BIRDS OF TURKEY
TÜRKİYE KUŞLARI

I
Erçek Gölü
Birds of Turkey is a series which provides conservationists, birdwatchers and ornithologists with documents on bird areas of Turkey. This is accomplished by combining the records of many birdwatchers. Several documents will be published every year and each issue will cover one area. If enough new records are available, improved lists will be prepared even on areas on already published lists. The editorial board (address below) would be grateful to receive any bird records from Turkey.

Türkiye kuşları doğa korumacılara, kuş gözlemcilerine ve ornitologlara (kuşbilimciler) Türkiye'deki önemli yöreler üzerine bilgi veren bir yayın dizisidir. Bu dizi, birçok gözlemcinin kayıtlarının birleştirilmesiyle oluşmaktadır. Her yıl, her biri belirli bir yöreyi kapsayan birkaç kitapçık yayılacaktır. Daha önce yayınlanmış olsa bile, bazı yöreler yeni bilgilerin ışığında elden geçirilerek yeniden başlakacaktır. Yayın kurulu (adresi aşağıda) kuşlarla ilgili Türkiye'de kaydedilmiş her türlü bilgiyi sevinerek kabul edecektir.

edited by
Reşit Akçakaya (İstanbul, TR) Vincent van den Berk (Kerk-Avezaath, NL)
Can Bilgin (Ankara, TR) Max Kasparek (Landshut, FRG)
Aygün Kılıç (Ankara, TR) Nikolaus Koch (Malsch, FRG)
Alan Vittery (London, GB)

in co-operation with the
Ornithological Society of the Middle East

Correspondence: Max Kasparek, Bettinaweg 7, D-8300 Landshut
Orders: Dr. N. Koch, Waldprechtsstr. 67, D-7502 Malsch
Payment: Postscheckkonto Karlsruhe 21 44 57 – 758

Price of this copy £ 1.00 (or DM 4,-) including postage and mailing
published in Heidelberg in october 1983
The birds of lake Erçek
- a preliminary species list -

Erçek Gölü'nün kusları
- geçici bir tür listesi -

compiled by Max Kasparek and Joost van der Ven

1. Geographic position
The Erçek Gölü is situated in the Van Gölü area in Eastern Anatolia. The closest distances to the Van Gölü are 15 km in NW and 24 km in SW. The village Erçek can be reached by road from Van to Öşalp. Co-ordinates of the lake: 38°39' N, 43°33' E.

2. Altitude
1890 m NN. The altitude (1803 m) given by TUNCEL (1975) is wrong. Thus Lake Erçek is situated 170 higher than Lake Van.

3. Surface and depth of the lake
98 km². The east side of the lake is shallow and the west side is steep. Maximum depth is 30 m.

4. General description of the area
The Erçek Gölü was formed in a volcanic depression which was closed by a lava stream in the Northeast. The one kilometre wide lava stream splits up from the Karasu (Marmit) valley in the north of the Erçek Gölü. Karasu stream originates in the east, in Iran, and pours into the Van Gölü. The lake itself is fed by the Memedik stream which pours into the east side. There are muddy meadows with a bit of reed growing on them. The west of the Erçek Gölü is bordered by the slopes of Çomaklıbaba dağı (2650 m). In the south and southeast of the Erçek Gölü the Irgat dağı is situated with an altitude of 2750 m. Other mountains in the nearer surrounding of the lake have altitudes of 2510 and 1810 m NN.

3 km SW of lake Erçek the small Çenge Gölü is situated. It is of some ornithological importance, too. Some observers did not treat the Çenge Gölü separately from the Erçek Gölü in their notes.

South of the road from Van to Erçek, close to Zimzim dağı, on which the historical Toprakkale is built, there is another small wetland,
the Bostancı Gölü. There are several activities in this area such as transportation of gravel and close to the lake there is a sewage disposal.

Another small wetland, the Ermanız Gölü, is situated south of the Erçek Gölü, at the Irgat mountain. Its altitude is about 2300 m.

There is a fourth small wetland in the area: The Keşş Gölü which is an artificial lake built in approximately 730 B.C. and was part of the Urartu irrigation system that supplied the areas surrounding Van. This lake is rich in vegetation. It must be reached from the south.

Although the birdlist only refers to Erçek Gölü, some records from these smaller wetlands and from the surrounding mountains are also included. But in these cases the locality is given.

5. Water quality

The water of the Erçek Gölü has an electrolyte content of 21 g/l which is thus a bit lower than in the nearby Van Gölü (24 g/l). The pH is rather high and the same as in the Van Gölü (9.9). The frequencies of the main ions are given according to IRION (1973) in mg/l:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ion</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Na⁺</td>
<td>7510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cl⁻</td>
<td>4480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO₄²⁻</td>
<td>2220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCO₃⁻</td>
<td>2790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO₃⁻</td>
<td>3510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mg²⁺</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ca²⁺</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K⁺</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is a striking abundance of HCO₃⁻ and CO₃⁻ which is characteristic for the Anatolian lakes which have an depth of more than 20 m.

6. Bird watching activity

Since 1966 the area was regularly visited by birdwatchers. They usually stayed no longer than a few hours. Maximum birdwatching activity took place in May and in August/September.


7. Ornithological importance of the area

Up to now 177 species have been recorded at the Erçek Gölü, although there have been no systematic regular observations there and the list is only a combination of the records of many birdwatchers. Therefore it appears that an increased number of regular visits result in a higher number of recorded species. Nevertheless the above mentioned figure clearly points out the ornithological importance of the Erçek Gölü for Eastern Anatolia.

The high altitude of the lakes promotes the breeding of many montaneous birds (especially passerines) directly at or close to the lake. There is apparently an interchange of the populations of ducks and gulls at Erçek Gölü with those of the neighbouring Van Gölü.

