

SUMMARY

Protected mammals of the vicinity of Wołów (Lower Silesia, SW Poland)

The study comprising field survey, analysis of owl pellets, questionnaire addressed to the Forest Service and hunters, and collection of published data was carried out in 2005–2006. Within the administrative unit of Wołów (51°20'20" N, 16°38'40" E) which covers an area of 331.1 km² with a population of 22,600 the occurrence of 31 protected mammal species was recorded. They were insectivores (*Erinaceus europaeus*, *Talpa europea*, *Sorex araneus*, *S. minutus*, *Neomys fodiens*, *Crocidura suaveolens*), bats (*Myotis myotis*, *M. nattereri*, *M. mystacinus*, *M. brandti*, *M. daubentoni*, *Eptesicus serotinus*, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, *P. nathusii*, *P. pygmaeus*, *Nyctalus noctula*, *N. leisleri*, *Plecotus auritus*, *P. austriacus*, *Barbastella barbastellus*), rodents (*Sciurus vulgaris*, *Castor fiber*, *Glis glis*, *Muscardinus avellanarius*, *Micromys minutus*, *Apodemus sylvaticus*, *Cricetus cricetus*, *Arvicola terrestris*), and carnivores (*Lutra lutra*, *Mustela erminea*, *M. nivalis*). Special attention should be paid to fat dormouse *G. glis* and Leisler's bat *N. leisleri*. They are listed in the Polish Red Book of Animals, the first one as a species of near threatened category (NT) which need special care, and the second one as a vulnerable species (VU category).

In the vicinity of Wołów 3 invasive carnivore species were recorded: American mink *Mustela vison*, raccoon dog *Nyctereutes procyonoides* and northern raccoon *Procyon lotor*. The last one was recorded for first time in this area. Expansion of American mink peaked in 2004–2005 and resulted in strong decrease or even local extinction of the populations of another alien species, muskrat *Ondatra zibethicus*.