

The Influence of Land Cover and Its Change on Distribution and Species Composition of Raptors in the Czech Republic

Abstract

Bird species diversity and distribution in relation to a variety of factors have been the subject of numerous works. So far, none of these studies have dealt with an individual order of birds, and this is why I decided to undertake this type of research. The main theme of my work is the extent to which land cover and particularly its perpetual changes influence the local species of raptors. In the introductory part, I outline the character of the changes on the territory of the Czech Republic in the years 1970-2000 and describe their influence on the distribution and diversity of raptors. An analysis of historical and current data concerning the above mentioned period follows, the chief objective being to evaluate all the aspects of dependence of raptors on the past and present state of the landcover in the Czech Republic. The dependence of diversity of raptors on the diversity of land cover has been proved.