

New longevity records for Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*)

Nové záznamy dlhovekosti u bociana čierneho (*Ciconia nigra*)

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Abstract. In 2023, the highest known age of a Black Stork was 22 years and two months. The author summarized five published and four new data on individuals (all ringed as pulli) which reached from 18 years and 3 months to 22 years and min. 2 months of life. Eight of them had besides Alu rings also readable colour plastic rings. The new knowledge is that the 22-year-old male was raising its chicks.

Key words: ageing, Black Stork, bird aluminium and colour ringing, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary

There is limited data in the literature regarding the longevity of Black Storks. Among more than 1300 ringed individuals with at least one recovery in the EURING database until November 2009, the oldest ones were 18 and 19-year-old individuals from Poland found dead without further details (Tamás 2011). According to data published in the latest list of longevity records of European birds (Fransson et al. 2023), the oldest Black Storks were two Czech individuals – both 19 years and 10 months-old (Table 1). However, Klvaňa & Cepák (2022) listed the oldest individual in the Czech Republic as 22-years and 2-months-old (Table 1) and 21-years and 1-month-old Black Stork controlled in July 2022 is listed in the most recent list of ringed birds in Czech Republic (Cepák & Klvaňa 2023; Table 1). A report from the Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre in August 2023 (Madárgyűrésési Központ 2023) mentioned the observation of the oldest Black Stork, 20 years and 2 months old, around the Tisza River, for several days. It was reported to have been seen in Israel in 2005 and has been regularly observed around the Tisza River since 2014 in the area of Szajol (Table 1).

During 2023, I discovered some unpublished recovery data of Black Storks aged at least 18 years old. Three of them were ringed in Slovakia, and one individual was ringed in Hungary. Black Storks chicks typically hatch in May and June, so they are at least one month old at the time of ringing. According to this formula, age calculation is done in these specimens.

A colour-marked individual from eastern Slovakia, which was 18 years and 3 months old was controlled in Hortobágy – Hungary (Bird Ringing Centre Slovakia). A stork with a colour ring from northern Slovakia was found at the age of 18 year and 4 months in Israel. The bird had some textile material wrapped above the ring (fishing net line? – see Fig. 1) when observed and the ring has caused secondary necrosis of the foot. This individual was observed by C. Rohde in 2013, but the bird had no necrosis at that time (Karaska in litt.). A colour-marked Black Stork ringed in 2003 in Hungary was observed by A. Morócz at the end of August at the age of 20 years and 3 months (Kalocsa in litt.; Table 1).

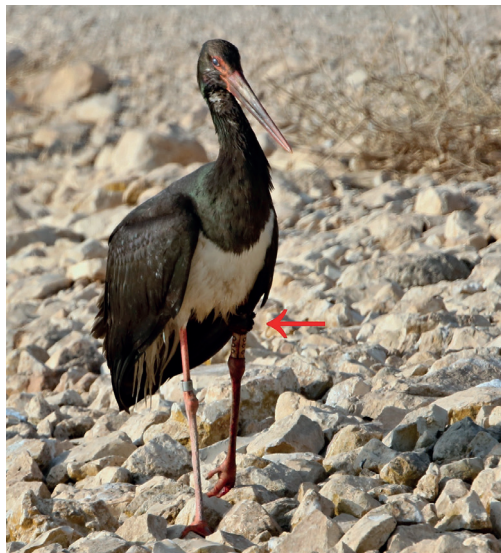


Fig. 1. 18-years-old individual of the Black Stork in Israel, 5. 10. 2015 (photo by T. Krumenacker).
Obr. 1. 18 ročný jedinec bociana čierneho v Izraeli, 5. 10. 2015 (foto: T. Krumenacker).



Fig. 2. 21-years-old individual in Poland in 2022 (photo by G. Pitucha).
Obr. 2. 21 ročný jedinec v Poľsku v roku 2022 (foto: G. Pitucha).



Fig. 3. Black Stork chicks from 22 years old male on the nest in 2023 (photo by G. Pitucha).
Obr. 3. Mláďatá bociana čierneho od 22 ročného samca na hniezde v roku 2023 (foto: G. Pitucha).

