

Patterns of mammals mortality on main roads in the Northwestern Poland

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We have analyzed a database of mammals killed in traffic accidents on national roads and highways in the Zachodniopomorskie Province (NW Poland). Animals were recorded by the staff of the National Roads and Highways Agency during daily inspections of 1043 km of roads. Totally 1263 road casualties were recorded from September 2005 to December 2009: 1204 mammals identified to species or genus, 52 unidentified animals and 7 large birds (sparrow hawks, owls and ducks). Amongst mammals the following 16 species were revealed: fox *Vulpes vulpes* (33.5%), domestic cat *Felis sylvestris catus* (13.4%), roe deer *Capreolus capreolus* (10.5%), wild boar *Sus scrofa* (9.7%), raccoon dog *Nyctereutes procyonoides* (7.9%), domestic dog *Canis lupus familiaris* (7.6%), badger *Meles meles* (7.6%), marten *Martes* sp. (3.1%), European hare *Lepus europaeus* (3.0%), hedgehog *Erinaceus* sp. (1.4%), red deer *Cervus elaphus* (0.8%), polecat *Mustela putorius* (0.4%), otter *Lutra lutra* (0.3%), beaver *Castor fiber* (0.2%), weasel *M. nivalis* (0.2%), red squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris* (0.2%), fallow deer *Dama dama* (0.1%) and American mink *M. vison* (0.1%). We have observed substantial changes in the species composition of mammals killed in traffic accidents among seasons, as well as different patterns of mortality of every species throughout a year. For wild boars 4.3% of cases involved groups of animals (2-6 individuals).