

SUMMARY

Breeding waterfowl of the Ptasi Raj nature reserve by the mouth of the Wisła Śmiała river in 1996-2001

The Ptasi Raj nature reserve includes two shallow coastal lakes, vast reed beds, sandy bar and forest. At the beginning of the XXth century the most valuable habitats were halophilous meadows where nested among others *Calidris alpina*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Tringa glareola*, *Tringa totanus* and *Limosa limosa*. The most valuable species occur now on sandy bar because wet meadows are already overgrown by reeds.

During the years 1996-2001 breeding of 20 waterfowl species was recorded for sure, probably 8 and possibly 4, including 8 listed in the Polish Red Data Book of Animals (*Botaurus stellaris*, *Tadorna tadorna*, *Porzana parva*, *Haematopus ostralegus*, *Charadrius hiaticula*, *Sterna albifrons*, *Luscinia svecica*, *Panurus biarmicus*). The most important are *Charadrius hiaticula* and *Sterna albifrons* for which the reserve is one of the last breeding localities in the coast. Number of *Charadrius hiaticula* and *Sterna albifrons* breeding pairs is about 1.5% of their Polish populations. The first breeding of *Somateria mollissima* in Poland was recorded during the research. The reserve is exposed to a strong anthropopressure because of the nearby towns agglomeration.