

## Labanoras Bird List.

Contributed by Jos  
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With a mix of habitats, from flood forest to flower meadows, coupled with a location between major lake systems, my 35 hectares have proved exceptionally productive in the years since autumn 2004, surprises turning up season after season. Amongst the highlights, Rollers, Cranes, both storks, Pygmy Owl, Quail and Corncrake, plus eight species of woodpecker and 17 species of raptors, including White-tailed and Lesser Spotted Eagles. In addition, quite a number of birds rare in Lithuania have been recorded - as much a testimony to the amount of time spent at the site as to the locality itself. These are Short-toed Eagle, Pallid Harrier, Red-footed Falcon, Bee-eater, Arctic Redpoll, two Lesser Redpolls and a Pine Bunting.

A total of 178 species of birds have now been recorded at this locality, including birds seen over the land. Amongst the many species, additions in recent years have included:

2011 - Eagle Owl.

2012 - Lesser Black-backed Gull, Bewick's Swan, Little Crake and Common Redstart.

2013 - Snow Bunting, Wood Sandpiper, Common Redshank, Eurasian Wigeon, Water Rail and Parrot Crossbill.

2014 - Common Sandpiper, Shoveler, Arctic Skua, Moorhen, Turtle Dove, Sand Martin and Crested Tit.

2015 - Tufted Duck, Black-throated Diver, Red-throated Diver, Savi's Warbler, Bearded Tit and Reed Warbler. 2017. Great Reed Warbler. 2018 - Little Grebe, Black-tailed Godwit, Ruff, Marsh Sandpiper and Yellow-browed Warbler.

\*\*\*\*\*Black-throated Diver. Superb record, a flock of six birds flew over on 16 April 2015, followed minutes later by a flock of 17 birds. Also Red-throated Diver with them. Red-throated Diver. Flying with Black-throated Divers, one flew over on 16 April 2015. Little Grebe. Single recorded on a flood pool on 28 April 2018, with another arriving on 1 May and the pair beginning nest-building, still present on 5th. Cormorant. Irregular fly-over species, single birds or pairs seen several times a year. Highest counts were nine birds on 4th April 2011, 43 birds on 30th August 2014 and 14 on 3 May 2015. Bittern. Birds breed on lakes less than a kilometre from my land, booming birds can regularly be heard in the spring. In recent years, from 2015 onward, booming birds are appearing in 'woodland' on my land that has been opened out by Beavers and is now invaded by reeds. Great White Egret. Several records, increasing in recent years: 2007: one on 5 May. 2012: a flock of three on 25 August. 2014: a pair on 6 September. 2015: a single on 3 May and a flock of seven on 4 May 2016: two on 28 March, a flock of eight on 23 April, two on 28 May, two feeding in the flood forest on 11 June (roosting in trees at dawn). 2017: three flying north in early April, another a few days late. A pair thereafter seen occasionally throughout the summer season. 2018: one flying over on 5 May. This species is expanding in Lithuania and records are expected to further increase. Future breeding is possible. Grey Heron. Common throughout the summer, a colony of about 15-20 pairs breeds just off the edge of my land. White Stork. Abundant, about eight nests are visible from my land. Also a regular migrant, particularly in autumn - largest single flock being 320 birds, also 88 on 29 August 2004. Black Stork. First recorded in 2006 with a pair on 15 June and a single on 8 July, but then annual until 2013, usually occasional birds flying over, but also pairs feeding in the flood forest. No records since 2013. Mute Swan. Common on nearby lakes and birds frequently fly over my land. Whooper Swan. Regular bird, mostly in spring, either flying over or occasionally on flood pools in meadows: 2004. A pair flying over on 20 October. 2013. A pair on 6 April. 2014. Three birds on 9 March. 2015. Three on 11 April and five on 23 April. 2016. A pair visited a flood pool in the meadows on 14, 17 and 26 March. 2017. Two flying over on 5 March, presumed same on 13 and 16 March. Six birds flying over on 18 March. One on flood pools on 30 April. 