

Although Robin is commonly and frequently occurring species in Europe, there is a little known about its' biology and ecology. Most of the data comes from heavily transformed areas or focus on *Erithacus rubecula melophilus* subspecies, inhabiting the British Isles, which significantly differs from the nominative subspecies as regard to breeding phenology and migration. Continental subspecies *Erithacus rubecula rubecula* was not examined well enough. The only data concerning biology and ecology of this species come from the northern edge of the range. Little is known about the Robins' preferred nesting sites or reproductive strategies and what factors and to what extent affect the breeding success.

The aim of this study is to characterize nest sites and to examine the factors determining the breeding success of European Robin in primeval forest conditions in Białowieża National Park. On the three study plots within the strict protection area of the Białowieża National Park, the number and location of individual Robin pairs will assess. Nest characteristics on sample plots will be based on selected parameters and the position of the tree-hole or another type of a nest. Phenology and breeding success assessment will be achieved by frequent clutch controls several times during the breeding season from late March to early July. Breeding loss will be assessed using camera traps. Robins nestling food composition will be determined using camera traps and also direct observation will be conduct. Food availability will be assessed by collecting caterpillars frass. Reproductive strategies of Robins' males and females will be tested by molecular technics; paternity and genetic diversity of the population will be examined. Weather data will be analysed in terms of impact on Robin breeding success and phenology. The final objective will be data analysis allows determining which factors and to what extent affecting Robin breeding success in primeval forest conditions.

Robin observations in primeval forest conditions in Białowieża National Park, offer a unique opportunity to learn about its biology and ecology in the natural, unaltered by human area and the verification of these data in transformed environment. This will be an extremely valuable data that create reference system for evolutionary and ecological processes occurring in managed forests, under strong anthropogenic pressure. Białowieża Forest is the only place in Europe where such research can be carried out. Data gathered so far, about different species in the BNP altered the many views on the biology and ecology of forest birds, and confirmed the special significance of this area for nature protection, science and culture. Results of these studies have a chance to become an important point of reference for researchers conducting similar studies in other environments.