

SUMMARY

Jerzak L., Mizera T., Bocheński M., Czechowski P., Kalisiński M., Szara A. Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis* colonies in the middle Oder region (W Poland).

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The study was carried out within the Województwo Lubuskie Province in 2003–2004. Additionally, data concerning the origin and development of cormorant colonies were taken from literature and from birdwatcher reports. There were only two colonies at the beginning of their spread (Lake Ostrowieckie since 1965 and wetlands in the River Warta valley at Słońsk since 1975). The number of cormorants has increased since the mid-1980s. The highest number of colonies (8) was recorded during the period 1990–1994, and the number of breeding pairs amounted to 1316 in this time. According to our results only 6 colonies with 1109 breeding pairs existed in 2003–2004. The average number of breeding pairs per colony increased from 65.5 in 1975–1979 to 184.8 in 2004, however, the total number of breeding pairs was in decline for last 10 years. In general, the establishment of new colonies and increasing numbers of birds led to conflicts with commercial fisheries and aquaculture interests, but the most of existing colonies are in protected areas (“Ujście Warty” and “Drawieński” National Parks, and the “Jezioro Wielkie” and “Lubiatowskie Uroczyska” nature reserves) or in localities of minor fishery importance.