

Redshank preferred coastal wetlands, while the Common Snipe preferred inland ones.

During autumn migration at Draganic fishponds, Wood Sandpipers, Common Snipes, Lapwings and Dunlins dominated. The late Dunlin peak (in September and November) is typical for this species in inland Europe (Cramp 1983). It is interesting to mention the recovery of the first-year Dunlin from September 1993 which was found only three days after it had been ringed at Vistula mouth, Poland. This bird was in a flock of 12, and the whole flock spent two days feeding all the time, so it may be concluded that the distance of 1,005 km in SSW direction was probably flown at once.

Although important for migration of waders (on the Croatian level), Draganic fishponds don't have such general importance for their breeding and wintering. That is because fishponds are filled with water in the breeding season (and are therefore unsuitable for breeding) and in winter both the filled and drained ponds are mostly frozen. Only two species (Lapwing and Little Ringed Plover) breed, both in low numbers and with low success rates. The only regular wintering species was the Green Sandpiper, although also present in low numbers.

New wader ringing site in Western Ukraine

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Waders using the coast of the Gulf of Gdansk (southern Baltic, Poland) as a resting place continue their migration in three different directions – along the East Atlantic Coastal Flyway, inland to the Mediterranean and over the mainland towards the Black Sea (Gromadzka 1987). The latter two flyways are relatively poorly studied, indeed the course and use of the Black Sea flyway is almost unknown as there are very few ringing stations and recoveries from the Black Sea direction.

The Waterbird Research Group KULING was very interested in the development of wader studies along this flyway because a proportion of the birds ringed by us at Reda mouth migrate to the Black Sea. Filling this gap in knowledge would be possible only by establishment of ringing points in the Dnestr valley, which along with the Vistula–San rivers system, is probably a corridor for waders migrating to the Black Sea. Realisation of this idea was possible thanks to contact with Ukrainian colleagues from the western branch of the Ukrainian Ornithological Society. With the financial and organisational support of KULING, in autumn 1995 they established a wader and passerine ringing site named 'Avosetta' at Cholyni near Lviv (49°54'N, 23°27'E). The ringing station was run by ornithologists from Lviv University with the help of Polish ringers (from Gdansk Ornithological Station) and members of WRG KULING. The first season generated so much enthusiasm amongst Ukrainian ringers that

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the work was continued in 1996, also with some support from KULING.



The ringing site 'Avosetta' is situated at the dumping site of a sulphur extraction factory and covers an area of about 50 ha. The area is divided by dykes into several basins containing open water with muddy banks and shallows which attract feeding waders. A significant proportion of the site is covered by reedbed and also by dry mud with low, sparse vegetation. Catching took place in the period 15th August – 15th September 1995 and 5th August – 6th September 1996. Waders were caught using walk-in traps and mist-nets situated on the muddy banks of one of the ponds. Several mist-nets were also placed in the reed-bed to catch passerines. Apart from catching, counts of waders were also conducted. Counts were made from 15th June to 15th October, twice per five-day period outside the catching period and every day during the catching period.

PROVISIONAL RESULTS

Results of catching are presented in Table 1. Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* was the most numerous species ringed, although the counts showed that the most numerous species present were Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* and Curlew *Numenius arquata*, maximum daily numbers of which reached 1,850 and 450 birds respectively.

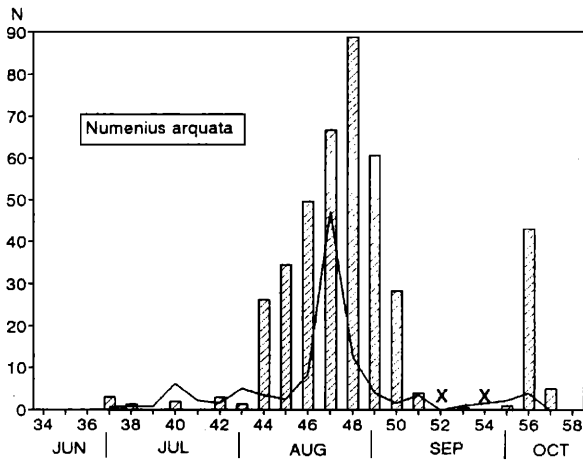


Figure 1. Average number of Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) at Cholyni (bars) and a Reda mouth (line) in subsequent five-day periods (pentades). Pentades without counts at Cholyni are indicated by crosses. counts at Reda mouth started at pentade 37 (beginning of July).

In 1996, WRG KULING organised a new count scheme at Reda mouth, which allowed comparisons of the timing and dynamics of autumn migration to be made between here and Cholyni, which are about 600 km apart.

Curlew was more numerous at Cholyni than at Reda mouth, although the dynamics of migration were similar in both places (Figure 1). In Cholyni, numbers peaked one pentade later than at Reda mouth. In contrast, both the timing and phenology of Wood Sandpiper migration appeared to differ between sites (Figure 2). However, this difference becomes less pronounced if the results of counts from Reda mouth are shifted ten days forward. For both species, the highest migration peak at Reda mouth does not have an equivalent at Cholyni. The most numerous *Calidris* species at Cholyni were Dunlin *Calidris alpina*, Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* and Little Stint *Calidris minuta*. However, in

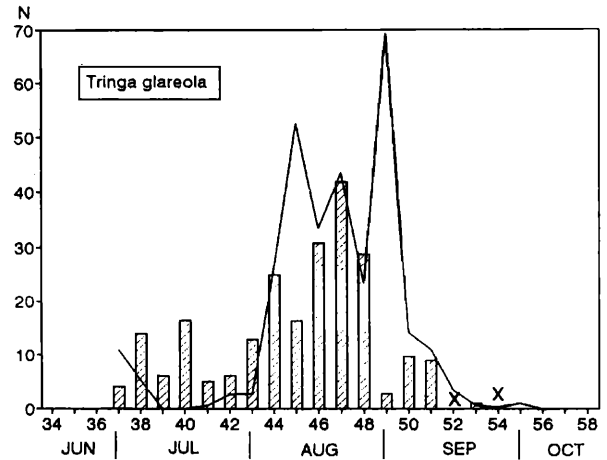


Figure 2. Average number of wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) at Cholyni (bars) and at Reda mouth (line) in subsequent five-day periods (pentades). Notes as in Figure 1.

comparison to the Baltic coast, their numbers at Cholyni were much lower. For all species, the migration of adults was less pronounced than at Reda mouth.

The work of the ringing site at Cholyni will continue. Equipment is improving from year to year but there is still a great need for training of more Ukrainian ringers who could expand the work. So far, though, the groundwork has been done and we can look optimistically to the future.

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Table 1 Ringing totals in 1995 and 1996 at Cholyni

SPECIES	1995	1996
Little ringed plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	4	2
Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	0	6
Little stint <i>Calidris minuta</i>	30	9
Temminck's stint <i>Calidris temminckii</i>	2	1
Curlew sandpiper <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	8	5
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	42	19
Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	6	2
Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	8	4
Wood sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>	74	135
Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>	2	2
Green sandpiper <i>Tringa ochropus</i>	0	1
Common sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	0	3
Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	0	1
Red-necked phalarope <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	2	0
TOTAL WADERS	178	190
Others	406	1515
OVERALL TOTAL	584	1705