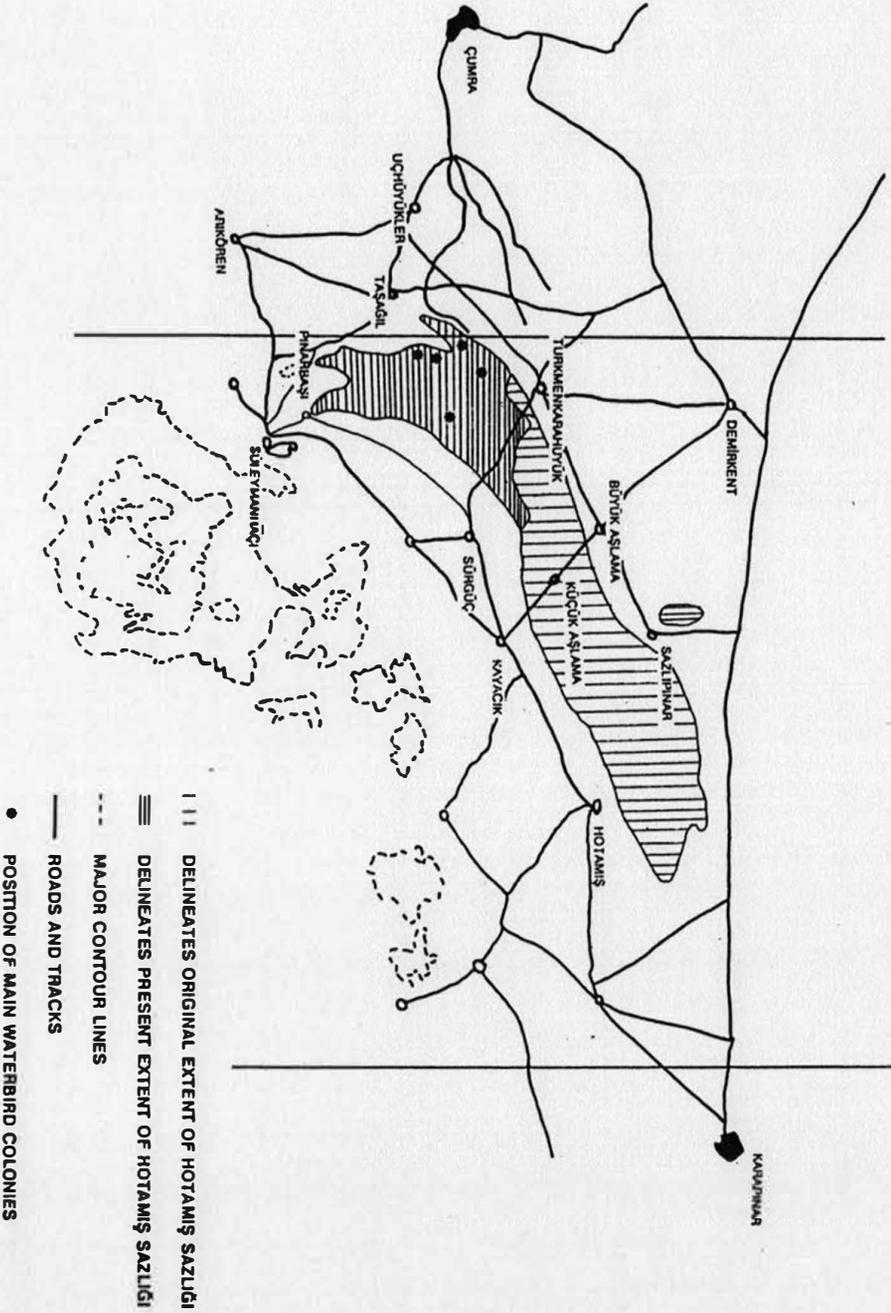




BIRDS OF TURKEY TÜRKİYE KUŞLARI



9
Hotamiş Marshes



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The Birds of the Hotamış Marshes

Hotamış Sazlığı'nın Kuşları

by Guy Kirwan

1. Name and geographic position

Hotamış Sazlığı is named on some maps as "Bataklik Gölü". However this name should only be applied to the lake at the eastern end of the wetland which has now dried up. Therefore the name "Hotamış Sazlığı", which is less equivocal as to the true nature of the area is preferred in this report.

The Hotamış Marshes (37°35'N 33°03'E) are situated in the "Çumra Ovası" of the Konya-Eregli depression in Inner or Central Anatolia (zoogeographical region no. 5.2.2 according to Erol 1982, 1983). The marshes lie 15 kilometres to the south of the E8 routeway between Konya and Eregli, and approximately 80 kilometres from the main town (provincial capital) of Konya.

2. Altitude

The altitude of the wetland is given as 975 m. (Ertan, Kılıç & Kasperek 1989), while the village of Hotamış is listed at 1004 m. (Reise und Verkehrsverlag Cartography, Stuttgart 1989/90). To the west, south and the south-east of the marshes the land steadily rises; the highest peak in the range of hills, which are a northerly outcrop of the Taurus (Toroşlar) mountains is Karadag at 2288 m. All are of volcanic origin. To the north of the area lies the Obruk Plateau (Yaylası).

3. Surface area and depth

An estimation of the total surface area of the marsh from maps yielded approximately 20,000 ha. (= 200 km²). Ertan, Kılıç & Kasperek (1989) give 12,600 ha.; this latter figure is too low. The remaining area of wetland after drainage covers an approximate area of 8,000 ha. It is interesting to note that already Nümann (1960) gave the surface of the marshes as 7,500 ha and also cited older sources from the

1920's which gave only 5,000 ha. The depth of the water is not accurately known, and varies according to season, but is thought to be nowhere greater than 2.5-3.0 m. This estimation is in accordance with Nümann (1960) who gave a maximum depth of 3 m.

4. General description of the area

The Hotamış Marshes are an example of a freshwater marsh within the steppe zone, of which other examples in Turkey are the Eregli and Sultan Marshes. The water is becoming steadily more brackish. Since the drying up of the Bataklik Gölü there are no longer any mud islands apart from around the edges of the wetland, and most breeding birds use floating reed islands. The remaining marshland is characterised by relatively small, but frequent areas of open water; large belts of dense reedbeds cover most of the lake. Two principal canals drain the area; the marshes for their present state are dependent upon an irrigation project which brings water from Beyşehir Gölü, via Apa Barajı (dam lake). In the future Hotamış Marshes are to be used as an overflow reservoir to store excess spring rain water, in addition to the Apa Barajı. The construction of another canal close to Türkmenkarahüyük diverted water away from the marshes to supply irrigation projects to the north, around the Tuz Gölü.

The Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) is by far the most dominant plant species of the marshes. Other species cover less than 5% of the total area. As yet there has been little investigation into the plant associations and vegetational structures of the area, Kürschner (1983, see also in Kılıç & Kasperek 1990) has made such studies in the similar Eregli marshes.

There is more or less complete absence of trees around the lake; only near the Süleymanhacı Gölü and between there and Arikören and Taşagil are small woods (principally *Robinia pseudoacacia*) to be found. As yet there has been very few ornithological observations from these areas, however they are likely to provide habitat for migrating passerines in particular. Closer to the town of Cumra, on the edge of our study area, there are a number of plantations and orchards.

The area was originally surrounded by steppe, this has been replaced in some areas by fields of wheat, and to a lesser extent oil-seed rape. The characteristic plant communities of the steppe regions have been described (Frey & Kürschner 1982, see also in Kasperek 1987). However, in many places around the lake, the original vegetation has been destroyed due to overgrazing of the herds of cattle, goats and smaller numbers of sheep. Similarly as local people burn the reeds to create more land for pasture, a barren perimeter currently 100-200 m. wide in some places has quickly developed surrounding the marsh. Such reclamation rarely provides land suitable even for grazing purposes for more than a year.

5. Water quality

The Hotamış Marshes have a pure fresh water. Two analyses of the water were made by the State Hydraulic Works (DSİ) in June 1962 and February 1970 (DSİ, unpublished). The total ion content was below 35 mg/l and shows that the water even has the quality of drinking water. Tab. 1 shows the distribution of the most important ions. The conductivity of the water was 749 μ S in 1962 and 580 μ S in 1970. No recent analyses are available. It may be that the salt concentration in the water is now higher due to the fact that the size of the marshes has become considerably smaller in the 1980's.

date	pH	Na ⁺	K ⁺	Ca ⁺⁺	Mg ⁺⁺	CO ₃ ⁻	HCO ₃ ⁻	Cl ⁻	SO ₄ ⁻
June 1962	7.8	7.1	3.6	1.94	6.88	2.98	6.42	1.62	3.98
Febr. 1970	7.3	1.0	0.2	6.80	3.80	0.00	4.60	0.80	2.11

6. Climate

The study area has a land climate which is typical for Inner Anatolia. The climate is characterized by hot summers, cold winters and a relatively short spring and autumn. According to the results of a 37 years observation period, the mean annual precipitation at Konya is 315.1 mm, the mean temperature 11.5°C (DSİ, unpubl.). The mean precipitation at Cumra is 249.3 mm and the mean temperature 11.1°C, according to a 9 years observation period. At Karapınar to the east of the study area, the mean precipitation was found to be 275.8 mm and the mean temperature 11.0°C (19 years of observations by DSİ).

7. Ornithological importance of the area*)

Thus far, 193 species of birds have been recorded at the Hotamış Marshes. Of these 45 have been confirmed to breed, although several of them are either in serious decline, and both the White-tailed Plover and Slender-billed Gull may already be extinct as breeding species. In addition a further 30-35 species certainly breed, but await formal confirmation, or are strongly suspected of doing so. These relatively high totals are due to the biological importance of the area which has attracted a relatively high number of ornithological visits during the breeding season, culminating in a short, systematic breeding bird survey in 1991. However data on most of the passerine species, which are dependant upon the habitats surrounding the marshes, is still urgently required. In comparison to the Sultan Marshes, which possess a very similar general ecology (see Kasperek 1985), the

*) Some of the figures presented in this chapter are rough estimations. For detailed information the species chapter should be consulted.

total number of species identified is considerably lower, 193 to 249, although the total number of observation days was 255 at the latter, as compared to 107 at the Hotamış Marshes.

Ertan, Kılıç & Kasperek (1989), and as subsequently translated into English in Grimmett & Jones (1989), listed the Hotamış Marshes in their inventory of Important Bird Areas in Turkey. The area is undoubtedly a wetland of international importance. This present study, incorporating the results of the first breeding bird survey of the area, elaborates and to an extent clarifies the ornithological situation as latterly presented by the above authors. The marshes are still clearly of major importance, although, principally due to the draining of the eastern spur of the area, including the Bataklık Gölü (see chapter 8 on nature conservation and human activities), some of their importance has been lost. For instance at least two important breeding species have almost certainly been lost (see above), and numbers of others, especially Pygmy Cormorant, have seriously declined. The loss of approximately half of the study area, due to drainage, and reclamation programmes, has also probably had an adverse effect upon the populations of wintering waterfowl although there is little recent data available to support this surmise. The western half of the wetland, which still remains intact, obviously requires an immediate and appropriate degree of protection befitting its ornithological importance.

Four species of birds categorised as globally endangered (Collar & Andrew 1988) are known or suspected to breed in the area: the Pygmy Cormorant, 10-20 pairs, the Marbled Teal, 10-15 pairs, with counts of over 50 in winter, the White-headed Duck, about 40 pairs, making the Hotamış Marshes possibly the most important breeding site in Turkey for the species (Kirwan in press), and the Lesser Kestrel 5 pairs.

A further 68 species regarded as of conservation importance on either an international or national framework (Porter 1991) have been recorded in the area, of these 16 have been proven to breed, and a similar number almost certainly do so.

Breeding species attracting particular attention, as they are vulnerable in Europe (Collar & Andrew 1988) or of special regional significance, which are present are: Bittern (2 pairs), Little Egret (175-200 pairs), Great White Egret (50 pairs), Purple Heron (30 pairs), White Stork (16 pairs), Red-crested Pochard (probably 30-50 pairs), Little Crake (possibly a few pairs), Black-winged Stilt (100 pairs), Spur-winged Plover (40 pairs), Collared Pratincole (30 pairs), White-winged Black Tern (possibly breeds) and Moustached Warbler (probably 100 pairs).