The population size of the Ruddy Shelduck and the Shelduck is more than 100 pairs and about 50 pairs, respectively. Thousands of both species concentrate on the lake during the post-breeding period. In 1982
there is a breeding record for two pairs of the Red-breasted Goose. There is no reasonable explanation for it, as the breeding grounds of this species are thousands of kilometres far away and it is also unlikely that these are escaped birds. The lake is a very important resting place for the Little Grebe (up to 1,000) and for the Black-necked Grebe (up to 3,000) in the autumn. The Black-necked Grebe is also a breeding bird and the Red-necked Grebe seems to breed in some smaller wetlands around the Erçek Gölü. Flamingos can be seen more or less regularly as they seem to be part of the population at Urmia lake in Iran. The number of ducks usually do not exceed several thousand. Maximum counts are 2,000 for the Teal, 3,000 for the Mallard and 800 for the Shoveler. The Erçek lake is also an important breeding ground for waders and terns. There are populations of Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, Avocet, Stone Curlew, Lapwing, Redshank and Common Tern. In August/September up to 2,000 Avocets have been counted. The Marsh Harrier breeds in low numbers. There might be a small breeding population of the Great Bustard, but this has to be confirmed. Some Crane pairs seem to breed here. 8 species of larks and 5 (6?) species of Wheatears breed around the lake. Among the rarer birds of the Erçek Gölü, there is e.g. the Caspian Plover, the Terek Sandpiper, the Red-nacked Phalarope (up to 900), the Desert Wheatear and the Green Warbler.

8. Nature Conservation

The specific conservation problems are not understood yet. But it is clear that the egg-collecting and hunting of the villagers are important factors. The egg-collecting influences the populations of the Shelduck, the Ruddy Shelduck, the Redshank and the Lapwing.

9. Thanks

Our warmest thanks to Mr. M. van den Berg (Amsterdam, NL), Mr. L. Dijksen (Texel, NL), Dr. G. Groh (Neustadt, FRG), Dr. N. Koch (Malsch, FRG), Dr. H. Kumerloewe (München, FRG), Mr. D. Parr (Malvern, GB), Mr. R. Porter (Sandy, GB), Mr. M. Renkhoff (Rhede, FRG) and Mr. R. Völker (Hamburg, FRG) who submitted us the records of their visits at the Erçek Gölü. Our thanks are also due to Mr. R. Völker for the photographs, Mr. S. Barış for the vignette of the Ruddy Shelduck and Mr. V. Kasa-Djukic for the design of the front-cover.
10. Abbreviations

BD = v.d. Berg & Damhuis  
Be = Beaman  
BK = Braun & Kasparek  
De = Dellmuth  
DH = Dobbs & Hodgson  
DK = Dijksen & Koning  
Ga = Gallner  
Gr = Groh  
Ha = Harrison  
HJ = Holom & Jannieson  
HWF = Harbard, Walsh & Fisher  
Ku = Kumerloewe  
KS = Koch & Siering  
PG = Parr & Goriup  
PHM = Porter, Holom & Marr  
TJ = Thomsen & Jacobsen  
Re = Renkoff  
Ro = Rowntree  
Ve = v.d. Ven  
VG = v.d. Ven & Gheyselinck  
VS = Völker & Schlorf  
Vi = Vielliard

++ = breeding has been confirmed  
= Ürediği kanıtlanmıştır

G. = göl (lake)
11. Species list

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Küçük Batağan

This species seems to be a breeding bird in some pairs. Also at Cenge G. 2 singing♂ on 28.5.69 (PHM). In the post-breeding period concentrations up to about 1,000 birds (27.9.79 VG). Smaller concentrations at Keşiş G.: 100 on 22.9.81 (Ve) and 150 on 29.9.80 (VG). One winter record: One on 4.12.69 (DK).

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus* Bahri

Several adult and immature birds on 5.8.82 (Re) and 31 on 16.8.67 (Vi).

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena* Kızılboyunlu Batağan

This species seems to breed at the smaller wetlands around Erçek G.: 4 at Cenge G. from 25. to 29.5.69 (PHM), 6-8 "breeding pairs" at Ermanız G. on 23.6.68 (Ku) and 6 at "marshes near Erçek" on 20.5.66 (HJ). Several adults and immatures on Erçek G. on 5.8.82 (Re).

**Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus* Külaklı Batağan

One bird was seen at Bostancı G. on 4.6.72 (BR 1970-73).

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis* Karaboyunlu Batağan

During the breeding season concentrations up to several hundreds: For example HJ noted "many hundreds" on 20./21.5.66, Ku 60 - 80 on 14.6.68, PHM 140 on 27.5.69 and VS 200 - 300 on 2.7.82. Ku assumes 50 - 70 breeding pairs, but there might be perhaps more. From August to October the Erçek G. and the surrounding smaller wetlands are very important resting areas which regularly provide several hundreds, sometimes several thousands. For example 1300 - 1500 on 25.7.82 (BD), at least 570, probably about 1,000, on 7.8.74 (HMF), 1250 at Erçek G. and 300 at Cenge G. on 16.8.67 (Vi), 3,000 at Erçek G. and again 300 at Cenge G. on 16.9.67 (Vi), about 3,000 on 27.9.79 (VG) and 700 on 10.10.80 (VG).

**Pygmy Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* Kilçük Karabatak

3 on 27.9.79 (VG) and 60 on 5.8.82 (Re).

**White Pelican** *Pelecanus onotrotalus* Ak Pelikan - Ak Kutan

Two records (19 on 31.5.71, Gr, and 26 on 21.5.66, HJ) refer to birds flying over the lake. On 27.5.69 200 birds, including one albino, were counted by PHM.

**Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus* Küçük Balaban

One male on 27.5.69 (PHM).
Little Egret  
*Egretta garzetta*  
*Küçük Beyaz Balıkçıl*  
25 on 5.8.82 (Re).

Great Egret  
*Egretta alba*  
*Beyaz Balıkçıl*  
4 on 5.8.82 (Re).

