

Observations on a newly detected breeding site of Bonelli's Eagle, *Hieraetus fasciatus*, in south-eastern Anatolia

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Abstract. In spring 2003, a pair of Bonelli's Eagle (*Hieraetus fasciatus*) reared a young near Hasankeyf, Batman province, Turkey. The site shows very similar habitat properties to the only known breeding site in the region. Observations on the nest structure, feeding, courtship dancing flight, and on interspecific conflicts are described.

Zusammenfassung. Im Frühjahr 2003 brütete bei Hasankeyf, Provinz Batman (Türkei) ein Habichtsadlerpaar (*Hieraetus fasciatus*) erfolgreich und zog einen Jungvogel groß. Der Nestort zeigt beträchtliche Habitatähnlichkeiten mit denen des bisher einzigen bekannten Brutplatzes der Art in der Region. Unsere Beobachtungen zur Neststruktur, zum Füttern, zum „Himmeltanz des Paares“ sowie zu zwischenartlichen Konflikten werden beschrieben.

Key words. Avifauna, raptor, breeding biology, Turkey, Middle East.

Introduction

Bonelli's Eagle (*Hieraetus fasciatus*) in Turkey has been described as a rare and local resident in Western Anatolia, the southern coastlands, and South-east and adjacent areas of Inner Anatolia (BEAMAN 1986, MARTINS 1989, KASPAREK 1992, KIRWAN & MARTINS 1994, KIRWAN & MARTINS 2000, KIRWAN et al. 2003). Records of the species include Kızılcahamam (BARIŞ et al. 1984), Kızılırmak Delta (DIJKSEN & KASPAREK 1985), Acıgöl (DIJKSEN & KASPAREK 1988), Halfeti (EAMES 1990) and the route from Hotamış to Karaman (KIRWAN 1993). ERDOĞAN (1998) and ERDOĞAN & TUNÇ (1998) have records from Kızılcahamam and Manavgat River with a note that the species was probably breeding at these localities. According to KASPAREK (1992), the Turkish population consists of at most 50 pairs. KASPAREK & BILGIN (1996) classified the population size in the group between 10 and 100 pairs.

A new breeding record is communicated here together with observations at the nesting site.

Results

We observed that a pair of Bonelli's Eagle mated and reared a chick until it fledged during the breeding season 2003, in a nest which was located in a hollow place on rocky cliff walls near the city of Hasankeyf in south-eastern Anatolia, next to the shore of the River Tigris. Our observations are as follows.