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BIRD NUMBERS 2013

"Every bird counts"

19th Conference of the European Bird Census Council Book of Abstracts

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POSTER PRESENTATIONS

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Autumn migration of soaring birds over Dobrogea, a migration corridor in South-East Romania

Dobrogea is listed as one of the important migration corridors for soaring birds on the Western part of the Black Sea, although detailed data (intensity, duration or peak) about migration is lacking, just as information about the migration routes over the area. The number of wind farms is in continuous increase in Dobrogea (over 300 projects with 5,000 wind turbines in development) and the cumulative impact they may have on migrating birds was never properly estimated. Between 2002–2007, from mid-August to the end of October, we recorded the migration of soaring birds from the Pricopan peak in Măcin Mountains, covering the whole migration period, and in 2010–2011, between 20–30 September, we monitored the migration from 15, respectively 13 different count points simultaneously, covering the whole area of Dobrogea. During 6 years of migration study in Măcin Mountains we recorded a total of 66,952 raptors and 122,571 non-raptors. In 2010–2011 we recorded in total 44,260 raptors and 43,625 non-raptors. Summing both studies, the most abundant raptors were the Common Buzzard, Honey Buzzard and the Lesser-Spotted Eagle. The most abundant non-raptors were the White Stork, Black Stork and the White Pelican. The location of flyways showed some annual variation, probably caused by meteorological conditions, but in general migration was more pronounced on the Western and Eastern part of Dobrogea, being less intensive in the central part of the region. We conclude that Dobrogea is an important migration corridor with high number of migrants annually and we recommend that further development of wind farms over Dobrogea should be performed in accordance with the findings of our study and further mitigation measures should be applied to already authorized wind farms.