

SUMMARY

The importance of fishponds in Samokłęski (E Poland) for the protection of local diversity of waterfowl

The pond complex in Samokłęski village is located about 30 km north-west of Lublin (51°26'10" N, 22°26'5" E, altitude 155 m). It consists of 33 ponds (0.8-13,5 ha, max. depth 2 m) surrounded mainly by fields and meadows. The total area of the complex is 185,5 ha, while the area of water surface amounts to 163.3 ha. Emergent vegetation covers 6-47% of pond area.

Methods described in papers by Borowiec et al. (1981), Ranoszek (1983), Czapulak et al. (1988) and Dombrowski et al. (1993) were used in this study. In the years 2000-2002 151 surveys were carried out and 137 bird species were recorded (i.e. 31% of Polish avifauna). There were 74 species included to the group of waterfowl, among them 28 breeding or probably breeding species. Breeding species belonging to *Passeriformes* were: *Locustella luscinioides*, *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*, *A. scirpaceus*, *A. palustris*, *A. arundinaceus*, *Remiz pendulinus*, *Emberiza schoeniclus*, *Carpodacus erythrinus*, and probably breeding *Panurus biarmicus*. Among the *Non-Passeriformes* there were 17 breeding and 2 probably breeding species (Table 1). The highest diversity was observed during migration periods, when 58 species were recorded. However, the investigated fishponds were not so important for migratory waterbirds as other larger pond complexes in Poland. In winter this area was nearly insignificant for waterbirds. There were 43 species recorded, but only 13 are the species connected with aquatic habitats.

Nineteen species of birds included into the Polish Red Data Book of Animals (Głowaciński 2001) were seen in this area. Among them 3 species were breeding on fishponds – *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Botaurus stellaris* and *Porzana parva*, one species was possibly breeding – *Panurus biarmicus*, and one species was breeding in the vicinity of the pond complex but foraged on fishponds – *Haliaeetus albicilla*.

Collected results proved that also relatively small complexes of fishponds may be an important habitat for some species of waterbirds (rather for breeding than migratory ones), especially in conditions of considerable anthropogenic change of the landscape.