Grey Heron  
*Ardea cinerea*  
*Gri Balıkçıl*  
One record from May (4 on 29.5.69 PHM) and eight records from August to October. Maximum number 24 on 16.9.67 (Vi).

Purple Heron  
*Ardea purpurea*  
*İrguvanı Balıkçıl*  
One on 28.5.68 (Ku).

++ White Stork  
*Ciconia ciconia*  
*Leylek*  
For 1966 and 1968, respectively, HT and Ku mention one nest in the village Erçek. At least since 1979 there seem to be more than one (Ve, VG, PG). For 1969 one nest also recorded for the village Kargündüz (PHM).

Glossy Ibis  
*Plegadis falcinellus*  
*Celtikçi*  
25 on 30.6.68 (Ku). 16 at Bostancı G. on 16.8.67 (Vi).

Spoonbill  
*Platalea leucordia*  
*Kaşıkçı*  
Two on 28.6.68 (Ku).

Flamingo  
*Phoenicopterus ruber*  
*Flamingo*  
More or less regular resting bird from August to October. Only one spring record.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14.4.81</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>PG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.8.71</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>DH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.8.67</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>Vi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.8.73</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>BR 1970-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.8.80</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>BK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.9.67</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>Vi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 900 birds in August 1980 included 50 first-year birds which were not full-grown, but able to fly. Among the 26 birds in September 1979 3 juvenile birds were recorded. Probably the birds belong to the breeding population of Lake Urmia in Iran which is less than 200 km away from Erçek.

White-fronted Goose  
*Anser albifrons*  
*Sakarca Kazlı*  
32 on 12.10.80 (VG) and 117 on 4.12.69 (DK).

Greylag  
*Anser anser*  
*Bozkaz*  
During the breeding season 6 on 20. and 3 on 21.5.66 (HT). In August 55 on 5.8.82 (Re) and one on 16.8.67 (Vi). 50 on 16.9.67 (Vi) and 7 on 4.12.69 (DK). On Keşiş G. 138 on 11.10.80 (VG).
++ Red-breasted Goose  Branta ruficollis  Kirmizi Gerdanlı Kaz

On 5.8.82 Re saw a group of 14 adults with 8 pulli in the SW-corner of Erçek G.. The flight feathers of juveniles started growing and thus they were not yet able to fly. Four adults were in closer contact to the pulli, thus it seemed that they were two families.

This breeding record cannot be explained yet. The breeding grounds of the Red-breasted Goose are in the North of the Soviet Union. The winter distribution ranges from the Caspian Sea to Irak, only a few records come from Eastern Anatolia. In the European winter quarters there is a marked increase in the number of birds during the last decades (cf. STERBEITZ & SZILJ, Vogelwarte 24, 1968: 266 - 277).

It seems unlikely that a breeding area of this striking and easily identifiable species in the Middle East has been overlooked until now. So future observations will show, how to interpret the above mentioned breeding record.

++ Ruddy Shelduck  Tadorna ferruginea  Angat

Common breeding bird in perhaps more than 100 pairs. Breeding was proved by Ku on 1.6.68 and 28.6.68. On 23.6.68 he saw also one bird with 9 young at Ermaniz G.. Maximum during the breeding season is 1,000 - 1,500 on 14.6.68 and about 2,000 on 28.6.68 (Ku). Large flocks also in the post-breeding period with maximum counts of at least 1,000 on 16.8.67 (VI), 2,500 on 20.9.81 (Ve) and 1,000 on 12.10.80 (VG).

++ Shelduck  Tadorna tadorna  Suna - Alakaz

Several breeding records from 1967, 1968, 1979 and 1980. The size of the breeding population seems to be around 50 pairs i.e. lower than that of the Ruddy Shelduck. Maximum 1,500 birds on 20. and 21.9.81 (Ve) and about 2,500 on 16.9.67 (Vi).

Gadwall  Anas strepera  Boz Ordek

One pair on 21.5.66 (HJ) and 30 on 16.9.67 (Vi). VG saw 150 at Keşiş G. on 11.10.80 (VG).

Teal  Anas crecca  Çamurcun

One record from spring (15 on 14.4.81 PG), several from August to October (Maximum 1,000 on 27.9.79 VG and 2,000 on 12.10.80 VG) and one from December (425 on 4.12.69 DK).
++ Mallard  Anas platyrhynchos  Yeşilbaş

Breeding bird in several pairs. Ku saw young ones on 14.6.68 and found two nests with 5 and 8 eggs, respectively, on 28.6.68. Maximum counts 1748 on 4.12.69 (DK) and 3,000 on 12.10.80 (VG).

Pintail  Anas acuta  Kıkıruşuk

30 on 14.4.81 (PG) and 6 - 10 on 14.6.68 (Ku). 400 at Keşiş G. on 11.10.80 (VG).

Garganey  Anas querquedula  Çıtırıkçı

Two males on 27./28.5.69 (PHM), 5 on 7.8.74 (HMF), about 100 on 16.9.67 (Vi). On 16.8.67 more than 30 had been seen at Erçek G. and 65 at Bostancı G. (Vi).

Shoveler  Anas clypeata  Kepeçel - Kasıklıçın

Several records during the breeding season might indicate breeding of some pairs. In spring at least 50 on 14.4.81 (PG), in autumn for example 800 on 16.9.67 (Vi) and 660 on 4.12.69 (DK).

Marbled Teal  Marmorecca anguillostris  Dar Gagali Ördek

About 16 on 5.8.82 (Re).

Pochard  Aythya ferina  Elmabas

Perhaps a breeding bird at the Erçek G. and the surrounding smaller wetlands (e.g. 20 at Bostancı G. on 18./20.5.66, HJ, and 10 at Çenge G. on 27.5.69, PHM). Only smaller numbers, up to 10, during the post-breeding period.

