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Man to nature

The aim of the article is to present the demands for building proper relations between humans and the nature, mature ecologic attitudes of the Polish society which constitute an implication for many works published under the series published by the Polish State Council for Nature Conservation in the time of the Second Polish Republic (1918-1939). With reference to the above it should be stated that after regaining independence, the Regency Council's decree on protection of art and culture monuments of 1918 announced that the protection of monuments (of culture and art) belongs to the responsibilities of the Ministry of Religious Beliefs and Public Enlightenment (WRiOP). The advisory body of WRiOP was the Temporary Committee for Nature Conservation (cf. Pawlikowski, 1938, p. 122) which in 1925 was transformed into the Polish State Council for Nature Conservation (PROP)¹. The president of PROP was the Minister of Religious Beliefs and Public Enlightenment and its main aim was to spread knowledge about nature and making the idea of its conservation popular². In the period of the Second Polish Republic, the Polish State Council for Nature Conservation issued original works (the so-called separate publications – from 1920), scientific monographs (from 1930)³, textbooks (such as a collective work under the scientific supervision of W. Szafer entitled "Skarby przyrody i ich ochrona. Wiadomości z dziedziny ochrony przyrody dla przyrodników, nauczycieli, leśników, rolników, górników, myśliwych, rybaków, młodzieży studiującej i wszystkich miłośników przyrody" [The treasures of nature and their conservation. Information on nature conservation for

¹ The seat of Polish State Council for Nature Conservation was in Cracow, ul. Lubicz 46.

² Polish State Council for Nature Conservation in Warsaw (ul. Wawelska 52/54) functions as a supervisory body for nature conservation. It acts on the legal basis: art. 96 Act of 16 April 2004 r. on nature conservation (Dz. U. 2009, No. 151, item 1220as amended) with the Minister of Environment. It evaluates the state of nature conservation in Poland, issues opinions on legislation and drafts of protected areas, promotes the protection of nature. Council is composed of members appointed for a five-year term. Currently, within the State Council for Nature Conservation there are six commissions. Cf. E. Kołodziej (in cooperation with W. Bienkowska, B. Nowożycki), *Archiwum Akt Nowych Informator o zasobie archiwalnym, Archiwum Akt Nowych*, Warsaw 2009, Tom I (No. 1168), p. 518. Cf. Ministry of Environment. Polish State Council for Nature Conservation, in: http://www.mos.gov.pl/arttykul/365_organy_doradcze/66_prop.html (access date: 30.06.2014).

³ A scientific monograph of J. Paczoski entitled. „Lasy Białowieży” (Poznań 1930) serves as an example here.

naturalists, teachers, foresters, hunters, fishers, students and all nature lovers]⁴, regional publications (from 1930)⁵, free supplement on nature conservation to the magazine entitled "Orli Lot" [Eagle's Flight] (1930 four numbers were issued, 1931 – three, and in 1932 – one number), "Kwartalny Biuletyn Informacyjny" [Quarterly News Bulletin] of the Delegate of the Minister of Religious Beliefs and Public Enlightenment (from 1931) (cf. Kulczyńska, 1934, p. 230), albums (from 1935). In the years between 1920 and 1937, the Polish State Council for Nature Conservation issued also the year's issue entitled "Ochrona Przyrody" [Nature Conservation], as an official body of the Polish State Council for Nature Conservation. In the period of the Second Polish Republic, all publications of the Polish State Council for Nature Conservation were available in the bookshop Księgarnia Kasy Imienia Malinowskiego in Warsaw (Pałac Staszica, ul. Nowy Świat 72).

