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Żubry i Puszcza Białowieża we francuskim piśmie popularnonaukowym *La Nature*

European Bison and Białowieża Forest in a French scientific popularization magazine *La Nature*

SUMMARY

In 1873, Gaston Tissandier (1843-1899) founded the journal *La Nature – Revue des sciences et de leurs applications aux arts et à l'industrie*, which for one century was one of the most important scientific popularization magazines in Europe.

We analyzed articles from this journal with the subject of European bison and Białowieża Forest. These articles contain interesting information, particularly for the history of biology. They allow to assess the knowledge about European bison during the last years of the existence of populations in Białowieża Forest and in Caucasus mountains, as well as at the beginning of bison reintroduction process in 1920s. Despite the journal's popular science approach, these articles are original and often reference little-known sources. Among the authors we find renowned biologists and scientific journalists but also people related to the Tsar's forest administration.

The articles published by *La Nature* allow to identify and analyze several topics of natural sciences such as interspecific hybridization, acclimatization, «regeneration of the blood», the analogies between the European bison and the American bison. It is also an interesting testimony of the beginning of modern species and habitats conservation. It allows to retrace the epoch's thoughts about the reasons behind the disappearance of species and design of the reconstruction of European bison population.

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