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Biology and Management of Wild Pigeons and Doves. II International Meeting

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Beitia, Richard; Daguerre, Lionel; Cloute, Mary-Line (Fédération Départementale des Chasseurs des Pyrénées-Atlantiques. Maison Nature. Bd Hanterrière. F-64000 Pau); **Mendiola, Iñigo** (Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa. Plaza Gipuzkoa s/n. 20004 Donostia-San Sebastián); Observation de la migration transpyrénéenne des Colombidés de 1999/2000 (Observation of the trans-pyrenean migration of Wood Pigeons in 1999/2000) (Orig. fr)

In: *Naturzale*. 16, 13-30

Abstract: The hunting federations in the different regions have been tracking the trans-pyrenean migration of wood pigeons for the last twenty years. For the last two, this work, which is under the supervision of the International Group for Wild Fauna Research (GIIFS), has brought together professionals from the Federations in Aquitaine, Midi-Pyrénées and the Basque Country. Five observation points have been set up to control migration on the Western side of the Pyrenees. A previous study enabled us to determine that from 82 to 84% of the migration was carried out in this area. The number of birds observed during the migration was later compared with the number of wintering birds observed in the Iberian Peninsula.

Key Words: Pigeons and doves. *Columba palumbus*. Woodpigeon. Migration. Pyrenees.

Bonneffille, Michel (Fédération Departementale des Chasseurs de la Dordogne. 41, Bd Maine de Biran. F-24100 Bergerac): Etude de la migration palombe en Dordogne. Impact de la chasse en *palombières* (Study of the migration of the Wood Pigeon in the Dordogne. The impact of shooting on *palombières*) (Orig. fr)

In: *Naturzale*. 16, 31-47

Abstract: Our lack of knowledge on the migration of pigeons, on the impact of hunting in the pigeon population, and on the importance of the bag lead us to speculate on reality. To answer such questions, a network of volunteer specialists has been set up. Over a period of twelve years the results in terms of figures allow us to shed light on a number of questions. The biggest amount of migrants were contained in just 15% of the flocks, and quickly surpassed in non-consecutive days. The result in terms of hunting bag is inversely proportional to the quantity of birds that compose the flocks. Number of birds shot is not proportional to the number of birds detected, but depends on the quantity of small flocks. It is less than 1% of the birds bag census. The migration observed in the department has not diminished since 1987.

Key Words: Wood pigeon. Hunting. Pigeon shooting pots. Dordogne. France.

Recarte, Jacques (Fédération Départementale des Chasseurs des Landes. 151 Av. G. Clémenceau. BP 172. F-40104 Dax): Suivi de la migration de la Palombe en plaine dans le sud-ouest de la France (Tracking of the migration of the Wood Pigeon on the plains in Southwestern France) (Orig. fr)

In: *Naturzale*. 16, 49-57

Abstract: In 1987, the 13 departments that comprised the South Western Hunting Region grouped up to launch a wide-reaching study on the Pigeon (*Columba palombus*). For the study of migration in the plains, the basic data were provided by a network of "hunters/observers". The projects undertaken have allowed us to determine three migration corridors in the South West and establish a migration index that would allow us to continue and compare the intensity of migration every year. Thus, after an exceptional year in 1988, migration decreased (1991) and increased (1996). The global trend over the last eleven years is now closer to stability than to a drop in migrant indexes.

Key Words: Wood pigeon. *Columba palumbus*. Migration. South-western France.

Viksne, Janis (Univ. of Latvia. Institute of Biology. Miera str. 3. 2169 Salaspils. Latvia): Pigeons and Doves in Latvia (Orig. en)

In: *Naturzale*. 16, 59-60

Abstract : Information is given about status and situation of pigeons and doves in Latvia. Five species, including the Feral Pigeon, occur in Latvia.

Key Words: Pigeons. Doves. Latvia.

Bankovics, Attila (Hungarian Natural History Museum. Baross u. 13. 1088 Budapest (Hungary)): Status of wild Pigeons and Doves in Hungary (Orig. en)

In: *Naturzale*. 16, 61-70

Abstract : There are six species of Columbidae in the Hungarian avifauna. Five of them, including the feral *Columba livia*, are breeding birds in Hungary. *Streptopelia orientalis* has only one record as a vagrant. The breeding population of *Columba oenas* is stable. The population of *Columba palumbus* has increased steadily from the 1950s, and their breeding area has been enlarged considerably. *Streptopelia turtur* is a widespread and regular breeding bird in Hungary. *Streptopelia decaocto* is a resident and widespread breeding bird confined to human settlements.