In the post-breeding period the marshes constitute an important resting and feeding area for waders. Maximum numbers recorded of the following selected species are: 950 Black-winged Stilt (July), 750 Avocet (September), 155 Collared Pratincole (August), 650 Kentish Plover (July), 1600 Little Stint (September), 1800 Black-tailed Godwit (September) and 135 Marsh Sandpiper (July and September). Concentrations of terns and gulls are usually comparatively small in this season, although 200 White-winged Black Tern in July is a significant total. Up to 400 Black-bellied Sandgrouse have been recorded in September.

For wildfowl, and some species of waders, the area is at its most important

during the winter months (November to February). Over 27,000 White-fronted Geese and 1,800 Greylag Geese have been counted, while other significant concentrations include: 1,000 Ruddy Shelduck, 5,000 Wigeon, 2,500 Gadwall, 10,000 Teal, 3,000 Pintail, 800 Red-crested Pochard, 58,000 Coot, 7,000 Ruff and 700 Black-tailed Godwit. However winter numbers can frequently be affected by the fact that the areas of open water are prone to freezing. It is at present unknown what the effect of the draining of the Bataklık Gölü has had on winter waterfowl numbers, the last available observations from this season are for 1986, at the start of the irrigation project.

A number of rarities have been seen in the Hotamış area, these include: Red-breasted Goose, Imperial Eagle, Little Crake, Black-winged Pratincole, White-tailed Plover (has bred), Knot, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit and Citrine Wagtail.

8. Nature conservation and human activities

The area is not protected by any law (Ertan, Kılıç & Kasperek 1989). Since the building by the Devlet Su İşleri (State Hydraulic Works, DSI) in 1985-86, of a main drainage canal leading to the Tuz Gölü, to feed small-scale irrigation projects to the north of the marshes, the character of the area has been dramatically altered. Slightly more than half of the original area of 20,000 hectares has now dried up, or been reclaimed by local villagers. Most of the eastern section of the wetland dried up in the years subsequent to 1986, as water flowed by gravity away from the marshes, along the canal constructed close to Türkmenkarahüyük. This factor was perhaps compounded and exacerbated by high evaporation rates caused by several summers of low rainfall. Although this latter was proposed by Grimmett & Jones (1989) as a factor in the deterioration of the Hotamış Marshes it was partly dismissed by Kirwan (1990). However it seems probable that its role was of some importance. Of the 12,000 hectares thus lost, the Bataklık Gölü, formerly the largest body of open water within the Hotamış wetland complex, and a major component of the eastern spur of the marshes, is perhaps the most important loss. The islands on this lake have been a breeding area for a variety of waders, terns and gulls, including Slender-billed Gull.

Reclamation of the marshes by local people for agricultural improvements continues. Deliberate, and uncontrolled reed-fires are used to clear areas of wetland for cattle and goats to graze. In some areas e.g. close to the villages of Sürğüç and Kayacık it has been possible to grow crops, chiefly wheat and oil-seed rape. However most areas cleared by such methods are rather infertile and within a year of burning are useful only for casual grazing by goats and sheep. Reed-burning of this type is practised throughout the year, constituting a major threat to breeding birds as well as providing little beneficial development for agriculture except in the short term.

In contrast, reed-cutting, the principal economic activity of three villages in the area (Adakale-Pınarbaşı, Sürğüç and Süleymanhacı) is well regulated. It is

practised only between October and early April, outside the breeding season of most species. Thus because cutting promotes reed regeneration, it is not a threat to the ornithological importance of the area, provided it is undertaken compartmentally so that large areas are not affected at any time.

The marshes were at one time a famous hunting area which attracted hunters not only from the surrounding villages but also from as far away as Istanbul and Syria. However many of these hunters have apparently deserted this area to shoot the nearby Karapınar Ovası in recent years according to local people (Kirwan 1991). It is uncertain what the effect of such hunting in previous years was; however the cumulative effect of hunting for food by local people was unlikely to have been particularly significant.

A smaller drainage canal is currently being constructed from the marsh, in the vicinity of Adakale, to feed irrigated areas to the south of the region. It is not known what effect this will have upon the water regime within the remaining wetland. However DSI have revealed that their provisional plans for this part of the Konya Ovası involve the conservation of this remaining marsh, to act as an overflow reservoir during periods of particularly heavy spring rains, rather than to carry out further drainage. For additional information concerning the drainage systems of the region consult the chapter on the general description of the area.

The Hotamış Marshes as an example of a freshwater steppe lake are a rare ecosystem in Turkey, only two other such wetlands still exist; the Sultan Marshes and the Ereğli Marshes. Both have been the subject of similar studies (Kasperek 1985, Kılıç & Kasperek 1991). The conservation of the Hotamış Marshes therefore becomes even more important when one considers the perhaps, now irreparable damage done to the Sultan marshes by a nearly completed drainage process (Özesmi 1989), and the recently revealed plans to begin draining the Ereğli marshes (DSI, pers. comm.).

9. Fauna (excluding birds)

No study is available on the wildlife of the marshes. An Otter (*Lutra lutra*) was observed in the marshes "in recent time" according to TÇSV (1989). Nümann (1960) mentioned carps (*Cyprinus carpio*) living in the marshes. He was told by local fishermen that individuals up to 15 kg were being caught. Karaman (1972) mentioned the small cyprinid fish *Phoxinellus zeregi maeandri* Ladiges, 1960 (= *Acanthorutilus maeandri* Lad.) from the marshes. It is evident that more fish species live in the lake, which have not yet been identified.

10. Bird-watching activity

Approximately 2,500 bird records have been used for the present study. They were processed with the aid of an electronic data bank developed by Aygün and Max Kasperek. The data on the Hotamış Marshes were collected by about 73

bird-watchers or groups of bird-watchers, who visited the area on a total of 107 different days. With the exception of March, this wetland has been visited in every month of the year. The majority of the bird-watching activity has been in spring and early summer; from April to June, thus we possess a quite detailed knowledge of the breeding birds of the area. For the winter months there is considerably less recent data; formerly this wetland was included periodically in the systematic wildfowl counts made by L. J. Dijkzen and F. Koning.

Between 1969 and 1986 Hotamış was a regular destination for visiting bird-watchers, since this time however bird observations have become distinctly more erratic. In 1991 a full breeding bird survey of the area was organised by the author; much of our recent information on the bird populations of Hotamış comes from this source. A certain number of observations concern birds seen from the main Konya to Ereğli road which lies immediately to the north of the marsh.

1988	-20.04	D. Ristow (unpubl., but see Kumertoeve 1970)
1967	-04-05.02	H. H. Hoekstra & Szjli (Szjli & Hoekstra 1968)
	-07.01, 18.02	Bird Report 1968-69
1968	-06.01, 12.02	Bird Report 1968-69
	-unknown	H. Lehmann (1971, 1974)
1969	-17.01	H. H. Hoekstra & F. Koning (unpubl.)
	-23-24.11	L. J. Dijkzen & F. Koning (unpubl.)
1970	-15.16.01	L. J. Dijkzen & F. Koning (unpubl.)
	-29.04	H. Lehmann (1971, 1974)
	-23.11	L. J. Dijkzen & F. Koning (unpubl.)
1971	-07.01	L. J. Dijkzen & F. Koning (unpubl.)
	-06.06	Bird Report 1970-73
	-31.07	Bird Report 1970-73
	-21.11	L. J. Dijkzen, F. Koning & J. Walmsley (unpubl.)
1972	-12.01	L. J. Dijkzen, F. Koning & J. Walmsley (unpubl.)
	-22.05	H. Lehmann (1971, 1974)
	-16-17.07	J. Phillipona (unpubl.)
	-31.07	Bird Report (1970-73)
1973	-08-09.01	L. J. Dijkzen & F. Koning (unpubl.)
	-20.01	M. J. Ingrams (unpubl.)
	-24.04	U. v. Wicht & G. Knötzech (unpubl.)
	-29-30.04	A. Y. Dijkzen & Y. K. Tempelmans-Plat (unpubl.)
1974	-20.02	L. J. Dijkzen & F. Koning (unpubl.)
	-26-27.08	Harbard, Fisher & Walsh (1976)
	-23.09	G. Easy (unpubl.)
1975	-06.05	K. Breek & H. Gelderblom (unpubl.)
	-03-04.06	R. R. Lovegrove, R. F. Porter & I. Willis (unpubl.)
	-22.07	Bird Report (1974-75)
1976	-06.07	P. Schliermacher Hansen (unpubl.)
	-10.06.	M. A. S. Beaman (unpubl.)
1977	-10.05	S. J. M. Gantlett (unpubl.)
1978	-28.02	L. J. Dijkzen & N. Tuinstra (unpubl.)
	-04.05	D. Holman (unpubl.)
1979	-04.04	G. Koneermann et al. (unpubl.)
	-12-13.05	P. A. Doherty (unpubl.)
	-05.07	Bird Report (1975-81)

- 1980 -12-13.05 M. Kuhn (unpubl.)
 1981 -20.04 A. Goodwin, P. Flint, A. Roberts & G. Talbot (unpubl.)
 -17.07 B. O. Poulsen (unpubl.)
 -28.12 A. Müller, H. Jacoby et al. (unpubl.)
 1982 -28.09 A. van Poppel (unpubl.)
 -06.10 V. & N. v. d. Berk, R. G. Blijlsma & F. d. Roder (Berk, Blijlsma & Roder 1983)
 1983 -20.04 T. Stadlander & L. Ritzel (unpubl.)
 -05.05 R. Jürgens (unpubl.)
 -13.05 E. Kleff (unpubl.)
 -31.05 Ch. Murphy (unpubl.)
 -31.10-01.11 M. Kasparek, A. Kiliç & F. de Roder (unpubl.)
 1984 -21.05 K. Turner, J. Ryan, J. Warne & D. H. Russell (unpubl.)
 -22.07 J. Schaerlaeckens, J. Vermeulen, V. van Gorp, F. Degenaar, A. Jansen & J. van Raak (unpubl.)
 1985 -11.05 J. Fitzharris & K. Grace (unpubl.)
 -14-15.05 S. M. Andrews & A. J. Eardley (unpubl.)
 -19.05 A. M. Allport (unpubl.)
 -14.06 E. Bos & P. de Heer (unpubl., in Bird Report 1982-86)
 -24-25.06 Bison, Gnodde & van der Laan (unpubl.)
 -06.07 S. Skov & K. L. Hansen (unpubl.)
 1986 -12.01 L. J. Dijkse & F. Koning (unpubl.)
 -28.04 M. Ullmann et al. (unpubl.)
 -12.05 E. Mollgaard & S. K. Rasmussen (unpubl.)
 -12.05 Dansk Ornitologisk Forening (unpubl.)
 -30.05 A. Buhr, E. van der Burg, R. van Meurs & R. H. Schenk (unpubl., in Bird Report 1982-86)
 -03-05.07 R. Webb, R. Brace, P. A. J. Morris & R. D. Thomas (unpubl.)
 -24.08 J. McLoughlin & N. Quicks (unpubl.)
 1987 -15.05 A. Kiliç & M. Kasparek (unpubl.)
 -15.05 J. Eames (unpubl.)
 -22.05 N. MacMahon (unpubl.)
 -09.07 L. C. Cook, D. Gilmore & M. C. Powell (unpubl.)
 -19.08 D. Gosney & S. M. Lister (unpubl.)
 1988 -19.01 L. J. Dijkse & A.-M. Ch. Blomert (unpubl.)
 -29.04 D. A. Rushforth, J. M. Pearson & P. A. Lassey (unpubl.)
 -22.05 I. Hodgson (unpubl.)
 -20.08 R. Moore, T. Wells & T. A. Valin (unpubl.)
 1989 -02.05 N. Green (unpubl.)
 1990 -15.06 G. M. Kirwan, D. Ross & M. Roxby (Kirwan 1990)
 -05.07 H. Dufourmy et al. (unpubl.)
 -30.11-01.12 G. Magnin & M. Yarar (unpubl.)
 1991 -24-27.04 G. M. Kirwan & U. Özesmi (unpubl.)
 -10-15.05 G. M. Kirwan (unpubl.)
 -02.06 G. M. Kirwan & G. Magnin (unpubl.)
 -16.07 R. Hoffland (unpubl.)
 1992 -22.01 G. Magnin, M. Yarar, S. Demircan et al. (unpubl.)

