175	Žvirblinė pelėda (<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>) Eurasian Pygmy Owl / Sperlingskauz / Воробьиный сыч	Visus metus All year round
176	Pelėdikė (<i>Athene noctua</i>) Little Owl / Steinkauz / Домовый сыч	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
177	Naminė pelėda (<i>Strix aluco</i>) Tawny Owl / Waldkauz / Серая неясыть	Visus metus All year round
178	Mažasis apuokas (<i>Asio otus</i>) Long-eared Owl / Walddohreule / Ушастая сова	Visus metus All year round
179	Balinė pelėda (<i>Asio flammeus</i>) Short-eared Owl / Sumpfohreule / Болотная сова	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
180	Lututė (<i>Aegolius funereus</i>) Boreal Owl / Raufußkauz / Мохноногий сыч	Visus metus All year round
	LĖLINIAI PAUKŠČIAI – CAPRIMULGIFORMES	
181	Lėlys (<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>) European Nightjar / Ziegenmelker / Козодой обыкновенный	04-15–10-11
	ČIURLINIAI PAUKŠČIAI – APODIFORMES	
182	Juodasis čiurlis (<i>Apus apus</i>) Common Swift / Mauersegler / Стриж черный	04-30–09-16
	ŽALVARNINIAI PAUKŠČIAI – CARACIIFORMES	
183	TulžysAlcedo atthis) Common Kingfisher / Eisevogel / Зимородок обыкновенный	Visus metus All year round
184	BitininkasMerops apiaster European Bee-eater / Bienenfresser / Щурка золотистая	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
185	Žalvarnis (<i>Coracias garrulus</i>) European Roller / Blauracke / Сизоворонка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
186	Kukutis (<i>Upupa epops</i>) Eurasian Hoopoe / Wiedehopf / Удод	03-31–10-01
	GENINIAI PAUKŠČIAI – PICIFORMES	
187	Grąžiagalvė (<i>Jynx torquilla</i>) Eurasian Wryneck / Wendehals / Вертишейка	04-15–09-15
188	Pilkoji meleta (<i>Picus canus</i>) Grey-headed Woodpecker / Grauspecht / Дятел седой	Visus metus All year round
189	Žalioji meleta (<i>Picus viridis</i>) European Green Woodpecker / Grünspecht / Дятел зеленый	Visus metus All year round
190	Juodoji meleta (<i>Dryocopus martius</i>) Black Woodpecker / Schwarzspecht / Дятел черный	Visus metus All year round



