

Whinchat in the abandoned fields of the 'Russky Sever' national park

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We study Whinchat breeding ecology in the abandoned fields in the southern part of the "Russky Sever" national park (59°46'N, 38°22'E), Vologda region, Russia (SHITIKOV et al. 2015). Despite the serious decline in Whinchat numbers in western and central Europe, population of the northern Russia remains high and stable. Breeding Whinchat numbers slightly increased at our study plot since 2011.

Tab. 1: Breeding Whinchat numbers at survey plot (abandoned field, 104.2 ha).

Year	Breeding pairs
2011	54
2012	40
2013	64
2014	65
2015	74
2016	65



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Fig. 1: Magpie with Whinchat's egg (Photo: © D. SHITIKOV).

During 2015-2016 we ringed 72 adult Whin-chats and 324 nestlings, observed the fate of 120 nests. Breeding success was low (30-40%) and predators were the main reason of nests losses. Since 2016 we started a project to identify predators at meadow birds' nests with Trophy Cams. In 2016 cameras were deployed near 20 Whinchat's nests; 8 nests were partially or fully predated. Nests were predated by Common Adder *Vipera berus*, Magpie *Pica pica*, Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* and

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*. Magpie, Common Adder and Hedgehog were main predators at the nests of other ground-nesting passerine species (Booted Warbler *Iduna caligata* and Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*). The study was funded by Russian Foundation for Basic Research (grant number 16-04-01383).

Literature

Shitikov D, Vaytina TM, Gagieva VA, Fedchuk DV 2015: Breeding success affects site fidelity in a Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* population in abandoned fields. Bird Study 62, 96-105.

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