Ferruginous Duck  Aythya nyroca  Pasbaş

4 on 20.9.81 (Ve). One pair at Çenge G. on 27.5.69 (PHM) might indicate breeding.

Tufted Duck  Aythya fuligula  Tepeli Patka

One on 28.5.68 (Ku) and 10 on 4.12.69 (DK).

++ Black Kite  Milvus migrans  Çaylak

Breeding in some pairs in the surrounding of the lake. Breeding was confirmed on 27.5.69 by one bird near the village Karagündüz carrying nesting material (PHM).

Red Kite  Milvus milvus  Kızıl Çaylak

Ro recorded two immature birds between Van and Erçek on 9.6.75.

Egyptian Vulture  Neophron percnopterus  Mısır Akbabası

Some records between April and August indicate breeding in the surroundings.

Griffon Vulture  Gyps fulvus  Kızıl Akbaba

2 on 27.5.69 (PHM).
Black Vulture   *Aegypius monachus*   Kara Akbaba
One on 16.8.67 (VI), one more recorded 1974 - 75 (BR 1974/75).

Short-toed Eagle   *Circaetus gallicus*   Yılan Kartalı
One on 1.10.74 (Be).

**+** Marsh Harrier   *Circus aeroginosus*   Saz Deliçesi
Breeding at Erçek G., Bostancı G. and at Çenge G.: Breeding was
proved for Çenge G. where PHM saw two pairs carrying nesting
material on 27./28.5.69.

Hen Harrier   *Circus cyaneus*   Gök Delicē
One ♀ on 20. and 21.9.81 (Ve). Two ♂ and four ♀ at Keşiş G. on
22.9.81 (Ve).

Buzzard   *Buteo buteo*   Şahin
Several records from May to October indicate breeding in the
surrounding.

Long-legged Buzzard   *Buteo rufinus*   Kızıl Şahin
More common than the Buzzard, especially during September and
October.

Spotted Eagle   *Aquila clanga*   Böyük Bağırgan Kartalı
Three on 12.10.80 (VG).

Golden Eagle   *Aquila chrysaetos*   Altın Kartal
Four on 14.4.81 (PG), 1 adult and one immature on 27.5.69 (PHM), 1 on
1.6.68 (Ku) and one immature on 25.7.82 (ED).

Tawny Eagle   *Aquila rapax*   Boyacık Kartalı
One on 12.10.80 (VG).

Booted Eagle   *Hieraetus pennatus*   Kılçık Kartalı
One near Erçek on 27.9.79 (VG), 2 on 10. and 5 on 12.10.80 (VG). One
bird was seen at Keşiş G. on 11.10.80 (VG).

Lesser Kestrel   *Falco naumanni*   Kılçık Kerkenez
Seems to be a breeding bird in several pairs. Maximum 26 on 29.9.80 (VG).

Kestrel   *Falco tinnunculus*   Kerkenez
Seems to be a bit more common than the lesser Kestrel. One winter
record: One on 4.12.69 (DK).

Hobby   *Falco subbuteo*   Delice Doğan
Records from May and June indicate breeding. Three records from
September and October.

Lanner   *Falco biarmicus*   Büyükı Doğan
Ve watched two birds at Keşiş G. on 22.9.81.
**Sakar**  _Falco cherrug_  _Uludoğan_

One on 9.6.75 (Ro) and on 25.7.82 (HD), respectively. One more was seen between Van and Erçek on 23.8.75 (ER 1974/75).

**Chuckar**  _Alectoris chukar_  _Keklik_

Recorded by KS on 11.6.81.

**Quail**  _Coturnix coturnix_  _Baldırcaın_

Not a rare breeding bird according to several records from May to August. Ku noted Quails up to 2300 m.

**Water Rail**  _Rallus aquaticus_  _Su Kılavuzu_

Two on 31.5.71 (Gr).

**Moorhen**  _Gallinula chloropus_  _Su Tavuğu_

One on Bostancı G. on 4.6.72 (ER 1970-73) and one at Erçek G. on 21.9.81 (Ve).

++ **Coot**  _Fulica atra_  _Sakarmelké_

Breeding in several pairs at the Erçek G., Ermanız G., Çenge G. and Bostancı G. Breeding was proved at Çenge G. on 27./28.5.69 (three pairs with young ones, PHM) and at Bostancı G. on 28.6.68 (several adults with young, Ku). Small concentrations in autumn, for example 250 on 12.10.80 (VG) or 200 at Keşiş G. on 11.10.81 and 22.9.81, respectively (Ve).

**Crane**  _Grus grus_  _Tuna_

Breeding in some pairs at Erçek G., Çenge G. and Bostancı G. (still breeding at Bostancı G.?). Population size about 5 pairs. Before the start of breeding season 26 birds on 14.4.81 (PG). Maximum number 82 on 4.12.69 (DK).

**Great Bustard**  _Otis tarda_  _Toy_

5 on 14.6.68 (Ku), 8 on 29.9., 21 on 10.10. and 2 on 12.10.80 (VG).

According to the information of local hunters in 1981 a small breeding population exists (PG).

++ **Oystercatcher**  _Haematopus ostralegus_  _Poyraz Kusu_

Some pairs breed at Erçek G.. It was proved by PHM who found a nest on 29.5.69. Ku recorded up to 17 birds during the breeding season (14.6.68).

**Black-winged Stilt**  _Himantopus himantopus_  _Uzurbacak_

Small breeding population whose size was estimated by HU to 8 - 10 pairs. Maximum 50 on 2./3.7.82 (VS), about 100 on 25.7.82 (HD) and 60 on 16.8.67 (Vi).
Avocet  Recurvirostra avosetta  Kılıçgaga

Seems to breed in some pairs. In some years the number of birds is rather low (e.g. only 6 on 27.5.69, PHM), but in other years this number can rise up to e.g. 140 on 21.6.66 (HJ). The Erçek G. is a very important resting place during autumn and provides regularly some hundred, sometimes some thousand birds. Some examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16.8.67</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>(Vi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.8.80</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>(BK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.9.67</td>
<td>1,500-2,000</td>
<td>(Vi)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stone Curlew  Burhinus oedicnemus  Kocagöz

Breeding in some pairs at the Erçek G. and at the Bostancı G..