As it has already been mentioned, there were original works issued under the publication series of the Polish State Council for Nature Conservation (in the category: separate publications of the Polish State Council for Nature Conservation), among others: W. Szafer⁶, S. Dziubałowski⁷, T. Wiśniewski⁸, S. Sokołowski⁹, R. Kobendza¹⁰, M. Sokołowski¹¹, J. G. Pawlikowski¹², J. Sokołowski¹³, E. Lubicz Niezabitowski¹⁴, P. Sarasin¹⁵, A. Czudek¹⁶, A. Wodziczko¹⁷, H. Szafranówna¹⁸, E. Riggerbach¹⁹, H. Weryński²⁰, K. Gajl²¹, K. Domin²². As part

⁴ Among the authors of this collective work there are: J. G. Pawlikowski („Ogólny rzut oka na istotę ochrony przyrody, jej znaczenie i sposoby realizacji” i „Prawodawstwo ochronne”), W. Szafer („Z dziejów ochrony przyrody”, „O parkach narodowych”, „Rezerwaty w Polsce”), J. Smoleński („Ochrona krajobrazu”), H. Jasiński („Stosunek techniki do ochrony przyrody”), A. Wodziczko („Ochrona roślin” i „Ochrona przyrody w szkole”), J. Grochmalicki („Ochrona zwierząt niższych”), T. Jaczewski („Ochrona owadów”), W. Roszkowski („Ochrona ptaków”), M. Siedlecki („Ochrona ryb”), J. Sokołowski („Ochrona ptaków”), E. Lubicz Niezabitowski („Ochrona zwierząt ssących w Polsce”), J. Domaniewski („Ochrona przyrody a łowiectwo”), S. Sokołowski („Ochrona przyrody a leśnictwo”), S. Kreutz („Ochrona przyrody nieożywionej”), W. Kulczyńska („Organizacja ochrony przyrody w Polsce niepodległej”), W. Goetel („Parki narodowe w Polsce”). Moreover, W. Kulczyńska walong with W. Szafer prepared the bibliography.

⁵ Example: „Wydawnictwo Okręgowego Komitetu Ochrony Przyrody na Wielkopolskę i Pomorze w Poznaniu” – zeszyt 1 i 2 (Poznań 1930).

⁶ W. Szafer: Plan utworzenia rezerwatu w Puszczy Białowieskiej (1920), Sprawozdanie z pięcioletniej działalności Państwowej Komisji Ochrony Przyrody (1925), *On the Protection of Nature in Poland, during the last five years 1920 – 1925*, Sprawozdanie z działalności P. R. O. P. w roku 1926, Sprawozdanie z działalności P. R. O. P. w roku 1927, Sprawozdanie z działalności P. R. O. P. w roku 1928, Parki Narodowe w Polsce – National Parks in Poland (1929), Sprawozdanie z działalności P. R. O. P. za rok 1929, Sprawozdanie z działalności P. R. O. P. za rok 1930.

⁷ S. Dziubałowski: Plan utworzenia rezerwatu w Górach S-to Krzyskich (1922), Rezerwat jodłowy w Mieni pod Mińskiem Mazowieckim (Warszawa 1930).

⁸ T. Wiśniewski, Wykaz drzew godnych ochrony na Górnym Śląsku” (1923).

⁹ S. Sokołowski, Tatry jako Park Narodowy (1923).

¹⁰ R. Kobendza, Projekt rezerwatu w Puszczy Kampinoskiej (1924).

¹¹ M. Sokołowski: Chrońmy przyrodę ojczystą i jej zabytki (1925), Ochrona przyrody w szkole (1927).

¹² J. G. Pawlikowski: Prawo ochrony przyrody (1927), *Loi pour la Protection de la Nature en Pologne* (1929).

¹³ J. Sokołowski: W jaki sposób młodzież może chronić ptaki? (1927), Skrzynki dla ptaków (1928), Ochrona ptaków.

¹⁴ E. Lubicz Niezabitowski, Ginące zwierzęta w Polsce i potrzeba ich ochrony (1928).

¹⁵ P. Sarasin, Światowa ochrona dzikiej fauny (1929).

¹⁶ A. Czudek: Osobliwości i zabytki przyrody województwa śląskiego (1929), Ochrona przyrody w województwie śląskim 51 rycin (1938).

