



Birds of Prey of Ukraine and surrounding territories

Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine
Kryvyi Rih State Pedagogical University
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Working group on Birds of Prey and Owl of Ukraine
Ukrainian Birds of Prey Research Centre

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Abstract book of the V International Conference of Working group on
Birds of Prey and Owls of Ukraine

Kryvyi Rih, 14-17 November, 2019

Recommended for printing by the decision
of the Academic Council of Kryvyi Rih State Pedagogical University
of October, 10 2019, protocols №3

UDC 598.279

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Birds of Prey of Ukraine and surrounding territories: abstract book of the V International Conference of Working group on Birds of Prey and Owls of Ukraine, Kryvyi Rih, 14-17 November, 2019. - Kryvyi Rih, 2019. – 28p.

ISBN 978-617-7784-15-8

The collection includes abstracts presented at the International Conference held in Kryvyi Rih in November 2019. Contains data from recent studies on morphology, biology, ecology, migration and bird conservation.

The book intended for conservationists, ornithologists and bird-watchers, biology teachers and students.

The authors are responsible for the meaning of the abstract.

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ISBN 978-617-7784-15-8

Wintering of the White-tailed Eagle near poultry farms on the middle Dnieper

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Introduction. The White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) is included on the Red Book of Ukraine (2009). There were 260-370 birds wintering in Ukraine at the end of 2000s. The main places of wintering are situated near non-freezing parts of the Dnieper, on the coast of the Black Sea and Sea of Azov (Gavrilyuk, 2009). The eagles wintering on the Middle Dnieper near Kyiv, Kaniv and Kremenchuk hydroelectric power stations (Grishchenko, Gavrilyuk, 2009).

Material and Methods. The material about wintering of the White-tailed Eagle is collecting from the beginning of 1990s. The article presents the research data about during tree winter - 2016/2017, 2017/2018 та 2018/2019. The main method was a count of birds near wintering places.

Results. On the first decade of February a young White-tailed Eagle with transmitter spent time near vil. Kedyna Hora (Zolotonosha Rajon, Cherkasy Oblast, Ukraine) (M. Babushkin, pers. comm.). The Eagle has been tagged in the summer of 2016 at the nest in Darwin Nature Reserve (Vologda Oblast, Russian Federation). We discovered near vil. Kedyna Hora a dump of a poultry farm with remains of ducks during the first visit of its place. There were 70-80 White-tailed Eagles finded here. Next more 9 eagles was founded near a coast of Kremenchuk reservoir in some kilometres from this place. The most of White-tailed Eagles was immature. We counted White-tailed Eagles at this area during the next two winters. The table below presents the results of this censuses.

Table

The number of wintering White-tailed Eagles near the poultry farm in Zolotonosha Rajon (Cherkasy Oblast)

Wintering period	The number of birds and date		
2017/2018	60-70 (23.12.2017)	60-70 (13.01.2018)	70-80 (11.03.2018)
2018/2019	35-40 (25.11.2018)	50-60 (23.12.2018)	60-70 (03.02.2019)

According to the data in the table the number of wintering White-tailed Eagles was stable during two winters.

The new case of White-tailed Eagle's wintering near a poultry farm was received in 2019. Another young White-tailed Eagle with a transmitter spent time near a poultry farm in Vyshhorod Rajon (Kyiv Oblast, Ukraine) on the third decade of January. It has been tagged in the summer of 2018 at the nest in Volga-Kama Nature Reserve (Republic of Tatarstan, Russian Federation) (R. Bekmansurov, pers. comm.). Sergey Domashevsky founded near the poultry farm 7 eagles on 9.02.2019. One from its has rings and the transmitter (Domashevsky, Gavrilyuk, 2019).

Discussion. The aggregation of wintering White-tailed Eagles in Cherkasy Oblast formed due to permanent food availability, low level of disturbance and available suitable places for Eagle's rest and sleep. New data about wintering of White-tailed Eagles near poultry farms oblige to change our stable opinion about the main wintering places of this species on the Middle Dnieper. We need to overestimate the number of wintering birds. Aggregations of wintering White-tailed Eagles near poultry farms existed at Russian Federation. For example in Kuban region (Mnatsekanov, Tilba, 2003) and Ulyanovsk Oblast (Adamov et al., 2016) ets.

Acknowledgements. I am grateful to Mykola Borysenko and Oleksandr Ilyukha for participation in field research as also to Myroslav Babushkin and Rinur Bekmansurov for unpublished information about movement of White-tailed Eagles with transmitters.

Keywords. White-tailed Eagle, wintering, poultry farm, Middle Dnieper.