

Pigeons and Doves in Latvia

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Letoniako kolunbiformeen estatus eta egoerari buruzko informazio bibliografikoa eskaintzen da. Letonian bost espeziek egiten dute habia, Etxeko Uso zimarroia barne hartuta.

Giltz-Hitzak: Usoak. Usapalak. Letonia.

Se proporciona información bibliográfica sobre estatus y situación de columbiformes en Letonia. Cinco especies nidifican en Letonia, incluyendo la Paloma Doméstica cimarrona.

Palabras Clave: Palomas. Tórtolas. Letonia.

Information bibliographique sur le status et la situation des Colombidés en Lettonie. Cinq espèces différentes nidifient en Lettonie, dont la Palombe domestique cimarrone.

Mots Clés : Colombidés. Lettonie.

Area of Latvia is 64600 km². Forest covers about 42 % of the territory, agricultural lands 38 %. There are nearly no special studies devoted to Columbiformes. Information is taken from general publications about Latvian birds (Viksne, 1983; Priednieks *et al.*, 1989; Strazds *et al.*, 1994). Population estimates given in brackets come from the last article and are related to 1970-1993. Altogether 5 Columbiformes species occur in Latvia.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* (f.domestica) (400.000-500.000 breeding pairs, stable, 1-1.5 million ind. wintering). Abundant in cities and towns at least since beginning of 20th century. Occurs also in rural settlements at least since 1914. Decrease in 1990s. Allowed for hunting (1.08 till 15.03).

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus* (40.000-60.000 breeding pairs, stable, 0-10 ind. wintering). Common breeder. Decline by 20-30 % in some places in 1950s. In 1980s breeding density in forests varied between 0,2-3,6, in mosaic landscape between 0,7-3,8 pairs/sq.km. Nests also in towns and suburbs of Riga. Probably declined in 1990s. Abundant as passage migrant. Allowed for hunting (1,08-15,10). Recoveries of ringed birds from Portugal, Spain, Italy, France, Germany, Czeka.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas* (150-200 breeding pairs, slight decrease, no wintering). Common breeding species in the 19th century and beginning of 20th century, then declined, remarkably in early 1950s. Recently more common in the W part of the country, 67 % observations in old pine forests. Included in the Red Data Book of Latvia.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* (3.000-5.000 breeding pairs, slight increase, no wintering). As rare breeder mentioned already at the end of 18th century, more common in the W part at the end of 19th century, since 1930s colonized also NW part of the country. Now evenly distributed over the whole country in suitable habitats (up to 0,5 pairs/km²), number has declined since 1970s-1980s.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* (300-500 breeding pairs, moderate increase, 1.000-3.000 ind. wintering). First recorded in Latvia in 1962. In 1980s found at 27 towns (55% of all), 11 town-villages (30%) as well as in 55 rural settlements and 26 individual farms, mostly in the W part of the country. Recently declined comparing with 1980s.