

SUMMARY

Breeding avifauna of the Wizna Bagno marsh

Actual knowledge about breeding birds of the Wizna Bagno marsh, the southmost part of the Biebrza River Basin (NE of Poland, Fig. 1), is presented in the paper. Species composition of the avifauna occurring in the area in the years 1971-2000, as well as number and distribution of all breeding species in 1998-2000 are included.

Altogether 177 bird species which nested surely, probably or possibly (Tab. 1) were recorded in the given period in the area. It is 74% of actual Polish breeding avifauna. The Wizna Bagno marsh has the richest avifauna, with respect to quality, among other areas of the comparable size at the moment in Poland. Water and marshland birds were represented by 63 species, which is 77% of freshwater waterfowl of the country. Its main breeding areas were situated in the Narew River valley (alluvial soils), where density of some species was particularly high (Tab. 2).

Populations of 36 species nesting in the Wizna Bagno marsh are together over 1% of country birds (Tab. 3). Local populations of *Anas acuta*, *Anas querquedula*, *Anas clypeata*, *Circus pygargus*, *Crex crex*, *Charadrius hiaticula*, *Calidris alpina*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Gallinago media*, *Limosa limosa*, *Numenius arquata*, *Tringa totanus*, *Tringa stagnatilis* and *Chlidonias hybridus* number over 5% of country birds. Among endangered species 2 are threatened on global scale (*Crex crex* and *Acrocephalus paludicola*), 14 threatened in Europe and 14 of them are listed in the *Polish Red Data Book of Animals*. High ornithological values of the Wizna Bagno Marsh predestine this area to be protected by law as a part of the „Dolina Biebrzy i Narwi” Biosphere Reserve as well as a Ramsar Convention site.