

SUMMARY

Factors affecting occupancy of nestboxes by the Barn Owl *Tyto alba* (Scopoli, 1769)

Project for the protection of the Barn Owl was carried out in central-eastern Poland in the years 2000-2003. In total, 98 nestboxes for Barn Owl were installed in roof space of churches and belfries. The nestboxes were occupied by the Barn Owl (37 nestboxes), Jackdaw (14), Feral Pigeon (7), Tawny Owl (1) and Black Redstart (1). Log-linear analysis showed that Barn Owl occupied nestboxes more often in buildings previously inhabited by this species. Location of the nestbox (at wall opening or inside the roof) and previous presence of the Jackdaw did not influence Barn Owl occupancy rate. However, the Jackdaw more frequently occupied boxes installed near the openings in building walls. Other factors, eg. previous presence in the building, did not affect occupancy of boxes by this species. We conclude that installation of nestboxes with inlet tunnels placed inside the roof space could increase Barn Owl occupancy rate, because that construction allows to decrease the occupancy by other birds, first of all by the Jackdaw.