

main reason of low nest losses. This constitutes the male main contribution to raising young as males never incubate and feed nestlings. The additional warning function of the song might be one of the reasons why Aquatic Warbler males sing with more or less constant intensity during the whole breeding season.

7. Collected data on population density, distribution and habitat preferences can also give information on how to protect this endangered species in the future Biebrza Park, and elsewhere.

### **Faecal analyses: an efficient method to study the dietary of small birds.**

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There are different methods to study the dietary of small insectivorous birds. Each of them has its own quality and its special fault. Acceptable representativity, good availability of faeces to every season, the possibility to analyse the diet of adult birds as well as of nestlings with the same method, low time-consuming in the field, the possibility to collect a large number of droppings for individual examination are aspects to choose this method.

To study the dietary composition of Aquatic Warbler in Poland and of the Marsh Warbler in West Germany the method could be proved successfully.

I will give a short survey how I realized collecting, storing and preparing of faecal droppings.

1. Each dropping was kept separate in a little paperbag well signed with the essential informations about date, daytime, place and number.
2. The faeces were stored frozen also for longer time without alteration.
3. The droppings were dispersed by soaking in water for hours.
4. The solution was to filter. It can be forced by using a vacuum pump.
5. For examination of the ground matrix I used a binocular microscope at 20x and/or 60x magnification as well as two super fine forceps for handling the invertebrate remains.
6. Then identification could start.
7. Calculation of the number of recognised individuals could be found by using the stated number of fragments per individual.

### **Zur Bedeutung flußbegleitender Schilf-/ Brennessel- und Gebüschstreifen für die Vogelwelt und deren Gefährdung durch Mahd.**

#### **Reproductive success of the Marsh Warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris*) along riversides.**

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In 1988 the ecological importance of narrow riparian verges of reed, nettles and bushes was evaluated at the river Schwarzbach, Bavaria. Within a study area of 2100 m length 17 bird species with about 88 breeding pairs were detected. The Marsh Warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris*) was the most common species, although the breeding success in the examined region

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