



BIRD 2013
NUMBERS

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17-21 SEPTEMBER 2013

BOOK OF
ABSTRACTS

19TH CONFERENCE OF THE
EUROPEAN BIRD CENSUS COUNCIL



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„Every bird counts“

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

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Surveying soaring birds in three large areas of Transylvania, Romania

Information on population size, species distribution and relative densities inside a protected area are essential for the proper management of birds of conservation concern. We aimed to determine these parameters for 5 species of birds of prey (Lesser Spotted Eagle, Golden Eagle, Honey Buzzard, Short-toed Eagle, Peregrine Falcon) and the Black Stork in three large study areas (600–3400 km²) in Transylvania, Romania. After analyzing priorities, we developed a method, which allows relatively precise determination of distribution and local densities, for both common and rare species, at the expense of the precision of population estimates. The method is a mixture of territory mapping and point count, with a single set of observations, covering a large proportion of the study area. In one of the study areas precise information was available on the existing Golden Eagle and Peregrine Falcon pairs, which allowed us to test the efficiency of the method. Additionally we also investigated, whether the length of the observation (3 hours) is appropriate, and if the time of the day has any effect on the counts. The method slightly overestimated the population of Golden Eagles and slightly underestimated the population of Peregrine Falcons. Between 80–85% of all individuals were observed within the first two hours of observation, however the third hour helped considerably in the determination of the number of pairs. Morning counts were significantly higher, than those in the afternoon. Our results suggest that the method is capable of delivering high quality information on the distribution and local abundance of both common and rare species, and is also useful for estimating an approximate population size, making it an appropriate candidate for surveying large areas.