¹⁷ A. Wodziczko, Zabytki przyrody na Pomorzu (1929).

of this publication series, also the Nature Conservation Act of 1934 was issued, thus making this highly important normative act more popular in the Polish society.

In view of the quantitative richness of works, only a few examples have been used in this article in order to present the valuable ideas of forming ecological attitude towards nature. One of the important authors is Seweryn Dzibałtowski (botanist, professor of the University of Life Sciences (SGGW) in Warsaw), who wrote a study in which he generalized that the natural forest is not only a source of poetic inspirations and emotions for people who feel the beauty of nature, but is primarily a fount of scientific work, and that "finding and publicizing of everything (...) that deserves protection is the duty of every citizen" (Dziubałtowski, pp. 1-2).

It is also worth mentioning the value of the work of Kazimierz Gajl devoted to environmental protection, in which he condemned the barbarism of exterminating birds and squirrels, taking out eggs and little birds out of nests and destroying bushes and flowers in the Forest Las Bielański (cf. Gajl, 1932, p. 9). As we know, in the publications of the State Council for Nature Conservation the idea of nature conservation was popularized, and a very good example in this regard is the creative thought of Karel Domin – rector of Charles University in Prague²³, who provided reasons for nature being the source of life and beauty, is its treasure trove (granary), source of energy, and yet the man has become its enemy, harnessed it absolutely, "he found out, however, that in this way, his life impoverished and that he got rid of the purest joy" (cf. Domin, 1934, p. 13). Domin said that the man has become the worst destroyer of nature as he systematically destroys it. He emphasized that the demands of nature conservation are thus very valuable, especially when they result in useful activities of the life environment, such as afforestation, planting trees and establishing urban gardens, protection of alleys and gardens, international cooperation in the field of nature conservation in the Slavic Committee, which was established in Warsaw in 1931 (cf. *ibid*, p. 18-20).

Andrew Czudek, in turn, drew attention to the issue of environmental protection in the Silesia province, where numerous "natural curiosities" are located (Czudek, 1929, pp. 5-78), such as erratic boulders, trees such as oak, linden, spruce, juniper, yew, birch, maples, hornbeam, poplar and, in small quantities, larch. In addition to the trees worthy of protection, the author mentioned bushes and animals that should be protected. Considering the importance of nature conservation in Silesia and the implementation of this idea in the

¹⁸ H. Szafranówna, Malta (1929).

¹⁹ E. Riggenbach, Jak może młodzież chronić przyrodę? (1929).

²⁰ H. Weryński, Nasz stosunek do przyrody i jej ochrony, z 8 rycinami w tekście, introductory words W. Szafer (1931).

²¹ K. Gajl, Bielany pod Warszawą i konieczność ich ochrony (1932).

²² K. Domin, Ochrona przyrody ze stanowiska biologa. A speech given in the aula of the Jagiellonian University in Cracow on 9 January 1934, transl. dr F. Błoński (1934)

²³ On the Charles University in Prague, the first habilitation on nature conservation was granted – doc. dr. Jan S. Prochazki. Cf. A. Wodziczko, Zasługi naukowe Jana Gwalberta Pawlikowskiego na polu ochrony przyrody, issued by the Polish State Council for Nature Conservation, Lwów 1939, p. 11.

pedagogical process in schools, he referred to the realm of inanimate nature (rocks, caves) as well as floristic and faunal monuments (cf. Czudek, 1938, pp. 9-23, 85-195) in the woods.

