

BOOKS RECEIVED

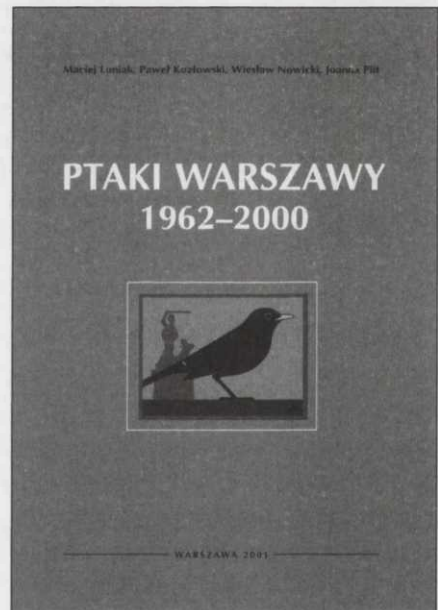
BIRDS OF WARSAW

Luniak M., Kozłowski P., Nowicki W., Plit J. 2001. *Ptaki Warszawy 1962–2000* [Birds of Warsaw 1962–2000]. Publ. IGiPZ, Warszawa, 180 pp., ISBN 83-87954-95-0. English summary and index of species — their status, abundance and changes.

Warsaw joined a number of about ten European metropolises, and at least twenty of other cities and towns in Europe, which have ornithological atlases.

The beginning of period the book concerns (1962–2000) is the time of completing the former inventory of the avifauna of Warsaw (*Acta Ornithol.* 8: 175–285, 1964).

The book describes and presents an avifauna of Warsaw within administration area of the city (494 km²), and during a whole year. Total 247 (131 breeding) bird species were recorded in Warsaw since 1962. The book presents their status, abundance and changes of their populations, distribution within the city (97 maps) and habitats occupied. Also specific local „urban“ habits of some species are described. Main changes of avifauna since 1962 include 22 new (or probably new) breeding species and distinct increase of populations of 14–16 species. Breeding of 11 species was not confirmed recently, 50–54 breeding showed pronounced decrease of populations, and 62–75 species are considered as endangered in their existence in Warsaw.



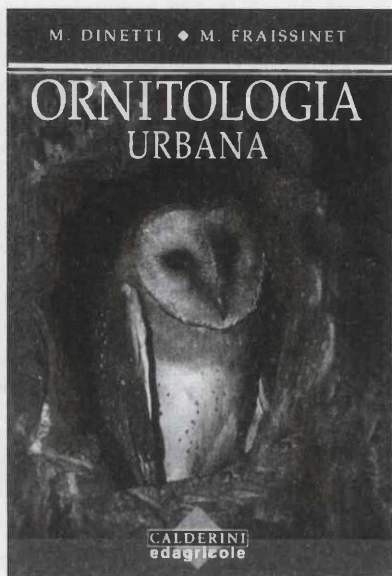
The book is available from: Library of the Institute&Museum of Zoology, Wilcza 64, PL 00–679 Warszawa, Poland, tel./fax -48-22-6296302, e-mail: libr@miiz.waw.pl Price: EU 28, USD 25, Bank account: PBK, XIII Warszawa, 11101053-401050001016

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ORNITOLOGIA URBANA

[URBAN ORNITHOLOGY]

Dinetti M., Fraissinet M. 2001. *Ornitologia urbana*. Calderini-Edagricole, Bologna, 496 pp., ISBN-88-206-4360-X.



Italy is the country where ornithologists are particularly concerned with urban avifauna. Probably nowhere in Europe so many (about twenty) cities and towns have their ornithological inventories made in the form of atlases. This book is a synthesis of these works.

Both authors — Marco Dinetti and Maurizio Fraissinet are main organizers and coordinators of the working group Italian Ornithological Atlases. They are also known as authors of many publications on urban avifauna in Italy.

The first chapter (pp. 1–30) of the book describes environmental background of the existence of birds in cities: urban ecosystem and urban habitats with their biotic and abiotic components. It is also explained what is the subject of landscape ecology in context and of this book, and how authors understand terms „the city” and „the sustainable city”. The second of introducing chapters (pp. 31–52) concerns the phe-

nomenon of synurbization (urbanization) of bird populations, i.e. their colonizing of cities and adjusting to urban environment.

The main part (pp. 53–332) of the book is a review of 140 „urban” bird species — their ecology and occurrence in Italian cities, with the background of data from Europe. In total 376 (193 breeding) bird species were recorded in Italian cities, which is 73% (79%) of the Italian check list.

Then follows the chapter (pp. 333–398) presenting researches on urban avifauna in Italy — historical review, methods, atlases (19 of them were published or completed, 4 are advanced) applications of ornithological data in practice of urban planning, management etc. The next chapter (pp. 399–424) concerns practical problems causing by some bird species in cities, and also problems of bird conservation in urban conditions. There is also a special chapter (pp. 422–424) devoted to „urban” birdwatching. The book ends with „who is who” (persons and institutions) in Italian urban ornithology. Bibliography indicates c. 400 positions.

The book is probably the first in European literature such wide review concerning the topic birds/cities. It is pity that the language (Italian, without English summary or any explanations) makes this extensive work inaccessible to many potential readers from other countries. Also the contents of the book concerns mainly Italy. So European niche for such book is still open.

(ML)

Address of the publisher: Edagricole — Edizioni Agricole della Calderini, via Emilia Levante, 31 Bologna, Italy. Price: Lire 43000 (EU 22.21)

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T. Cofta

EDITORS' ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Editors thank to the following persons, who kindly contributed to edition of the volume 36 (2001) of ACTA ORNITHOLOGICA — by reviewing manuscripts or by serving linguistic help:

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DIEHL Barbara (Institute of Ecology, Dziekanów Leśny, POLAND)
DOBROWOLSKI Kazimierz A. (University of Warsaw, POLAND)
DROUIN Jean-Marc (Museum of Natural History, Paris, FRANCE)
EVANS K. (Edward Grey Institute, Oxford, UK)
FLADE Martin (Landesanstalt f. Grossschutzgebiete Brandenburg, GERMANY)
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and to members of the Editorial Advisory Board:

BAŃBURA Jerzy, BOEHNER Joerg, CAPIZZI Dario, DMOWSKI Krzysztof, ELŻANOWSKI Andrzej, LAMBRECHTS Marcel L., MOROZOV Nikolay, SENN Peter, WALANKIEWICZ Wiesław, WESOŁOWSKI Tomasz