

THE DNIEPER'S RESERVOIRS AS THE PLACES OF CONCENTRATION OF WATERFOWL

V. Melnichuk¹, N. Klestov² and A. Mikityuk¹

1 Kiev University, Scientific Fundamentals of Protected Skills Laboratory, Institute of Zoology of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kiev, Ukraine

2 Laboratory of Sciences, Bases of Nature Reservation, Institute of Botany, Tereschchenkovskaya st. 2., Kiev, 601 Ukraine 252601

Many years of studying the conditions of life of waterfowl on reservoirs (Kiev, Kanev, Kremenchug, Dnieprodzer innsk, Kakhovka) allow to establish the following: at present these water basins have unlimited food supply for adult birds of the most species without any food for nestlings. This fact explains concentration of adult birds during the period of after-nest migration and autumn-spring migration with low density of nesting. In August-September the following species dominate: *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Fulica atra*, *Anas querquedula*, *Aythya ferina*, *Anas clypeata*; in October-November - *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Anas crecca*, *Anas penelope*, *Anas acuta*, *Bucephala clangula*, *Aythya fuligula*, *Gavia arctica*.

Waterfowl make the nests in the shallows of all the reservoirs where *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Fulica atra*, *Anas querquedula* predominate with low density of the nests; in some places - *Aythya ferina*, *Podiceps cristatus*, *Podiceps nigricollis*, *Gallinula chloropus*. *Anas acuta*, *Anas crecca*, *Anas clypeata*, *Anser anser* make the nests less than above mentioned. Grouping of *Anas platyrhynchos*, making the nests within the city limits of Kiev, Dniepropetrovsk, Zaporozhye, are stable in time. Usual species (*Anas platyrhynchos*, *Fulica atra*, *Anas querquedula*, *Podiceps cristatus*) are not noticed on the Kiev reservoir (zone of radioactive contamination; according to the data of 1993). Beginning with 1988 strong depression of all species of waterfowl was noticed, which is possible to explain by negative influence of ionic radiation (during this period biological productivity of this water basin has two or three times increased).

In winter, waterfowl is concentrated on the non-frozen area of low and higher rims of the reservoirs and on the warm water of thermal power-stations. *Anas platyrhynchos* predominates, *Bucephala clangula*, *Aythya fuligula*, *Mergus albellus*, *Podiceps cristatus*, *Aythya ferina*, *mergus merganser* are not so numerous and may not be present in all winter concentrations.