

Project Update: July 2015

In June 2015, the study of bats in the territory of Stary Zhaden Ramsar Site was carried out. For the 5 nights, 103 specimens of 10 species were caught by mist netting, among them two breeding females of greater noctule bat. It is the largest and least studied bat in Europe. This magnificent species was once recorded in Belarus 85 years ago. Due to the prolonged absence of any records, it was even excluded from the National Red Data Book (2004, 2015). We found greater noctule bat in the most difficult, least accessible central part of the Ramsar Site where 200- year old forests island interspersed with fen mires. This sensational news was widely covered in the media:

<http://www.ptushki.org/info/press/item/15526.html>

<http://news.tut.by/kaleidoscope/454384.html>

<http://charter97.org/ru/news/2015/7/2/158028/>

<http://euroradio.fm/ru/v-belarusi-nashli-krupneyshiy-v-evrope-vid-letuchey-myshi>

<http://sputnik.by/nature/20150701/1015992759.html>

<http://govorim.by/gomelskaya-oblast/lelchicy/novosti-lelchic/188871-v-zhitkovichskom-rayone-nashli-gigantskih-vechernic-letuchih-myshey-ne-vstrechavshih-sya-v-belarusi-s-1930-goda-gomel-segodnya.html>

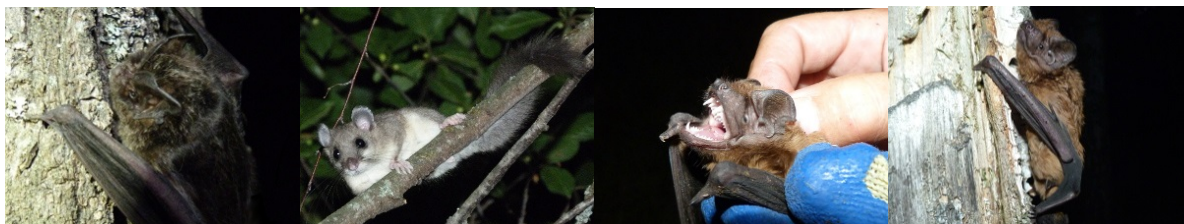
<http://govorim.by/gomelskaya-oblast/zhitkovichi/novosti-zhitkovichy/188858-v-zhitkovichskom-rayone-nashli-gigantskih-vechernic-letuchih-myshey-ne-vstrechavshih-sya-v-belarusi-s-1930-goda.html>

In addition to the greater noctule bat, the following species were noted (in decreasing order of abundance): soprano pipistrelle, barbastelle, brown long-eared bat, common noctule, parti-coloured bat, Brandt's bat, Natterer's bat, northern bat and Nathusius' pipistrelle. Of those, barbastelle, Brandt's bat, Natterer's bat and northern bat are included in the Red Data Book of Belarus (2015).

The presence of others rare animals, as edible dormouse and European pond turtle was found.

Thus, the Ramsar Site “Stary Zhaden” is a unique natural area with a very unique set of rare and protected species. We published an article about this territory on one of the most popular sites on the nature of Belarus

<http://wildlife.by/node/38453>



Left: Barbastelle; Middle: Edible dormouse; Right: Greater noctule bat