Pratincole  Glareola pratincola  Bataklık Kırlangıcı

One on 20.5.66 (HJ).

++ Little Ringed Plover  Charadrius dubius  Kılçık Halkalı Yağmurcuş

Breeding was ascertained on 27./28.5.69, when one pullus was seen (PHM). For 1966 HJ mention at least 15 breeding pairs, but in 1968 not more than two pairs (Ku).
Ringed Plover  Charadrius hiaticula  Bływük Halkalı Yağmurcuń
On 20. and 21.5.66 3 and 2 birds, respectively (HJ). Five records from August to October in low numbers.

Kentish Plover  Charadrius alexandrinus  Akgerdan Yağmurcuń
HJ mention 3 - 4 pairs on 21.5.66. This number of breeding pairs is confirmed by records from other years.

Greater Sandplover  Charadrius leschnaultii  Bływük Yağmurcuń
One on 21.5.66 (HJ).

Caspian Plover  Charadrius asiaticus  Hazar Yağmurcuń
One on 5.9.71 (Ha).

Grey Plover  Pluvialis squatarola  Gümüş Yağmurcuń
One on 20. 5.66 (HJ).

++  Lapwing  Vanellus vanellus  Kızılkırmızı Yağmurcuń
Breeding was proved in 1968: On 28.6. Ku saw eggs and several young ones. The population size is about 50 pairs. Small flocks, usually comprising groups of several dozens, until December. On 4.12.69 still 411 birds (DK).

Little Stint  Calidris minutula  Kılıçük Kumkuşu
One spring and 5 autumn records:
- 20./21.5.66  30-40  (HJ)  27. 9.79  50  (VG)
- 16.8.67  6  (Vi)  29. 9.80  150  (VG)
- 7.8.74  8  (HWF)  10.10.80  40  (VG)

Temminck's Stint  Calidris temminckii

Dunlin  Calidris alpina  Kumkuşu
One on 16.9.67 (Vi), 60 on 20.9.81 (Ve) and 100 on 21.9.81 (Ve).

Ruff  Philomachus pugnax  Dövüşken Kuş
Two records from May (40 on 21.5.66, HJ, and about 230 between Van and Erçek on 8.5.70, De) and 12 records between August and October. Maximum count 250 - 300 birds on 19.8.73 (BR 1970-73).

Snipe  Gallinago gallinago  Bekasin - Su Çulluğu
3 on 7.8.74 (HWF), 8 on 29.9.80 (VG) and one on 4.12.81 (DK).

Black-tailed Godwit  Limosa limosa  Bataklık Çulluğu
100 on 14.4.81 (PG) and one on 20.9.81 (Ve).

Curlew  Numenius arquata  Kervan Çulluğu
Seven records from August to October include up to 8 birds (16.8.67 Vi).
Spotted Redshank _Tringa erythropus_ Benekli Kızılbaşacak
One on 27.9.79 (VG) and 4 on 3.10.81 (Ve).

++ Redshank _Tringa totanus_ Kızılbaşacak
The population size is difficult to assess, but seems to be at least 50 pairs. Ku found two nests on 28.6.68, each of them contained 3 eggs. In July for example about 400 birds on 2./3.7.82 (VS). In August Vi counted 500 at the Erçek G. plus 42 at the Bostancı G. plus 100 at the Çenge G. on 16.8.67. In October for example 250 on 11.10.80 at the Kestring G. (VG).

Marsh Sandpiper _Tringa stagnatilis_ Bataklık Dündürüm
One on 16.8.67 (Vi) and 3 on 27.9.79 (VG).

Greenshank _Tringa nebularia_ Yeşilbaşacak
Two records from May and six from August and September.

Green Sandpiper _Tringa ochropus_ Yeşil Dündürüm
14 records from April to October.

Wood Sandpiper _Tringa glareola_ Orman Dündürüm
20 on 20./21.5.66 (HJ), 40 (plus 20 at Bostancı and 2 at Çenge G.) on 16.8.67 (Vi) and 12 at Bostancı G. on 16.9.67 (Vi).

Terek Sandpiper _Xenus cinereus_
7 on 20. and 2 on 21.5.66 (HJ), 3 on 5.9.71 (Ha). On 18.5.75 one was recorded in the "Van - Erçek - area" ( TJ).

Common Sandpiper _Actitis hypoleuca_ Dere Dündürüm
Ku recorded two at the Memedik stream between Erçek and Özalp on 1.6.68 and assumes breeding. This is also indicated by other records from the breeding season. Maximum 30 birds on 16.8.67 (Vi) and about 50 on 25.7.82 (BD).

Turnstone _Arenaria interpres_ Taşçeviren
One on 31.8.80 (BK).

Red-necked Phalarope _Phalaropus lobatus_ Deniz Dündürüm
900 on 20. and 21.5.66 (HJ).

Little Gull _Larus minutus_ Kuçuk Martı
One immature on 20./21.5.66 (HJ).

Black-headed Gull _Larus ridibundus_ Karabağ Martı
Although a common visitor during the breeding season (e.g. 300 - 400 on 14. and 28.6.68, Ku), breeding seems not to take place. In August and September up to about 1,000 birds (16.9.67, Vi, and 29.9.80, VG).
Slender-billed Gull  *Larus genei*  Ğiceqagaği Marti

One on 20. and 5 on 21.5.66 (HJ), 10 on 2.7.82 (VS). Small numbers from the beginning of August to the beginning of October according to BR 1970-73 and 1974-75.

Common Gull  *Larus canus*

Some on 5.8.82 (Re), about 30 on 27.9.79 (VG) and 40 on 29.9.80 (VG).

