

Abstract

The diploma thesis deals with the topic of birds of the agricultural landscape of the Rakovník district, covering an area of 930 km², which is situated about 35 km west of Prague. The work focuses mainly on the occurrence of the Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) in this area. Between 2016 and 2018, a total of 19 sites were visited on which the occurrence of the Northern Lapwings had been monitored in the previous years. The Northern Lapwing was found only at four of these sites. The successful breeding of three Lapwing chicks was observed at one of the monitored sites - near the village Petrovice (11th May 2017).

The diploma thesis analyzes the data obtained by monitoring the areas with proven (even non-nesting) occurrence of Northern Lapwing and is compared with the census of Milan Tichai from 2012 to 2016. The comparison shows that the numbers of the Northern Lapwing nesting in the Rakovník landscape are dwindling, even though the birds still pass through the area in relative abundance in migration.

E.g. there were three cases of successful nesting recorded in the monitored localities in 2014, but only one at the time of my observation in 2017. The occurrence of the Northern Lapwing in the studied area is related to the state of the Rakovník agricultural landscape.

At the end of the thesis are outlined the measures of the Ministry of the Environment aiming at improving the nesting conditions of the Lapwing in the agricultural landscape, in particular creation of uncultivated and ungrazed islands in the middle of the fields.

Keywords: Northern Lapwing, agricultural landscape, monitoring, agri-environmental measures