Key Words: Columbidae. Hungary. Status. Distribution. Conservation. Hunting.

Svazas, Saulius (Institute of Ecology. Akademijos, 2. 2600 Vilnius (Lithuania)): Population status of Pigeons and Doves in the eastern Baltic Region (Orig. en)

In: *Naturzale*. 16, 71-81

Abstract: An overview on numbers, distribution, population trends and habitat use of wild pigeons and doves in the Eastern Baltic region is provided. The total estimated population of Wood Pigeon in the region concerned is about 500.000 pairs, of Turtle Dove – more than 100.000 pairs, of Collared Dove – up to 60.000 pairs and of Stock Dove – about 20.000 pairs. The breeding population of Stock Dove is decreasing in the Eastern Baltic region, while populations of Wood Pigeon, Collared Dove and Turtle Dove are increasing or stable. There is still a lack of detailed data on the breeding ecology and migration pattern of pigeons and doves in the Eastern Baltic region.

Key Words: Wood Pigeon. Doves. Numbers. Distribution. Habitat. Eastern Baltic region.

Bankovics, Attila (Hungarian Natural History Museum. Baross u. 13. 1088 Budapest (Hungary)): The migration of Wood Pigeon (*Columba Palumbus*) and Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia Turtur*) in Hungary (Orig. en)

In: *Naturzale*. 17, 83-93

Abstract : The long-distance recoveries of Wood Pigeon and Turtle Dove documented in the Hungarian Bird Ringing Centre were analysed. Both species have twenty-nine recoveries. The results show that the Wood Pigeon migrate Southwest from Hungary in autumn. The recoveries came from Italy and southern France. The Turtle Dove autumn migration shows a different direction, to South, South-southeast and South-southwest. They migrate mainly to the South, crossing Greece, Southern Italy and Malta to the North African coast.

Key Words : Ringing. Migration. Wood Pigeon. Turtle Dove. Corsica. Sardinia.

Sabathé, François; Bellot, Frédéric; Bonneville, Remy (Fédération Départementale des Chasseurs du Gers. Route de Toulouse. F-32000 Auch): Suivi de l'hivernage des Palombes (*Columba palumbus*) dans une zone agricole du sud-ouest de la France (Wintering of Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*) in an agricultural area of Southwestern France) (Orig. fr)

In: *Naturzale*. 16, 95-102

Abstract: The results obtained in the tracking, which was carried out over more than 10 years on Wood Pigeon roosting places in the Southwest of France, are given. Methods used are also explained.

Key Words: Woodpigeon. Wintering. Southwestern France.

Bea, Antonio; Fernández, José María (Ekos Estudios Ambientales S.L. Plaza del Caddie, 1. 20160 Lasarte-Oria): Censo y distribución de los efectivos de Paloma Torcaz *Columba palumbus* invernantes en la Península Ibérica (Census and distribution of wintering Wood Pigeons *Columba palumbus* in Iberian Peninsula) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 16, 103-115

Abstract: Throughout the 1997-1998, 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 seasons, Wood Pigeon population censuses were carried out in the traditional Iberian wintering area, which comprises the southwestern quadrant of the Peninsula. The method applied was the direct counting of flocks in communal roosts. Quantitative data suggests that wintering population in the study area would be made up of about 2.5-3 million birds. The distribution of these contingents was not homogeneous within the study area, with a massive presence in Portugal and Extremadura-Toledo alternatively. The seemingly direct response shown by wintering Wood Pigeons toward the nutritional capacity of the "dehesa" suggests that the analysis of this factor could enable predictions on the spatial and seasonal distribution of the population.

Key Words: Wood Pigeon. *Columba palumbus*. Wintering. Census. Distribution. Iberian Peninsula. Roosts. Acorn crop.