Lesser Black-backed Gull  *Larus fuscus*  Karasırtlı Marti

Several records from September and October, sometimes some hundreds (Ve, VG).

Herring Gull  *Larus argentatus*  Gümüş Martı - Büyük Martı

Regular summer visitor (e.g. 200 - 300 on 28.6.68, Ku), perhaps coming from the colony at the Van Gölü. In August e.g. 400 (most of them adults) on 16.8.67 (Vi), in September e.g. 300 on 5.9.71 (Ha).

Gull-billed Tern  *Gelochelidon nilotica*  Gilen Sumru

Two on 14.4.81 (PG), 2 on 14.6.68 (Ku) and 2 adult and one immature on 16.8.67 (Vi). On 16.8.67 also two adults and one immature at the Bostancı G. (Vi).

Caspian Tern  *Sternula caspia*  Haçar Denizi Martısı

15 - 20 birds on 5.8.82 (Re).

Common Tern  *Sterna hirundo*  Sumru

Ku estimated 13 - 16 pairs at the east and northeast side of lake Erçek in 1968. Beside this, only four more records (Juli, August).

Little Tern  *Sterna albifrons*  Kılıçk Tern

Seen by KS on 11.6.81. 15 - 20 birds on 5.8.82 (Re).

Black Tern  *Chlidonias niger*  Kara Sumru

Some on 16.8.67 (Vi). 8 in the "Van - Erçek area" on 18.5.75 (TJ).

White-winged Tern  *Chlidonias leucopeterus*  Akkanatlı Sumru

Several records from May to August usually comprise 2 - 6 birds. In spring 100 on 14.4.81 (PG), in autumn 33 on 3.10.81 (Ve) and 28 on 12.10.80 (VG).

Black-bellied Sandgrouse  *Pterocles orientalis*  Bağırlık

Several records from May to August usually comprise 2 - 6 birds. In spring 100 on 14.4.81 (PG), in autumn 33 on 3.10.81 (Ve) and 28 on 12.10.80 (VG).

Pigeon  *Columba livia*  Güvercin

Recorded during the breeding season.

Turtle Dove  *Streptopelia turtur*  Üyeık

Seen by HJ on 20./21.5.66. Six on 27./28.5.69 (PHM) and about 5 on 25.7.82 (ED).
Cuckoo _Cuculus canorus_ **Guguk**  
Singing males were recorded at Erçek G., at the Bostancı G. and at the slopes south of the Erçek G. up to 2300 m in May and June.

**Little Owl _Athene noctua_ **Kukumay  
Some can be seen regularly between April and October.

**Nightjar _Caprimulgus europaeus_ **Cobanaldatan  
Vi found a dead Nightjar on the road near Erçek on 16.8.67.

**Swift _Apus apus_ **Karasağan  
Not rare summer visitor, probably from breeding places in the surrounding mountains.

**Alpine Swift _Apus melba_ **Akkarınlı Sahan  
Records from May, June and August.

**++** **Bee-eater _Merops apiaster_ **Aru Kusu  
Ro found a colony of this species (the holes were occupied by the Rock Sparrow). Re saw a small colony between Van and Erçek. Latest record 2 on 10.10.80 (VG).

**Roller _Coracias garrulus_ **Gökdüzün  
Several records especially from the way from Van to Erçek, where BD counted 25 on 25.7.82. In the nearer surrounding of the Erçek G. breeding bird in 2 - 3 pairs.

**++** **Hoopoe _Upupa epops_ **İbibik - Hilhüt  
PHM saw two birds carrying food on 28.5.69. Records up to 2300 m.

**Syrian Woodpecker _Dendrocopus syriacus_ **Suriye Ağaçkakan  
Ku saw one flying Syrian Woodpecker at the slopes south of the Erçek G. on 23.6.68.

**Calandra Lark _Melanocorypha calandra_ **Boğmaklı Toygar  
Common breeding bird.

**++** **Bimaculated Lark _Melanocorypha bimaculata_ **Kıłók Boğmaklı Toygar  
Ku found two nests on 14.6.68, each containing 4 eggs. Common breeding species.

**Short-toed Lark _Calandrella brachydactyla_ **Bozkır Toygar  
Common from April to October.

**Lesser Short-toed Lark _Calandrella rufescens_ **Kıłók Bozkır Toygar  
Very common breeding species.

**Crested Lark _Galerida cristata_ **Tepeli Toygar  
Recorded on 11.4.81 (PG), 25.7.82 (BD) and on 5.8.82 (Re).
Woodlark *Lullula arborea* (Orman Toýgar)
Some singing males on 5.8.82 (Re).

++ Slylark *Alauda arvensis* (Tarla Kûşu)
Common breeding species. Ku found three nests on 23.6.68.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris* (Kulakî Toýgar)
Rare breeding bird. One male was collected at 1900 m near the Erçek G. on 28.6.68. More common at 2300 m on 23.6.68 (Ku).

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* (Kum Kûr-langçû)
Some records in May, June and August.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica* (Kûr-langçû)
Common from April to September.

House Martin *Delichon urbica* (Pencere Kûr-langçû)
About 10 on 20.5.66 (HJ) and about the same number on 27.5.69 (PJM).

++ Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* (Kûr Incîr Kûşu)
Common breeding bird at the rocky slopes around the Erçek G.. Ku found a nest with 4 eggs on 1.6.68.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* (Sarî Kuyruksallayan)

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* (Dağ Kuyruksallayan)
Recorded between 21.9. and 3.10.81 (Ve).

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba* (Ak Kuyruksallayan)
Some records from April, June, August and September.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* (Çit Kûşu)
One on 14.4.81 (PG).

Robin *Erithacus rubecula* (Nar Bitlîlî)
One on 5.8.82 (Re).

++ Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* (Akkaşî Taşkûsu - Çayîr Taşkûsu)
Not rare breeding bird in the whole area, for example also at Ermanîz G., where Ku watched 4 - 7 birds on 23.6.68. Feeding adults were seen on 23.6.68 near Erçek (Ku).

++ Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* (Taş Kûşu)
Distribution similar to the Whinchat, feeding birds were seen on 23.6.68 (Ku) and on 5.8.82 (Re).
Wheatear Oenanthe oenanthe Kuyrukakan

Common breeding bird up to 2900 m.

Black-eared Wheatear Oenanthe hispanica Karakulakli Kuyrukakan

Two pairs at the Çenge G. on 28.5.69 (PHM), one male at the Erçek G. on 27.5.69 (PHM) and 4 there on 29.9.80 (VG).

Desert Wheatear Oenanthe deserti Çöl Kuyrukakan

One was seen at 2200 m at Kuh dağın (south of the Erçek G.) on 17.8.73 (Ga).

Isabelline Wheatear Oenanthe isabellina Boz Kuyrukakan

Common up to 2300 m.

Finsch's Wheatear Oenanthe finschii Karabaslı Kuyrukakan

Breeding in some pairs between Van and Erçek and between Erçek and Üzalp.

Pied Wheatear Oenanthe pleschanka Alaca Kuyrukakan

One was seen between Van and Erçek on 1.10.74 (Be).

Cetti's Warbler Cettia cetti Setti Bülbülü

Some were singing on 23.6.68 (Ku).

Savi's Warbler Locustella luscipoides Dere Bülbülü

One singing male at the Çenge G. on 27.5.69 (PHM). Also recorded at the Bostancı G. on 11.6.81 (KS).

Moustached Warbler Acrocephalus melanopogon Buyıklı Bülbül

At least two singing males and two more birds at Çenge G. on 27./28.5.69 (PHM). According to Ku 2 - 3 pairs at the Bostancı G. in mid June 1968.

Sedge Warbler Acrocephalus schoenobaenus Çit Bülbülü

Some records in June in up to 3 singing. Also recorded at the Bostancı G.

Marsh Warbler Acrocephalus palustris Bataklık Bülbülü

Repeatedly recorded by Ku on 28.5. and 14.6.68.

Reed Warbler Acrocephalus scirpaceus Saz Bülbülü

Two recorded in the "Van - Erçek area" on 18.5.75 (TJ).

Great Reed Warbler Acrocephalus arundinaceus Buyıklı Saz Bülbülü

PHM counted at least 30 singing at the Çenge G. on 27./28.5.69. Some also singing at the Bostancı G. (28.5. and 28.6.68, Ku).

Olivaceous Warbler Hippolais pallida Beyaz ArDIC

Two singing on 27.5.69 (PHM).

Whitethroat Sylvia communis Çali Ütleğeni

Ku recorded some singing at the slopes above the Erçek G. up to 2300 m on 23.6.68.
Garden Warbler  _Sylvia borin_ Bahçe Ütleğeni
3 on 27.5.69 (PHM).

Blackcap  _Sylvia atricapilla_ Karabaslı Ütleğen
One male on 27.5.69 (PHM).

Wood Warbler  _Phylloscopus sibilatrix_ Orman Söğüt Bülübü
Ga recorded one bird in the village Erçek on 20.8.73.

Chiffchaff  _Phylloscopus collybita_ (Söğüt Bülübü)
About 20 on 9.5.70 (De) and 4 on 27.5.69 (PHM).

Willow Warbler  _Phylloscopus trochilus_ (Söğüt Bülübü)
One on 16.9.67 (Vi).

Green Warbler  _Phylloscopus nigitor_ Yeşil Söğüt Bülübü
De recorded 5 birds, "clearly on passage", on 9.5.70.

Spotted Flycatcher  _Muscicapa striata_ Benekli Sinekyutan
Some on 20./21.5.66 (HJ) and 2 on 27.5.69 (PHM).

Red-breasted Flycatcher  _Ficedula parva_ Kılıçlık Sinekyutan
One in the "Van - Ercek area" on 18.5.75 (TJ).

Rock Nuthatch  _Sitta neumayer_ Kaya Sıvacı Kuşu
One on 25.7.82 (BD).

Penduline Tit  _Remiz pendulinus_ Quilha Kuşu
Seems to be a breeding bird at least in the villages Erçek and Karagündüz.

++ Red-backed Shrike  _Lanius collurio_ Çekirge Kuşu
Re saw some young which were still fed by the adults on 5.8.82.

Lesser Grey Shrike  _Lanius minor_ Kara alını Ortüncekkuşu
HWF counted 14 between Van and Erçek on 7.8.74. One on 16.9.67 (Vi), also recorded by Re on 5.8.82.

Woodchat Shrike  _Lanius senator_ Dokuz Boğan
One on 5.8.82 (Re).

Magpie  _Pica pica_ Saksağan
Five on 11.4.81 (PG).

Alpine Chough  _Pyrrhocorax graculus_ Sarıgagalı Dağ Kargası
One in the "Van - Erçek area" on 18.5.75 (TJ).

Chough  _Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax_ Kırmızigagalı Dağ Kargası
Some above Erçek on 23.6.68 (Ku).

++ Jackdaw  _Corvus monedula_ Kılıçlık Karga
Regularly seen throughout the breeding season. PHM found some nests under the bridge at Memedik Cayı.
++ Rook Corvus frugilegus Tohum Kargası
A small colony exists in the village Erçek. Between 28.9. and 11.10.80 VG saw about 1,000 birds at a roost.

Carrion Crow Corvus corone İeş Kargası
Recorded during the breeding season.

Raven Corvus corax Kuzgun
One on 9.6.75 (Ro), some on 23.6.68 at the slopes above Erçek (Ku) and 4 on 5.8.82 (Re).

++ Starling Sturnus vulgaris Buğarcık
Common breeding bird and summer visitor. PHM saw 100 - 150 nests in a loose stone wall and thousands at a roost between 27. and 29.5.69.

