

The Chiroptera of Warsaw as an example of synanthropic animals

Summary

Bats are a stable component of urban ecosystems. The objective of this paper was to describe bat communities inhabiting Warsaw, the capital city of Poland. The research was carried out in 2002-2005. The occurrence of bats was recorded on the basis of individuals brought to a rehabilitation centre. A total of 200 individuals belonging to 14 species were analysed. The dominant species were the parti-coloured bat (*Vespertilio murinus*) – 41% of individuals recorded – and the serotine bat (*Eptesicus serotinus*) – 38.5%. 88% of individuals belonging to the first species were recorded between August and November, mainly in districts with tall buildings. The second species was recorded more evenly throughout the year and the city, but with a preference for the centre. The third most numerous species – the common noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*) (7% of all bats recorded) – was found mainly in areas with a lot of parks and gardens

KEY WORDS: bats, Chiroptera, urban ecosystem, synanthropic