11. Hints for birdwatchers

Formerly the marsh was most frequently visited via the gravel roads to the south of the Konya-Eregli road, leading to Hotamış and Sazlıpınar. These roads

continued to the eastern and northern sides of the marsh. All the tracks and gravel roads are driveable in a car during the summer months. The remaining marshland, the southern and westernmost part of the original whole have as yet been relatively little visited and require further coverage. Accurate counts of the breeding populations of herons, egrets and ducks and Pygmy Cormorant are particularly required. The nature of the area makes this difficult unless staying in the vicinity for a number of days. However birdwatchers with limited time should be able to provide data on the migrant waders utilising the area. In winter and early spring birdwatchers should also concentrate on the normally dry fields around Kûçûk Aslama, as these areas regularly flood at this season and could then be productive for a variety of waterbirds, especially geese. Attention should also be paid, at all seasons, to the Süleymanhacı Gölü, for which there are very few ornithological observations. This lake would appear to be an important resting area for White-headed Duck.

The passerine birds of this study area remain relatively less well known, and all observations are useful in helping to define more clearly the status of many species in the area. The lack of scrubby habitat around the wetland means that many species are represented by only a very small number of records. However the small orchards near Süleymanhacı and Arıkören would probably repay further attention especially during passage periods. The rocky outcrops south of Pınarbaşı and Adakale also require more coverage; several "new" breeding species for the area were found in 1991, and doubtless these areas possess other surprises.

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13. Abbreviations

All	= Allport
AE	= Andrews & Eardley
BBBR	= Berk, Berk, Blijlsma & Roder
BdH	= Bos & de Heer
Bea	= Beaman
BG	= Breek & Gelderblom
BGL	= Bison, Gnodde & v. d. Laan
BMS	= Burg, Meurs & Schon
CGP	= Cook, Gilmore & Powell
DB	= Dijkse & Blomert
DK	= Dijkse & Koning

DKW	=	Dijksen, Koning & Walmsley
DOF	=	Dansk Ornitologisk Forenings
Doh	=	Doherty
DT	=	Dijksen & Tuinstra
DTe	=	Dijksen & Tempelmans- Plat
Ea	=	Easy
Eam	=	Eames
FG	=	Fitzharris & Grace
Gan	=	Gantlett
GFRT	=	Goodwin, Flint, Roberts & Talbot
GL	=	Gosney & Lister
Grø	=	Green
Hod	=	Hodgson
Hof	=	Hofland
Hol	=	Holman
HK	=	Hoekstra & Koning
HWF	=	Harbard, Walsh & Fisher
Hsz	=	Hoekstra & Szil
Ing	=	Ingrams
Ju	=	Jürgens
Kie	=	Kieft
Kir	=	Kirwan
KK	=	Kılıç & Kasperek
KKR	=	Kasperek, Kılıç & de Roder
KM	=	Kirwan & Magnin
KO	=	Kirwan & Özesmi
Kon	=	Konermann
KRR	=	Kirwan, Ross & Roxby
Kuh	=	Kuhn
Le	=	Lehmann
LPW	=	Lovegrove, Porter & Willis
McM	=	MacMahon
MJ	=	Muller & Jacoby
MQ	=	M'Loughlin & Quilcks
MR	=	Mollgaard & Rasmussen
Mu	=	Murphy
MWV	=	Moore, Wells & Valn
MY	=	Magnin & Yarar
MYD	=	Magnin, Yarar & Demircan
Ph	=	Phillipona
Pop	=	Poppel
Pou	=	Poulsen
RI	=	Ristow
RPL	=	Rushforth, Pearson & Lassey
Ru	=	Russell
Scha	=	Schaerlaecken, Vermeulen, van Gorp et. al.
Schl	=	Schliermacher Hansen
SH	=	Skov & Hansen
Ull	=	Ullmann
vWK	=	v. Wicht & Knöttsch
WBMT	=	Webb, Brace, Morris & Thomas

14. Species List

Tachybaptus ruficollis (Little Grebe, Küçük Batagan)

Probably a few breeding pairs, although breeding not confirmed. Also recorded in summer on Süleymanhacı Gölü. Highest winter counts 200 (21.11.71, DKW) and 247 (24.11.69, DK).

*Podiceps cristatus** (Great Crested Grebe, Tepeli Batagan)

Possibly up to 50 pairs breeding. Breeding was confirmed in 1981 (22 adults with 4 young on 17.7, Pou), 1986 (family party 5.7, WBMT) and 1991 (several nests found, Kir). Large numbers seen throughout 1991 (several nests found, Kir). Large numbers seen throughout 1991 breeding season, maximum 120 (Kir). Probably breeds also on Süleymanhacı Gölü. Highest winter counts involve 53 on 21.11.71 (DKW), 81 on 24.11.69 (DK) and 50 on 22.1.92 (MYD).

Podiceps grisegena (Red-necked Grebe, Kızılboyunlu Batagan)

One each on 21.5.84 (Ru) and 23.9.74 (Ea). The species breeds in low numbers at the nearby Ereğli Marshes (Kılıç & Kasperek 1990).

Podiceps nigricollis (Black-necked Grebe, Karaboyunlu Batagan)

A few pairs may breed in the south-western corner of the marsh (Kir). Maximum of 16 on Süleymanhacı Gölü on 24.4.91 (KO). Two winter records; one 7.1.71 and 7 16.1.70 (DK).

Phalacrocorax carbo (Cormorant, Karabatak)

Eight on 30.4.73 (DTe), at least 100 on 22.7.84 (Scha) and one on 26.8.74 (HWF).

*Phalacrocorax pygmeus** (Pygmy Cormorant, Küçük Karabatak)

Breeds, two small colonies totalling 20-25 pairs in 1991 (Kir), and 82 on 16.7.91 (Hof). Formerly bred in much greater numbers, e.g. 470 on 19.5.85 (All) and 2000 on 17.7.81 (Pou in: Ertan, Kılıç & Kasperek 1989). A not perhaps broadly co-incident increase in the breeding colony at Ereğli Sazlığı has been noted (Kılıç & Kasperek 1990). Smaller, but still significant numbers remain in autumn and winter; e.g. 375 on 21.11.71 (DKW) and 176 on 23.11.70 (DK), although with the decline in the breeding population these figures may now be much lower.

Pelecanus onocrotalus (White Pelican, Ak Kutan)

Summer visitor and passage migrant, occasionally in high numbers. In recent years this species has become distinctly scarcer in this area according to local people. Highest numbers 500 30.4.73 (DTe), 200 17-17.7.72 (Ph) and 450 23.9.74 (Ea). KKR recorded a late flock of 220 on 1.11.83.

Pelecanus crispus (Dalmatian Pelican, Tepeli Kutan)

Most records are from May (seven), but there are also records from February (one), April (two), July (two dates), September (two) and October and November (one each). Most involve small groups, the highest count is of 17 on 21.11.71 (DKW).

Botaurus stellaris* (Bittern, Balaban)

Two pairs breed. Most records involve calling birds (booming), up to 10 birds were heard on 29.4.88 (RPL, in Kirwan 1990), but in most recent years only few birds were calling. DK saw 6 on 8/9.1.73, the only winter record (see Kasperek 1986).

Ixobrychus minutus* (Little Bittern, Kūçük Balaban)

Regularly recorded in the study area during the breeding season, the birds mainly arrive in early May, there being only one April record, on 24.4.91 (KO). Up to thirty pairs were estimated in 1991 (Kirwan in press). Latest record involves six on 27.8.74 (HWF).

Nycticorax nycticorax* (Night Heron, Gece Balıkcılı)

Breeds in small numbers, only confirmed sighting was in 1986 (1 adult and 3 young on 4.7., WBMT). Numbers are always relatively small, the maximum counts consisting of at least 40 on 14-15.5.85 (AE) and at least 20 on 3.6.75 (LPW).

Ardeola ralloides* (Squacco Heron, Alaca Balıkcılı)

Apparently as many as 50 pairs breed (KO, Kir), most in the southern and western sides of the marsh. The species may also breed in the reeds surrounding Süleymanhacı Gölü. Records come from all months between April and October, the last date being 5 on 6.10.82 (BBBR). Maximum individual count during the breeding season was 40 (9.7.87, CGP).

Egretta garzetta (Little Egret, Kūçük Beyaz Balıkcılı)

Breeding confirmed. Although a small number of observers had suspected breeding (see Ertan, Kılıç & Kasperek 1989) no definite instances were noted until 1991

when KO, and later Kir found three colonies totalling 175-200 pairs. In two of these colonies the birds were nesting together with Great White Egrets and Grey Herons, however KO recorded deliberately started reed-fires within a range of a few metres of these colonies on 27.4.91 and it is thought probable that many of these birds may have later deserted their nests. All the colonies are in the extreme southwestern corner of the marsh.

Outside the breeding season only a few birds remain, indeed there are only four winter records, three in November and another in December, all of singles or small groups.

Egretta alba* (Great White Egret, Büyük Ak Balıkcılı)

Present throughout the breeding season, and breeding suspected (see Ertan, Kılıç & Kasperek 1989), but not confirmed until 1991 (KO, Kir). In this year several small colonies totalling 50 pairs were discovered, several of which were thought to have been deserted due to reed-fires (see Little Egret).

Maximum individual count was in autumn, ca. 130 on 23.9.74 (Ea.). Winter counts usually higher than those of previous species e.g. 49 on 8/9.1.73 (DK), 73 on 6.10.82 (BBBR) and 17 on 21.11.71 (DKW).

Ardea cinerea* (Grey Heron, Gri Balıkcılı)

Breeding bird in small numbers. In a colony near the village of Taşagil Kir counted 15 occupied nests in May 1991, however this colony was later destroyed by local people who are burning this area of the marsh to create more grazing land for their cattle and goats. It is probable that a few other, smaller colonies are in existence. All birds are nesting in the reedbeds.

Otherwise regularly recorded during autumn in winter, Ea saw 150 birds, presumably migrants on 23.9.74, while the maximum in winter is of 73 on 24.11.69 (DK).

Ardea purpurea* (Purple Heron, Erguvani Balıkcılı)

Breeding suspected for many years, but not confirmed until 1991 when Kir found approximately 20 pairs breeding scattered throughout most remaining areas of the reedbed. During the breeding season singles and small groups were formerly regularly recorded in the Sazlıpınar and Kūçük Aslama areas, and breeding probably occurred in these parts of the marsh, however there are no longer any marshes near these villages. Maximum single count is 30 on 19.5.85 (All).

Recorded from 20.4.63 (10, Ri) to 28.9.82 (1, Pop).

Ciconia nigra (Black Stork, Kara Leylek)

Four records. One at Sakyatan Gölü, between Konya and the Hotamış Marshes on 12.5.86 (DOF). This lake has now been drained. At Hotamış a single flying over

on 14.5.85 (AE), a migrating flock of 19 was recorded by Ea on 23.9.74, and an imm. on 1.12.90 (MY).

*Ciconia ciconia** (White Stork, Leylek)

MY counted the following nests in the vicinity of the Hotamış Marshes on 30.11.-1.12.90; Arikören (2), Taşagil (6), Küçük Aslama (3), Adakale, Süleymanhacı and Büyük Aslama (one each) and Türkmenkarahüyük (2). The following year additional nests were located in Sazlıpınar and Uchuyukler (one each) (Kir). Other breeding records are less detailed ("one old nest near Sürgüç Köyü and one other occupied nest" on 15.5.87, KK, "surprisingly none nesting in Sazlıpınar" on 3.6.75, LPW, and "one occupied nest" in Karapınar on 6.7.85, SH).

The species also regularly stops over on migration in the fields around Hotamış, KO and Kir frequently observed small flocks in late April and mid May 1991. Earliest record 75 on 20.2.74 (DK), last 4 on 24.11.69 (DK). High counts include 500 migrating north-west on 20.4.83 (SR), 1500 migrating on 27.7.74 (HWF, no direction indicated) and 450 resting on 23.9.74 (Ea).

Plegadis falcinellus (Glossy Ibis, Çeltikçi)

Probable breeding bird, with possibly as many as 75 pairs in 1991 (KO, Kir) although nesting could not be confirmed. Regularly recorded throughout the breeding season, first record on 4.4.79 (Kon), final observation was of a single on 23.9.74 (Ea). Maximum were 260 on 24.4.91 (KO), 200 on 19.5.85 (All) and at least 100 on 3.6.75 (LPW).

Platalea leucorodia (Spoonbill, Kaşıkçı)

May breed, but this requires confirmation. Maximum counts were both of one hundred, on 19.5.85 (All) and 23.9.74 (Ea).

Phoenicopterus ruber (Greater Flamingo, Flamingo)

Irregular summer visitor to the area, presumably from the nearby breeding colonies at Tuz Gölü (Johnson et. al. in press, Kılıç 1987), Ereğli Sazlığı (Kılıç & Kasperek 1991, Kirwan in prep.) and Karapınar Ovası (Kılıç 1987, Kirwan 1991). The largest flock observed was 3,500 on 6.7.85 (SH), with smaller groups of 260 on 23.9.74 (Ea), 250 on 24/25.6.85 (BGL) and 203 on 21.5.84 (Ru). Some also winter in the area, maximum number at this season was 53 on 8/9.1.73 (DK).

