



The Project “**Stepping stones towards ensuring long-term favourable conservation status of Aquatic warbler in Lithuania**”

LIFE MagniDucatusAcrola (Project no. LIFE15 NAT/LT/001024)

Scientific Advisory Board 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting  
June 18th - 19th, 2018, Lithuania, Žuvintas Biosphere Reserve Directorate

## **Resolution of the Second Meeting of the Aquatic Warbler Translocation Scientific Advisory Board**

The members of the Scientific Advisory Board after two days of meetings, presentations and field visits have concluded:

It is our impression that the project implementation is fully on track and according to plan and that it is done in a very careful and professional manner.

The capture, transport and rearing of aquatic warbler chicks as first steps of the translocation have been completed successfully. Of an approximate 3.000 nests in the source area 11 nests with 50 individuals have been translocated with only one casualty. This is an extremely low loss rate compared to average natural nestling losses of 50 % or more.

The return of at least one bird would show that the method is in principle feasible.

The Advisory Board considers a return rate of 10 individuals as enough to justify the implementation of the method at other formerly abandoned but recently restored breeding sites in western range countries (Germany, Hungary, Poland). However, the Advisory Board considers a two years period as necessary. A fine-tuning of the experimental approach might be needed in 2019 before a final judgement can be given.

We are very pleased to see the commitment of the many people involved including many volunteers.

### Members of Scientific Advisory Board

Dr. Jaroslaw Krogulec, Polish Society for the Protection of Birds, Poland

Dr. Martin Flade, chairman of the BirdLife International Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team, Germany

Dr. Karl Schulze-Hagen, Germany

Dr. Mindaugas Dagens, Nature Research Centre, Lithuania

Karl Wagner, consultancy "Realizing Visions", Austria

Dr. Aleksandr Kozulin, Scientific and Practical Center for Biologic Resources, Belarus

Arūnas Pranaitis, Zuvintas Biosphere Reserve, Lithuania

Catherine Jeffs, UK