THE REPORT of TURKISH NATIONAL RINGING SCHEME

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History and Structure

The birth of Turkish National Ringing Scheme (TNRS) dates back to 2001 when ringing was started at a pilot scale by Turkish Bird Research Society (KAD) and Middle East Technical University (METU) with "KAD-Turkey" rings. Following this successful pilot work, a protocol was signed between KAD, METU, and the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks, and TNRS was launched officially in March 2002.

Several universities and NGOs have been working together under the umbrella of TNRS since 2002.

Turkish Bird Research Society is the coordinator of the TNRS.

Funding of TNRS

In 2002, KAD applied for and was awarded by UNDP/GEF a $50,000 worth project. This project aimed to expand, improve and publicize the National Ringing Scheme, and increase public awareness on nature and conservation issues in the long term. In the course of this project 2 ringing courses were organized in spring and fall of 2003. Around 100 people from diverse backgrounds from all over Turkey participated in these courses. Informative ringing brochures and ringing posters were produced, published and distributed. A webpage for TNRS was launched at the address www.halkalama.net The English version is still to be completed.

The outcome of all these efforts were reflected in the increase of recovery reports from within the country since the launch of TNRS.

Unfortunately, after the end of this project in August 2004 no other funding could be secured for TNRS.

Staff

Since August 2004 there is no paid staff of TNRS. 2 Biologists from KAD is voluntarily in charge of TNRS coordination; Özge Keşaplı Can (coordinator of the scheme) and Özgür Keşaplı Didrickson (assistant).

Rings

The rings are imported from Aranea, Poland and are distributed at cost by KAD to licensed ringers.

Ringers

There are currently 7 licenced ringers.

Stations & Projects

Since 2002, 7 stations have been active during different times. The map below shows localities of all stations;

In the report period (2005-2006) only 5 of these stations carried out ringing study; Cernek station at Kızılırmak Delta (Samsun) which is run by Ondokuz Mayıs University Ornithological Research Center (OMU/OAM), Akyatan (Adana) station which is run by KAD in collaboration with General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks, Dicle Station (Diyarbakır) which is run by Dicle University with Southeast Europe Bird Migration Network (SEEN) support, Aras station which is run by Kafkas University with support from Christensen Fund (USA) and SEEN, Titreyengöl Station (Manavgat, Antalya) which is run by a German team (Reinhard Vohwinkel and Werner Prünte) in collaboration with Akdeniz University.

Colour ringing projects

Apart from station work that focus primarily on passerine migration there have been several color ringing projects some of which has started before birth of TNRS and started using national rings there on.

The Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* project is run by Ege University since 1987. The Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* ringing is a part of an international project and it has been carried out by KAD since 1997. In 2003 KAD started White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* ringing and later the same year Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber* ringing was started by Nature Society (DD) and Erciyes University in collaboration with Station Biologique de Tour du Valat. The latter is part of a joint project among Mediterranean countries on the metapopulation dynamics of the species.

Other projects

Most recently, FAO, Wetlands International and the Ministry of Agriculture have entrusted KAD the coordination of the first effort for Avian Influenza virus surveillance in wild migratory birds in Turkey. In November 2006, ringers from KAD and OMU/OAM carried aout ringing and sampling on waders in Kızılırmak Delta (Samsun) and Yumurtalık Lagoons (Adana).

In the report period Czech and Spanish visiting researchers have also carried out ringing for their own studies. All visiting ringers should apply for a research visa and use national rings from the TNRS coordination office.

International collaboration

Since the beginning of TNRS, active contributions of ringers from Poland and other countries were crucial for success. The ringing training was done according to Southeastern European Bird Migration Network (SEEN) standards and all stations became members of SEEN. The routines of SEEN stations are employed at all passerine stations (including carrying out of orientation experiments with Busse cages) except for Titreyengöl for the purpose of standardization and comparison of data.

Especially after becoming a member of EURING, TNRS also look forward to developing close relations with other EURING members in the form of exchange of ringers or through regional collaboration.

Data management

There is an ongoing effort towards building a custom-built software for managing records and for statistical analyses. The serious problem of lack of funding greatly effects the data management issues. A data management program would demand less effort from voluntary staff than the current handling process and generally make handling easier as the recovery reports increase steadily.