2018. Two pairs on flood pools on 16 April, one pair remaining till 5 May. Bewick's Swan. Three records: a flock of ten birds flying north on 23 April 2012; three birds flying south on 19 October 2014; four flying north on 15 October 2016. White-fronted Goose. Abundant passage migrant, particularly in spring. Daily counts frequently in the hundreds. Bean Goose. Common, though generally in lower numbers than White-fronted Geese. More frequent in autumn than spring. Greylag Goose. Three records, a single with White-fronted Geese in March 2009, another single on 9 March 2014 and five flying over on 4 March 2017. Mallard. The most abundant duck on the land - two or three pairs breed annually in the flood forest and families are regular at the feeding station from the late summer till autumn's end. Shoveler. Two records - a pair flying over on 3 May 2014, then a flock of 24 on 25 April 2015. Eurasian Wigeon. Four records: 2013. A female on 14 September. 2016. A female on 16 October. 2017. A bird calling at night on 17 March. 2018. A flock of eight on flood pools on 16 April. Common Teal. One or two pairs breed annually in the flood forest. Also occurs at the feeding station, usually less than five birds. Best count was seven on 17 April 2012. Garganey. Five records, mostly spring migrants, but one breeding record also: 2009. Three birds

in the flood forest from 26 April (two males and a female), a pair staying on to breed. 2013. A single bird on 14 September. 2015. A pair on 23 April. 2017. A pair on 30 April. 2018. A pair on 16 April. Tufted Duck. Four birds flying over on 4 April 2015. Goldeneye. One or two pairs breed each year in the flood forest, otherwise an irregular fly-over species. Goosander. Recorded almost every year, on all occasions birds flying over. Breeds on nearby lakes. White-tailed Eagle. Increasing, recorded every couple of months or so, usually adult birds. Most frequently seen in March to April and autumn, though increasingly throughout the summer and adults were seen in mid-winter in 2015, 2016 and 2018. Most records are of birds flying over, but occasionally roosts in the forest. Highest count was three adult birds on 11 March 2012. Very good autumn passage in 2014, with seven birds noted between late August and mid-October. Osprey. Commonly seen overhead in the summer months, breeds nearby and fishes in neighbouring lakes. Lesser Spotted Eagle. One pair sometimes breeds in the flood forest. Additionally, extra birds moderately common some summers and further birds occur on passage. Earliest returnee was on 30 March 2008, more usual mid-April. Short-toed Eagle. A rare bird in Lithuania. One record, a single bird at the forest edge on 18 September 2005. Black Kite. Breeds in the area and commonly seen from mid-April through to autumn, four birds seen together in July 2005. Marsh Harrier. Abundant, a daily visitor to the meadows throughout the summer. Pairs breed on neighbouring lakes and, in 2008, a pair was thought to have bred in an open area in the flood forest. Hen Harrier. Occasional records generally one or two seen every year, mostly in early spring (dates 17 March-3 April) or late autumn (dates 14-27 October). A bird on 24 August 2015 was unseasonably early. Montagu's Harrier. Breeds in the general area - frequency on my land varies year to year, some years almost daily, other years just an occasional visitor. Pallid Harrier. A Lithuanian rarity. Two records, a male on 28 September 2005, a male 15 October 2015. Rough-legged Buzzard. Rare late-autumn or early spring visitor. First record on 20 October 2004. Only a few records since - one on 27 October 2013, one on 29 March 2014, one on 2 April 2016 and one on 2 March 2017. Common Buzzard. Common year-round. Breeds in or near the forest, hunts over the meadows. Additionally, small numbers winter and regular movements occur on passage. Mid-September movements can amount to 10-15 birds/hour. Honey Buzzard. Recorded every summer, particularly later in the season. Fairly common in some seasons, scarce in others. Sparrowhawk. Recorded throughout the year, occasionally attacking the feeding station in winter. Most common on autumn passage, especially September to October - up to 20-25 birds per hour often seen drifting south. Goshawk. Occasional visitor, usually recorded four or five times a year, no particular seasonal bias. Kestrel. As across Lithuania, generally uncommon. One successful breeding record (2014), but otherwise a total of thirteen birds recorded, six in autumn (four in August, two on September) and seven in spring (four April, two May). Total records are as following: 2005. One on 15 August, two individuals on 18 September. 