

Haematological methods are widely used in zoological researches. Unfortunately, especially in ecological studies there is often much imperfection in techniques adopted, and misinterpretation of results is also common. This is particularly the case of methods serving to assessment of the peripheral blood cellular composition. In this thesis I therefore decided to describe basic haematological methods, their mechanisms, advantages and disadvantages. I also highlighted possible application potential in several less widely utilised haematological techniques. In the practical part of this thesis I have shown that the examination of immature erythrocyte differential count may serve as a meaningful indicator of health state in birds.