V.V. Yurko Breeding biology of the Black Stork (Ciconia nigra) in the Polesye State Radiation Ecological Reserve (Belarus). // Berkut. 26 (1). (1). 2017. – P.43-48.

The Reserve is located on the territory of the Chernobyl exclusion and resettlement zone in the Republic of Belarus. We studied the breeding biology of the species in 2008 and 2010-2013. Here nested 20–30 pairs up to 2013 and only 5–10 pairs in 2016–2017. This number decline was caused by the heavy drought. Storks arrived in the second half of March and early April. Majority of nests were built in the height up to 7 m. Full clutches had from 3 to 5 eggs, on average 3.9 ± 0.2. The mean size of eggs amounted to 60.8 ± 0.2 × 48.0 ± 0.1 mm (n = 37). The hatching success during 5 years averaged 90.3 ± 3.5% (range: 79.2–100.0), the breeding success – 69.0 ± 10.3% (35.3 – 100.0). Predation and strong winds were the main reasons of death of nestlings (23.4% and 5.2% from hatched chicks). Majority of them were killed by White-tailed Eagles and Pine Martens. Black Storks raised on average 2.3 ± 0.4 fledged youngs per breeding pair и 3.3 ± 0.2 ones per successful pair.