

Gashchak S.P., Yastremsky A.V. Western Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*) in the Chernobyl exclusion zone: first records. // *Berkut*. 28 (1-2). 2019. - P.39-43.

In 2007–2019 Western Capercaillie was found out in the Chernobyl exclusion zone (Ukraine) at research and forestry practical works. Eighteen records of adult and immature individuals of both sexes and signs of their activity were described (15 observations of birds, two finds of excrements and one find of feathers). Almost all were made in a vast north-west woodland of 40,000 ha near former villages of Vilcha, Varovychy, Novyi Mir, Kliviny, and Denisovychy. Just one Capercaillie was met in the center of the region, near village of Kopachy. Most of the findings are associated with old pine forests, sphagnum marshes, bilberries, either the birds were met near roads at search of gastroliths. It was the first records of Western Capercaillie on the North of Kyiv region over the last 50 years. Evidently, the species came back from Zhytomir region. The vast non-partitioned woodlands, almost complete absence of anthropogenic impact and establishment in 2016 Chernobyl radiation and ecological biosphere reserve provide very favorable conditions for forming one more sustainable population of this rare bird in Ukraine. Number of Capercaillie in the exclusion zone can reach up to several tens of individuals