

Bird of the year

On April 18, 2006 Belarus Post will issue the stamp “Lapwing” from the series “A bird of the year”.

A series continuation. Beginning nos. 473—475, 501—501A, 559, 600. **Designer:** Viktor Mikita.

Printing: offset. **Colour:** multicoloured. **Paper:** chalk-surfaced. **Perforation:** comb 13^{1/2}:13^{3/4}.

Size of the stamp: 37x26 mm. The stamps were printed in small sheets. **Sheet composition:** 7 stamps + 1 coupon. **Size of the sheet:** 109x128 mm. **Print quantity:** 91.000 stamps.

There are elements of protection on the stamp.

No. 635



Lapwing.

930 BYR

The stamps are issued with the assistance of the organization “Ahova ptushak Batskaushchyny” (Protection of Homeland Birds).



The lapwing is one of the most well-known sandpipers in Belarus. The “Ahova ptushak Batskaushchyny” fund (Protection of Homeland Birds) declared the lapwing a bird of the year 2006. Lapwings hibernate in France. They usually come flying to Belarus at the end of February. The female lapwing looks like the male in colour; they are dutiful in the process of incubation and are very protective; vigilant and ready to tackle any predators. Lapwings are birds that nest in open dry countryside and in fallow lands. The clutch has always four eggs. Lapwings begin to migrate for hibernation from the end of May until October. About 100.000 pairs usually build their nests in Belarus. The population of lapwings decreases almost in all countries of Europe.



Colour of the postmark — black.

Special **postmark** and **FDC** designed by Alexander. Mityanin.

Special cancellation: a special cancellation on FDC will be carried out at the Main Post Office of Minsk on the stamp issuing day.