When explaining practical tips for teaching and educational support in the process of shaping ecological attitudes, Andrew Czudek noted that this process can not be carried out only by science teachers, but where possible also by teachers of geography, history and Polish language. What is important, teachers should not only study the professional literature devoted to environmental protection and explain the importance of this activity, but above all, implement the knowledge of nature conservation in the closest surroundings (village, town), teach children and youth how to take care of plants and animals in the local environment. To this end, he suggested that during school trips teachers made it possible for students to learn about the old stands of fir and spruce and yew grove in Cieszyn Silesia, where they can find forty-five specimens of yew, a protected (historic) tree. He said that during lessons devoted to nature conservation youth should observe the life of plants, animals, waterfowl, and the endangered species in particular. He encouraged teachers to organize trips in order to observe the life of bison, wild boars in their living environment (in Jankowice), deer (in Międzyrzecze) and animals living in the forests of the District Tarnogórskie and Lublinieckie (where in fact there was no bison at the time, but the last two pairs Silesian cranes) and to learn about the bog ecosystem in Lubliniec along with boulders. In his opinion, one must also pay attention to youth destroying nature (disappearance of forests, damage to trees), caused by the coal industry (cf. *ibid.*, pp. 195-200).

While presenting practical tips concerning ecological issues and spreading the idea of nature conservation in schools in Silesia, Andrzej Czudek generalized that during such tours students can create images of the valuable and at the same time rare specimens of wildlife; besides, in every school a school garden is necessary for educational purposes. He wrote that one must not allow children to pollute streams, water sources and to collect butterflies, beetles, fish in aquariums, as well as jail birds, squirrels, frogs or snakes. He stressed the great importance of shaping ecological attitudes towards the environment of life (cf. *ibid.*, pp. 201-206).

An interesting example in terms of spreading the idea of nature conservation, developing the appropriate relationship of man to nature, as well as formulating demands of environmental education and proper environmental attitudes of the Polish society in the Second Polish Republic also constitutes the work of priest Henryk Weryński. Weryński focused on the merits of the Polish State Council for Nature Conservation in the area of popularizing this idea in collaboration with the clergy, which was appreciated by Władysław Szafer – Delegate to the Minister of Religious Affairs and Public Enlightenment for Nature Conservation (cf. Weryński, 1931, p. 5). Henry Weryński justified the value of works dedicated to nature, written by catholic authors, such as the German writer Anton Heinen²⁴.

²⁴ Anton Heinen in his book entitled „*Katholische Bildungswerte*” („Educational values of Catholicism”) explained the connections of the Catholic religion with nature - they constitute a specific cultural implication of social life (the symbolism of the liturgical year refers to the cyclical nature of changes in the environment, in connection

He popularized not only the legal basis for nature conservation²⁵ in the Second Polish Republic, but above all the value of the process of education of children and young people with respect to understanding the natural laws of the natural environment. He noticed a correlation of the idea of nature conservation with interpersonal attitudes, emphasizing that educators should develop not only respect for the living environment, but also the fundamentals for peaceful coexistence in it (pacifism) (cf. Weryński, 1931, pp. 11-12).

In the analyzed publication, also published by the Polish State Council for the Nature Conservation Henry Weryński, he referred to the work of J. G. Pawlikowski and W. Szafer. He popularized the concept of "nature conservation" and its scientific, historical, memorial, aesthetic motives as protection of "home surroundings", as well as ethical and educational justifications (cf. *ibid.*, pp. 14-15). He stressed that thanks to nature reserves it is possible to carry out scientific research and educate young people in the "natural biological laboratory", which constitutes a scientific workshop. Old trees (oaks) and boulders are in fact monuments – not only of the nature, but they also co-create the tradition of historical events and inspire aesthetic experience in dealing with the natural beauty of the wilderness, the majesty of mountain crags, steppe or sea. Besides, they are a source of inspiration for artistic creation.

