

Estimation of changes in the numbers and exploitation of hare population (*Lepus europaeus* Pall.) in the Mazovian province

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The aim of the study was to evaluate the changes of numbers and utilization intensity of the hare population in hunting-ground abundance in the Mazovian province. The experiments were carried out in 6 hunting-ground seasons from 1998/1999 to 2003/04 in 8 districts belonging to the Mazovian province. The analysis was conducted in districts as follows: Warszawa, Biała Podlaska, Ciechanów, Ostrołęka, Płock, Radom, Siedlce and Skierniewice. Material and information from documents kept in the Experimental Station PZŁ in Czempin were used. The number of hares and hare bag from the hunting-grounds in 6 hunting-ground seasons in each district were estimated. The considerable variability of hunting-ground abundance of hare in the Mazovian province was found. It was indicated by the different number of hares and different density of the population in particular hunting-ground districts as well as by the different exploitation intensity of the population. The declining tendency in the utilization intensity of the hare population with the slight changes in density of the population were proved. It was not unlikely that the restricted intensity of hare shooting was a conductive factor to keep the stable number of hares and density of the population.