191	Didysis margasis genys (<i>Dendrocopos major</i>) Great Spotted Woodpecker / Buntspecht / Дятел большой пестрый	Visus metus All year round
192	Vidutinis margasis genys (<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>) Middle Spotted Woodpecker / Mittelspecht / Дятел средний пестрый	Visus metus All year round
193	Mažasis margasis genys (<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>) Lesser Spotted Woodpecker / Klainspecht / Дятел малый пестрый	Visus metus All year round
194	Baltnugaris genys (<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>) White-backed Woodpecker / Weißrückenspecht / Дятел белокрылый	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
ŽVIRBLINIAI PAUKŠČIAI – PASSERIFORMES		
195	Didysis trumpapirštis viversys (<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>) Greater Short-toed Lark / Kurzzeihenlerche / Жаворонок малый	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
196	Kuoduotasis viversys (<i>Galerida cristata</i>) Crested Lark / Haubenlerche / Жаворонок хохлатый	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
197	Lygutė (<i>Lullula arborea</i>) Woodlark / Heidelerche / Жаворонок лесной	02-29–12-01
198	Dirvinis viversys (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>) Eurasian Skylark / Feldlerche / Жаворонок полевой	02-29–12-01
199	Raguotasis viversys (<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>) Horned Lark / Ohrenlerche / Жаворонок рогатый	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
200	Urvinė kregždė (<i>Riparia riparia</i>) Sand Martin / Uferschwalbe / Ласточка береговая	04-25–09-15
201	Šelmeninė kregždė (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>) Barn Swallow / Rauchschnalze / Ласточка деревенская	04-15–10-21
202	Daūrinė kregždė (<i>Hirundo daurica</i>) Red-rumped Swallow / Rötelschnalze / Ласточка рыжепоясничная	Visus metus All year round
203	Langinė kregždė (<i>Delichon urbicum</i>) Common House Martin / Mehlschnalze / Ласточка городская	04-20–10-01
204	Dirvoninis kalviukas (<i>Anthus campestris</i>) Tawny Pipit / Brachpieper / Конек полевой	04-15–10-01
205	Miškinis kalviukas (<i>Anthus trivialis</i>) Tree Pipit / Baumpieper / Конек лесной	04-15–10-15
206	Tundrinis kalviukas (<i>Anthus gustavi</i>) Pechora Pipit / Pechorapieber / Конек сибирский	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
207	Pievinis kalviukas (<i>Anthus pratensis</i>) Meadow Pipit / Wiesenpieper / Конек луговой	02-29–12-01
208	Rudagurklis kalviukas (<i>Anthus cervinus</i>) Red-throated Pipit / Rotkehlpieper / Конек краснозобый	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
209	Vandeninis kalviukas (<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>) Water Pipit / Bergpieper / Конек горный	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
210	Uolinis kalviukas (<i>Anthus petrosus</i>) Eurasian Rock Pipit / Strandpieper / Конек скальный	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
211	Geltonoji kielė (<i>Motacilla flava</i>) Western Yellow Wagtail / Wiesenschafstelze / Трясогузка желтая	04-15–10-01, M. f. thunbergi – reta visus metus Rare all year round, M. f. feldegg – reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
212	Geltongalvė kielė (<i>Motacilla citreola</i>) Citrine Wagtail / Zitronenstelze / Трясогузка желтоголовая	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
213	Kalinė kielė (<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>) Grey Wagtail / Gebirgsstelze / Трясогузка горная	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
214	Baltoji kielė (<i>Motacilla alba</i>) White Wagtail / Bachstelze / Трясогузка белая	03-15–11-01, M. a. yarrelly – reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
215	Svirbelis (<i>Bombicilla garrulus</i>) Bohemian Waxwing / Seidenschwanz / Свиристель	09-15–05-15
216	Vandeninis strazdas (<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>) White-throated Dipper / Wasseramsel / Оляпка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round