Cygnus olor (Mute Swan, Kugu)

Regular records during IWRB waterfowl counts from November to February; 77 on 21.11.71 (DKW), 79 on 23.11.70, 76 on 24.11.69 and 105 on 7.1.71 (DK). The only other record from outside the winter period is of 2 adults on the south side of the

Hotamış Marshes on 30.4.73 (DTe).

Cygnus columbianus (Bewick's Swan, Küçük Kugu)

5 on 22.1.92 (MYD) is the only record. There is only one previous record in Turkey (Kasperek 1990a).

Cygnus cygnus (Whooper Swan, Ötücü Kugu)

Nine on 8/9.1.73 (DK) and five on 28.2.78 (DT) are the only records.

Anser fabalis (Bean Goose, Tarla Kazı)

One was shot on 2.1.73 (Ing). This is the only record.

Anser albifrons (White-fronted Goose, Sakarca Kazı)

Regularly recorded from November to February, with one record in October, 16 on 6.10.82 (BBBR). Numbers appear to decline rapidly in February, e.g. 15,976 on 24.11.69, 27,100 on 7.1.71 (DK) but in latter month maximum only 2,500 on 28.2.78 (DT). There have been no recent IWRB winter counts in this area but according to local people large numbers of 'grey geese' (presumably largely this species) still utilise the marsh in winter.

*Anser anser** (Greylag Goose, Bozkaz)

Breeding bird. Presumably only in very small numbers. Breeding was confirmed in 1985 (2 adults with 3 juveniles on 25.6, BGL) and 1987 (1 pullus, about three days old caught by local people on 15.5, KK). The species was regularly reported throughout the breeding season, including a record of three, ascribed to the race *rubrostris* on 13.5.85 (Kie). Maximum at this season 50 on 30.4.73 (DTe) and 24 on 19.5.85 (All).

Recorded in higher numbers during the winter months, October to February with maximum of 1,500 on 7.1-18.2.67 (Bird Report 1966-67) and 1,828 on 6.10.82 (BBBR).

There are records from all months except March and August.

Branta ruficollis (Red-breasted Goose, Kızılboyunlu Kaz)

One on 8/9.1.73 (DK) is the only record.

Tadorna ferruginea (Ruddy Shelduck, Angit)

Two pairs probably breed in the low hills to the south of the Hotamış Marshes. The species was recorded regularly throughout the breeding season but thus far

no juveniles have been seen. Maximum was 20 on 13.5.83 (Kie). Much larger numbers winter in the area, and on the Karapınar Ovası (Ertan, Kılıç & Kasperek 1989, Magnin unpubl.), although a group of 100 on 23.9.74 (Ea) was early and perhaps indication of post-breeding dispersal. Maxima in winter were as follows; 295 on 8/9.1.73 (DK), 482 on 12.1.72, 569 on 21.11.71 (DKW), 1,012 on 23.11.70 and 292 on 24.11.69 (DK).

Records are from all months except March and August.

Tadorna tadorna (Shelduck, Suna)

Reported during the breeding season on seven occasions (3 in April, 4 in May), otherwise recorded in September (one), November (two), January (one) and February (one) which was the maximum, 18 on 20.2.74 (DK).

Anas penelope (Wigeon, Fiyo)

Five records from the breeding season, four single figure counts in May, and one in April, which was the maximum, 12 on 30.4.73 (DTe), however breeding remains unproven, although suspected (Kir). Ten records from the IWRB winter counts (November-February) with maximum of 2,805 on 23.11.70 and 5,301 on 24.11.69 (DK). Apart from this, two autumn records, 14 on 28.9.82 (Pop) and one male on 6.10.82 (BBBR).

Anas strepera (Gadwall, Bozördek)

Presumably a breeding resident, e.g. a pair on 30.4.73 (DTe) and two pairs on 3.6.75 (LPW), but also larger numbers recorded e.g. in excess of 10 on both 11.5.85 (FG) and 12.5.79 (Doh), and a maximum of 22 on 19.5.85 (All). Highest numbers were in winter with maxima of 2,490 on 7.1.71 (DK), 1,638 on 21.11.71 (DKW) and 702 on 24.11.69 (DK).

Anas crecca* (Teal, Camurcun)

Breeding first confirmed in 1991 when several adults with young were seen on 14.5 (Kir). A number of other summer records with maximum of 13 on 26.4.91 (KO), 21 on 17.7.81 (Pou). Resident but largest numbers in winter with regular counts of several thousand, highest numbers; 4,500 on 6.10.82 (BBBR), 4,717 on 24.11.69 (DK) and ca. 10,000 on 28.12.81 (MJ).

Anas platyrhynchos* (Mallard, Yeşilbaş)

As with the last species breeding not proven until 1991, although previously reported during the nesting season e.g. pair on 30.4.73 (DTe) and 20 on 12.5.80 (Kuh). In 1991 found to breed in very small numbers, with several broods being seen between 10-15.5.91 (Kir). Numbers fluctuating during winter IWRB count

period from November to February, between 15 on 1.1.83 (KKR) and 50 on 30.11.90 (MY) and on 22.1.92 (MYD) to 5,284 on 21.11.71 (DKW) and 2,890 on 23.11.70 (DK).

Anas acuta (Pintail, Kılördek)

Resident. Few breeding season records, single male and female on 20.4.83 (SR), present on 20.4.81 (GFRT), one male on 29.4.73, and the high count of at least 300 the next day (DTe), three males and three females on 10.5.91 (Kir) and 16 in the vicinity of Sazlıpınar on 4.6.75 (LPW). As with the last species numbers fluctuate markedly in winter, with a minimum of just 7 on 8/9.1.73, but maximum of 3,122 on 23.11.70 (DK) and 3,000 6./12.2.68 (Bird Report 1968-69).

Anas querquedula* (Garganey, Cikrikcin)

Breeds in small numbers. Single pairs seen on 29.4.73 (DTe) and 4.6.75 (LPW), and several pairs with large broods seen between 10-15.5.91 (Kir). In spring earliest record was 11 on 20.4.63 (Ri), with maximum of 153 on 27.4.91 (KO). In the post-breeding season few records, the highest count being 23 on 19.8.87 (GL), although a flock of 100 on 23.9.74 (Ea) was either this species or Teal. This latter date was also the latest date reported, with 6 definites recorded (Ea).

Anas clypeata (Shoveler, Kepeçel)

Probably a breeding resident, however until the 1991 survey was seen regularly between 24-27.4.91 (KO) and 10-15.5.91 (Kir) but no juveniles were seen. Maximum at this time 80 on 30.4.73 (DTe). In winter usually less than 100, but 330 on 21.11.71 (DKW) and 1,662 on 23.11.70 (DK).

Marmaronetta angustirostris* (Marbled Duck, Yaz Ördegi)

Breeding resident. Ko and Kir estimated that probably between 10 and 15 pairs were present in 1991, although the only observation of confirmed breeding in that year was of an adult with 6 pulli on 16.7 (Hof). The previous estimate as to the total number of breeding pairs was 3-4 (Ertan, Kasperek & Kılıç 1989), based on the observation of LPW on 3.6.75 and others on 22.7.75. There are records from eight months, higher numbers being reported in winter e.g. 53 on 23.11.70, but only 4 on 7.1.71 (DK), so counts fluctuate widely. The species formerly bred in the wetlands around Yarma (see Bird Report 1970-73) but these have now been drained. It is unlikely that the species breeds in the Karapınar Ovası, although this area was proposed as a breeding area by Grimmet & Jones (1989).

Netta rufina (Red-crested Pochard, Macar Ördegi)

Common resident, although breeding awaits confirmation. During the breeding season maximum were of 144 on 29.4.88 (RPL), and ca. 300 on 31.5.83 (Mu). In

addition 20-30 pairs were estimated on the west side of the marsh on 4.5.78 (Hol), and the species was described as "very common" on 14-15.5.85 (AE). Also common in winter when maximum was 790 on 7.1.71 (DK) and 600 on 22.1.92 (MYD). Sizeable flocks were reported from Süleymanhacı Gölü throughout the year.

Aythya ferina* (Pochard, Boz Dalagan)

Common breeding resident, maximum of 200 on 25.4.91 (KO) and nest seen on 13.5.91 (Kir). An estimate of 40 pairs was made for the Hotamış Marshes (Kirwan in prep.). In post-breeding season 107 on 17.7.81 (Pou). More common between November and February, although numbers vary markedly, maximum 1,260 on 16.1.70 (DK) and 550 on 22.1.92 (MY).

Aythya nyroca (Ferruginous Duck, Pasbaş Dalagan)

This species almost certainly breeds at the Hotamış Marshes, otherwise a relatively scarce resident, although only one winter record (one on 7.1.71, DK). During the breeding season only two counts in double figures; 18 on 26.4.91 (KO) and ca. 20 on 31.5.83 (Mu).

Aythya fuligula (Tufted Duck, Tepeli Dalagan)

Only two breeding season records; three on 26.4.91 (KO) and one on 2.5.89 (Gre), the latter near Küçük Aslama, an area which has now been drained. The maximum count, and one of only two double figure totals recorded was of 15 on 27.8.74 (HWF). Winter maximum was 14 on 7.1.71 (DK) and 10 on 22.1.92 (MYD).

Oxyura leucocephala* (White-headed Duck, Dikkuyruk)

Breeding bird. Nesting was confirmed in 1987 when GL saw 4 females with young on 19.8 near Küçük Aslama, but not in 1991, although observations in that spring suggest a breeding population of approximately 40 pairs (Kirwan in press). If this was confirmed this would make Hotamış the most important breeding locality for this species in Turkey. A population of 20 pairs was tentatively proposed for this area by Ertan, Kılıç & Kasperek (1989). Maximum count was 354 on 24.4.91, of which 329 were on Süleymanhacı Gölü (KO), and thereafter counts regularly in excess of 100 were made throughout 24.4-27.4 and 10-15.5.91 (KO and Kir). The possibility of a certain number of these birds being migrants en route to Russia has been discussed (Kirwan in press).

The only winter record is of a male on Süleymanhacı Gölü on 1.12.90 (MY).

Pernis apivorus (Honey Buzzard, Arı Şahini)

The only record was of one moving west over Sazlıpınar at 18:30 hours on 3.6.75 (LPW).

Milvus migrans (Black Kite, Kızıl Çaylak)

One on 20.4.63 (Ri), two on 20.4.81 (GFRT), eight on 16/17.7.72 (Ph) and a single on 26.8.74 (HWF).

Neophron percnopterus (Egyptian Vulture, Akbaba)

Five records from May to September, maximum 3 on 25.8.85 (BGL) and the same number flying south on 27.8.74 (HWF).

Circus gallicus (Short-toed Eagle, Yılan Kartalı)

Probably breeds in the vicinity of Karadağ as frequently observed in this area between 24-27.4.91 (KO) and 10-15.5.91 (Kir), although only two previous records from the Hotamış region; four seen on 12.5.86 (MR, DOF) and two at Hotamış on 20.8.86 (MWV).

Circus aeruginosus (Marsh Harrier, Saz Delicesi)

A common resident. A careful estimate of between 40 and 50 breeding pairs was made in 1991 (10-15.5.91, Kir). However, as yet breeding remains unproven, although the species must almost certainly do so, food passing and other features indicative of breeding have been regularly observed. The only noted observation of juveniles was of 28 "mostly juveniles", on 31.10.82 (KKR), these could however have been winter immigrants.

Almost equally common during the migration and winter periods, with the maximum count coming in December (40-50 on 28.12.81, MJ).

Circus cyaneus (Hen Harrier, Gökçe Delice)

Principally a winter visitor although late (?) and early (?) individuals recorded on 20.4.83 (SR) and 17.7.81 (Pou). Both involved females. Otherwise recorded from beginning of November (male and 9 females or immatures on 1.11.83, KKR) to February (female on 12.1.86, DK), the former total was also the highest number recorded.

Circus macrourus (Pallid Harrier, Bozkır Delicesi)

Three on 20.8.86 (MWV) and 2-3 birds on 23.9.74 (Ea) are the only records.