2006. One on 20 August. 2011. One on 25 August. 2012. One on 11 August. 2013. Three individuals on 14 April. 2014. Two on 3 May, then a pair settling to breed locally, fledging three young in early August. From this pair, birds remained in the area until September. 2016. One present on 24 April, another on 28 April. 2017. One on 24 April. Merlin. One female on 21 March 2010. Red-footed Falcon. A rare bird in Lithuania, becoming more common in late summer. 2004. A female on 14 August. 2013. A juvenile on 4 August 2012 and another juvenile on 11 August. 2014. A mini influx with one juvenile on 10 August 2014, another a week later, then four together in early September. 2015. Three singles were seen on dates between 5 and 17 September. 2017. One on 20 August. Hobby. Fairly common in the summer months, recorded almost on a daily basis some years, slightly less in others. Black Grouse. Three records - single birds flushed from the same area of regenerating meadows each time - a male in autumn 2008, a male on 27 April 2014 and a female on 23 October 2014. Hazel Grouse. Six sight records, several possibly relating to the same individual. In 2005, a pair were observed in the oak woodland on 1 May. After a nine-year gap, there were several sightings in 2014: (a) a male adjacent to the forest on 9th and 24th March, (b) a bird flushed near the feeding station on 6 September, and (c) one in a conifer grove on 19 October. In the following years, a pair were present on 15 February 2015 and one near the feeding station on 16 October 2016. Additionally, tracks of one to two birds were found in the snow on 21 February 2011 and 19 January 2013. Grey Partridge. In earlier years, small coveys were encountered in the meadows once or twice a year, with a maximum count of 18 on 2 October 2005. No records since 2013 however. Quail. Breeds in the open meadows. Population varies year to year, but usually totals two-five singing males per season. Rarely seen, but one flushed on 21 May 2008. Corncrake. Breeds in the meadows, usually three to four singing males each year. Occasional autumn birds, e.g. one on 7 September 2013. Little Crake. An unexpected species, but now recorded twice - a male present in the flood forest from 16-17 June 2012, then another in the same area on 13 September 2015. Water Rail. After autumn birds in 2013 and 2014 (one in the flood forest on 16 September 2013, at least four in the same area from 10 August 2014), remarkably a pair was found with three chicks on 15 August 2015, just a week after birds were heard calling for the first time. One heard on 25 April 2016. Moorhen. One record in 2014 - an immature bird on 10 August. Following this first record, a pair then settled and successfully bred in the flood forest in 2015. Present again in 2016, seen or heard from 25 April, then through May and June, breeding presumed. Crane. Common from March till autumn. One pair sometimes breeds in the flood forest and pairs are virtually daily in the meadows, frequently two or three pairs. Additional birds occur on passage, largest count being 113 on 9 October 2004 and 205 on 27 September 2015. Golden Plover. One record, a flock of seven birds flying over on 3 September 2006. Lapwing. Reasonably frequent on passage, usually small flocks flying over. Occasionally feeds in the meadows, occasional pairs breed in adjacent areas. Common Sandpiper. Three birds flying over on 1 May 2014. Green Sandpiper. Occurs in the flood forest and almost certainly breeds, territorial display common in the spring. Occasional birds on the excavated pools too. Wood Sandpiper. Two records - a flock of 21 birds flying over on 28 April 2012, then seven on floodpools on 5 May 2018. Common Redshank. One record - a single bird flying over on 18 May 2013. Curlew. Breeds in the general area and occasional birds are seen most springs (mainly early April), occasionally summer. Black-tailed Godwit. Three birds arrived on 16 April 2018, flying around several times before landing on flood pools. Woodcock. Breeds in the general area and probably occurs more frequently than the records suggest. The only records so far are as follows: 2005: one bird in flight display on 4 May 2009: a pair on 15 March 2010: a single on 28

