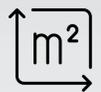


Turaw Meadow Nature Reserve



Location:

Polesia, Belarus



Area:

145.6 ha



National protection status:

Local Nature Reserve



International protection status:

IBA** (BY046) – Turaŭskaje balonnie (672 ha); Emerald Network* (BY000056) – Turovskiy Lug (145.6 ha).

* After denunciation of accession to the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, de jure there are no Emerald Network sites in Belarus.

**The following description relates to the IBA Turaŭskaje balonnie.



General information

The IBA comprises a floodplain meadow with two oxbow lakes on the right bank of the Pripyat River, next to the town of Turaw. It is exceptionally important for wetland birds, especially during the spring migration. Large masses of spring migrants stay there from several days to a week or more. These seasonal gatherings are among the largest in Central and Eastern Europe, making the site a key location for the study and conservation of migratory wetland birds.

Biodiversity and natural values

More than 20 rare and protected species are registered in the area: 10 ones when nesting and more than 10 ones during their migration. The area is highly important for wetland birds. The Turaw meadow is highly important for wading birds during the spring migration, when more than 200,000 waders migrate through the area. Large masses of spring migrants stay there from several days to a week or longer depending on the flood intensity and weather conditions. Up to 200,000 waders may accumulate in the area simultaneously (IBA criterion A4iii).

Besides, the area is a breeding ground of more than 10% of the national population of the Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*). About 1% of the national population of the White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) and the Black Tern (*Chlidonia sniger*), the Great Snipe (*Gallinago media*), the Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) and about 30% of the national population of the Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) have been registered there.

The most important impacts and threats



Meadows overgrowing with scrubs



Transformation of floodplains into arable lands



Spring bird hunting

Conservation measures

It is forbidden to carry out reclamation and any works connected with changing the natural landscape and the existing hydrological regime, exploitation of mineral deposits, haymaking and harvesting of wild plants from 1 April to 15 June, use of mineral fertilisers and chemical pesticides. Prohibited are also presence of dogs, picnics and beach recreation, making fires, hunting, etc. It is necessary to extend the protection regime to the entire territory of the IBA and to create a buffer zone with a ban on hunting and fishing during the nesting period.