Circus pygargus (Montagu's Harrier, Çayır Delicesi)

Summer visitor, may breed in very small numbers, although recorded only in April, one record (pair on 24.4.91, KO), May, six records (maximum two on 11.5.85, FG) and June, one record (seven, including a male, an immature male and 5 females on 3.6.75, LPW).

Accipter nisus (Sparrowhawk, Atmaca)

Only three records, two females on 12.1.86 (DK), male on 25.4.91 (KO) and male on 28.12.81 (MJ).

Buteo buteo (Buzzard, Şahin)

Two records, two to the north of the Hotamış Marshes on 4.7.86 (WBMT) and 6 moving south, presumably migrants, on 27.8.74 (HWF). Both records involved the race known colloquially as 'Steppe Buzzard' (*B. b. vulpinus*).

Buteo rufinus (Long-legged Buzzard, Kızıl Şahin)

Twenty records from throughout the year including the breeding season, though perhaps more common in winter. Maximum 5 on 30.11.90 and 4 on the next day (MY).

Aquila hellaca (Imperial Eagle, Şah Kartal)

One, not aged, seen above the eastern end of Hotamış on 30.11.90 (MY).

Hieraaetus fasciatus (Bonelli's Eagle, Tavşancıl)

One adult was seen on the Hotamış-Karaman road on 15.5.85 (AE).

Pandion hallaetus (Osprey, Balık Kartalı)

One on 23.9.74 (Ea) is the only record.

Falco naumanni* (Lesser Kestrel, Küçük Kerkenez)

Summer visitor, breeds in Küçük Aslama where a small colony of about five pairs was observed in both 1990 (KRR) and 1991 (maximum 13, 10-15.5.91, Kir). May also breed in Sazlıpınar, though not proven, maximum count there 6 on 9.7.87 (CGP). Earliest record 15 in the vicinity of Hotamış on 20.4.81 (GFRT), last was that previously cited for Sazlıpınar.

Falco tinnunculus (Kestrel, Kerkenez)

Resident. Records from throughout the year, although most refer to concentrations of less than 10 birds, maximum 11 from the Konya road on 9.1.73 (DK). No breeding records.

Falco vespertinus (Red-footed Falcon, Ala Dogan)

Male on 15.5.87 over Batakılık Gölü (KK) was the only record.

Falco columbarius (Merlin, Boz Dogan)

Uncommon winter visitor from November to February (earliest 23.11.69, DK, latest six 20.2.84, DK) with only five records in total. Maximum of seven on 9.1.73 (DK) which included three along the Konya road.

Falco subbuteo (Hobby, Delice Dogan)

Singles on 25.4.91 (KO), 11.5.85 (FG), 27.8.74 (HWF) and three on 23.9.74 (Ea) are the only records.

Falco peregrinus (Peregrine, Dogan)

One on 25.4.91 (KO) is the only record.

Falco cherrug (Saker, Ulu Dogan)

Immature 4.7.86 (WBMT) may indicate local breeding. Otherwise singles 27.8.74 (HWF), 23.9.74 (Ea) and 31.7.72, when seen attacking lark flocks (Bird Report 1970-73).

Coturnix coturnix (Quail, Bildircin)

Records from all months between May and August, the frequency of calling birds may indicate that a few pairs breed in the cropped areas. Maximum was 6 on 17.7.81 (Pou).

Rallus aquaticus (Water Rail, Su Kılavuzu)

Resident, breeding as yet unproven but a population of 35 pairs is suspected on the basis of calling birds between 24-27.4 and 10-15.5.91 (KO, Kir). Perhaps more obvious in autumn and winter when birds are more prone to feeding in the open, e.g. at least 10 seen by Ea on 23.9.74.

Porzana parva (Little Crane, Benekli Yeive)

Scarce passage migrant which may perhaps remain to breed. All records refer to 1991. One 24.4, three 25.4 and two 14.5 (KO, Kir).

Gallinula chloropus* (Moorhen, Saz Tavugu)

Breeds, but no winter records. Breeding was confirmed in 1986 (family party on 5.7. WBMT) and 1991, when approximately 30 pairs were estimated to be nesting.

Fullca atra* (Coot, Sakarmeke)

Breeding resident. Kir estimated a population of less than 10 pairs in 1991, although highest count during the breeding season involved 400 on 12.5.80 (Kuh) and 490 on 17.7.61 (Pou), indicating that large numbers of non-breeders may occasionally utilise the area. Very common from October to February (March?) with maximum of 57,137 on 24.11.69 (DK), more usually between 15-20,000, but exceptionally low count of 36 on 8/9.1.73 (DK).

Grus grus (Crane, Turna)

May breed in very low numbers, five breeding season records, maximum five at Sazlıpınar 9.7.67 (CGP), whooping song heard on 26.4.91 (KO).

Irregularly also in winter, two each on 8/9.1.73 and 20.2.74 (DK), maximum 20 on 1.11.83 (KKR). Highest count was in autumn, 45 on 23.9.74 (Ea).

Otts tarda (Great Bustard, Toy)

The only record was in winter, a single on 8/9.1.73 (DK).

Haematopus ostralegus (Oystercatcher, Poyraz Kuşu)

Two seen 11.5.85 (FG) is the only record.

Himantopus himantopus* (Black-winged Stilt, Uzunbacak)

Probably a common breeding bird, e.g. twelve pairs at Sazlıpınar on 3.6.75 (LPW) and 950 on 6.7.85 (SH), although no major colonies located during 1991 breeding bird survey, only singleton nests (Kir). First record on 20.4.83 (SR), last on 23.9.74 (Ea).

Recurvirostra avosetta (Avocet, Kılıçgaga)

Irregular visitor and passage migrant, usually in very small groups of less than five birds. Exceptionally flocks of 120 on 6.7.85 (SH) and up to 750 on 23.9.74 (Ea). Unusually late were 4 on 21.11.71 (DKW).

Burhinus oedicnemus (Stone Curlew, Kocagöz)

Summer visitor which probably breeds in the dry pasture and agricultural areas surrounding the lake and marshes. A total of nine records from the earliest, of two

at Hotamış Köyü on 4.5.78 (HoI) to latest, a group of 19, on 27.8.74 (HWF) which was also the maximum. Calling birds heard on 3.6.75 (LPW) and 4.7.86 (WBMT).

Glareola pratlncola* (Collared Pratincole, Batak Kırlangıcı)

Formerly a breeding bird at the Bataklık Gölü (30 pairs on an island, with "one nest containing one egg and one empty nest" located on 15.5.87, KK) and Sazlıpınar (100, "obvious colony" on 3.6.75, and two juveniles seen next day, LPW). Both these areas are now drained. Perhaps bred in the vicinity of Küçük Aslama (maximum 155 to roost on 19.6.87, GL) and breeding colony now established close to Sürğüç (maximum 72 27.4.91, KO, and 150 on 20.8.88, MWV). Summer visitor from 24.4.91 (KO) to 23.9.74 (Ea).

Glareola nordmanni (Black-winged Pratincole, Karakanatlı Batak Kırlangıcı)

Two groups recorded, both in autumn, three on 16/17.7.72 (Ph) and 6 on 23.9.74 (Ea), also a single on 10.8.76 (Bea).

Charadrius dubius (Little Ringed Plover, Küçük Halkalı Cılibit)

Passage migrant. Recorded in all months from April to September, earliest three on 24.4.91 (KO), latest 50 on 23.9.74 (Ea) which was also the highest number reported.

Charadrius hiaticula (Ringed Plover, Halkalı Cılibit)

Passage migrant, maximum in spring at least 25 on 11.5.85 (FG), in autumn 21 on 6.10.82 (BBBR). One winter record, a group of five on 21.11.71 (DK).

Charadrius alexandrinus* (Kentish Plover, Küçük Cılibit)

Three adults with three juveniles at Sazlıpınar on 4.6.75 (LPW) but no further confirmed breeding observations until three nests were found near Adakale on 11.5.91 (Kir). The species probably breeds in small numbers around much of the marsh. Also a common passage migrant, more regular in autumn, when maximum of 650 on 6.7.85 (SH) recorded. Latest record was 4 on 6.10.82 (BBBR).

Charadrius leschenaultii (Greater Sand Plover, Büyük Cılibit)

No confirmation of breeding, although this is perhaps to be suspected to occur at irregular intervals. Several, including juveniles seen on 5.7.79 may have bred locally. Records much fewer than at other inner Anatolian wetlands where breeding is known to occur e.g. Çöl Gölü (Karauz unpubl.), the Sultan Marshes (Kasperek 1985) and Ereğli Sazlığı (Kılıç & Kasperek 1991). Nine records in total, most in April (three), but also recorded in May-July (six). Maximum was 42 on 25.6.85.

(BGL), other double-figure counts were 10 on 31.5.83 (Mu) and 13 on 6.7.85 (SH).

Pluvialis apricaria (Golden Plover, Altın Yagmurcun)

15 on 20.2.74 (DK) is the only record.

Pluvialis squatarola (Grey Plover, Gümüş Yagmurcun)

The only record is eight on 6.10.82 (BBBR).

Hoplopterus spinosus* (Spur-winged Plover, Mahmuzlu Kızkuşu)

Breeding bird. KK confirmed breeding in 1987 (15 pairs on island in Bataklık Gölü on 15.5.), as did Kir in 1991 (a total of 40 breeding pairs around lake).

Regularly recorded in small numbers throughout the breeding season by many observers although no records before 20.4.63 (Ri) or after a single on 27.8.74 (HWF).

Chettusia leucura* (White-tailed Plover, Akkuyruk Kızkuşu)

Formerly bred irregularly, and may perhaps still do so, although no records at all since 1986 (one at Küçük Aslama 30.5, BMS in Bird Report 1982-86). A total of nine records since 1974, earliest 10.5.77 (Gan), latest 2 on 26.8, and three on 27.8.74 (HWF), with maximum of 13 on 13.6.85 (BdH in Bird Report 1982-86).

Vanellus vanellus* (Lapwing, Kızkuşu)

Breeding resident. Breeding confirmed in 1987 (nest with two eggs on island in Bataklık Gölü 15.5, KK) and observations in 1991 suggest a population of between 10 and 20 pairs, although nesting was not confirmed (Kir). Maximum in summer 200 on 19.5.85 (All). Common winter visitor in smaller flocks of between 100-150 birds, maximum of 482 on 16.1.70 (DK).

Calidris canutus (Knot, Büyük Kumkuşu)

One on 11.5.85 (FG). This species is a very rare vagrant in Turkey (see Kasparek 1990a).

Calidris minuta (Little Stint, Küçük Kumkuşu)

Common migrant in spring, April (maximum 300 on 24-27.4.91, KO) and May (maximum 1,500 on 14.5.85, AE), and from late July (39 on 17.7.81, Pou) to beginning of October (138 on 6.10.82, BBBR), with three late birds on 23.11.70 (DK). Maximum in autumn at least 1600 on 23.9.74 (Ea).

Calidris temminckii (Temminck's Stint, Sarıbacaklı Kumkuşu)

Seven records, in May (four records, maximum at least 12 on 12.5.79, Doh), August (27.8.74, HWF), September (6 on 23.9.74, Ea) and October (4 on 6.10.82, BBBR).

Calidris ferruginea (Curlew Sandpiper, Kızıl Kumkuşu)

Also seven records, four in May (maximum 24 on 19.5.85, All), two in July and one in October (6 on 6.10.82, BBBR).

Calidris alpina (Dunlin, Kumkuşu)

Winter visitor and passage migrant, generally uncommon. Passage in April (two records), May (one on 13.5.80, Kuh) and in September (10 on 23.9.74, Ea) and October (two on 6.10.82, BBBR). Three winter records; singles on 7.1.71 and 23.11.70 (DK) and eight on 21.11.71 (DKW).

Limicola falcinellus (Broad-billed Sandpiper, Uzungagalı Kumkuşu)

Five on 14.5.85 (AE) is the only record.

Philomachus pugnax (Ruff, Döğüşkenkuş)

Recorded in all months except March. Common passage migrant especially in spring e.g. 1,000 24-27.4.91 (KO), 400 on 20.4.81 (GFRT), at least 250 on s.w. side on 30.4.73 (DTe), generally fewer in autumn, although maximum of 1,800 on 23.9.74 (Ea). Variable numbers winter in the area, from just 6 on 4/5.2.67 (Hsz), to more normally several hundreds e.g. 451 on 23.11.70 and 540 on 24.11.69 (DK), with an exceptional count of 6,856 on 20.2.74 (DK).

Lymnocyptes minimus (Jack Snipe, Küçük Su Cullugu)

One on 21.11.71 (DKW) is the only record.