Table 1. List of five published and four unpublished longevity records in the Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) with ringing details, dates and sites of ringing and recoveries (AI=aluminium ring, colour=colour ring).
Tab. 1. Zoznam piatich publikovaných a štyroch nepublikovaných záznamov dlhovekosti bociána čierneho (*Ciconia nigra*) s detailami krúžkovania, dátumami a lokalitami krúžkovania a opakovaných nálezov (AI = hliníkový krúžok, farba = farebný krúžok).

Ringling centre Krúžkovacia centrála	AI	Colour Farba	Ringer Krúžkovateľ	Date Dátum	Locality Lokalita	Circumstances Okolnosti	Age Vek	Source Zdroj
SLOVAKIA	C 2924	8WA white	J. Mihók	09.07.2005	Ruskov, Slovakia	Colour ring read in the field	18y, 3m	
PRAHA	B 31367	888 orange	D. Karaska	12.09.2023	Hortobágy, Hungary			
PRAHA	BX 414	---	F. Pojer	01.07.1997	Trstená, Slovakia	Photo of colour ring	18y, 4m	Klivaňa & Cepák 2015
PRAHA	BX 7651	6MH green	P. Horák	25.06.1994	Kváskovice, Czech Republic	AI ring read in the field	19y, 11m	Fransson et al. 2023
BUDAPEST	1834552	5082 white	B. Kalocsa	10.05.2014	Tažovická Lhota, Czech Republic			Klivaňa & Cepák 2020
BUDAPEST	1834549	505V white	B. Kalocsa	27.06.1999	Milovice, Czech Republic	Photo of colour ring	19y, 11m	Fransson et al. 2023
PRAHA	BX 10133	600R white	P. Benda	08.05.2019	Vsetín, Czech Republic			
PRAHA	BX 6907	6NU green	F. Pojer	07.07.2003	Herczegszántó, Hungary	Photo of colour ring	20y, 2m	Hungarian BRC 2023
SLOVAKIA	C033	8F2 green	Š. Danko	04.08.2023	Szajol, Hungary			
				07.07.2003	Homorúd, Hungary	Photo of colour ring	20y, 3m	
				25.8.2023	Baja, Hungary			
				10.06.2001	Mezní Louka, Czech Republic	Photo of colour ring		
				07.07.2022	Dolní Žleb, Czech Republic			
				29.06.1999	Bránov, Czech Republic	Photo of colour ring	21y, 1m	Cepák & Klivaňa 2023
				03.08.2021	Popovice, Czech Republic	Photo of colour ring	22y, 2m	Klivaňa & Cepák 2022
				26.06.2001	Klokočov, Slovakia	Photo of colour ring	22y, 2m	
				August 2023	Tarnava Nižna, Poland			

To the best of knowledge, the oldest known Black Stork in Slovakia is a bird ringed by myself in 2001 in eastern Slovakia. From 2003, I have received yearly reports and photographs from its wintering site in Israel. Additionally, in 2011 and again in 2021 and 2022 it was observed at the breeding site at the southeastern tip of Poland (Pitucha in litt.; Fig. 2). The last record of this colour-ringed stork was in August 2023, once again at the breeding site in Poland near Tarnawa Nižna. There were three nestlings in its current nest (Pitucha in lit.). Thus, this individual lived to a remarkable age of 22 years and minimum 2 months and raised its chicks (Table 1.; Fig. 3).

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Súhrn

V literatúre je málo údajov o maximálnom veku bociána čierneho. V roku 2023 bol známy najvyšší vek 22 rokov a dva mesiace. Autor

zhrnul päť publikovaných a štyri nové údaje o jedincoch (všetky krúžkované ako mláďatá na hniezde), ktoré dosiahli od 18 rokov a troch mesiacov až do 22 rokov a minimálne dvoch mesiacov života. Osem z nich malo okrem hliníkových krúžkov aj farebné odčítacie krúžky. Novým poznatkom je, že 22 ročný samec odchovával svoje mláďatá.

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