

Abstract

During last decades, the stone marten, *Martes foina* (Erxleben, 1777) became a synanthropic animal and its population is increasing. This review is summarizing the knowledge about its feeding habits throughout Europe. In the first part the methods are introduced which are used for study of feeding ecology, for example scat analysis or the analysis of stomach and gut content. The way of calculations of some characteristic values most frequently used in study of feeding ecology of marten are described. In the second part the geographic variability and the seasonal changes in the marten's food in the different parts of Europe are analyzed. It seems that the type of habitat, in which the stone marten lives, affects its feeding habits. The differences its feeding in the urban and rural habitats are shown. There are intrahabitat differences too. In the third part of this work the main components of marten's food are described which include various small vertebrates, invertebrates (mostly insects) and fruit, and some marten's food specifics are discussed. Food resources provided by man are mentioned.

Key words: feeding ecology, stone marten, Mustelidae