

On the distribution of the White-spectacled Bulbul, *Pycnonotus xanthopygos* (Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1833), in Turkey

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Abstract. According to a study performed between 2001 and 2003, the White-spectacled Bulbul is mainly distributed in the coastal Mediterranean region of Turkey and extends from Patara/Gelemiş near Kaş in the west to Türkoğlu in Kahramanmaraş province in the east. The vertical distribution extends from sea level to 1260 m in the non-breeding season. In the breeding season, the species has its highest density in the coastal area up to 400 m a.s.l. The highest nesting area was found at Belen in the Amanus Mountains at 740 m. The main areas of occurrence are the Antalya lowlands, the Çukurova and the coastal band of Hatay where dense populations are found. Low density is found in particular in the areas of Ermenek (south-central Anatolia) and Nurdağı (southeastern Anatolia).

Abstract. In einer zwischen 2001 und 2003 durchgeführten Erhebung wurde die Verbreitung des Gelbsteißbülbüls in der Türkei bestimmt. Sie erstreckt sich hauptsächlich in der Mittelmeerregion, und zwar von Patara/Gelemiş bei Kaş im Westen bis Türkoğlu in der Provinz Kahramanmaraş im Osten. Die vertikale Verbreitung reicht ausserhalb der Brutzeit von der Küstenebene bis auf 1260 m. Die höchste Brutdichte erreicht die Art in der Höhenstufe bis 400 m, und die höchsten Brutplätze wurden bei Belen im Amanusgebirge auf 740 m gefunden. Die Verbreitungsschwerpunkte sind die Küstenbereiche bei Antalya, die Çukurova und der Küstenstreifen im Hatay, wo sehr hohe Brutdichten erreicht werden. Eine geringe Dichte findet sich besonders in den Gebieten von Ermenek (südliches Inneranatolien) und Nurdağı (Südost-Anatolien).

Key words. Distribution, occurrence, range, White-spectacled Bulbul, Yellow-vented Bulbul.

Introduction

The distribution area of the White-spectacled or Yellow-vented Bulbul, *Pycnonotus xanthopygos* (Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1833), extends in the Middle East from southern Turkey, the Levant and the Sinai to the Arabian Peninsula. In Turkey, its occurrence is confined to the Mediterranean region roughly from Antalya in the west to the Syrian border in the south-east. It is mainly concentrated in the coastal band up to 400 m a.s.l. (KUMERLOEVE 1957, ASLAN et al. 2004, ASLAN 2005) with the highest breeding localities known from 750 m a.s.l. (KASPAREK 1992). It lives there in gardens, palm groves, fruit gardens, scrub, and open and mixed forested land at low altitudes (KASPAREK & BILGIN 1996, ROSELAAR 1995). We attempt here to determine precisely the distribution area and to give information on the density of its occurrence.

Material and methods

The study was performed between 2001 and 2003 in the Mediterranean and Aegean regions and in south-eastern Anatolia. The study area was divided into two sections: the West with Antalya, Burdur and Isparta provinces, and the East with Mersin, Adana, Osmaniye, Kahramanmaraş and Hatay provinces.