Gallinago gallinago (Snipe, Su Cullugu)

Recorded from late August (4 on 20.8.88, MWV, and 20 on 27.8.74, HWF) to late April (2 on 25.4.91, KO), with the majority of records from November. No records of more than 20 individuals.

Limosa limosa (Black-tailed Godwit, Batak Cullugu)

Recorded throughout the year, but with no records in March and May. Generally scarce on spring migration e.g. maximum 14 on 24.4.91 (KO), but occasionally common in autumn e.g. 90 on 17.7.81 (Pou), and exceptionally 1,800 23.9.74 (Ea).

More regular in large numbers in winter months when flocks of several hundred reported on a number of visits, maximum 651 on 20.2.74 (DK) and 735 on 24.11.69 (DK).

Limosa lapponica (Bar-tailed Godwit, Kıyı Cullugu)

One record of this scarce but annual migrant through Turkey (Martins 1989). A single on 19.5.85 (All).

Numenius phaeopus (Whimbrel, Yagmur Kervan Cullugu)

One on 25.4.91 (KO). Uncommon passage migrant across Turkey (see Kasperek 1990b).

Numenius arquata (Curlew, Kervan Cullugu)

Status uncertain, three winter records and one in autumn as follows; three on 16.1.70, one on 20.2.74 (DK), one on 27.8.74 (HWF) and one on 24.11.69 (DK).

Tringa erythropus (Spotted Redshank, Benekli Kızılacak)

Recorded throughout the year, though no records from March and December. Generally few in winter, maximum 29 on 23.11.70 (DK) or during spring passage period. Perhaps more common in autumn, certainly maximum numbers recorded then, e.g. 350 on 6.7.85 (SH) and 800 on 23.9.74 (Ea).

Tringa totanus (Redshank, Kızılacak)

Resident and perhaps breeds in the area although no confirmation of this available. Peak number in September of 450 (Ea). Otherwise most common during IWRB winter counts, usually less than 100, maximum of 108 on 24.1.69 (DK).

Tringa stagnatilis (Marsh Sandpiper, Batak Düdükünü)

Passage migrant from April (three records, Ri, KO and GFRT) to October (9 on 6.10.82, BBBR). Most records involve single birds or small groups, but about 25 on 25.6.85 (BGL), 135 on 6.7.85 (SH), 54 on 17.7.81 (Pou) and 135 on 23.9.74 (Ea).

Tringa nebularia (Greenshank, Yeşilacak)

Recorded from late April until the end of November, usually less than 10, flocks of 25 reported on 6.7.85 (SH) and 6.10.82 (BBBR).

Tringa ochropus (Green Sandpiper, Yeşil Düdükünü)

Throughout the year, though only three winter records; two on 16.1.70 and on 24.11.69 (DK) and 3 on 1.12.90 (MY). Most counts involved fewer than 10, but 12 on 19.8.87 (GL) and most exceptionally 90 on 17.7.81 (Pou).

Tringa glareola (Wood Sandpiper, Orman Düdükünü)

Migrant during April/May, once in June, and July to October, usually in small numbers. Maximum in spring 300 24-27.4.91 (KO) and 500 14.5.85 (AE), and autumn 40 27.8.74 (HWF).

Earliest on 20.4.83 (SR and GFRT) and latest on 6.10.82 (four, BBBR).

Actitis hypoleucos (Common Sandpiper, Dere Düdükünü)

Recorded in April/May and July, always in single figure numbers.

Arenaria interpres (Turnstone, Taşçeviren)

One on 11.5.85 (FG) and three on 23.9.74 (Ea) are the only records.

Phalaropus lobatus (Red-necked Phalarope, Kızılboyunlu Kumkuşu)

One, in summer plumage on 26.4.91 (KO).

Larus melanocephalus (Mediterranean Gull, Akdeniz Martısı)

An immature on 16.7.91 (Hof) is the only record.

Larus minutus (Little Gull, Küçük Martı)

There are some records from May; singles on 11.5.85 (FG) and 19.5.85 (All), and three immatures on 31.5.83 (Mu).

Larus ridibundus (Black-headed Gull, Karabaş Martı)

Resident. Normally less than 100, but 155 on 20.2.74 (DK), 170 on 28.2.78 (DT), 500 on 23.9.74 (Ea) and 178 on 21.11.78 (DKW) indicate that the species is usually most common in autumn and winter.

Larus genei* (Slender-billed Gull, Incegagalı Martı)

Seen regularly between April and September, with a total of 18 records. Has bred as a record of 4 adults with a single juvenile on 16/17.7.72 (Ph) and a small colony observed on 6.6.71 (Bird Report 1970-73) prove. Maximum during the breeding season at least 100 on 31.7.71 (Bird Report 1970-73) and 110 on 6.7.85 (SH).

with earliest date 20.4.83 (SR) and last 25 on 23.9.74 (Ea). Interestingly there are no records since 1985 and no winter records.

Larus canus (Common Gull, Kûçûk Gümüş Martı)

One on 27.8.74 (HWF) is the only record.

Larus armenicus / L. cachinnans (Armenian Gull / Yellow-legged Gull)

Throughout the year, with records from all months except in March, April and June. Usually in singles, or small groups, but 81 on 20.2.74 (DK), 35 on 6.7.85 (SH) and 100 on 23.9.74 (Ea).

A number of records are attributable to the Armenian Gull *L. armenicus*, increasingly treated as a full species, being distinct from *L. cachinnans* (Glutz von Blutzheim and Bauer 1982, and discussed in Suter 1990). These include the following: eleven on 21.5.84 (Ru) and one on 30.11.90 (MY); most records remain unspecifically identified as to species.

Gelochelidon nilotica (Gull-billed Tern, Güien Sumru)

Records from April - July and September (Ea). Perhaps a breeding bird as Ph watched a group of 8 adults and a juvenile on 17.7.81. All records involved groups of less than 10 individuals; other maximum, apart from above, was nine on 6.7.85 (SH).

Sterna hirundo (Common Tern, Sumru)

Summer visitor from 20.4.83 (SR) to 17.7.81 (Pou). No proof of breeding although it is probable that the species does so. Most records involve less than 10, but for 30 on 26.4.91 (KO), 25 on 29.4.88 (RPL), 13 on 6.7.85 (SH) and 17 on 16/17.7.72 (Ph).

Sterna alblfrons (Little Tern, Kûçûk Sumru)

Usually seen in small numbers during the breeding season, as with the last species a number of records indicative of breeding, but as yet this remains unproven. Earliest 2 on 29.4.88 (RPL), latest 4 on 27.8.74 (HWF), with maximum of 26 on 11.5.85 (FG).

Chlidonias hybridus (Whiskered Tern, Bıyıklı Sumru)

Probably breeds. Records from throughout the breeding season from 24.4.91 (255, KO), to 6.10.82 (15, BBBR), with a late record of 4 on 21.11.71 (DK). Numbers probably swollen by passage birds at these seasons. Maximum was 304 on 11.5.91 (Kir).

Chlidonias niger (Black Tern, Kara Sumru)

Appears to be a rather uncommon passage migrant. A total of only eight records between 26.4.91 (15, KO) and 23.9.74 (1, Ea). All records involved small groups of less than 10, apart from the aforementioned report, and the maximum of 20 on 12.5.79 (Doh).

Chlidonias leucopterus (White-winged Black Tern, Akkanatlı Sumru)

Common bird in the breeding season, and may perhaps breed sporadically. Also common at both passage periods, maximum during spring migration 30 on 19.5.85 (All), more common in autumn with highest counts of 264 on 17.7.81 (Pou) and 200 on 23.9.74 (Ea). In addition two winter records; 9 on 16.1.70 and 8 on 24.11.69 (DK).

Pterocles orientalis (Black-bellied Sandgrouse, Kilkuyruk Bağirtlak)

Records from all months except March, October and December. Presumably breeds in the vicinity of the marshes, with a total of 19 records from this season, although usually recorded in small numbers. Maximum numbers occur in autumn and winter, 95 20.2.74 (DK), at least 400 23.9.74 (Ea) and 117 24.11.69 (DK).

Columba livia (Rock Dove, Kaya Gûvercini)

Irregularly reported, thus no clear pattern has as yet emerged as to its status in the area. Many observers may however fail to note this species due to confusion with Feral Pigeon *C. livia*. Records in January and February (one each, when common), April ("present"), May (two, maximum 505, 12.5.86, DOF), July (two, maximum 350, 6.7.85, SH), November and December (one each).

Streptopella decaocto* (Collared Dove, Kumru)

Breeding species. Nest observed in Hotamış on 24.4.91 (KO). However only five other records from the breeding season. Most involve birds seen from the main Konya-Eregli road. One winter record, four on 1.11.83 (KKR).

Streptopella turtur (Turtle Dove, Üveyik)

Records from April (earliest, "at least 3" 30.4.73, DTe), May (maximum 20, at Sakyatan Gölü, on 12.5.86, DOF) and September (latest 20 on 23.9.74, Ea). A migrant only in this area.

Cuculus canorus (Cuckoo, Guguk)

Singles on 25.4.91 (KO), 12.5.80 (Kuh) and 23.9.74 (Ea).

Athene noctua (Little Owl, Kukumav)

Probably a breeding bird in a number of villages surrounding the Hotamış Marshes, although thus far this has not been confirmed. Most records are from the breeding season, maximum 15, "north of Hotamış" 4.7.86 (WBMT), but also reported in winter, three records in January and one in February.

Caprimulgus europaeus (Nightjar, Çobanaldata)

One, on the Konya Ovası on 11.5.85 (FG).

Apus apus* (Swift, Karasagan)

Breeds, first recorded on 3.6.75 (LPW) when many were nesting in Sazlıpınar, no subsequent confirmed records, but nesting suspected in Adakale in 1991 (KO). Recorded regularly from April (earliest 20.4.63, Ri, and 20.4.81, GFRT) to July (last 170 on 6.7.85, SH). Maximum was 4-5,000 on 19.5.85 (All).

Apus melba (Alpine Swift, Akkarınlı Sagan)

Two records; two on 25.4 and three on 27.4.91 (KO).

Apus pallidus (Pallid Swift, Külrengi Sagan)

About 10 on 25.6.85 (BGL) is the only record.

Alcedo atthis (Kingfisher, Yalıçapkını)

All records are from autumn and winter, though the possibility that the species may breed at the Hotamış Marshes cannot be discounted. Highest numbers; four on 27.8.74 (HWF) and three on 21.11.71 (DKW).

Merops apiaster* (Bee-eater, Arıkuşu)

Breeding bird and passage migrant. A small colony of under five pairs bred in a gravel pit adjacent to Adakale in 1991 (KO). Otherwise on passage; earliest 10 on 25.4.91 (KO), latest 40 on 27.8.74 (HWF). The latter was also the highest number recorded.

Coracias garrulus (Roller, Gökkuzgun)

Records from April (present on 20.4.81, GFRT, two on 24.4.91, KO), May (three, maximum at least six on 4.5.78, Hol) and September (one on 23.9.74, Ea).

Upupa epops* (Hoopoe, İbibik)

Breeding bird. Probably nesting in Sazlıpınar, 4.6.75 (LPW), and bred in the following villages in 1991; Taşagil, Türkmenkarahüyük, Süleymanhacı and Sürgüç (Kir). At least two of these nest sites were situated in the low walls of the village cemeteries. First records on 20.4.63 (Ri) and 20.4.81 (GFRT), latest on 27.8.74 (HWF).

Jynx torquilla (Wryneck, Boyunçeviren)

A juvenile on 24.8.86 (MQ) was presumably on passage.

Melanocorypha calandra (Calandra Lark, Bogmaklı Toygar)

Presumably breeds, although no confirmed records. The species is a common resident in the area with records from all months, excepting January, March and October.

Melanocorypha bimaculata (Bimaculated Lark, Küçük Bogmaklı Toygar)

Much less common than the previous species, some records may indeed be attributable to *M. calandra*. Most records are from the breeding season, usually in small numbers, exceptionally 54 on 19.8.87 (GL) and 2,800, presumably migrants on 23.9.74 (Ea). One winter record 20 on 1.11.83 (KKR).

Calandrella brachydactyla* (Short-toed Lark, Bozkır Toygarı)

Summer visitor and breeding bird. A number of nests located on the south-west side of the marsh (10-15.5.91, Kir) are the only instances of confirmed breeding. Recorded from 20.4.63 (Ri) and 20.4.81 (GFRT) to 23.9.74 (Ea).