Rose-coloured Starling Sturnus roseus Ala Buğarcık - Pembe Buğarcık
About 25 on 1. and several on 23.6.68 (Ku). One first-year bird on 7.8.74 (HMF).

House Sparrow Passer domesticus Sereğ
Common breeding bird in the villages. Larger flocks in the post-breeding period.

++ Rock Sparrow Petronia petronia Kaya Sereğesi
Not common breeding bird around the Erçek G.. Ro saw a colony in the nesting holes of Bee-eaters.

Goldfinch Carduelis carduelis Saka
30 on 14.4.81 (PG) and 2 - 3 on 25.7.82 (ED).

Linnet Carduelis cannabina Ketenküşü
Not common breeding bird at the slopes around the Erçek G.

Crimson-winged Finch Rhodopechys sanguinea
Regularly recorded SW of the Erçek G. with a maximum number of 50 on 14.4.81 (PG).

Ortolan Bunting Emberiza hortulana Ortolan Kiraz Kuşu
Several singing ♂ at the rocky slopes S of the Erçek G. on 23.6.68 (Ku).

Reedbunting Emberiza schoeniclus Bataklık Kiraz Kuşu
Singing ♂ on 5.8.82 (Re).

Black-headed Bunting Emberiza melanocephala Karabaslı Kiraz Kuşu
Not rare breeding bird in the surrounding of lake Erçek.

Grey-necked Bunting Emberiza buchanani
Breeding between Van and Erçek, at the road from Erçek to Özalp and at the slopes up to 2900 m in 1968 (Ku). One at the Erçek G. on 31.5.71 (Gr).

Cinereous Bunting Emberiza cineracea
One ♂ on 8.8.71 (DH).

Corn Bunting Miliara calandra Ekin Kiraz Kuşu
Common breeding bird up to 2300 m.
ÖZET (Türkçe özet)


Denizden 1890 m. yükseklikteki göl, 92 km²'lik bir alanı yayIALIZmakta. Yükseklikleri 2300 – 2800 m. arasında değişen dağlarla çevrili ve volkanik set göl karakterindeki Erciçek Gölü, doğudan Memedik Çay ile beslenmektedir. Doğu taş ve sulak çayır audience çevrili olan göl, batı kıyısında maksimum 30 m. derinliğe ulaşmaktadır. Göl suyu alkali nitelikte olup karbonat ve bikarbonat iyonları açısından oldukça zengindir.


Bölge 1966 yılından bu yana kuş gözlemlerini tarafından düzenli olarak ziyaret edilmistir. Çoğu birkaç saati geçmeyen bu gözlemler özellikle Mayıs ve Ağustos/Eylül aylarında yoğunlaşmaktadır.

Bu ana kadar Erciçek Gölü'nde 177 tür kaydedilmiştir. Hendüz sistematik gözlemler yapılmadığından bu sayı daha düzenli gözlemlerle artabilir, fakat bu değer bile Erciçek Gölü'nün Doğu Anadolu kuş toplulukları için önemi sergilemeye yetmektedir. Bazı türlerin yakındaki Van Gölü'ne belirgin ölçüde gidip gelmesi de söz konusudur.


1982 yılında Kırmızı Gerdanlı Kaz’ın iki Çifti kuluçkaya saptanmıştır. Bu türün kuluçka bölgesi Sovyetler Birliği’nin kuzeyinde bulunduğundan ve
esaret kaçaçları da beklenmedığınden bu müstesna görüntülүş aydınlatmak mümkün değildir.

Erçek Gölü, Yağmurcunlar ve Sumrular için de önemli bir üreme ve konaklama bölgesidir. Poyraz kuşu, Uzunbacak, Kılıçgaga, Kocagöz, Kızıltuğ (50 Çift), Kızılbacak (max. 400 kuş) ve Sumru toplulukları kuluçkaya yatmaktadır. Ağustos, Eylül ve Ekim aylarında rastlayan üreme sonrasında ise saptanan en yüksek değerler Kılıçgaga için 2000, Kızıltuğ için 200, Küçük Kumuşu için 150, Dövüşken Kuş için 250 - 300, Kızılbaşak için 500, Deniz Dildükçü nd için 300, Karabağ Martı için 1000 ve Bilyuk Martı için 400 olmuştur.


Yürege özgü sorunlar tam anlaşılmamakla birlikte, yumurta toplama ve avcılığın kuş topluluklarına zarar verdiği bilinmektedir. Yumurta toplamadan özellikle Angat, Sara türleri ile, Yağmurcun ve Sumru toplulukları etkilenmektedir.
References

BR = Bird Report, published by the Ornithological Society of Turkey:
and 1974/75 (publ. 1978).

Gallner, J.-C. (1976): Observations ornithologiques nouvelles dans la
region de Van (Turquie). - Alauda 44: 111 - 117.

logical Expedition to Turkey 1974 (multiplied report).

Irion, G. (1973): Die anatolischen Seen, ihr Chemismus und die Ent-

Kumerlloewe, H. (1967): Neue Beiträge zur Kenntnis der Avifauna von Nord-
 - (1969a): Zur Avifauna des Van Gölü- und des Hakkârî-Gebietes (E/SE-
 - (1969b): Zur Brutverbreitung des Braunkehlchens (Saxicola rubetra)


plied report).

Vielliard, J. (1968): Résultats ornithologiques d'une mission à travers la

Address of the authors: (M.K.) Bettinaweg 7, 8300 Landshut, West Germany;
(v.d.V.) Ministerie van landbouw en visserij, Staatsbosbeheer, Post-
bus 20020, 3502 LA Utrecht, The Netherlands.
BIRDS OF TURKEY       TÜRKİYE KUŞLARI

1 - Ercek Gülü (published October 1983)
2 - Seyfe Gülü (in preparation)
ERÇEK GÖLÜ
1000

Karagündüz

Ercek

Özalp

to Van

Cenge G.

10 km