Problems of TNRS

The most important problem at the moment is the lack of funding which makes the progress of TNRS quite challenging. Inevitably it has not been possible to employ any professional staff for the scheme coordination. Nevertheless, being fully aware of this serious responsibility, KAD has not ceased its duties regarding the national scheme coordination even in expense of working on a voluntary basis. However under these circumstances only basic coordination work could be given priority.

The quite limited number of Turkish licensed ringers is also a bottleneck. Training of new ringers is of utmost importance although this is a slow process as there are not many assistant who devote enough time and patience to become ringers.

Although KAD managed to run a total of 3 stations for different periods since 2001, the problems of finance was also the reason for KAD stations not being active since spring 2005. The TNRS coordination staff are also KAD ringers who are crucially important in running the stations. The voluntary effort of these personnel had to be limited to office work when the problem of finance persisted since 2004. Therefore continous and secure funding for TNRS coordination could also help stations run on a regular basis. The assistants and potential future ringers are usually students and if their food and travel is not covered they also cannot join ringing due to finance.

A three-year long funding to monitor bird movements and migration has just been approved for the budget of the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks. We hope that this funding will also be used to help improve and expand TNRS.

Ringing Results

121079 birds of 211 species ringed since the beginning of TNRS and during 2005-2006, 30754 birds of 188 species was ringed. *Please see table for details. The ringing data of Pelecanus crispus and recovery numbers of Phoenicopterus ruber however have not been received by TNRS yet and thus could not be included in this report.*

Foreign ringers who would like to carry out ringing projects in Turkey should apply to the NRC via the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks. Any such application should be accompanied with a description of the study aims, scope and methodology. A copy of final report should be sent to the NRC secretariat. All ringing activities within the country are required to use national rings and the address on rings is **ODTU KAD ANKARA TURKEY.**

Recoveries should be reported by e-mail to ringing@kad.org.tr or by post to KAD, P.K. 311 06443 Yenişehir, Ankara, Turkey, or by fax to +90 312 419 81 79.

EURING code	Species	2005		2006		Total	
		Ringed	Recovered	Ringed	Recovered	Ringed	Recovered
00070	*Tachybaptus ruficolis*	2				2	
00120	*Podiceps nigricollis*	1				1	
00890	*Pelecanus crispus**						
00970	*Ixobrychus minutus*	15		16		31	
01040	*Nycticorax nycticorax*	1		3		4	
01340	*Ciconia ciconia**	58				58	
01470	*Phoenicopterus ruber**	270				270	
01840	*Anas crecca*			1		1	
01890	*Anas acuta*	1				1	
01980	*Aythya ferina*	1				1	
02690	*Accipiter nisus*	13		12		25	
02730	*Accipiter brevipes*	8				8	
02870	*Buteo buteo*	2				2	
02980	*Hieraaetus pennatus*			1		1	
03040	*Falco tinnunculus*	1				1	
03070	*Falco vespertinus*	1				1	
03090	*Falco columbarius*	1				1	
03100	*Falco subbuteo*	1				1	
03700	*Coturnix coturnix*	36		235		271	
04070	*RalIus aquaticus*	7		14		21	
04080	*Porzana porzana*	4		9		13	
04100	*Porzana parva*	3		5		8	
04110	*Porzana pusilla*			3		3	
04210	*Crex crex*	3		13		16	
04240	*Gallinula chloropus*	7		5		12	
04550	*Himantopus himantopus*	2				2	
04560	*Recurvirostra avosetta*			1		1	
04690	*Charadrius dubius*	1				1	
04770	*Charadrius alexandrinus*	2		32		34	