217	Karietaitė (<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>) Winter Wren / Zaunkönig / Крапивник	Visus metus All year round
218	Paprastasis erkšėtžvirblis (<i>Prunella modularis</i>) Dunnock / Hackenbraunelle / Лесная завирушка	03-31-11-15
219	Sibirinis erkšėtžvirblis (<i>Prunella montanella</i>) Siberian Accentor / Bergbraunelle / Сибирская завирушка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
220	Juodagurklis erkšėtžvirblis (<i>Prunella atrogularis</i>) Black Throated Accentor / Schwarzkehlbraunelle / Черноголовая завирушка	Visus metus All year round
221	Liepsnelė (<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>) European Robin / Rotkehlchen / Зарянка	02-29-12-01
222	Rytinė lakštingala (<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>) Thrush Nightingale / Sprosser / Обыкновенный соловей	04-20-09-01
223	Vakarinė lakštingala (<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>) Common Nightingale / Nachtigall / Южный соловей	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
224	Mėlyngurklė (<i>Luscinia svecica</i>) Bluethroat / Blaukehlchen / Варакушка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
225	Mėlynuoodegė (<i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i>) Red-flanked Bluetail / Blauschwanz / Синехвостка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
226	Dūminė raudonuodegė (<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>) Black Redstart / Hausrotschwanz / Горихвостка-чернушка	03-15-11-20
227	Paprastoji raudonuodegė (<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>) Common Redstart / Gartenrotschwanz / Обыкновенная горихвостка	04-15-10-15
228	Paprastoji kiaučiukė (<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>) Whinchat / Braunkehlchen / Луговой чекан	04-15-10-01
229	Europinė juodagalvė kiaučiukė (<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>) European Stonechat / Europäische Schwarzkehlchen / Черноголовый чекан	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
230	Paprastasis kultūpys (<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>) Northern Wheatear / Steinschmätzer / Обыкновенная каменка	03-01-10-15
231	Margasis kultūpys (<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>) Pied Wheatear / Nonnensteinschmätzer / Каменка-пleshанка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
232	Baltagurklis strazdas (<i>Turdus torquatus</i>) Ring Ouzel / Ringdrossel / Белозобый дрозд	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
233	Juodasis strazdas (<i>Turdus merula</i>) Common Blackbird / Amsel / Чёрный дрозд	Visus metus All year round
234	Smilginis strazdas (<i>Turdus pilaris</i>) Fieldfare / Wacholderdrossel / Рябинник	Visus metus All year round
235	Strazdas giesmininkas (<i>Turdus philomelos</i>) Song Thrush / Singdrossel / Певчий дрозд	03-15-12-01
236	Baltabruvis strazdas (<i>Turdus iliacus</i>) Redwing / Rotdrossel / Белобровик	03-15-12-01
237	Amalinis strazdas (<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>) Mistle Thrush / Misteldrossel / Дяряба	02-29-12-01
238	Margasis žiogelis (<i>Locustella naevia</i>) Common Grasshopper Warbler / Feldschwirl / Обыкновенный сверчок	04-20-09-20
239	Upinis žiogelis (<i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>) River Warbler / Schlagschwirl / Речной сверчок	04-20-09-20
240	Nendrinis žiogelis (<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>) Savi's Warbler / Rohrschwirl / Соловьиный сверчок	04-15-09-20
241	Mažoji tošinukė (<i>Iduna caligata</i>) Booted Warbler / Buschspötter / Северная бормотушка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
242	Mėdinė nendrinukė (<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>) Aquatic Warbler / Seggenrohrsänger / Вертлявая камышевка	04-30-08-15
243	Ėžerinė nendrinukė (<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>) Sedge Warbler / Schilfrohrsänger / Камышевка-барсучок	04-25-10-01
244	Indinė nendrinukė (<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>) Paddyfield Warbler / Feldrohrsänger / Индийская камышевка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
245	Sodinė nendrinukė (<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>) Blyth's Reed Warbler / Buschrohrsänger / Садовая камышевка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
246	Karklinė nendrinukė (<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>) Marsh Warbler / Sumpfrohrsänger / Болотная камышевка	05-10-10-01
247	Mažoji krakšlė (<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>) Eurasian Reed Warbler / Teichrohrsänger / Тростниковая камышевка	04-25-10-15



