

Table 1

The nature and means of distribution of requests for information while organizing a recording-scheme of the breeding habits of the European hedgehog in Denmark

| Time     | Category of information       | Destined for                       | Circulation |
|----------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1976     | <i>Periodicals</i>            |                                    |             |
| June 30  | Haven                         | Horticulturists                    | 72 000      |
| Aug 27   | Landsbladet                   | Farmers                            | 107 000     |
|          | <i>Newspapers</i>             |                                    |             |
| Aug 1    | Aarhus Stiftstidende          |                                    | 98 000      |
| Aug 1    | Fyns -                        | The general public                 | 52 700      |
| Aug 11   | Jyllandposten                 |                                    | 74 500      |
| Aug 28   | Sjællands Tidende             |                                    | 28 400      |
| Sept 25  | Politiken                     |                                    | 114 000     |
|          | <i>Radio</i>                  |                                    |             |
| Aug 30   | Ud på landet                  | Farmers, amateur naturalists, etc. | ≈ 500 000   |
| 1977     | <i>Periodicals</i>            |                                    |             |
| June 30  | } Haven                       | Horticulturists                    | 78 000      |
| Aug 30   |                               |                                    |             |
| June 30  | } Hunden                      | Dogkeepers                         | 26 000      |
| Sept. 30 |                               |                                    |             |
| July 6   | Hundejournalen                | -                                  | 5 200       |
| July 15  | Natur                         | Young naturalists                  | 1 500       |
| Aug 15   | Dyrevennen                    | Protectors of animal life          | 48 000      |
| Aug 12   | } Landsbladet                 | Farmers                            | 106 000     |
| Oct 7    |                               |                                    |             |
|          | <i>Newspapers etc.</i>        |                                    |             |
| Sept 1   | Ritzau Press Bureau           | The general public                 | > 1 000 000 |
| Mid-Aug- | } All major Danish newspapers |                                    |             |
| Mid-Sept |                               |                                    |             |
|          | <i>Radio</i>                  |                                    |             |
| Aug 16   | } Ud på landet                | Farmers, amateur naturalists, etc. | ≈ 500 000   |
| Sept 1   |                               |                                    |             |

It was decided to divide the records of young from the two seasons in question into six groups depending on the situation under which they were discovered (cf. MORRIS 1977):

1. In nest, blind
2. In nest, eyes opened, unable to depart
3. In nest, able to depart
4. Out of nest, with adult
5. Out of nest, no adult present
6. Out of nest, myiasis detected.

Further these same litters have been divided according to the period of discovery and the number of young (cf. Tab. 3 and 4). Reports regarding motherless or abandoned young have chiefly been treated elsewhere (NIELSEN et al. 1978; WALHOVD 1981).

## Results

### Records of young

More than 1300 persons responded to our inquiry (cf. Tab. 1). In 640 cases records of young were reported, 66 being litters observed in previous years. Among the reports of litters from the two summers in question 453 were found sufficiently detailed and reliable