As already mentioned, Henry Weryński devoted attention to the moral and educational motives for nature conservation. He stated that we need to teach children to respect nature and explain that they can not pick eggs from nests nor torture nestlings. According to priest Weryński, this valuable educational work should be carried out not only at school, but also by means of catechesis delivered from the church pulpit to address the issue from multiple sides and so sensitize the Polish society and make it better aware of the value of harmonious relationship with the natural environment (cf. *ibid.*, pp. 20-21). His creative considerations ended with a request to popularize the idea of nature conservation: "there is a close logical link here between spreading the spiritual culture and environmental culture. Environmental culture is a mute testimony to the culture of the individual. We must therefore work together using all available means to increase the environmental culture; we should not, however, expect great results without simultaneously developing the spiritual

with the seasons, for example, respect for the laws of nature, established by God the Creator). Cf. H. Weryński, *Nasz stosunek do przyrody i jej ochrony, z 8 rycinami w tekście* (Polish State Council for Nature Conservation No. 29, issued by the Polish State Council for Nature Conservation, Druk W. L. Anczyca i Spółki, Kraków 1931, s. 7-10).

²⁵ Examples: Act on Hunting of 1927. (rozporządzenie Prezydenta R. P. o prawie łowieckim, art. 40, 41; Dz.U.R.P. 1928 nr 23 (z 16 lutego 1928 r.), art. 337; Dz. U. R. P. 1928, nr 29 (z 6 marca 1928 r.), art. 2; Act of the President of the Polish Republic of 22 March 1928 r. on protection of animals. Henry Weryński also listed examples of documents of the Catholic Church in the area of environmental protection, such as the resolution of the Synod of the Archdiocese of Lviv in September 1930 which indicated that without permission it is not allowed to cut down old trees near the church and destroy natural landmarks located on church grounds. Weryński stressed that the Polish State Council for Nature Conservation - in a letter of December 1930 - has asked the ecclesiastical authorities to submit copies of church records (copies of issued orders) and photos of natural landmarks that are located in the parish. He gave examples of cooperation with the Polish State Council for Nature Conservation of the individual curia: Podlasie (Siedlce), Kujawsko - Kalisz (Włocławek), Pinsk, Lodz, Tarnow on implementing the ban on cutting old trees. Cf. *ibid.*, pp. 22 – 26.

culture of other people" (cf. *ibid.*, p. 26 and 28). Especially considering that nature is the "face of our Mother – our native country".

In order to preserve the natural values and the beauty of nature, Weryński called for its protection (the old trees that are living monuments of nature), creation of nature reserves (protecting the remains of primeval nature), avoiding picking flowers in the meadows and forests as well as avoiding killing animals (they play an important role in the system of the nature, they constitute its richness and diversity), taking care of birds (because they protect fields, gardens, and forests against insects – pests), creating laws on nature conservation, verifying culturally accepted practices (during religious and state ceremonies, for example during the celebration of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, creating an artificial avenue of young cut trees), writing about the beauty of nature and seeing in it the divine beauty (cf. *ibid.*, p. 29-30). Also aesthetic value of this publication deserves recognition, because the author presented photographs of the following: nature in the National Park in Pieniny, old oaks around the church in the village called Średnia Wieś koło Liska, trunk of an old oak tree which was converted into a chapel in the town of Wróblowice koło Drohobycza, junipers around the church in the town of Muśnice koło Uhrynowa, oaks around the presbytery in a town called Monasterc koło Liska, a giant oak tree next to the church in Weryń nad Dniestrem, juniper in the monastery garden of Basilian monks in a town called Krechowo koło Żółkwi and white poplar with a chapel on the way from Kórnik to Mieczewo.

On the pages of the mentioned series of the State Council for Nature Conservation, also the Act of 10 March 1934 on nature conservation²⁶ was published. It was co-created by the members of the State Council for Nature Conservation. The Act stipulates that the supervision over the implementation of nature conservation in the Second Polish Republic is the responsibility of the Ministry of Religious Beliefs and Public Enlightenment. In contrast, the conservators of nature are the government bodies of general administration – appointed by the same Minister in consultation with the Minister of Agriculture and Agricultural Reforms. Conservators belonged to the composition of the provincial office, where one of the conservators could carry out their duties in several provinces. The scope of their responsibilities was defined by the Minister of Religious Beliefs and Public Enlightenment in consultation with the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Minister of Minister of Agriculture and Agricultural Reforms (cf. the Act, 1934, art. 12, p. 8). In order to promote nature conservation, the Minister of Religious Beliefs and Public Enlightenment established the State Council for Nature Conservation, whose president was the Minister of Religious Beliefs and Public Enlightenment (he could exercise his duties also through his delegate) (cf. *ibid.*, art. 13, p. 9).