248	Didžioji krakšlė (<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>) Great Reed Warbler / Drosselrohrsänger / Дроздовидная камышевка	04-25–09-20
249	Paprastoji tošinukė (<i>Hippolais icterina</i>) Icterine Warbler / Gelbspötter / Зелёная пересмешка	04-25–10-15
250	Alpinė devynbalsė (<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>) Subalpine Warbler / Weißbart-Grasmücke / Рыжегрудая славка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
251	Juodagalvė sardininė devynbalsė (<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>) Sardinian Warbler / Samtkopf-Grasmücke / Средиземноморская славка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
252	Raiboji devynbalsė (<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>) Barred Warbler / Sperpergrasmücke / Ястребиная славка	04-30–09-01
253	Pilkoji devynbalsė (<i>Sylvia curruca</i>) Lesser Whitethroat / Klappergrasmücke / Славка-мельничек	04-15–10-01
254	Rudoji devynbalsė (<i>Sylvia communis</i>) Common Whitethroat / Dorngrasmücke / Серая славка	04-25–10-01
255	Sodinė devynbalsė (<i>Sylvia borin</i>) Garden Warbler / Gartengrasmücke / Садовая славка	04-30–10-15
256	Juodagalvė devynbalsė (<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>) Eurasian Blackcap / Mönchsgrasmücke / Славка-черноголовка	04-15–11-15
257	Šiaurinė pečialinda (<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>) Greenish Warbler / Grünlaubsänger / Зелёная пеночка	05-15–09-01
258	Arktinė pečialinda (<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>) Arctic Warbler / Wanderlaubsänger / Пеночка-таловка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
259	Nykštukinė pečialinda (<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>) Pallas's Leaf Warbler / Goldhähnchen-Laubsänger / Корольковая пеночка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
260	Geltonbruvė pečialinda (<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>) Yellow-browed Warbler / Gelbbrauen-Laubsänger / Пеночка-зарничка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
261	Sajarinė pečialinda (<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>) Hume's Leaf Warbler / Tienschan-Laubsänger / Тускляя зарничка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
262	Storasnapė pečialinda (<i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>) Radde's Warbler / Bartlaubsänger / Толстоклювая пеночка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
263	Rudoji pečialinda (<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>) Dusky Warbler / Dunkellaubsänger / Буряя пеночка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
264	Žalioji pečialinda (<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>) Wood Warbler / Waldlaubsänger / Пеночка-трещотка	04-15–09-15
265	Pilkoji pečialinda (<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>) Common Chiffchaff / Zilpzalp / Пеночка-теньковка	03-20–11-15, Ph. c. tristis – reta visus metus Rare all year round
266	Ankstyvoji pečialinda (<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>) Willow Warbler / Fitis / Пеночка-весничка	04-10–10-15
267	Paprastasis nykštukas (<i>Regulus regulus</i>) Goldcrest / Wintergoldhähnchen / Желтоголовый королёк	Visus metus All year round
268	Baltabruvis nykštukas (<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>) Firecrest / Sommergoldhähnchen / Красноголовый королёк	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
269	Pilkoji musinukė (<i>Muscicapa striata</i>) Spotted Flycatcher / Grauschnäpper / Серая мухоловка	04-20–10-01
270	Mažoji musinukė (<i>Ficedula parva</i>) Red-breasted Flycatcher / Zwergschnäpper / Малая мухоловка	04-20–10-01
271	Baltakaklė musinukė (<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>) Collared Flycatcher / Halsbandschnäpper / Мухоловка-белошейка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
272	Margasparnė musinukė (<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>) European Pied Flycatcher / Trauerschnäpper / Мухоловка-пеструшка	04-15–10-01
273	Ušuotoji zylė (<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>) Bearded Reedling / Bartmeise / Усатая синица	02-29–12-01
274	Ilgauodegė zylė (<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>) Long-tailed Tit / Schwanzmeise / Оползник синица	A. c. europaeus – reta visus metus Rare all year round
275	Paprastoji pilkoji zylė (<i>Parus palustris</i>) Marsh Tit / Sumpfmeise / Черноголовая гаичка	Visus metus All year round
276	Šiaurinė pilkoji zylė (<i>Parus montanus</i>) Willow Tit / Weidenmeise / Пухляк гаичка	Visus metus All year round
277	Kuoduotoji zylė (<i>Parus cristatus</i>) European Crested Tit / Haubenmeise / Хохлатая синица	Visus metus All year round