Calandrella rufescens (Lesser Short-toed Lark, Çorak Toygarı)

Common resident, although no records in March and October-December. However frequently more common than *C. brachydactyla* e.g. 280 on 19.5.85 (All), 200 on 24-25.6.85 (BGL) and described as abundant by Hol on 4.5.78.

Galerida cristata* (Crested Lark, Tepeli Toygar)

Breeds. Only instance of confirmed breeding was between 10-15.5.91 (Kir). Records only from April, May, July, August and December. Judging by the number of singing birds during survey periods in 1991 this species is a common breeding bird in this area. Both this, and the next species are presumably frequently overlooked.

Alauda arvensis (Skylark, Tarla Kuşu)

Presumably breeds, although this remains unproven. Many singing around the south-western corner of the marsh 24-27.4.91 (KO), otherwise a total of only six records, including two in winter. See comments under *G. cristata*.

Riparia riparia* (Sand Martin, Kum Kırlangıcı)

Passage migrant, occasionally in large numbers, and also a breeding bird. Breeding confirmed in 1968, when a colony of 300 was located (Le) and 1975 (colony of ca. 100 pairs in a sandpit to the north of the lake, 3.6, LPW), and thought 'probable', but unproven in 1991 (Kir). Earliest 20.4.81 (GFRT), still two on 24.11.69 (DK). Maximum count was 3,500 on 6.7.85 (SH).

Hirundo rustica* (Swallow, Kır Kırlangıcı)

Common summer visitor. Breeding recorded in Sazlıpınar on 3.6.75 (LPW), and in several villages in the area between 10-15.5.91 (Kir). Present from mid-April until late September, with a number of large counts, maximum 2,500 on 6.7.85 (SH).

Hirundo daurica (Red-rumped Swallow, Kızıl Kırlangıcı)

Several on 20.4.81 (GFRT) and at least six on 11.5.85 (FG) are the only records.

Delichon urbica* (House Martin, Ev Kırlangıcı)

The only records, prior to 1991, were "small numbers" on 20.4.81 (GFRT) and 5 on 12.5.80 (Kuh). In 1991 small colonies, each of under 10 pairs, were found nesting in Adakale and Hotamış (Kir).

Anthus campestris (Tawny Pipit, Kır Incirkuşu)

One on 11.5.85 (FG), one on 4.7.86 (WBMT), two on 20.8.88 (MWV) and eight on 23.9.74 (Ea).

Anthus cervinus (Red-throated Pipit, Kızılgerdan Incirkuşu)

Regular passage migrant in spring, in small numbers, maximum was 20 on 24.4.73 (vWK). Only three records in autumn, four on 6.10.82 (BBBR), less than 5 on 1.11.83 (KKR) and 2 on 24.11.69 (DK).

Anthus spinoletta (Water Pipit, Su Incirkuşu)

Winter visitor to the area when reported on 20.2.74 and 23.11.69 (DK).

Motacilla flava (Yellow Wagtail, Sarı Kuyruksallayan)

All birds sub-specifically identified belonged to the ssp. *feldegg*. Presumably breeds e.g. several pairs at Sazlıpınar on 3.6.75 (LPW) and 11 adults with 35 juveniles on 17.7.81 (Pou). Otherwise a common passage migrant, usually in low double-figure numbers, earliest dates: 20.4.63 (Ri), 20.4.81 (GFRT) and 20.4.83 (SR), and last record, 20 on 6.10.82 (BBBR). Described as "very common" on 26.8.74 (HWF) and "common" on 23.9.74 (Ea).

Motacilla citreola (Citrine Wagtail, Sarıbaşlı Kuyruksallayan)

The observation of three birds (two males and a female) on 25.4.91 (KO) falls well into the migration period of this species (Kasperek, in prep.). However, another record of two, unsexed on 6.7.85 (SH) is already well in the breeding season.

Motacilla alba (Pied Wagtail, Ak Kuyruksallayan)

Status as yet unclear. Four records; singles on 20.4.63 (Ri) and 19.5.85 (All), three on 6.10.82 (BBBR) and ten on 1.11.83 (KKR).

Luscinia luscinia (Thrush Nightingale, Benekli Bülbül)

One on 25.4.91 (KO) was the only record.

Irania gutturalis (White-throated Robin, Taş Bülbülü)

A female on 20.4.81 (GFRT) was the only record.

Phoenicurus phoenicurus (Redstart, Kızılkuşuk)

A male on 20.4.83 (SR) is the only record.

Saxicola rubetra (Whinchat, Çayır Taşkuşu)

Only recorded on spring passage. Records in April (four) and May (two). Always in very small numbers.

Saxicola torquata (Stonechat, Taşkuşu)

One on 1.11.83 (KKR) is the only record.

Oenanthe oenanthe (Wheatear, Kuyrukkakan)

Passage migrant, usually in low numbers. Records on 12.5.80 (one, Kuh) and 12.5.86 (one at Sakyatan Gölü, DOF) in spring. In autumn present on 20.8.88

(MWV) and described as common by Ea on 23.9.74.

Oenanthe finschii (Finsch's Wheatear, Aksırtlı Kuyrukkakan)

One on 13.5.80 (Kuh) and two on 6.7.85 (SH) are the only records. However possible confusion with *O. hispanica* cannot be completely ruled out.

Oenanthe hispanica (Black-eared Wheatear, Karakulaklı Kuyrukkakan)

Probably breeds. Two pairs holding territory in the low hills to the south of Pınarbaşı on 26.4.91 (KO). Only two records prior to this, a male on 20.4.83 (SR) and several present on 20.8.88 (MWV).

Oenanthe isabellina* (Isabelline Wheatear, Boz Kuyrukkakan)

Breeding species. Probably a common breeding bird, though only one confirmed record on 14.5.91 (Kir). Records are from 20.4.81 (GFRT) to 6.10.82 (BBBR).

Turdus merula (Blackbird, Karatavuk)

One on 12.5.80 (Kuh) is the only record.

Cettia cetti (Cetti's Warbler, Kamış Bülbülü)

Perhaps a winter visitor only. There are four records; "some" on 20.2.74 (DK), two on 20.4.81 (GFRT), two on 27.8.74 (HWF) and a single on 1.11.83 (KKR).

Locustella luscinioides (Savi's Warbler, Irmak Bülbülü)

Singing males from April to July, and presumably breeds. Possibly as many as 100 pairs estimated in 1991 (KO, Kir). This species may be increasing at this locality as there is only one record (heard on 6.7.75, BG) prior to 1986.

Acrocephalus melanopogon (Moustached Warbler, Bıyıklı Saz Bülbülü)

Status as yet unclear, singing from April to July, but only three pre-1991 records ("less than 3 singing" on 15.5.87, KK, at least 4 on 5.7.86, WBMT, and 6 on 27.8.74 HWF). In 1991 the species was found to be common by voice, and possibly up to 100 pairs breed (KO, Kir). As with the last species it is not certain whether the species was largely overlooked in the past or whether a genuine increase has occurred.

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus (Sedge Warbler, Dere Bülbülü)

Uncommon breeding bird e.g. 13 on 25.4.91 (KO) and 5 on 29.4.88 (RPL). Records from April to August.

Acrocephalus scirpaceus (Reed Warbler, Saz Bülbülü)

Breeding species, although as with all species of 'reed' warblers at Hotamış this has yet to be proven. Records from April to August. Maximum 18 singing males on west side 25.4.91 (KO).

Acrocephalus arundinaceus (Great Reed Warbler, Büyük Saz Bülbülü)

Common breeding bird. Probably in the region of 250 pairs nest in the marshes and a further 50 pairs in the vicinity of Süleymanhacı Gölü (Kir). There are records from April to August, earliest on 24.4.91 (KO), latest 9 on 27.8.74 (HWF).

Sylvia communis (Whitethroat, Akgerdanlı Ötlegen)

Two records, a male on 26.4.91 (KO) and one on 23.9.74 (Ea).

Sylvia borin (Garden Warbler, Bahçe Ötlegeni)

Singles on 24.4.91 (KO) and 11.5.85 (FG) are the only records.

Sylvia atricapilla (Blackcap, Karabaşlı Ötlegen)

Two on 25.4.91 (KO) and on 11.5.85 (FG) are the only records.

Phylloscopus trochilus (Willow Warbler, Göçmen Söğüt Bülbülü)

Seen daily, maximum 20, between 24-27.4.91 (KO). Only previous records involved either this species or Chiffchaff (*P. collybita*) and are one on 11.5.85 (FG) and 3 on 27.8.74 (HWF).

Muscicapa striata (Spotted Flycatcher, Benekli Sinekapan)

A single on 12.5.85 (MR, DOF), two on 27.8.74 (HWF) and 5 on 23.9.74 (Ea) are the only records.

Panurus biarmicus (Bearded Tit, Bıyıklı Baştankara)

Breeding resident. Common during the breeding season, up to 75 pairs are presumed to breed (Kir) but this is, as yet, unconfirmed. Largest numbers reported in post-breeding season and autumn e.g. 120 6.7.85 (SH), and 200 on 23.9.74 (Ea). Many presumably emigrate during the winter as only three records from this

period; pair on 8.1.73, "some on west shore" on 12.1.86 and at least 20 on 20.1.74 (DK).

Sitta neumayer* (Rock Nuthatch, Kaya Sivacıkuşu)

Breeding confirmed on the low rocky outcrops near Pınarbaşı and Adakale in 1991 (Kir).

Remiz pendulinus (Penduline Tit, Çulha Kuşu)

Reported once in winter (one on 1.11.83, KKR), otherwise all records are from April to September. Almost all these involve small parties, which may be indicative either of local breeding or post-breeding dispersal from other localities.

Oriolus oriolus (Golden Oriole, Sarı Asma)

One female on 20.4.81 (GFRT) is the only record.

Lanius collurio (Red-backed Shrike, Kızılsırtlı Örümcekkuşu)

Passage migrant, perhaps most common in spring. Peak numbers during May, especially in mid-month, when maximum of 30 on 13.5.80 (Kuh) occurred. Earliest (three, 25.4.91, KO) and last (2, 23.9.74, Ea).

Lanius minor (Lesser Grey Shrike, Karaalınlı Örümcekkuşu)

Present in April/May and August. The species presumably breeds in the area. Maximum of 24 near Sakyatan Gölü on 12.5.86 (DOF).

Garrulus glandarius (Jay, Alakarga)

Single on 12.5.80 (Kuh) was unsurprisingly the only record.

Pica pica* (Magpie, Saksagan)

Surprisingly few records, most are of birds seen from the Konya-Eregli road, where the species was confirmed to breed near Yarma in 1991 (Kir). Only one winter record, 40-50 on 30.11.-1.12.90 (MY).

Corvus monedula (Jackdaw, Küçük Karga)

One on 2.5.89 (Gre), ten on 12.5.86 (DOF), "some" on 5.7.86 (WBMT), and 50 on 1.12.90 (MY) were the only records.

Corvus frugilegus (Rook, Ekin Kargası)

80 on 9.1.73 between Konya and Hotamış (DK), 85 at Sakyatan Gölü on 12.5.86 (DOF), 6 on 6.7.85 (SH) and 300 on 1.12.90 (MY).

Corvus corone (Hooded Crow, Leş Kargası)

Perhaps unreported as few records. All are from May (four) and July (two), except for 80 going west on 1.11.83 (KKR).

Sturnus vulgaris* (Starling, Sığircık)

Resident, recorded breeding in small numbers in several villages in the area during the survey in 1991 (Kir). Generally reported in low numbers in breeding season e.g. 50 12.5.80 (Kuh). Very common in autumn and winter, e.g. "many thousands at a roost in the reedbed" 1.11.83 (KKR), up to 100,000 on 28.12.81 (MJ) and "thousands near Yarma" on 9.1.73 (DK).

Sturnus roseus (Rose-coloured Starling, Ala Sığircık)

4 near Yarma on 2.6.91 (KM) and 20 at Hotamış on 20.8.88 (MWV) are the only records.

Passer domesticus* (House Sparrow, Serçe)

Common breeding bird in all villages (nests reported at Sazlıpınar on 3.6.75, LPW, and all villages 24-27.4., 10-15.5.91, KO, Kir). Only winter record is of several on 30.11.90 (MY).

Passer hispaniolensis* (Spanish Sparrow, Sögüt Serçesi)

Breeding bird. DK found many (old) nests in villages to the south and east of the marsh on 12.1.86, and Hol. discovered "a small colony in a plantation near Hotamış" on 4.5.78. In 1991 breeding was recorded at Adakale, Süleymanhacı and Hotamış (KO). Maximum 100 at Sakyatan Gölü on 12.5.86 (DOF). No winter records excepting the above, and 5 on 30.11.90 (MY).