March 2014: two separate individuals on 9 March. 2015: a single recorded on a night cam at feeders and by a pool on several dates around 24 September. 2016: amazing spring run of records: one on 26 March, four on 31 March (pair and two singles), two singles on 2 April, one on 4 April. Common Snipe. Occasional visitor, occurring most springs around the excavated pools or damp grasslands. Displaying birds sometimes seen, breeds in the general area. Arctic Skua. A totally unexpected record, one pale-phase bird flying over on 7 June. Heading north, this was presumably a late migrant, though highly unusual over 300 km inland. Black-headed Gull. Breeds nearby and is commonly seen overhead, sometimes in large flocks. Common Gull. Not abundant, occasionally seen with Black-headed Gulls passing over the land. Lesser Black-backed Gull. Two records - three birds flying over on 14 April 2012 and one on 4 April 2015. Herring Gull. Most frequent in spring, most records relate to pairs or small flocks flying over. Common Tern. Breeds on lakes either side of the property, occasionally overflies en route to these lakes. Black Tern. Breeds on nearby lakes, possibly bred in an open area within the flood forest in 2008. Otherwise occasional birds fly over. White-winged Black Tern. Several birds were seen in spring 2008 in company with Black Terns. Feral Pigeon. Occasional birds wander over the territory. Stock Dove. Rare, occasional records only. Wood Pigeon. Common in summer, small numbers in the forest or, more frequently, flying over. Passage birds also occur, occasionally in large numbers, for example several hundred south on both 14 & 16 September 2013. Turtle Dove. One bird on 13 August 2014, flying in from the north, feeding briefly, then continuing south. Cuckoo. Fairly common from May onwards, calling birds or flying over. Eagle Owl. One bird seen, flying through the forest canopy in February 2011, heard calling later in the same year. Tawny Owl. One pair breeds in a nestbox in the flooded forest. Long-eared Owl. Common in adjacent pine forests, but only record on my land - a single bird seen at dusk one November. Probably occurs more frequently. Pygmy Owl. Five records - four as presumed wintering birds at or near the feeding station (March 2007, February 2008, February 2010 and November 2010) and one singing bird in good habitat on 9 March 2014. Common Swift. Common overhead throughout the summer. Latest record, 12 birds on 6 September 2014. Common Kingfisher. One bird on 22 August 2009, feeding on the forest lake. Hoopoe. Three records, one at the edge of the territory in 2008, then singing birds on 9 May 2010 and 9 May 2016. European Bee-eater. A rare bird in Lithuania, the only record on my Labanoras plot is a single bird flying over in mid-summer. European Roller. Almost extinct in Lithuania, Labanoras was one of the last localities for this rapidly declining species. Until 2009, one pair bred every year on my plot and could be seen from late May through to late August. In late 2009 however, the regular male disappeared and, although the female fledged the young, there have been no records since. Black Woodpecker. Year-round resident, breeds in the forest, more common in winter. For the first time, a male began to use the peanut feeders from January 2012 through to spring. Grey-headed Woodpecker. Regular on the feeders in winter (up to four), breeds nearby. Breeds in the flood forest or nearby most years. White-backed Woodpecker. Uncommon in Lithuania. One fly-over on 2 August 2006. A male at the feeders from January to March 2007, briefly reappearing in June. A female from January 2009 till the winter's end, joined by a male in mid-March. This pair then established territory and the nest was found in late April, the first breeding record on the land. From that date on, regular at the feeders (up to five birds) and now breeds every year. Great Spotted Woodpecker. Common, a minimum of two pairs breed. Up to sixteen birds at the feeders in winter. Middle Spotted Woodpecker. Common, one or two pairs breed. Up to eight at the feeders in winter. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. One to two pairs breed. Up to four birds usually regular at the feeders in winter. A decline in autumn 2009 (possible to Pygmy Owl) saw the last female at the feeders disappear in December. Thereafter, there were no records until a pair reappeared in late March 2010. Regular again from that date, two pairs breeding in 2012. Three-toed Woodpecker. A rare species in Lithuania. One male was present in the flood forest from February-March 2009, another male spent three successive winters in the forest - from January-March 2012, November 2012 through to February 2013, and from 1 October 2013 through to 1 March 2014, a second bird noted on one date in February 2014. Finally, a single male was also recorded on one date in mid-January 2018. Wryneck. Regular in summer, two to three pairs breed in the forest, some using nestboxes, more in nearby villages. Skylark. Abundant summer visitor. Depending on snow cover, the first birds return from the end of February or early March, thereafter singing birds can be found throughout the meadows. A conservative estimate would put the population at about 20 pairs, many more in neighbouring meadows. Woodlark. Occasional migrant, breeds some years. Best season to date was 2005 - after a flock of five in the regenerating meadows on 28 March, three territorial pairs were present from early April. Earliest spring record were of singles on 2 March and 5 March 2017, while the latest autumn records were on 25 September 2005 and 26 September 2013. Swallow. Breeds in neighbouring farms, and the barn in my garden. Abundant over the land, frequently drinking from the excavated pools. House Martin. Frequent summer visitor, breeds in general area and often seen overhead. Sand Martin. At least two birds in a mixed hirundine flock on 31 August 2014. Meadow Pipit. Common summer visitor, two to four pairs breed in the meadows. Tree Pipit. One to two pairs breed some years, preferring the regenerating scrub. Occasional passage flocks also occur, including a flock of 14 on 27 April 2013, five on 30 August 2014 and 20 on 23 April 2016. White Wagtail. Breeds around the local houses and farms, common on the land throughout the summer, most frequently beside the excavated pools, but also occasional within the flood forest zone. Yellow Wagtail. One to three pairs breed, typically in the area around the excavated pools. On passage, thunbergi race sometimes occurs alongside the flava race. Wren. Breeds in the forest, minimum two or three pairs. Also a few passage birds, no winter records. Waxwing. Flight records over the meadows include six birds on 12 February 2006, 30 on 10 April 2011 and 18 on 2 March 2017. More often seen distantly in neighbouring gardens - most records in November or early December, highest counts being 181 on 26 November 2006, 95 on 2 December 2006 and 40 on 16 November 2008. Dunnock. Uncommon breeder in the forest, minimum one pair. One at the feeders in April 2011. Probably overlooked to a degree. Robin. Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Peak numbers move through in early April, but thereafter a conservative estimate would put the breeding population at 6-10 pairs, mostly along the forest edge. Thrush Nightingale. Summer visitor, arriving mid-May. Pairs breed in the better vegetated areas of the regenerating scrub, particularly alongside the damp forest. Black Redstart. Breeds around neighbouring houses and

outbuildings, rare records near the excavated ponds. Common Redstart. Three records only - all females, one on 26 September 2012, one on 27 May 2013 and one on 6 September 2014. Surprisingly, no breeding records, despite suitable habitat and nestboxes. Northern Wheatear. Occasional records in spring (late April-May), almost always on the mounds around the pools, possibly bred in 2005. Autumn records rather rarer - two birds on 18 September 2005, four on 27 August 2006 (one remaining till 3 September), three on 7 September 2013 and four on 30 August 2014 (two still present on 4 September). Whinchat. Common summer visitor, about eight pairs breed. Regular passage birds, both spring and autumn. Song Thrush. Common passage migrant, becoming abundant in April. Several pairs stay to breed in the forest, population estimated at about four or five pairs. Mistle Thrush. Breeds in nearby pine forests, but a passage migrant on my land. Most commonly seen in early to mid-March, typical records are of pairs or flocks of four or five birds. Redwing. Two to four pairs breed in the flood forest, typically fledging young in mid June. Also rare passage migrant, no winter records. Fieldfare. One or