



**SHORT NOTES**

**Damian MARKULAK**

Faculty of Biological Science, University of Zielona Góra,  
Prof. Z. Szafrana 1 st., PL 65-516 Zielona Góra

**NESTLING OF HOUSE SPARROW *PASSER DOMESTICUS*  
IN NEST BOXES IN ZIELONA GÓRA  
PRELIMINARY REPORT**

The population of House Sparrows in most of European cities declined in the end of the XX century (De Laet & Summers-Smith 2007). One of the presumable reasons of this decline is loss of nest sites. The House sparrow is a secondary hole-nester (Anderson 2006) and places its nest in holes of buildings, shrubs and nest boxes. The rate of nest box occupation depends on the location and competition with other species (Anderson T.R. 2006).

The aim of this study was to investigate the rate of nest box occupation by House sparrows in Zielona Góra, Western Poland, which can provide information about the availability of nesting sites.

**STUDY AREA, MATERIAL AND METHODS**

The study was carried out in 2014 on five plots in Zielona Góra where House sparrows occurred. The investigated plots represented three urban habitats: parks, old housing estates and new housing estates. On the study plots nest-boxes of type A were located on trees at more than 3 m height with the box entrance avoiding westerly directions. All nest boxes were already put up in 2013. In the breeding season 2014 all 86 nest boxes were inspected.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

House sparrows occupied 3,4% of all nest boxes. A total of 39% of nest boxes were occupied by bird species (Tab. 1.), mostly by the Great tit *Parus major* and Blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*.

Tab. 1. Nest boxes occupied by birds in Zielona Góra

Habitat	Total number of nest boxes hung up	Number of nest boxes occupied	Number of nest boxes occupied by House sparrows
Parks	21	10	0
Old housing estates	32	12	2
New housing estates	34	10	1

In a similar study conducted in Warsaw, House Sparrows occupied 4% of nest boxes (Węgrzynowicz 2012). Moreover, in Poznań in the 1980s House sparrows did not occupy any nest box (Mizera i Kozłowski 1992). In contrast, in Berlin in 2000 House Sparrows used 26 to 98% of available nest boxes (Feige 2007, Grasnack & Böhner 2008, Otto 2008). Therefore, the nest box occupation rate of House Sparrows differs strongly between cities. House sparrows tolerate nest boxes, which are considered suboptimal breeding places, if the breeding success is high and nutritional conditions are good (Summers-Smith 1958).

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