EURING code	Species	2005		2006		Total	
		Ringed	Recovered	Ringed	Recovered	Ringed	Recovered
04820	*Charadrius morinellus*	1				1	
04850	*Pluvialis apricaria*			10		10	
04860	*Pluvialis squatarola*			2		2	
04930	*Vanellus vanellus*			1		1	
05010	*Calidris minuta*	35		54		89	
05090	*Calidris ferruginea*	1				1	
05120	*Calidris alpina*			139		139	
05170	*Philomachus pugnax*	32		1		33	
05180	*Lymnocryptes minimus*	5		2		7	
05190	*Gallinago gallinago*	3		17		20	
05320	*Limosa limosa*	7		4		11	
05450	*Tringa erythropus*	1		2		3	
05460	*Tringa totanus*	1		38		39	
05470	*Tringa stagnatilis*	3		1		4	
05480	*Tringa nebularia*			3		3	
05510	*Tringa flavipes*			1		1	
05540	*Tringa glareola*	9				9	
05560	*Actitis hypoleucos*	2				2	
05750	*Larus melanocephalus**	80				80	
06840	*Streptopelia decaocto*			1		1	
06870	*Streptopelia turtur*	7		2		9	
07240	*Cuculus canorus*	7		3		10	
07350	*Tyto alba*	10		4		14	
07380	*Otus brucei*			2		2	
07390	*Otus scops*	38		18		56	
07570	*Athene noctua*	1		1		2	
07670	*Asio otus*	5		2		7	
07780	*Caprimulgus europaeus*	26		19		45	
08270	*Halcyon smyrnensis*	2				2	

EURING code	Species	2005		2006		Total	
		Ringed	Recovered	Ringed	Recovered	Ringed	Recovered
08310	*Alcedo atthis*	180	1	111		291	1
08400	*Merops apiaster*	15		12		27	
08410	*Coracias garrulus*	1		8		9	
08460	*Upupa epops*	21		7		28	
08480	*Jynx torquilla*	35		50		85	
08760	*Dendrocopos major*	1				1	
08780	*Dendrocopos syriacus*			6		6	
08870	*Dendrocopos minor*	2				2	
09620	*Melanocorypha bimaculata*	1				1	
09670	*Calandrella brachydactyla*	36		1		37	
09720	*Galerida cristata*	28		13		41	
09740	*Lullula arborea*	2				2	
09760	*Alauda arvensis*	5		2		7	
09810	*Riparia riparia*	166	1	1626		1792	1
09920	*Hirundo rustica*	148	1	1008		1156	1
09950	*Hirundo daurica*	37		3		40	
10010	*Delichon urbica*	1				1	
10020	*Anthus novaeseelandiae*	3		1		4	
10040	*Anthus godlewskii*			1		1	
10050	*Anthus campestris*	147		62		209	
10080	*Anthus hodgsoni*			1		1	
10090	*Anthus trivialis*	73		60		133	
10110	*Anthus pratensis*	6				6	
10120	*Anthus cervinus*	136		52		188	
10140	*Anthus spinoletta*			3		3	
10170	*Motacilla flava*	142		428		570	
10180	*Motacilla citreola*	1		2		3	
10190	*Motacilla cinerea*			3		3	
10200	*Motacilla alba*	253		38		291	

EURING code	Species	2005		2006		Total	
		Ringed	Recovered	Ringed	Recovered	Ringed	Recovered
10360	*Pycnonotus xanthopygos*	47		35		82	
10660	*Troglodytes troglodytes*	7		5		12	
10840	*Prunella modularis*	29		20		49	
10880	*Prunella ocularis*			1		1	
10950	*Cercotrichas galactotes*	1				1	
10990	*Erithacus rubecula*	674		447		1121	
11030	*Luscinia luscinia*	161		55		216	
11040	*Luscinia megarhynchos*	62		10		72	
11060	*Luscinia svecica*	146		493		639	
11170	*Irania gutturalis*	1				1	
11210	*Phoenicurus ochruros*	27		10		37	
11220	*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*	534		535		1069	
11370	*Saxicola rubetra*	102		71		173	
11390	*Saxicola torquata*	51		26		77	
11440	*Oenanthe isabellina*	4				4	
11460	*Oenanthe oenanthe*	11		4		15	
11475	*Oenanthe cypriaca*	1				1	
11480	*Oenanthe hispanica*	19				19	
11620	*Monticola saxatilis*	1				1	
11870	*Turdus merula*	159		58		217	
11980	*Turdus pilaris*	1				1	
12000	*Turdus philomelos*	133		88	1	221	1
12010	*Turdus iliacus*	1		1		2	
12020	*Turdus viscivorus*	4				4	
12200	*Cettia cetti*	182	1	161		343	1
12270	*Prinia gracilis*	5		7		12	
12360	*Locustella naevia*	1		1		2	
12370	*Locustella fluviatilis*	32		3		35	
12380	*Locustella luscinioides*	199	1	250	1	449	2

