

SUMMARY

Traffic mortality in selected groups of vertebrates on roads in the Zielona Góra region (W Poland)

The town of Zielona Góra is the centre of an administrative division unit covering the area of 278.8 km², of which 53.4% are forests, 20.5% cropland, 5.9% urbanized areas, 4.2% roads and railways, 0.3% waters, and 15.7% other rural, suburban or urban areas. The total length of main and secondary roads in the region is about 1 000 km.

Material was collected between 1 October 2004 and 31 October 2005. During that period death of 710 animals, including 449 (63.2%) mammals, 201 (28.3%) birds and 60 (8.5%) reptiles was recorded within the studied area. The following species were most affected: hedgehogs *Erinaceus* sp. (15.8%), cats *Felis domesticus* L. (11%), foxes *Vulpes vulpes* L. (7%), dogs *Canis familiaris* L. (4.5%), magpies *Pica pica* (L.) (5.8%), collared doves *Streptopelia decaocto* (Frisvaldszky) (4.5%), sparrows *Passer domesticus* (L.) (4.1%), and slow worms *Anguis fragilis* L. (3.1%) (Table 1). The most of cases of mortality (596 ind., 83.9%) was observed on eight stretches of roads of total length 45 km with traffic intensity 228-23 136 vehicles/24 h (Fig. 1).