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AWIFAUNA LĘGOWA KOMPLEKSU SIEDLISK KSEROTERMICZNYCH NA KRAWĘDZI DOLINY ODRY W OWCZARACH (WOJ. LUBUSKIE)

Breeding avifauna of the xerothermic habitat complex on the verge of the River Odra valley in Owczary (province Lubuskie)

Abstract

The objective of this work was to research the species composition and numeracy of breeding birds in the complex of xerothermic habitats on the verge of the River Odra valley in Owczary (comm. Górzycy, province Lubuskie). The total reserach area was 58.71 ha within which a few sections were marked off with a domination of: grasslands (32.32 ha), fields and meadows (5.86 ha), forests (4 complexes of total area 18.13 ha) and urban areas (2.39 ha). The study was carried out in 2008 at one breeding season, with a combined variant of cartographic method.

In the study period 46 bird species were acknowledged as breeding or probably breeding in the research area. They nested at average combined density of 33.5 pairs/10 ha. In the vastest area of grasslands 22 breeding or probably breeding species were recorded with average density of 23.0 pairs/10 ha. In the forest section nested 32 species at combined density of 47.1 pairs/10 ha. The composition and structure of the area's avifauna corresponds to a significant variation of the habitats. The largest area is occupied by grasslands with a changeable participation of shrubs, therefore shrub-related species have a large share and in the grassland section they constitute nearly 60 % of the bird community. Two of them – the red-backed shrike *Lanius collurio* and the barred warbler *Sylvia nisoria* are among endangered species whose numeracy in the study area is considerably high and whose densities of 2.3 and 2.2 pairs/10 ha respectively rank among the highest in the country, which is indicative of optimum conditions of the biotopes. Other species of the area which might be considered characteristic of xerothermic habitats include the wry-neck *Jynx torquilla*, the turtle dove *Streptopelia turtur* and the common stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*.

KEY WORDS: xerothermic habitats, breeding birds, western Poland