

SUMMARY

Importance of nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes* (Linnaeus, 1758) for dispersal of hazel *Corylus avellana* L. in the Wyżyna Częstochowska Upland (S Poland)

Nutcrackers carry and store hazelnuts and other heavy seeds burying them on high and steep limestone rocks which are characteristic of local landscape of the Skały Mirowskie hills near Niegowa (50°38'30" N, 19°29'10" E). Nuts lost in processing fall down and germinate creating hazel scrubby stands at the bottoms of rocky walls. Abundance of hazel seems to be related to the suitability of adjacent rocks for seed deposits. Thus behaviour of nutcracker helps spreading hazel and allows it to colonise denuded areas of abandoned pastures and deforested hills.