

# ABSTRACT

Currently, urban ecology is a rapidly developing scientific discipline. The present thesis deals with the diversity of vertebrate species and its historical and geographical context in the territory of the Czech capital of Prague. Historical overview of the vertebrate diversity of Prague since the beginning of the 20th century and the comparison of vertebrate species richness of Prague with selected protected landscape areas and four continental European cities were the main objectives of the work. LE

The main methods included the excerption of historical and recent literature, museum collections and personal interviews with Czech and foreign experts. Supplementary data concerning amphibians and reptiles were collected during field research. LPP

Some changes in vertebrate species richness and composition can be recorded since the beginning of 20th century. Birds and mammals seem to be the most adaptive vertebrate groups to the urban environment. The vertebrate fauna currently comprises of 220 vertebrate species (29 species of fish, 9 species of amphibians, 7 species of reptiles, 127 species of breeding birds, 48 species of mammals), this corresponds to 56% of species occurring in the Czech republic. The Vltava river in Prague during the 20th century evolved into an important wintering place of waterfowl and at present 22 species of birds winter regularly. Vltava

In the aspect of vertebrate diversity the territory of Prague is comparable with landscape protected areas Český kras, Kokořínsko and Křivoklátsko. Besides the common vertebrate species 48 species registered in the Red list of threatened species in the Czech republic occur in Prague. The cities of Berlin, Bratislava, Warsaw and Wien show higher vertebrate species richness compare to the city of Prague, but only absolute counts were compared. LPP  
absolute numbers

Sustaining of the high vertebrate diversity in the territory of Prague is relevant not only for species preservation, but also plays an important role in forming the inhabitant's perception of nature and consequently supports to the nature protection itself. LPP  
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Key words: urban ecology, species diversity, vertebrates, Prague