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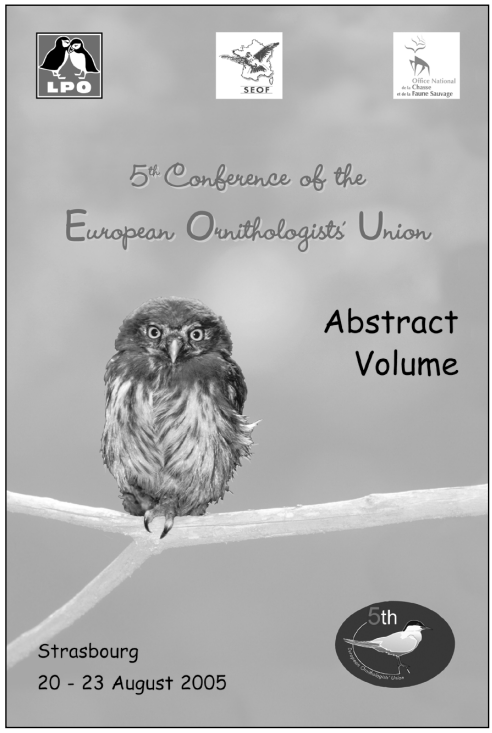

Organized by:

- The Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (LPO) (French League for the Protection of Birds).
- The Société d'Études Ornithologiques de France (SEOF) (French Society for Ornithological Studies).
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- Wolfgang FIEDLER (Max Planck Institute for Ornithology, Vogelwarte Radolfzell, Germany). Secretary of the l'EOU.

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EFFECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS ON BREEDING DYNAMIC OF THE GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* IN VOJVODINA (SERBIA)

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The Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) is widely distributed in Vojvodina, the northern province of the Republic of Serbia. It breeds in colonies, on different types of aquatic habitats, whether they are natural, modified or artificial, running or stagnant fresh water bodies, so it presents a valid bioindicator species for the evaluation of the quality of water ecosystems. The main goal of this paper is to show in which way some environmental factors: water level and eutrofication have influences on number of breeding pairs, dynamic and breeding process of the Great Crested Grebe. Data were collected from 1997-2000. Data were obtained from three natural as well as four artificial water ecosystems (fishponds with regulated water level) in Vojvodina, and were comparatively analyzed. Further, we wanted to compare natural water bodies to fishponds and to affirm which of them provide better breeding, resting and feeding conditions for Great Crested Grebe. At last, we wanted to show what impacts anthropogenic factors have on breeding dynamics and population density.

THE LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua* POPULATION DYNAMICS AND CURRENT TRENDS IN ARABLE LANDSCAPE IN THE WESTERN UKRAINE

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The investigations (playback method, period - from March to June) of influence of the land-use method changes during the last decades on the Little Owl *Athene noctua* population in the Ukraine were carried out in the Lviv region (Western Ukraine). 1990th were the last years of large collective farms. The Little Owl density reached 5,2-7,9 calling males [CM]/10 km^2 in the arable areas with farms in the period of 1990-1991. Thanks to concentration of prey and suitable nesting places the largest part of the Little Owl population was concentrated in the animal farms (6,0-9,9 CM/1 km^2). The changes of the land-use structure (declining of arable fields squares) and loss of nesting places due to destroying large farms are characterized the years of 1995-1996. It caused some decline of the Little Owl population at the plots and the dispersion of those birds and probably, its migration to the cities. The processes of farmland population declining (up to 1,4 CM/10 km^2) and increasing of city population (up to 6,2-8,4 CM/10 km^2 in the city outskirts) were noted at the same time. In the next years the Little owl population number began to increase in arable areas and its density amounted 6,1-7,4 CM/10 km2 in 2004. This Owl population number in the city has been relatively stable during the last 3 years and reached about 6-7 CM/10 km^2.

The dependence of Little Owl population number on the land-tenure methods was noted. We suppose that the Little Owl population dynamics may feel more considerable declining in the western part of Ukraine in the case of the future land privatisation and the enlarging of arable areas on a par with intensification and modernization of agriculture.

PARENTAL INVESTMENT AND CO-EVOLUTION BETWEEN ECTOPARASITES AND CHICKS OF THE NORTH AFRICAN BLACK BLACKBIRDS *Turdus merula mauritanicus*

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The Algerian Blackbird (*Turdus merula mauritanicus*) has a slightly later timing of reproduction than its European counterpart (from the beginning of March until the middle of July), but has a better reproductive success (1.088 fledglings per clutch, over an average clutch size of 3.38 eggs). Temperature is the main factor triggering the start of reproduction. Climatic conditions represent a strong