Carduelis chloris (Greenfinch, Florya)

Winter visitor; "some hundreds" on 9.1.73 (DK) and one on 28.12.81 (MJ).

Carduelis carduelis (Goldfinch, Saka)

Six records from five different months (January, May, July, November and December), perhaps most common in winter e.g. common on 9.1.73 (DK) but may also breed in the area.

Carduelis cannabina (Linnet, Ketenkuşu)

A few records from January, February and December, when the species is usually common e.g. 300 on 1.12.90 (MY).

Emberiza schoeniclus (Reed Bunting, Batak Kirazkuşu)

Breeding species, singing birds reported from April to June. Up to 50 pairs were estimated to be breeding in 1991 (Kir). In winter described as common on both 8.1.73 and 20.2.74 (DK). Most records involve birds ascribed to one of the eastern, thick-billed races.

Emberiza melanocephala (Black-headed Bunting, Karabaşlı Kirazkuşu)

Most records are from May, when breeding is suspected (a number singing 10-15.5.91, Kir). Maximum were 70 at Hotamış and 100 at Sakyatan Gölü on 12.5.86 (DOF) and 120 on 13.5.86 (Kuh). Apart from this singles on 3.8.75 (LPW) and 8.7.85 (SH) were the only records.

Miliaria calandra (Corn Bunting, Tarla Kirazkuşu)

Breeding probable. Regularly reported during April-July. Two winter records; "common" on 9.1.73 (DK), and 290 on 1.12.90 (MY).

Özet (Turkish Summary)

Genel Tanıtım

Hotamış Sazlığı (37°35'K, 33°03'D) Konya-Eregli çöküntüsünde yer alan Çumra Ovası'nın merkezinde ve Konya il merkezine 80 km. uzaklıkta bir tatlısu bataklığıdır. Denizden 975 m. yükseklikte sulak alan, kuzeyinde Obruk Yaylası, güneyi, batısı ve güneydogusunda ise giderek yükselen ve en yüksek Karadag (2288 m.) olan tepelerle çevrilidir. Yakın geçmişe kadar 20.000 hektar genişliğindeki Hotamış Sazlığı, bugün yaklaşık 8.000 hektarlık bir alanı kaplamaktadır. Yörede İç Anadolu'ya özgü tipik kara iklimi hakimdir. Yıllık ortalama sıcaklık 11°C, yıllık toplam yağış 250-300 mm. arasındadır.

Hotamış Sazlığı, bugün Apa Barajı üzerinden ve Beyşehir Gölü'nden getirilen suya bağımlıdır. Sazlığı drene eden iki (üç?) kanal mevcuttur.

Derinliği 2.5-3.0 m. arasında değişen Hotamış Sazlığı'nın suyu, 1962 ve 1970 yıllarında yapılmış iki analize göre içilecek nitelikte (<35 mg/l toplamı iyon) olmakla birlikte toplam sulak alandaki küçülme sonucu son yıllarda belli bir tuzlanma olduğu sanılmaktadır.

Sulak alanın önemli bir kesim küçük göçüklere çevreye yoğun Kamış (*Phragmites australis*) topluluklarıyla kaplı olup yakındaki birkaç koruluk dışında çevresel ağaçsızdır. Henüz incelenmemiş olmakla birlikte, bu korulukların ve Çumra yolundaki meyva bahçeleri ve kavaklıkların özellikle ötücülere uygun bir ortam sağlamaları beklenir. Hotamış Sazlığı'nı çevreleyen bozkırın büyük kesimi bugün buğday ve yağlı tohumlar tarımına açılmıştır. Kalan kısmı da aşırı otlama sonucu tahrip olmuştur. Sazlıkta kuşlar dışındaki hayvanlar üzerine yapılmış bir araştırma bulunmamaktadır.

Ornitolojik Önemi

Hotamış Sazlığı'nda bugüne kadar toplam 193 kuş türü kaydedilmiştir. Bunların arasından (önemli bir kısmı ciddi bir azalma içindeki) 45 türün alanda üredigi kesin olarak saptanmıştır; bunlardan Akkuyruklu Kızkuşu ve İncegagalı Martı artık ürememekte olabilir. Ayrıca, elde kesin olmakla birlikte, buna ek olarak 30-35 kadar tür büyük olasılıkla alanda üremektedir. Toplam kaydedilen tür sayısı (193) Sultansazlığı ve çevresinde gözlenen sayıyla (249) karşılaştırıldığında düşük olmakla birlikte, toplam gözlem günü sayısının Hotamış Sazlığı aleyhine oldukça az (255 güne karşı 107 gün) olduğu gözönüne alınmalıdır. Yöreye 1963'ten bu yana özellikle üreme mevsiminde nispeten çok sayıda ornitolojik amaçlı gezil düzenlenmiş, 1991 yılı üreme mevsiminde ise sistematik bir kuş sayımı yapılmıştır. Ancak, sazlığı çevreleyen alanlardaki farklı habitatlara bağımlı birçok ötücü türüne ait veri son derece azdır.

Türkiye'nin önemli Kuş Alanları arasında sayılan (Ertan et al. 1989) Hotamış Sazlığı kuşkusuz uluslararası önemde bir sulak alandır. Tüm dünyada tehlike altında sayılan dört tür, Küçük Karabatak (10-20 çift), Yaz Ördeği (10-15 çift, kışın

50'den fazla), Dikkuyruk (40 çift, bir olasılıkla Türkiye'deki en önemli üreme alanı) ve Küçük Kerkenez (5 çift) yörede kesin olarak ya da olasılıkla üremektedirler. Bunlara ek olarak, uluslararası veya ulusal düzeyde korumaya değer bulunan (Porter 1991) 68 tür daha kaydedilmiştir; bunların 16'sı yörede kesin olarak ya da olasılıkla üremektedir.

Avrupa'da soyu tehlikede olan veya bölgede özel önem taşıyan türler ise şunlardır: Balaban (2 çift), Küçük Ak Balıkçıl (175-200 çift), Büyük Ak Balıkçıl (50 çift), Erguvanlı Balıkçıl (30 çift), Leylek (16 çift), Macar Ördeği (30-50 çift kadar), Küçük Yelve (belki birkaç çift), Uzunbacak (100 çift), Mahmuzlu Kızkuşu (40 çift), Batak Kırlangıcı (30 çift), Akkanatlı Sumru (belki ürüyor) ve Bıyıklı Saz Bülbülü (100 çift kadar).

Üreme mevsimi sonrasında, sazlık küçük su kuşları için önemli bir dinlenme ve beslenme alanıdır. Seçilmiş bazı türler için kaydedilmiş en yüksek sayılar şöyledir: 950 Uzunbacak (Temmuz), 750 Kılıçgaga (Eylül), 155 Batak Kırlangıcı (Ağustos), 650 Küçük Cılibit (Temmuz), 1600 Küçük Kumkuşu (Eylül), 1800 Batak Çulluğu (Eylül) ve 135 Batak Düdükçünü (Temmuz ve Eylül). Bu mevsimde martı ve sumru sayıları nispeten düşük olmakla birlikte Temmuz'da 200 Akkanatlı Sumru kaydı önemlidir. Ayrıca, Eylül ayında sayıları 400'e varan Bağirtlak kaydedilmiştir.

Büyük su kuşları ve bazı yağmurencü ve çulluk türleri için sulak alanın en yoğun kullanıldığı dönem kışdır (Kasım-Şubat). Bu dönemde 27,000'i aşkın Sakarca Kazı, 1800 Bozkaz, 1000 Angit, 5000 Fiyo, 2500 Bozördek, 10,000 Çamurencü, 3000 Kılördek, 800 Macar Ördeği, 58,000 Sakarmeke, 7000 Dövüşken Kuş ve 700 Batak Çulluğu gözlenmiştir.

Sulak alan ve çevresinde görülmüş ender türler arasında Kızılboyunlu Kaz, Şah Kartal, Küçük Yelve, Karakanatlı Batak Kırlangıcı, Akkuyruklu Kızkuşu (üremiştir), Büyük Kumkuşu, Uzungagalı Kumkuşu, KıyıÇulluğu ve Sarıbaşlı Kuyruksallayan sayılabilir.

İnsan Etkinlikleri ve Koruma

Hotamış Sazlığı herhangi bir koruma altında değildir. 1985-86 yıllarında Devlet Su İşleri tarafından sazlığın kuzeyindeki küçük çaplı sulamaları beslemek amacıyla Tuz Gölü'ne boşalan bir drenaj kanalının yapımıyla sulak alanın karakterinde belirgin bir değişim olmuştur. 20,000 hektarlık orijinal alanın yarısından çoğu, belki üstüste birkaç yaz süren kuraklığın da etkisiyle, bugün kurumuştur. Eskiden sulak alanın en büyük açık su yüzeyini oluşturan, doğu kesimindeki Bataklık Gölü'nün kurutulması belki en önemli kayıptır. Bu göl üzerindeki adalar, Inceagalı Martı dahil birçok martı, sumru ve küçük su kuşu için kuluçka alanıydı.

Küçük Karabatak sayılarında görülen azalma da aynı nedene bağlı olmalıdır. Kurutmanın kış su kuşu popülasyonlarına olumsuz etkisi öngörülmekle birlikte bu durumu doğrulayacak veri elde yoktur.

Sazlıkların köylüler tarafından tarımsal kullanımlara açılması sürmektedir. Kasıtlı ve kontrolsüzce çıkarılan saz yangınları ile evcil hayvanlar için taze otlak alanı elde edilmesi amaçlanmaktadır. Sazlıktan kazanılan alanlarda bazen tahıl ve yağlı

tohum tarımı mümkün olmakla birlikte, yakarak elde edilen alanların çoğu verimsizdir ve bir yıl içinde otlatma için bile yetersiz hale gelmektedir. Bu amaçla saz yakılması, tüm yıl boyunca sürmekte ve kuluçkadaki kuş topluluklarına bir tehdit oluşturmaktadır.

Buna karşın, yöredeki üç köyün başlıca ekonomik etkinliği olan saz kesimi yalnızca Ekim ve Nisan başı arasında, çoğu kuş türünün üreme mevsimi dışında gerçekleşmektedir.

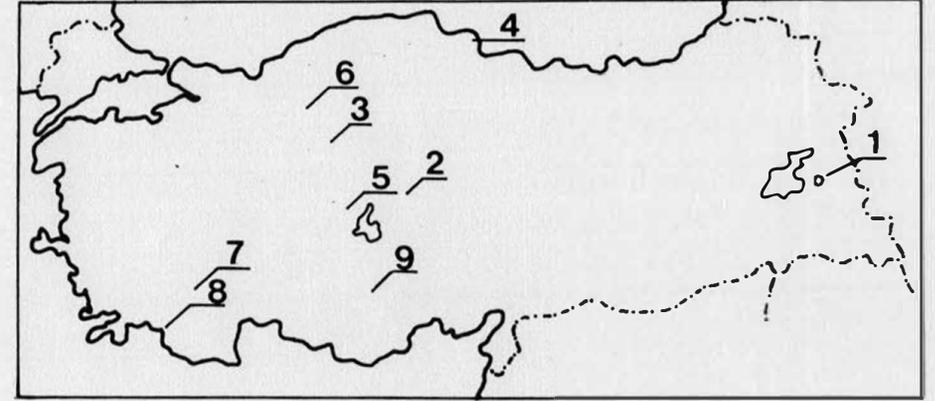
Sazlık, bir zamanlar İstanbul ve Suriye'den avcı çekek denli tanınmış bir avlak iken, son yıllarda bu ilgil yakındaki Karapınar Ovası'na yönelmiştir.

Adakale yakınlarında küçük bir kanal daha güneydeki sulamaları beslemek üzere inşa edilmektedir. Bu kanalın olası etkisi henüz bilinmemektedir. Ne var ki, DSI Konya Ovası'nın bir kısmını tamamen kurutmak yerine ağır ilkbahar yağmurları sırasında bir depo olarak kullanma planlarını açıklamıştır.

Hotamış Sazlığı, Sultan Sazlığı ve Ereğli Sazlığı ile birlikte, ender tatlısu step sazlıklarında biridir. Son iki sulak alanın mevcut ve planlanmış kurutma çalışmaları sonucu özelliklerinden çok şeyler yitirdikleri ve yitirecekleri düşünüldüğünde Hotamış Sazlığı'nın bugünkü haliyle korunmasının önemi daha iyi anlaşılacaktır.

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