EURING code	Species	2005		2006		Total	
		Ringed	Recovered	Ringed	Recovered	Ringed	Recovered
12410	*Acrocephalus melanopogon*	12		83		95	
12430	*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*	910	1	893	1	1803	2
12470	*Acrocephalus agricola*	2				2	
12480	*Acrocephalus dumetorum*	2		1		3	
12500	*Acrocephalus palustris*	953		546		1499	
12510	*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*	1024	4	631	2	1655	6
12530	*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*	333	1	216	1	549	2
12550	*Hippolais pallida*	81		5		86	
12580	*Hippolais olivetorum*	1				1	
12590	*Hippolais icterina*	5		9		14	
12650	*Sylvia cantillans*	5				5	
12660	*Sylvia mystacea*	4		2		6	
12670	*Sylvia melanocephala*	71		38		109	
12680	*Sylvia melanothorax*	2				2	
12690	*Sylvia rüppelli*	32				32	
12720	*Sylvia hortensis*	24				24	
12730	*Sylvia nisoria*	145		19	1	164	1
12740	*Sylvia curruca*	294		91		385	
12750	*Sylvia communis*	326		211		537	
12760	*Sylvia borin*	1204	1	386		1590	1
12770	*Sylvia atricapilla*	1281		838		2119	
12910	*Phylloscopus nitidus*	7		4		11	
13072	*Phyloscopus bonelli orientalis*	4				4	
13080	*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*	20		8		28	
13110	*Phylloscopus collybita*	1314		896		2210	
	Phylloscopus lorenzii	4		52		56	
13120	*Phylloscopus trochilus*	1707	1	1457		3164	1
13140	*Regulus regulus*	18		2		20	
13150	*Regulus ignicapillus*	2				2	

EURING code	Species	2005		2006		Total	
		Ringed	Recovered	Ringed	Recovered	Ringed	Recovered
13350	*Muscicapa striata*	465		140	1	605	1
13430	*Ficedula parva*	247		142		389	
13470	*Ficedula semitorquata*	2		2		4	
13480	*Ficedula albicollis*	37		23		60	
13490	*Ficedula hypoleuca*	62		29		91	
13640	*Panurus biarmicus*	56				56	
14370	*Aegithalos caudatus*			1		1	
14610	*Parus ater*	1				1	
14620	*Parus caeruleus*	2		15		17	
14640	*Parus major*	43		45		88	
14690	*Sitta krueperi*	23		4		27	
14790	*Sitta europaea*	1				1	
14810	*Sitta neumayer*	2				2	
14900	*Remiz pendulinus*	6		27		33	
15080	*Oriolus oriolus*	19		4		23	
15150	*Lanius collurio*	491		394		885	
15190	*Lanius minor*	13		4		17	
15230	*Lanius senator*	2				2	
15240	*Lanius nubicus*	21		15		36	
15390	*Garrulus glandarius*	1	1			1	1
15490	*Pica pica*	12		4		16	
15820	*Sturnus vulgaris*	15				15	
15910	*Passer domesticus*	54		79		133	
15920	*Passer hispaniolensis*	337		160		497	
15950	*Passer moabiticus*	3		2		5	
15980	*Passer montanus*	9		25		34	
16040	*Petronia petronia*	2				2	
16360	*Fringilla coelebs*	87		39		126	
16380	*Fringilla montifringilla*	4		2		6	

EURING code	Species	2005		2006		Total	
		Ringed	Recovered	Ringed	Recovered	Ringed	Recovered
16400	*Serinus serinus*	2		1		3	
16490	*Carduelis chloris*	4				4	
16530	*Carduelis carduelis*	20		40		60	
16540	*Carduelis spinus*	8		2		10	
16620	*Carduelis flavirostris*			1		1	
16790	*Carpodacus erythrinus*	20		5		25	
17170	*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*	4		5		9	
18570	*Emberiza citrinella*	1		6		7	
18660	*Emberiza hortulana*	23		7		30	
18680	*Emberiza caesia*	2				2	
18770	*Emberiza schoeniclus*	3		24		27	
18810	*Emberiza melanocephala*	12		2		14	
18820	*Miliaria calandra*	4		2		6	
		16659	**14**	**14095**	**8**	**30754**	**22**

***** ringed as netlings.