As already mentioned, the Minister of Religious Beliefs and Public Enlightenment, after hearing the opinion of the State Council for Nature Conservation, could appoint committees for certain areas of nature conservation. He determined their organization, staff composition, seat and tasks. He could also entrust the tasks of these committees to existing

²⁶ Dz. U. R. P. 1934, No. 31 (of 13 April 1934), item 274.

social organizations, pursuing nature conservation objectives (ibid., art. 14, p. 10). The Act specifies that in order to implement nature conservation in the Second Polish Republic, a separate Fund for Nature Conservation should be established (as a legal entity), and the supervision over its administration should fall within the competence of the Minister of Religious Beliefs and Public Enlightenment, which in agreement with the Minister of Internal Affairs and Treasury issues regulations on the organization and operation of the Fund (cf. ibid., art.15).

The analyzed legal act states that "the creations of nature shall be subject to protection, such as: the earth, its shape and formations, caves, standing and flowing water, waterfalls, the sides of these waters, animals, plants, minerals, fossils – including species, groups and individual specimen whose preservation is in the public interest for scientific, aesthetic, historical and memorial reasons, or due to the unique landscape characteristics, and state authorities stated they require protection" (ibid, p. 3). It was noted that the protection may depend on temporary or permanent prohibitions regarding the use of the subject, hunting, fishing, cutting trees, destroying plants, polluting water, changing its course, mining soil, rocks, minerals, on the prohibition of acquiring and transporting protected objects abroad (cf. ibid., art. 2, p.4). The Minister of Religious Affairs and Public Enlightenment, after consulting the Minister of Agriculture and Agricultural Reforms and hearing the opinion of the State Council for the Nature Conservation introduced the protection of individual species of plants and animals (cf. ibid., art. 8).

With the legal force of this Act, in the areas with particularly beautiful landscape, rich in "natural curiosities", where nature conservation cannot be limited to specific objects, but should instead uniformly apply to the area where they appear, of at least three hundred hectares, the Council of Ministers could create a national park by issuing a respective regulation (cf. ibid., art. 9). At the same time, the regulation the Council of Ministers determined the objects and content of nature conservation within the area of the park, and the motion for issuing a regulation was submitted after a consultation with the State Council for Nature Conservation (cf. ibid., p. 7). The Minister of Religious Beliefs and Public Enlightenment issued regulations and the province governor issued orders aimed at closer determination or implementation of nature conservation as laid down in a regulation of the Council of Ministers in the area of the national park, which includes forest areas, or areas that are under the management of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Reforms (and issued by the Minister of Religious Affairs and Public Enlightenment upon consultation with the Minister of Agriculture and Agricultural Reforms). Orders issued by the province governor with regard to areas that are under the management of state forest administration were issued in consultation with the relevant administration of these forests (cf. ibid., art. 10).

The Minister of Internal Affairs, in consultation with the Minister of Religious Beliefs and Public Enlightenment as well as the Minister of Agriculture and Agricultural Reforms could establish special nature protection guards, specifying their rights and obligations along with the mode of their establishment. Authorized by the Minister of Internal Affairs in

consultation with the Minister of Religious Beliefs and Public Enlightenment, the committees for nature conservation and public organizations aimed at protecting nature were to cooperate within the organization of the nature protection guard and bear the costs of its maintenance (because the maintenance of the guard could not burden the state treasury) (cf. *ibid.*, art. 16). As already mentioned, the execution of this Act (which entered into force thirty days from its announcement) has been entrusted to the Minister of Religious Beliefs and Public Enlightenment and other concerned ministers (cf. *ibid.*, art. 33 and 34, p. 16). Unfortunately, as emphasized by Professor Ewa Symonides, "despite many good and innovative solutions, the long-awaited act remains a dead document. Until the outbreak of the Second World War no provincial nature conservators nor Fund for Nature Conservation have been established. Also the public nature protection guard has never been created" (Simonides, 2008, p. 343).