278	Juodoji zylė (<i>Parus ater</i>) Coal Tit / Tannenmeise / Москиска	Visus metus All year round
279	Mėlynoji zylė (<i>Parus caeruleus</i>) Eurasian Blue Tit / Blaumeise / Обыкновенная лазоревка	Visus metus All year round
280	Didžioji zylė (<i>Parus major</i>) Great Tit / Kohlmeise / Большая синица	Visus metus All year round
281	Bukutis (<i>Sitta europaea</i>) Eurasian Nuthatch / Kleiber / Обыкновенный поползень	S. e. asiatica – reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
282	Miškinis liputis (<i>Certhia familiaris</i>) Eurasian Treecreeper / Waldbaumläufer / Обыкновенная пищуха	Visus metus All year round
283	Sodinis liputis (<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>) Short-toed Treecreeper / Gartenbaumläufer / Короткопалая пищуха	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
284	Remeza (<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>) Eurasian Penduline Tit / Beutelmeise / Обыкновенный ремез	11-01–03-20
285	Volungė (<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>) Eurasian Golden Oriole / Pirol / Иволга	04-30–09-15
286	Paprastoji medšarkė (<i>Lanius collurio</i>) Red-backed Shrike / Neuntöter / Сорокопут-жулан	04-30–10-01
287	Plėšrioji medšarkė (<i>Lanius excubitor</i>) Great Grey Shrike / Raubwürger / Серый сорокопут	Visus metus All year round
288	Kėkštas (<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>) Eurasian Jay / Eichelhäher / Сойка	Visus metus All year round
289	Šarka (<i>Pica pica</i>) Eurasian Magpie / Elster / Сорока	Visus metus All year round
290	Riešutinė (<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>) Spotted Nutcracker / Tanenhäher / Кедровка	Visus metus All year round
291	Kuosa (<i>Corvus monedula</i>) Western Jackdaw / Dohle / Галка	Visus metus All year round
292	Kovas (<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>) Rook / Saatkrähe / Грач	Visus metus All year round
293	Juodoji varna (<i>Corvus corone</i>) Carriion Crow / Rabenkrähe / Европейская чёрная ворона	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
294	Pilkoji varna (<i>Corvus cornix</i>) Hooded Crow / Nebelkrähe / Серая ворона	Visus metus All year round
295	Kranklys (<i>Corvus corax</i>) Northern Raven / Kolkrabe / Ворон	Visus metus All year round
296	Paprastasis varnėnas (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>) Common Starling / Star / Обыкновенный скворец	02-29–12-01
297	Rožinis varnėnas (<i>Sturnus roseus</i>) Rosy Starling / Rosenstar / Розовый скворец	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
298	Naminis žvirblis (<i>Passer domesticus</i>) House Sparrow / Haussperling / Passer domesticus	Visus metus All year round
299	Karklažvirblis (<i>Passer montanus</i>) Eurasian Tree Sparrow / Feldsperling / Passer montanus	Visus metus All year round
300	Paprastasis kikiilis (<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>) Common Chaffinch / Buchfink / Зяблик	Visus metus All year round
301	Šiaurinis kikiilis (<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>) Brambling / Bergfink / Юпок	02-29–05-01, 08-31–12-01
302	Svilikėlis (<i>Serinus serinus</i>) European Serin / Grlitz / Канареечный выюрок	03-20–11-15
303	Žaliukė (<i>Carduelis chloris</i>) European Greenfinch / Grünfink / Обыкновенная зеленушка	Visus metus All year round
304	Dagilis (<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>) European Goldfinch / Stieglitz / Щегол	Visus metus All year round
305	Alksninukas (<i>Carduelis spinus</i>) Eurasian Siskin / Erlenzeisig / Чиж	Visus metus All year round
306	Paprastasis čivylis (<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>) Common Linnet / Bluthänfling / Коноплянка	02-29–12-01
307	Geltonsnapis čivylis (<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>) Twite / Berghänfling / Горная чечётка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round