two pairs breed in the regenerating scrub area annually. Otherwise an abundant passage migrant - flocks of up to 500 are common, particularly in spring. Uncommon in winter, but singles or small flocks can usually be found in nearby orchards. Blackbird. Common summer visitor, several pairs breed within the forest. Very rare in winter. Garden Warbler. Moderately common breeder, several pairs along the woodland edge and better vegetated parts of the regeneration zone. Blackcap. Common summer visitor, breeds in the forest. Population not known, slightly more common than Garden Warbler. Lesser Whitethroat. Primarily a spring migrant, birds occasionally recorded in mid-May. Additionally, sometimes breeds in the regenerating scrub. Common Whitethroat. Common breeder in both the regenerating scrub and areas of more rank vegetation within the meadows. A conservative estimate would put the population somewhere in the region of fifteen pairs. Sedge Warbler. Common on lakes in the general area, but rare on the land. A couple of records of singing birds in open areas within the flood forest in 2009, the species thereafter colonising, with at least four territories by 2012. This species continues to increase as parts of the forest become more open due to beaver action, the population in 2017 exceeding ten territories. Grasshopper Warbler. One record only, a singing bird on 22 May 2005. Savi's Warbler. In 2015, one singing bird holding territory in the flood forest reedbeds from 3 May until at least until 10 May. In 2016, presumably the same bird reappeared in exactly the same location from 2 May till 9 May. River Warbler. Common around nearby lakes, but few records actually on my land - one pair occasionally breeds in a damper area within the regenerating scrub. Great Reed Warbler. One record, a singing bird in the reeds in the open flood forest on several days in June 2017. Reed Warbler. One bird in reeds in the open flood forest for a few days in early September 2015, then a territorial singing bird from 2 June 2016. Marsh Warbler. Fairly common in summer, birds arriving in late May. Breeding along a drainage ditch and in rank vegetation in the meadows, the typical population is about five pairs. Icterine Warbler. Three or four pairs breed in the forest, preferring the drier areas, particularly amongst the stands of oak. Willow Warbler. Abundant throughout the forest and the regenerating scrub zone, at least fifteen to twenty pairs breed. Chiffchaff. Common in the forest, singing birds suggesting a minimum of ten territories. Greenish Warbler. A single bird seen on 24 June 2010, feeding in the understory next to the feeding station. Wood Warbler. Breeds in the drier areas of forest. Three or four singing males hold territories per season. Goldcrest. Breeds in pine forest adjacent to the territory, but mostly a passage migrant on my land. Few records in spring, rather more common in autumn. Spotted Flycatcher. Common summer visitor. A minimum of four to five pairs breed annually in the woodland, two in nestboxes, the others in natural sites. More pairs presumed in the inaccessible parts of the flood forest. Red-breasted Flycatcher. Uncommon breeder in the flood forest. A male feeding fledged young was seen on 22 June 2005, then singing birds were noted in 2007, 2010, 2012, 2013 and 2015, the birds holding territories in most of these years. It is probable that the species breeds every year, but the habitat is largely inaccessible during the summer. Occasional autumn birds also including in 2017. Pied Flycatcher. Common in the woodland, readily taking to the nestboxes. Typically arriving in mid-April, the breeding population is a minimum of 20 pairs. Bearded Tit. A single bird was noted in reeds in the open forest on 30 August 2015. Great Tit. The most abundant of the tit species, about 25 pairs breed, most in nestboxes, and winter tallies at the feeders exceed 150 birds. Large numbers also move through on migration, particularly in late September-October when hundreds of birds can occur daily at peak times. Coal Tit. Birds visit the feeding station some winters, typically a single bird or pair. Occasional birds also move through in autumn, numbers varying year to year. Blue Tit. Common breeder and winter visitor. About 10 pairs in the nest boxes and more in natural sites. One nestbox contained