

AUTUMN PASSAGE OF WADERS (*Charadrii*)
IN THE MIDDLE VISTULA VALLEY
(KALISZANY, CENTRAL POLAND)

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ABSTRACT

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The phenology and dynamics of wader migration were studied at a stopover area in the middle Vistula Valley (Kaliszany ringing station, 51°05'N, 21°48'E, central Poland). The study was conducted during autumn passage seasons of 1993-1996 and 1999-2001. At this time 364 counts were done from mid-July to the end of October. Altogether 23 030 waders of 27 species were recorded within the study period. The most numerous species observed were: the Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) – 49% of all birds, Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) – 16% and Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) – 9%. Species constituting ca 2-4% of all noted waders each were: the Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*), Spotted Redshank (*T. erythropus*), Wood Sandpiper (*T. glareola*), Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) and Green Sandpiper (*T. ochropus*). The proportion of the remaining species did not exceed 2%. The pattern of autumn migration dynamics is presented for the dominant species.

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Key words: waders, *Charadrii*, middle Vistula river, migration, phenology

INTRODUCTION

Quantifying the patterns of bird migration over space and time has been a useful tool to gain insights into many aspects of migration ecology. Results from these observations could be a basis for more detailed studies on the migrational strategies of waders. The intensive studies on wader migration in Poland concentrated mainly on the Baltic Sea coast (Meissner and Sikora 1995; Gromadzka 1998; Meissner and Ści-borski 2002; Meissner 2005, 2006, 2007a, 2007b; Meissner and Huzarski 2006; Meissner and Strzałkowska 2006). Present information concerning inland migration