

SUMMARY

The breeding birds of the "Przeciszów" forest nature reserve

The observations were carried out in "Przeciszów" nature reserve in 2003. The aim of this investigation was to estimate the number of breeding birds.

The „Przeciszów” nature reserve (a total area 85.13 ha) is situated in the Valley Oświęcim. It was created to protect an oak-hornbeam forest. The mapping method was used to estimate number of birds (Tomiałojć 1980a). There was sample plot (27 ha) situated in the east part of reserve, where density of all species was investigated (Table 1). Over whole area of reserve only rare birds were counted.

In the study area 46 breeding bird species were recorded. The total density was 74.8 pairs per 10 ha. The dominant group of birds was hole nesters (33.7 pairs/10 ha, 12 species). On the second place were birds nesting in bushes or in trees above 1,5 m high (28.8 pairs/10 ha 16 species), and next – species nesting on the ground or in vegetation up to 1,5 m high (11,8 pairs/10 ha 7 species).

In the reserve some rare breeding species were recorded: Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis*, Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*, Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*, Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*, Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos medius*.

The high number of breeding species is result of birds nesting connected with ecotone (15.2% of total number of species). The density of the breeding pairs is average to compare with another plots from oak forest in Poland. It seems that major factors which delimit the number of birds in reserve are: small wood area, age of forest, small number of dead trees. It determine the number of hole nesters. High density was reached by Great Spotted Woodpecker (4.1 pairs/10 ha, 11 holes with chicks on census plot). It is the highest density of this species in Poland.