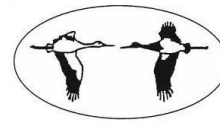


## Results of the 6<sup>th</sup> International White Stork Census in Slovakia in 2004 and 2005

Miroslav Fulín, Working Group for Research and Protection of Storks



### Zusammenfassung

Seit 1994 wird die Weißstorchpopulation in der Slowakei durch die "Arbeitsgruppe für die Erforschung und den Schutz des Weißstorchs" alljährlich erfasst. Im Jahr 2004 betrug die Anzahl der Brutpaare (HPa) 1.331. Dies war die höchste Anzahl seit 1934. Im Jahr 2005 sank die Population auf 927 Paare (HPa) und der Bruterfolg war sehr niedrig.

### Summary

Since 1994 the White Stork population in Slovakia is being monitored every year by the "Working Group for Research and Protection of Storks". In 2004 the number of breeding pairs (HPa) was 1,331. This was the highest number since 1934. In 2005 the breeding population decreased to 927 pairs (HPa) and the breeding success was very low.

### Introduction

The 6<sup>th</sup> International White Stork Census was coordinated in Slovakia by the "Working Group for Research and Protection of Storks" of the Slovak Union for Nature and Landscape Protection (SZOPK). The White Stork population in Slovakia has been monitored each year since the 5<sup>th</sup> International White Stork census in 1994. New volunteers were recruited to organise of the census in the regions. The survey was carried out on an entirely voluntary basis, and without financial project support. Here we present the results of the survey, as summarized and published for the administration, all participants and the public.

The working group cooperated with the Ciconia Foundation Liechtenstein in the environmental educational programme Bocian – Stork, which involves young people in nest observation, and provides financial support to allow appraisal and selection of the best material to edit and include in the overall nesting results.

There was no financial support in Slovakia for the 6<sup>th</sup> International White Stork Census and so it was not possible to survey the whole region comprehensively, and we have assumed that our results underestimate the number of nests by 2-3 %. We used the methods of the 5<sup>th</sup> International White Stork Census in 1994. Ol-

der volunteers helped the less-experienced; and the stork working group undertook additional checks and liaison with volunteers. The results can be found on the SOVS – BirdLife Slovakia website: [www.bociany.sk](http://www.bociany.sk).

### Results

The arrival of White Storks at nests was about 10 - 14 days later than normal. About 1,331 pairs (HPa) nested in Slovakia in 2004 (Tab. 1), the highest number of breeding pairs since 1934 (Fig 1). There were 1,089 successful pairs (HPm) and the total number of fledged young (JZG) was high, at around 3,121.

In 2005, we obtained data on the arrival dates of storks from around 300 nests. Storks arrived much later than usual, mostly in the second part of April. Many of the late-arriving pairs did not breed. We recorded only 927 pairs (HPa). The number of successful pairs (HPm) was very low, at around 623 pairs. We registered only 1,424 young (JZG), the second lowest number in the past 10 years.

### Public relations

In parallel with the White Stork census, we also carried out some activities with children, young people and the general public. "Look kids what is flying?" is the name of a bilingual (Slovak/English) exhibition about storks that was presented in 10 towns in Slovakia in 2004 and 2005, along with a presentation about Storks in our country. The SOVS – BirdLife Slovakia website [www.bociany.sk](http://www.bociany.sk) also carried information concerning the census aimed at the general public. Anybody, including children, could publish their own results from nest observations on this website.

### Literature

FULÍN, M. (1999). The White Stork in Slovakia in 1994 and 1995. In: H. Schulz (Ed.) (1999). Weißstorch im Aufwind? - White Storks on the up? - Proceedings, Internat. Symp. on the White Stork, Hamburg 1996: 199. NABU, Bonn.

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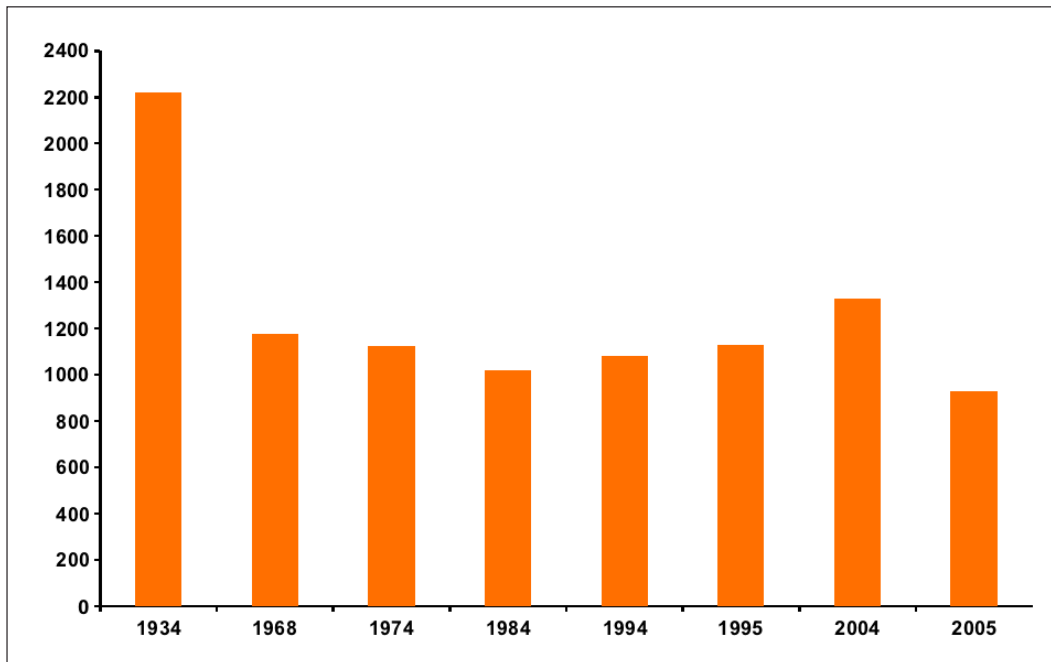


Fig. 1. Development of the White Stork population in Slovakia during the period 1934 to 2005 (FULIN 1999).  
Entwicklung des Weißstorchbestandes in der Slowakei zwischen 1934 und 2005 (FULIN 1999).

Tab. 1. Results of the 6<sup>th</sup> International White Stork Census in Slovakia.  
Ergebnisse des 6. Internationalen Weißstorchzensus in der Slowakei.

	2004	2005
total Nests	1952	1913
pairs; HPa (HPm+HPo+HPx)	1331	927
successful pairs; HPm	1089	623
Juvenile, JZG	3121	1424
breeding success JZa	2,34	1,53
breeding success JZm	2,86	2,28

## Imprint

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