

# 13 (714)

March 14, 2017

## Bird of the year. Crested lark

On March 22, 2017 the Ministry of Communications and Informatization of the Republic of Belarus will issue the stamp "Crested lark" of the series "Bird of the year".

A series continuation. Beginning nos. 473-475, 501, 501A, 559, 600, 635, 679, 720, 779, 815, 866, 919, 949, 1008, 1063 and 1113. **Artist:** Alexander Mityanin. **Design:** Marina Vitkovskaya. **Printing:** offset. **Colour:** full colour. **Paper:** chalk-surfaced, gummed. **Perforation:** comb 13<sup>1/2</sup>:13. **Size of the stamp:** 37x26 mm. **Sheet composition:** 7 stamps & 1 coupon. **Size of the sheet:** 96x128 mm. **Print quantity:** 49.000 stamps.

The stamp was printed at the Republican Unitary Enterprise "Bobruisk Integrated Printing House named after A.T.Nepogodin".

No. 1191



Crested lark



Element of protection



Letter "H" is equal to the surface tariff of a letter up to 20 gram abroad

The 19<sup>th</sup> Congress of the public organization "Ahova ptushak Batskaushchyny" (Protection of Homeland Birds) declared the crested lark the bird of the year 2017 in Belarus.

The crested lark is one of the four species of larks that are found in Belarus. Apart from it skylarks and woodlarks nest in Belarus, and the horned lark also arrives here in winter from the north.

Crested larks nest in separate pairs. Their nests are located on the ground among rare vegetation in a small depression in the soil, on a level surface or on the slope of a ditch or a pit.

The crested lark is a sedentary species: it doesn't fly to the south in winter. A strong beak allows it to grind seeds and insects that have frozen into the soil and into the ice. During severe frosts it stays in the snow.

Over the past 30 years the number of crested larks in Europe has decreased by 95%. The species became rare in Belarus and it is included in the national Red Data Book.

The project was prepared with the assistance of the public organization "Ahova ptushak Batskaushchyny".

The stamp contains the logos of the global partnership of conservation organizations "BirdLife International" and the Belarus public organization "Ahova ptushak Batskaushchyny" (APB).

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Colour of the postmark - black.

Special **postmark** and **FDC**  
painted by A.Mityanin,  
designed by M.Vitkovskaya

A **special cancellation** on FDC will be carried out at the post office No.1 of Minsk (shop "Philately", 16 Moskovskaya street) on the stamp issuing day.



A maximum card "Crested lark" will be issued too.  
Artist A.Mityanin. Designer M.Vitkovskaya.