Marracci, Massimo (ANUU Migratoristi. Via Baschenis, 11/c. 24122 Bergamo (Italia)): Les chasseurs Italiens et le Pigeon ramier: recherches et gestion (Italian hunters and the Wood Pigeon: studies and management) (Orig. fr)

In: *Naturzale*. 16, 117-121

Abstract: The Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*) is a very important migratory bird in the hunting world in Italy, especially in the central-northern part of the country where it is hunted with shotguns using traditional methods, using live bait. As a result of this, enthusiasts of this species in general, co-ordinated by specialised clubs, have started specific joint studies to draw up a census of the Woodpigeon populations that breed, winter and pass through Italy throughout the double post-nuptial migration period (end of September–beginning of November) and the pre-nuptial period (March–April). With the analysis of the samples and the visual censuses of the Wood Pigeon, carried out within the standard *Sky-Way Project*, we can state that its presence has greatly increased in Italy (especially over the last 12 years) during reproduction and wintering, and therefore their populations are in a good state like in most of the territories of the Western Palearctic.

Key Words: Wood Pigeon. Italy. Research. Management.

Laffly, Dominique (Société Environnement Territoire. Unité Mixte de Recherche 5. 603 du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. Av. du doyen Poplawski. F-64000 Pau): Utilisation de la photo-interprétation par satellite pour le calcul de la potentialité d'accueil de l'environnement pour le Pigeon Ramier dans une zone d'hivernage (Use of satellite photo-interpretation to calculate the potentiality of the environment for the Wood Pigeon in a wintering area) (Orig. fr)

In: *Naturzale*. 16, 123-132

Abstract: Satellite images and geographic information systems (GIS) give interesting results with ecological applications. Iberian wintering grounds for wood pigeons play an important role in species conservation. So, evolution of these sites may influence population trends. Tele interpretation allows us to describe soil occupancy, which can be related to habitat and food possibilities. Combining with field data, a good knowledge of geographic space can be achieved. Also, evolution of wintering grounds can be interpreted and relationships can be established with agricultural changes.

Key Words: Teleinterpretation. GIS. Wood Pigeon. Biotope. Landscape evolution.

Werno, Jérôme (Fédération Départementale des Chasseurs de la Gironde. Rue de Petit Barail. BP 231. F-33028 Bordeaux): Méthode préliminaire pour le suivi télémétrique du Pigeon Ramier (*Columba palumbus*) en hivernage (Preliminary method for telemetric control of wintering Wood Pigeons (*Columba palumbus*)) (Orig. fr)

In: *Naturzale*. 16, 133-140

Abstract: In order to study the movements of the Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*) while wintering, two birds have been equipped with a Biotrack-type radio localizer. After three weeks of monitoring in January 2000, the birds left their wintering areas. During this period they had remained in a territory that covered less than 14,000 hectares, and spent just over 60% of their time in non hunting grounds. These results have been compared with data on pigeon ringing carried out during wintering periods. All birds banded between December and January were trapped again in the same period near where they had been ringed (n=51). These preliminary results seem to indicate that the birds move very little and that they have staunch connections to their wintering emplacements.

Key Words: Telemetry tracking. Wood Pigeon. *Columba palumbus*. Wintering.

Luquet, Jacques (Maison Zédarria. F-64120 Orsanco): Evolution de la chasse aux pantières dans les Pyrénées (Evolution of hunting with nets in the Pyrenees) (Orig. fr)

In: *Naturzale*. 16, 141-146

Abstract: Under the title "evolution" we will be approach the different areas where hunting with nets has been practised, a small historical review of this hunting method as well as different aspects that we consider to be present-day but were of equal important more than a century ago. The practice of Wood Pigeon hunting in the Pyrenees using nets has been going on for a long time, and has be uninterrupted for at least 6 centuries. According to the areas – valleys, "districts" – it was carried out by townspeople to cover their community's needs or for religious or lay proprietors. It constituted a source of revenue, which was certainly not negligible for those who perceived the benefits, but it also depended on the migratory fluctuations and the evolutions of the outside world. In the course of this period, many installations disappeared and other new ones were established but few lasted because at present there are only 10 game preserves that keep up the tradition.

Key Words: Wood Pigeon. Hunting with nets. Pyrenees.

