

Distribution and Numbers of Capercaillie, *Tetrao urogallus* L., 1758 (Aves: Galliformes) in Bulgaria

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Abstract: The distribution, numbers and sex ratio of Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus* L., 1758) in Bulgaria were studied. The numbers of this species during the period 2002-2006 varied between 2219 (2002) and 2798 (2005) individuals. The total area of habitats is about 412000 ha. The Capercaillie is most numerous in the Rhodope Mts. (2060 individuals), the Rila Mts. (360) and the Pirin Mts. (170). Small numbers of birds occurred in the past in West Balkan Range and the Vitosha Mts. However, there have not been any records during the last three years in the latter two localities and the species has probably being extinct from them. The sex ratio of Capercaillie in the country is 1:1,2 (males : females), varying between 1:1 and 1:1,3.

Key words: Capercaillie, distribution, numbers, shooting, sex ratio