In the conclusion of the article it can be added that some of the works which were published by the State Council for Nature Conservation in the period of the Second Polish Republic have been reissued after the Second World War. The publication of John Sokolowski may serve as an example here. He is the author of works²⁷ devoted to the issue of protection of birds (such as, for example „Ochrona ptaków”²⁸ [Protection of Birds], released by the State Council for Nature Conservation No. 16, Cracow 1939, p. 96). In these works, Jan Sokołowski justified the importance of protecting the living environment. He shared thoughts on the life-giving beauty of nature, postulated that "a man betrayed so much sense of beauty, he demanded that "the human who has got such a sense of aesthetics (...) cared about the maintenance of this supreme beauty the beauty of nature" (Sokołowski, 1932, p. 161-184). He complained that it is not so because the human takes up activities mainly for practical reasons; he is using nature. He realized too late that nature is like "a real mother who feeds him, gives clothing, housing and everything a man needs to live" (*ibid.*). Jan Sokołowski said that nature is beautiful as long as it is not distorted and destroyed by human activity (because of which the idea of nature conservation was born). He stressed that the idea of protecting birds has gained great popularity in the Polish society, which can be seen especially in the winter, when it becomes necessary to feed them and prepare bird drinkers in the gardens. He explained that the bird drinkers should be put in peaceful place, well-exposed to the sun (especially when it operates in the morning). Besides, the bird drinker should be placed near a bush and among trees so that the birds are not afraid of

²⁷ Among the works we can list the following: J. Sokołowski, W jaki sposób młodzież może chronić ptaki. Państwowa Rada Ochrony Przyrody Nr 12, Cracow 1927; J. Sokołowski, Ptaki ziem polskich, Wydawnictwo Ligi Ochrony Przyrody, Warsaw 1936; J. Sokołowski, Zarys metodyki obserwowania ptaków, Wydawnictwo „Naszej Księgarni”, Warsaw 1937.

²⁸ Publication entitled „Ochrona ptaków” by J. Sokołowski (also its previous issue) were used in the educational process in high school during the period of the Second Polish Republic. Cf. Archiwum Akt Nowych w Warszawie [Archive of New Records in Warsaw]. Record group: the Ministry of Religious Beliefs and Public Enlightenment. The title of the unit: *Wyposażenie pracowni biologicznych w gimnazjach polskich – korespondencja, szkice, techniczne, wykresy*. Dates: 1930, 173 (microform number: B – 9168): Spis książek uczniów [List of students' books], 44 – 45.

approaching it, since all animals are very cautious near water, knowing that they risk to encounter their enemies (cf. Sokołowski, 1948, pp. 2, 7).

Sokołowski described how to prepare the winter bird feeders, he gave tips on their design, size, material they should be made of and where they should be placed (in the garden, forest, park). In addition to that, he listed food which should be given to birds (and in the winter on a regular basis). He explained what is of special nutritional value for the birds: hemp seeds, flax seeds, poppy and sunflower seeds, buckwheat, weed seeds, remains of meat and potatoes, melted fat (cf. Sokołowski, 1948, pp. 1-4). He gave several tips on constructing and hanging on the trees special boxes that have to replace the birds' hollows due to the lack of sufficient quantities of rotten trees they form natural hollows for birds (regular and semi-open boxes with the hole directed to the south east, which should be cleaned in the fall or in the winter) (cf. Sokołowski, 1948, pp. 1-2). He described the importance of natural nests for birds, he explained how to set up coppice for them, he admitted that the worst enemy of birds is a bad man and he added that "it is not difficult to improve him, and even turn the enemy into a friend by providing him with instruction and a good example" (Sokołowski, 1932, p. 184).

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