

PL ISSN 0035-5429

1954



The Ring

RINGING · MIGRATION · MONITORING

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Abstracts
of the
2nd Meeting of the European Ornithologists Union
and
3rd International Shrike Symposium

Vol. 21

No 1

1999

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STRUCTURE-FUNCTION ORNITHOFAUNA ORGANIZATION IN STEPPE FORESTS OF UKRAINE

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Forest ecosystems of steppe zone of Ukraine are represented by extrazonal (flooded oakeries – FO, pine forests – PF) and intrazonal forests (ravine oakeries – RO, steppe planting – SP), which are growing under severe steppe conditions. These conditions have rendered significant influence on forming species diversity, number, biomass, spatial and functional structure of ornithofauna. The greatest diversity is marked in FO (136-151 species, 59-82 species/ha, 6.0-7.12 mln joules), then in RO (58-72; 30-36; 2.71-3.53, respectively), PF (46-49; 28-33; 2.02-2.97, resp.) and least in SP (37-54; 24-29; 1.98-2.56, resp.). The main number of birds in FO is concentrated on marginal horizons of a system, in RO and SP – in the center, in PF – is scattered. The main mass of birds (% of biomass) is concentrated at the upper half of the leaf zone, and ground-grass level (32-36, 26-34), then in shrub horizon (20-24) and at the lower half of the leaf zone (10-19). The main part of birds (% of biomass) is presented by the species of the first heterotrophic level (82-93, 55-66) in winter and autumn and of the second level (51-60, 57-68) – in spring and summer periods. Third heterotrophic level plays an insignificant role (2-4, 3-5 accordingly).

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BIRDS CONSORTIA CONNECTIONS SPECIFIC IN OAK FORESTS IN STEPPE ZONE OF UKRAINE

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The material of the given work was collected in 1994-1998 in Dnepropetrovsk region. The basic consortia connection characters of birds in steppe oak forests were studied by the method of the time-keeping of the birds' daytime budget on each wood specimen within light day. Marginal oak forest sites were not under study. 31 species of birds take part in consortia connections of basic trees (oak, ash, lime, some maple species) during year. The time budget value changes in limits from 0.2 hour to 1.4 hour in a summer period, from 0.5 minute to 11.04 minutes – in winter. The greatest species number is observed in oak consortia in a summer period (17 species). The species number is reduced up to 8, participation of each bird species in trees consortia also is aligned in a winter period. The birds spatial distribution in trees consortia depends on size of each species. Well expressed spatial separation was observed only for size groups. As this takes place the species groups, with similar size, do not exhibit activity at spatial horizons, which are closed by disposition.