Rocha, Gregorio; Hidalgo, Sebastián J. (Univ. de Extremadura. Fac. de Veterinaria. Avda. de la Universidad s/n. 10071 Cáceres): Incidencia del uso de reclamos alimenticios sobre la Tórtola Común (Incidence of the use of food to lure Turtle Dove) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 17, 147-155

Abstract: The use of food as an attraction for turtle-doves and other species is a recent management practice, which is currently very extended throughout Spain, in spite of its prohibition in the legislation in force. In the present work, the authors analyse the use of such attractions and their effect on the Turtle Dove. In order to do so, a thorough monitoring of 113 hunting grounds disseminated all over Extremadura was carried out during 1999. The lures that were used the most were wheat and the sunflower seeds, as well as the mixtures of both and with other seeds (corn, vetch, millet, etc). The proportion of young birds shot down is much greater with respect to adult birds in areas in which such attractions are used, as opposed to where they are not, sunflower seeds being the kind of lure that produces the most negative effects for the species.

Key Words : Turtle Dove. *Streptopelia turtur*. Attraction. Hunting. Luring.

Hidalgo, Sebastián J.; Rocha, Gregorio (Univ. de Extremadura. Fac. de Veterinaria. Avda. de la Universidad s/n. 10071 Cáceres): Valoración de la presión cinegética sobre la Tórtola Común en Extremadura (Evaluation of hunting pressure on the Turtle Dove in Extremadura) (Orig. es)

In: *Naturzale*. 16, 157-171

Abstract: Considering the decline of the Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*), an assessment is made of the cynegetic pressure exercised on this species in Extremadura. An analysis is carried out of data from 113 hunting runs carried out all over Extremadura during the 1999 season. The results are compared with those from the 1996 and 1997 seasons. Such studies reveal an excessive cynegetic pressure since the number of hunted birds exceeds in up to 2.4 times the number of birds reproduced. There is a decreasing trend in standardised captures (from 8 samples in 1996 to less than 4 in 1999). There is also an analysis and a discussion on the proportion of young as opposed to adult birds, the incidence of hunting season dates, capture casework and types of hunters.

Key Words: Turtle Dove. *Streptopelia turtur*. Hunting pressure. Conservation. Status. Extremadura.

Lormee, Hervé; Boutin, Jean Marie; Aubineau, Jacky (Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage. Station de Chize. F-79360 Vihiers en Bois); **Arnauduc, Jean Pierre** (Union Nationale des Fédérations Départementales de Chasseurs. 48 rue d'Alesia. F-75014 Paris): Enquete nationale sur les tableaux de chasse à tir en France, saison 1998-1999: Le Pigeon Ramier (*Columba palumbus*) (National study on the Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*) shooting bag in France: 1998-1999 season) (Orig. fr)

In: *Naturzale*. 16, 173-186

Abstract: In France, 5,169,000 (+ 75,000) wood pigeons were captured in 1998-99. With 18.4% of the total hunting bag, the Wood Pigeon became the most hunted species in our territory in 1998-99. Half of the catches were carried out in October - November, and most of them took place in the Western half of the country since the Aquitaine accounts for 14% of the national total. 40% of the hunters, most of whom were non-specialised, hunted at least one pigeon during the season. The results of this survey are described at a regional scale and then compared to those of the survey carried out in 1983-84. The evolution of the bag in the different regions is also discussed in view of the most recent knowledge on the dynamics of the various populations of wood pigeons that visit the national territory.

Key Words: Wood Pigeon. France. Birds shot. Distribution. Chronology. Evolution.

Cordeiro, Mario; Tavares, Jorge; Santos, Emidio (Direcção Geral de Florestas. C/ Joao Crisóstomo, 26. 1050 Lisboa (Portugal)): Suivi de la reproduction des Tourterelles des Bois au Portugal Continental (Tracking of the reproduction of Turtle Dove in Portugal) (Orig. fr)

In: *Naturzale*. 16, 187-189

Abstract: In 1995 a methodological project was started with the objective of carrying out the standard tracking of the Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*) reproductive period in Portugal. The results presented correspond to a 6-year annual series, which represents the national total. The method used followed "transects" marked in the best nesting areas for this species. Preliminary conclusions show an initial descent in the reproduction rate and a significant recovery over the last few years. Out of the whole reproductive period, June is the month that presents the highest reproduction rate.

Key Words: Turtle Dove. Breeding. Portugal.