

ABSTRACTS

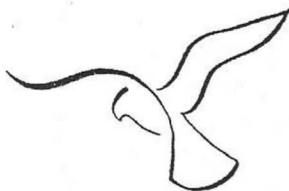
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RAPTORS IN AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE



Raptors in agricultural landscape of Eastern Europe

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Agricultural landscape consists mostly of large cultivated fields, relatively small pieces of pastures and other uncultivated open plots with field protecting forest lines, small and tiny forest fragments. This combination is a contradictory habitat for raptors. Those of them which feed on rodents, small birds and large insects are provided with unpredictably fluctuating food resources. As for breeding habitats both forest and ground nesting raptors are lack of them. To inhabit such specific habitats raptors have to change their ecology and behaviour in specific adaptive ways. Purposeful study upon agricultural landscape within the forest-steppe zone in European Russia proved that in addition to typical "ecotone" birds of prey like the Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) two more ecological groups occupy step by step these man-made habitats with the help of some adaptive elements in nesting ecology and behaviour mostly to soften a negative effect of almost permanent presence of people near by their nests. These groups are typical forest raptors like the Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*), Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), Sparrowhawk (*A. nisus*), Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) and others as well as typical ground nesting ones like Montagu's (*Circus pygargus*) and Hen (*C. cyaneus*) Harriers.