

S.P. Gashchak, S.V. Domashevsky Ornithocomplexes of Site «Tolsty Les» as Precondition For Establishment of Protection Status // Problems of Chernobyl Exclusion Zone. -2013- V.11- P.79-89.

In 2013–2013 a census of breeding ornithofauna of the site «Tolsty Les» situated in western part of the exclusion zone near villages Tolsty Les, Bovische and Lubyanka was carried out. Totally 78 species of birds was recorded, mostly of forest and partially meadow complexes. At that fauna of marshlands, lakes, rivers and meadows remained poor investigated. At least 4 species (*Tetrastes bonasia*, *Ficedula parva*, *Regulus regulus*, *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) inhabit this area only due to presence very rare in the region geobotanical conditions (deciduous forests on rich soils with high level of water supply, spruce tree plots). Inhabiting and nesting of 10 Red List birds was also recorded: *Ciconia nigra*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Aquila clanga*, *Aquila pomarina*, *Circaetus gallicus*, *Lyrurus tetrrix*, *Tetrastes bonasia*, *Grus grus*, *Bubo bubo*, *Strix nebulosa*. So far this is an only area within the exclusion zone where nests of eagle owl, great grey owl and greater spotted eagle had been found out, and such species as black grouse, hazel grouse, common crane and black stork are absolutely common birds of local habitats. Thus, the site “Tolsty Les” is very valuable natural and territorial complex which plays significant role in conservation, recovery and distribution of avian fauna, and therefore it has been rated as an object of natural reserve fund of Ukraine.