seventeen young in June 2005. Considerable autumn migration occurs and more birds influx in winter. Abundant at the feeding station, typical winter population about 60 birds. Crested Tit. Two records - two birds feeding in the conifer groves on 19 October 2014, one in the same area on 15 February 2015. Willow Tit. Primarily a winter visitor. Outnumbered by Marsh Tits, typically one to four birds occur each winter at the feeders, with further birds recorded on autumn passage. Summer records rare, not thought to breed (but occurs in general area). Marsh Tit. Common resident, abundant at the feeders throughout the year. Four or five pairs breed, all in natural sites, and winter totals at the feeders estimated at 12-15 birds. Long-tailed Tit. Breeder, migrant and wintering species. One to two pairs breed each year in the forest, but the greatest numbers occur in late September and October, when hundreds can move through on migration. Small flocks also occur at the feeding station in winter, usually about eight birds. Almost all records relate to the white-headed caudatus race, but a single europaeus occurred at the feeding station in January-February 2008 and in the next breeding season, a mixed pair was found, one adult caudatus, the other europaeus. Nuthatch. Common year-round resident. Three or four pairs breed and up to eight visit the feeders in winter. Most records relate to caesia race, but occasional europaea also occur in winter. An unusual eight-month absence of birds occurred in 2009-2010, with all birds vanishing in November 2009, not returning until June 2010. Treecreeper. Resident in the forest, one or two pairs breed. Occasionally visits the feeding station in winter, foraging on the trunks beneath feeders. On extremely rare occasions has fed on the actual feeders. Red-backed Shrike. A common bird in the general area, one to two pairs breed on my land - usually a pair along the ditch and additional pairs either near the entrance track or in the regenerating scrub. Great Grey Shrike. Frequent during autumn and winter, typically one to two birds have large territories that include my land. Rare in

summer, but a pair established territory in April 2006 and probably bred in the general area, appearing regularly on my land throughout the rest of the spring and summer. Also probably bred in the general area in 2014, with regular records through the summer. Magpie. Relatively scarce. One pair breeds on or around the territory each year. Nesting records to date have occurred in denser thickets in the regenerating scrub and, in 2009, one pair appears to be prospecting in an open area within the actual forest itself. Jay. Common throughout the year, birds breeding in the forest and visiting the feeding station. Additionally, considerable autumn passage occurs, particularly in late September and movements can total 25-30 birds an hour at peak. Nutcracker. Most frequently seen in late August and September when vocal and mobile. At this time of year, many birds move into the forest to feed in hazel growths and counts of ten to fifteen a day are not uncommon. In 2008 at least, a pair also bred, fledging two young. Jackdaw. Breeds in the general area. Not uncommon on my territory, frequently associating with visiting Rooks. Rook. Abundant summer visitor, breeds nearby and commonly feeds in the meadows. Also frequent flocks noted on passage and rare winter records. Hooded Crow. Year-round resident. Four or five pairs breed on my land or immediately adjacent. Raven. Common. Birds seen daily, frequently up to six or eight birds. An occupied nest was found in the forest in 2006, almost certainly breeds every year. Starling. Common summer visitor, arriving from March. About 12 pairs occupy nestboxes, with further pairs in natural sites throughout the forest, particularly in the zones with old oaks. Autumn flocks common in the meadows. Golden Oriole. Fairly common breeder in the forest, singing males present from May onwards. Population difficult to estimate, perhaps three pairs. Occasional birds in nearby gardens also. An unusual autumn passage flock occurred on 10 August 2014, with at least 20 birds present. House Sparrow. Breeds in adjacent territories, pairs occupying buildings or storks' nest. Absent in winter. Tree Sparrow. Quite common in surrounding gardens in summer. About five