MORPHOMETRIC AGE AND SEX IDENTIFICATION OF EURASIAN COLLARED DOVES (*STREPTOPELIA DECAOCTO* FRIV.) – A PILOT-TEST

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In this research our main goal was to test, whether there is an effective, yet economical way to perform native sexing on *Columbidae* species in field conditions. Since molecular sexing is not available among these conditions, a morphometric method was aimed to be used. After morphometric analysis, autopsy was performed to determine the sex of collected birds. The novelty of the method is that we added a new measure point to improve the efficiency of age and sex determination. During the sampling process we wanted to describe correlations between morphometric data of juvenile and adult individuals, and express and significant differences by comparing differences between males and females.
Data collection was performed on Eurasian Collared Doves (n=18) that were picked from hunting bags. Four factors were recorded: (1) Mass (g), (2) Wing length (mm), (3) Full body length (mm) and (4) the gap of pubic bones (os pubis) (mm). The last factor is the novelty of our research. We are concerned, that this factor can be the key to an easy-to-use way of native sexing of sexually monochromic birds.
Our result showed that the new factor is highly correlated to age (P<0,001) and most of the main morphometric data (P<0,05), despite the low sample number. Juveniles shown marginally significant difference among sexes.