308	Paprastasis čimčiakas (<i>Carduelis flammea</i>) Common Redpoll / Birkenzeisig / Обыкновенная чечётка	09-20–05-01
309	Poliarinis čimčiakas (<i>Carduelis hornemanni</i>) Arctic Redpoll / Polarbirkenzeisig / Пепельная чечётка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
310	Margasparnis kryžiasnapis (<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>) Two-barred Crossbill / Bindenkreuzschnabel / Белокрылый клёст	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
311	Eglinis kryžiasnapis (<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>) Red Crossbill / Fichtenkreuzschnabel / Обыкновенный клёст	Visus metus All year round
312	Pušinis kryžiasnapis (<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>) Parrot Crossbill / Kiefernkreuzschnabel / Клёст-сосновик	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
313	Raudongalvė sniegėna (<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>) Common Rosefinch / Karmingimpel / Обыкновенная чечевица	04-30–09-15
314	Juodagalvė sniegėna (<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>) Eurasian Bullfinch / Gimpel / Обыкновенный снегирь	Visus metus All year round
315	Svilikas (<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>) Hawfinch / Kernbeißer / Обыкновенный дубонос	Visus metus All year round
316	Pentinuotoji starta (<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>) Lapland Longspur / Spornammer / Лапландский подорожник	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
317	Sniegtartė (<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>) Snow Bunting / Schneeammer / Пуночка	09-30–05-01
318	Geltonoji starta (<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>) Yellowhammer / Goldammer / Обыкновенная овсянка	Visus metus All year round
319	Sodinė starta (<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>) Ortolan Bunting / Ortolan / Садовая овсянка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
320	Mažoji starta (<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>) Little Bunting / Zwergammer / Овсянка-крошка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
321	Nendrinė starta (<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>) Common Reed Bunting / Rohrammer / Камышовая овсянка	03-10–12-01
322	Pilkoji starta (<i>Emberiza calandra</i>) Corn Bunting / Grauammer / Просянка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round
PRIEDAS / ANNEX D ir E kategorijų rūšys / Species of Categories D and E		
323	Juodoji gulbė (<i>Cygnus atratus</i>) Black Swan / Schwarzschan / Чёрный лебедь	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
324	Kalninė žąsis (<i>Anser indicus</i>) Bar-headed Goose / Streifengans / Горный гусь	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
325	Snieginė žąsis (<i>Anser caerulescens</i>) Snow Goose / Schneegans / Белый гусь	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
326	Šiaurinė kanadinė berniklė (<i>Branta hutchinsii</i>) Cackling Goose / Zwergkanadagans / Малая канадская казарка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
327	Miškinė antis (<i>Aix sponsa</i>) Wood Duck / Brautente / Каролинская утка	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
328	Puikioji cypłė (<i>Anas sibilatrix</i>) Chiloe Wigeon / Chilepfeifente / Роскошная свиязь	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK
329	Žvilguis mažasis trupialas (<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>) Brewer's Blackbird / Purpurstärling / Блестящий малый трупал	Reta visus metus Rare all year round, LOFK

The authors extend their gratitude to **Vytautas Jusys** for his contribution in the preparation of the detailed list of bird species for this region.

If you have observed a species not in compliance with the period included in the table, please make your input to this website: www.birdlife.lt

The species with LOFK symbol are very rare, so it is necessary to inform the Lithuanian Rarities Committee via email: lofkmail@gmail.com.





Information signs



Accommodation



Petrol station



Medical aid centre



Catering services




Information centre

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It is the first Lithuanian Field Guide to birding for everyone interested in birds. The Nemunas Delta region, no doubt, from the ornithological point of view is the most important site in the country, here the majority of bird species found in Lithuania breed, and in the migration periods this region becomes one of the main rest stops for millions of migrating birds. The Field Guide covers 22 areas in Western Lithuania, including 15 falling under the boundaries of the Nemunas Delta Regional Park: 5 are in the coastal zone between Kintai and Klaipėda, 2 - in the upper reaches of the Nemunas Delta (Pagėgiai municipality). The areas have been selected based on long term observations in this region by the ornithologists, and the list of notable species was drawn up according to the latest data. We hope that the detailed information provided in this book about birds in the Nemunas Delta region will facilitate your immerse in the enchanting world of nature.