

STATE OF THE WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia* POPULATION IN THE PERIPHERY OF BREEDING RANGE AND EXPANSION TO THE EAST

VITALY GRISHCHENKO

Kaniv Nature Reserve, Ukraine

E-mail: vgrishchenko@mail.ru

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* expands its breeding range in Europe to the east during last centuries. This process has wave-like pattern: periods of expansion alternate with recoils. The breeding range pulsates and are gradually enlarged. In Ukraine in the second half of XX^c century such pulsation went in east regions. There is an interesting contradiction: storks continued advance to the east and its number in these regions increased in spite of total number decreasing of the species and depression of populations in many countries. In other parts of Ukraine population of the White Stork was also in depression at this time. Monitoring of the White Stork population in Ukraine in 1992-2004

allows to explain this phenomenon. We studied breeding success and number dynamics of the species on the net of control plots. It turned out, that breeding success in peripheral part of the range is significantly higher, than in main parts. In west Ukraine the average number of fledged youngs per successful pair makes up ($M \pm sd$) 2.64 ± 0.37 , per breeding pair - 2.48 ± 0.21 ($n = 175$); in south Ukraine: 2.87 ± 0.59 and 2.69 ± 0.64 ($n = 30$); in north-east Ukraine: 3.21 ± 0.58 and 2.80 ± 0.71 ($n = 91$); in the Middle Dnieper area: 3.11 ± 0.69 and 2.67 ± 0.65 ($n = 129$). The highest parameters have Poltava (3.56 ± 0.45 and 3.18 ± 0.58 , $n = 38$) and Kharkiv (3.36 ± 0.51 and 3.06 ± 0.70 , $n = 10$) regions. These figures are also bigger, than in central and west Europe (ZINK 1967; PROFUS 1986; CREUTZ 1988; SCHULZ 1999...). Higher breeding success in peripheral parts of stork's range was found also in Russia (e.g. GALCHENKOV 2000). Therefore, in this case the periphery of distribution area is all-sufficient for the further expansion.