

## SUMMARY

### **The report of the Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes* in the Częstochowa Upland**

The status of the Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes* occurrence was examined in the years 2000-2003 in the Częstochowa Upland within the area of Orle Gniazda Landscape Park.

This bird report shows a very rare nesting of these birds. Altogether 14-18 breeding locations were reported. Within the examined area of the Upland the breeding sites were observed in Sokole Góry, Zaborze, Siedlec, Krasawa, Suliszowice, Trzebniów, Mirów, Łutowiec and Podleśce. The Nutcracker has a predilection in the breeding season for the one-sort conifer monocultures aged 15-30 years. It was seen in the mix tree stand. In four locations there was a forest stand on the site of former sand mines or near by.

Beyond the breeding period the Nutcracker was seen in a half-open country with the presence of hazel *Corylus avellana*. The Nutcracker reached then its maximum numbers in August and September. In this period it was localized in 15 places in the Upland. It was reported to be seen every year in a few of these places. The most of observations – 96% – were based on one or two birds. Nine birds were observed on 25.09.2003 in Siedlec and four birds were observed in Mirów on 27.07.1999. In the winter months (XII-II) the Nutcracker was seen only four times (5 birds altogether).

In the last ten year period the Nutcracker population is recovering in numbers and it gains new grounds as a resident species. It is in response to the changes in the area of the Upland in the tree stand structure and food base.