pairs nest, scattered between nestboxes and storks' nests. Chaffinch. Common summer visitor, pairs breed throughout the forest. Also abundant passage migrant, flocks frequently numbering over 100, particularly in late March-April and late September-October. Brambling. Annual, but comparatively rare. All records relate to passage birds and flocks typically number up to 20, the notable exception being an impressive 450 birds on 14 October 2006. Also occasionally occurs at the feeding station, records including eight on 20 April 2005, a male on 30 April 2005, more in April 2006, a male on 29 October 2006 and a female on 13 April 2008. Linnet. Summer visitor, one or two pairs breed. More birds noted on passage. Common (Mealy) Redpoll. Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Flocks of up to 100 frequently noted in the alders both in the woodland and regenerating scrub, with further birds on the seadheads in the meadows, especially in the area around the excavated pools. Lesser Redpoll. Lithuanian rarity. Two birds recorded, a single amongst Common Redpolls in February 2009 and another drinking in the forest pool in October 2010. Arctic Redpoll. Lithuanian rarity. On 12 February 2006, in temperatures of minus 26 C, two birds were found in a flock of of 40 Common Redpolls. Goldfinch. Common year-round visitor, though not known to breed within the actual borders of the territory. The abundant seedheads and thistles in the uncut meadows attract winter flocks, frequently numbering upward of 40 birds. Greenfinch. Though abundant in the general area, Greenfinches are uncommon on my land - just three records, singles at my feeding station on 22 January 2006 and another February 2009, plus a flock of about 40 on 14 October 2006. By contrast, over at the house, occasional birds occur throughout the year. Siskin. Fairly common passage visitor, uncommon in winter. Typically, flocks encountered in the alder woodlands, occasionally birds feeding under the feeders. No summer records. Serin. Relatively rare, singing birds recorded in the garden around my house. Otherwise, breeds in neighbouring areas, one bird flying over the main land plot on 4 April 2011. Bullfinch. Common in autumn and winter, birds often feeding in the abundant ash trees throughout the forest. One or two pairs also breed per season and significant migration occurs in late autumn, frequent flocks moving through in late September and October. Hawfinch. Fairly common, occurs as a breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and rare winter visitor. One to two pairs breed in the forest each year, frequently bringing the fledged young to the feeding station in late summer. Passage birds are most regular in late March and April, during which time flocks of six to eight sometimes occur. Occasional at the feeders throughout the year, though never abundant - singles and pairs are the norm, but the highest count was eight in late July 2005. Common Crossbill. Occasional records only, all of birds flying over. Largest count was of 20 on 20 June 2006. Neighbouring pine forest support birds more regularly. Parrot Crossbill. Single bird on 27 October 2013. Common Rosefinch. Three to four pairs breed annually in the regenerating scrub area, others occasionally along the track. Easiest to see in May and June, though a late bird was also seen on 3 September 2006. Reed Bunting. Until summer 2012, there had been just five records (one 7 August 2005, two 10 April 2006, one on 26 April 2009, one on 25 April 2010 and one on 9 April 2012), but in June 2012 a pair was found breeding in the encroaching reed in the open forest, breeding thereafter, From this year onward, a pair or two breeds each year. An impressive flock of about 45 birds was noted on 14 April 2013. Yellowhammer. Moderately common, one or two pairs breed in the regenerating scrub. Winter records are rare, more frequently seen alongside nearby roads. Snow Bunting. In the extremely late spring of 2013, a flock of five birds were discovered feeding on the roadside on 6 April, a time when deep snow still blanketed all fields. A vehicle flushed the birds, the flock then disappearing across the meadows. Pine Bunting. Lithuanian rarity. One female, probably a first-year bird, was seen on 4 April 2009. Accepted by the Rarity Commission, this is the first record for Lithuania.

