

## **Abstract**

Piscivorous birds are usually considered to be exclusive fish eaters which are responsible for significant numerical and economical losses to fish populations. With a method of literary research the importance and species composition of non-fish prey is determined in the diet of selected fifteen species of piscivorous birds. The aim of this work is to determine the extent of non-fish part of the diet of particular piscivorous predators and categorize them on the grounds of differences between size of this part in their diet. Another goal is to determine any effects which can influence amount and species composition of non-fish part of nourishment, and also factors, which can influence obtained results based on the chosen method of analysis. According to the data found, diet of five bird species was composed almost exclusively with fish. Eight other bird species also showed preference for fish prey, but in most of these cases was present also important part of non-fish prey. Two bird species seems to be very opportunistic in case of composition their diet. As factors that can affect the extent of non-fish part in the diet was established especially the prey availability in environment, used method for diet composition analysis, insufficient attention for parts of prey other than fish, or also less attention devoted to some species of described piscivorous birds.

**Keywords:** Piscivorous birds, non-fish part of the diet, prey species composition