

Balashov L., Gaichenko V., Kryzhanivsky V., Frantsevych L. Secondary ecological changes in the evacuated territories // *Oykumena*, 1992, № 2, p. 31-43.

One of the predicted consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe was considered to be a possible significant impoverishment of the gene pool of plants and animals in a large part of Ukraine - Polissya. However, a study of the flora and fauna of the exclusion zone during the post-accident years showed that the situation was not as dramatic as expected. On the territories that get in the border of ChZ, 23 species of vascular plants from the "Red Book" of Ukraine were known. The most of them were concentrated in those environmental objects that existed in the area until 1986 year. When these objects were inspected and restored in 1995, it became clear that there were no significant changes in the flora of these areas compared to previous years. Rare species of plants in several sites of the ChZ are described. It was noted that animals began to return to the ChZ especially birds, which were forced to leave their homes due to intensive economic activities was conducted in these places before the accident. In the spring of 1987 near the village Opachichi the Black storks (*Ciconia nigra*) were founded. Now these birds have become almost common species throughout the ChZ. Most species of rare birds in the ChZ are birds of prey. There are at least six species. The main factors that caused ecological changes in the exclusion zone after the Chernobyl accident are indicated. It is considered how it affected the species composition, number and distribution of plants and fauna. The change of plants and migration of animals in the zone of death of pine forest, succession of plant cover and animal population of fallows is described. The movement and change in the number of species that were associated with human economic activity were observed. The species and density of birds of the wetland complex are described.