

SUMMARY

Importance of *Carpinus betulus* for hole-nesting birds in the Białowieża National Park

The Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis* is the most numerous hole-nesting bird species in primeval oak-lime-hornbeam stands of the Białowieża National Park, Poland. It breeds in tree holes. The aim of the study was to describe which tree species are preferred for breeding by this bird. The hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* was the most often used tree species (81%). The Collared Flycatchers bred mostly in hornbeams with 40-50 cm diameter at the breast height (DBH). Other birds, including the endangered White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos*, very often bred in hornbeam as well. In that case we propose to leave groups of old hornbeams in managed forests for the protected birds. In other stands where hornbeam does not occur, there should be considered to plant a groups of hornbeams, e.g. on the 0.5-1 ha areas and leaving them till they reach big size. Such clumps of old hornbeams can be important for increasing of forest biodiversity, and they could help to survive endangered species.