

Abstract

The most widespread way of extraction of forest is still clearcutting. It is almost impossible to find commercial forest without forest clearings. Forest clearing can be perceived as a special element in a connected forest. I am trying to find out the influence of these forest distributions on the bird community. I was interested how important the forest clearings will be in the different type of forests.

In seven localities were collected set of environmental variability's and bird data, which were counted by point count method. There were deciduous and mixed forests as well as the coniferous monocultures. The data collection was conducted in the breeding season 2011 and 2012. I expected, that the forest glades ensure the heterogeneity in forest space and will increase the number of bird's species. I expected this influence more important in the coniferous than in the deciduous and mixed forests.

This assumption was partly confirmed. The glades in the coniferous forests have higher influence, but it depends on the forest area. In large coniferous monocultures is the importance of glades high. In the case of deciduous and mixed forests the size of forests did not have a value. The tree richness has the bigger importance. With this variable correlate Common Chiffchaff, Eurasian Wren, Yellowhammer, Garden Warbler, Eurasian Blackcap, Black Woodpecker and Song Thrush. Another important variable was herb layer. Birds on the glades preferred herbs of early succession stages prior the seedlings. Forest density also showed a significant importance. The bird preferred sparse forests. The importance of dead wood, which I expected, was not confirmed in the models. It can be caused by the minimum number of dead wood in the forests. Just one locality contains higher number of dead wood.

We can perceive the glades as a type of disturbance in the connected forest. These disturbances caused wanted heterogeneity in the large coniferous monocultures. While the deciduous and mixed forests offer higher number of microhabitats and the influence of forest clearings is not so obvious.

Key words: forest clearings, glades, bird community, forest vegetation, species