

ABO's Bird Ringing NewsLetter

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Brief History of bird ringing on Antikythira.

Antikythera (35°51'N, 23°18'E), is located between the islands of Kythira and western Crete. Due to its position it is the first land for a lot of passerines after crossing the Mediterranean Sea during spring, and the last land, before the sea during autumn.

The first ringing activities took place on the island in the 1982 by Triantaphyllos Akriotis (the present head of the Hellenic Bird Ringing Center, HBRC).

The need of the establishment of a Bird Observatory was conceived in the mid-90s. In 1997, the community of Antikythira devolved the primary school building to the Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS) and an organized ringing expedition took place in the spring of 1998 with the presence of Italian ringers. Nowadays the ringing activities on Antikythira are constant every spring (from 15 March to 31 May) and autumn (from 25 August to 10 November) and conducted by the HOS and HBRC.

This is the first volume of the annual newsletter that along with the Antikythira Bird Observatory's (ABO) Home page (<http://www.ornithologiki.gr/en/osa/index.php>) and ABO's blog (<http://blogs.ornithologiki.gr/osa/>) is produced for the better information of the bird migration passage of the region.

Spring 2008

The spring period of 2008 turned out to be unusual as far as for bird ringing. Most of the long distance migrants appeared on Antikythira delayed, while both the numbers of birds ringed and their body masses were lower than those of the equivalent period of 2007. The phenology of the captured birds can be seen on Fig 1.

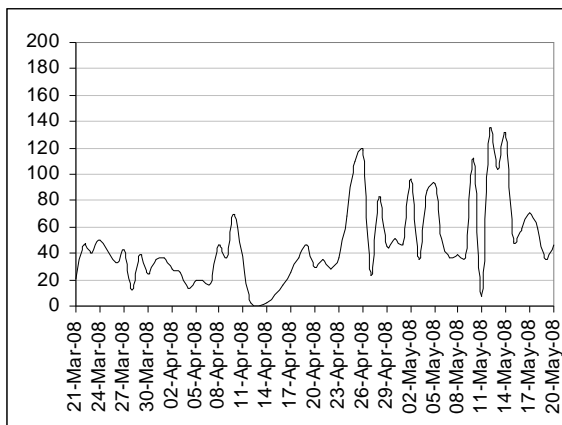


Fig.1. Phenology of captured birds during spring 2008.

In total 2763 birds of 58 species were captured during the period. For more details on the species and numbers caught see Table 2. As can be seen from Fig 1 the day with the most ringed birds was 14 of May with 133 birds caught.

Recoveries

During the spring period of 2008 three birds that were initially ringed at other sites were caught while one ringed on Antikythira were later recovered elsewhere (Table 1, Fig 2). Two Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*, ringed in Hungary and Lithuania, one Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida* ringed in Milos island and one Scops Owl *Otus scops* ringed on Antikythira were controlled on Serbia.

Table 1. Recoveries of bird ringed on other sites

C1; <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	
Ringing Info.	
Place: Keszthely-Fenekpuszta, HU,	Date: 27 Aug 2006
Recovery Info.	
Place: ABO, Aegean Isl., GR,	Date: 02 Apr 2008
Elapsed Time: 584 days, Distance: 1307km Direction*: 339°	
C2; <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	
Ringing Info.	
Place: Ventes Ragas, LI,	Date: 30 Jun 2007
Recovery Info.	
Place: ABO, Aegean Isl., GR,	Date: 19 Apr 2008
Elapsed Time: 294 days, Distance: 2172km, Direction*: 356°	
C3; <i>Hippolais pallida</i>	
Ringing Info.	
Place: Milos, Aegean Isl., GR	Date:
Recovery Info.	
Place: ABO, Aegean Isl., GR,	Date: 3 May 2008
Elapsed Time: xxx days, Distance: xxxkm Direction*: 339°	
R1; <i>Otus scops</i>	
Ringing Info.	
Place: ABO, Aegean Isl., GR,	Date: 23 Apr 2008
Recovery Info.	
Place: Usce, Obrenovac, SR,	Date: 15 Jun 2008
Elapsed Time: 53 days Distance: 1013km Direction*: 345°	

* Direction is for arrival at finding site (not departure from ringing site)



Fig. 2. Recoveries for spring season 2008.

Highlights of the Season

Six new species were added to ABO's ringing list during the past spring period. Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*, European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*, Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*, Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*, Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus* and Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*. Furthermore this season we ringed a Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*, a Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*, a Great Snipe *Gallinago media*, Olive-tree Warbler *Hippolais olivetorum* and a European Serin *Serinus serinus*, species we do not catch so often at Antikythira.



Pic 1. Olive-tree Warbler



Pic 2. Great Snipe

Autumn 2008

In total 2712 birds of 68 species were captured during the period. For more details on the species and numbers caught see Table 2. As can be seen from Fig 3 the day with the most ringed birds was 9 of October with 198 birds caught.

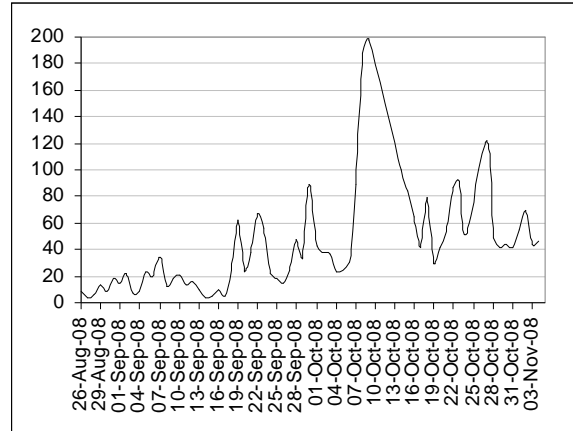


Fig.3. Phenology of captured birds during autumn 2008.

Recoveries

No birds ringed during the autumn season on Antikythira were controlled elsewhere while no bird ringed elsewhere was controlled on Antikythira during this period.

Highlights of the Season

Seven new species were added to ABO's ringing list during the past autumn period. The new species were the Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*, Hobby *Falco subbuteo*, Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*, Hedge Accentor *Prunella modularis*, Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*, Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*, Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* and the Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*. Additionally it was the second year in the row that Yellow-browed Warblers *Phylloscopus inornatus* were caught, reinforcing our belief that the species pass through the region regularly during autumn migration.



Pic 3. Yellow-browed Warbler

Table 2. Species ringed during 2008.

Species	Spring	Autumn	Species	Spring	Autumn
<i>Accipiter brevipes</i> Levant Sparrowhawk		1	<i>Ficedula semitorquata</i> Semi-collared Flycatcher	2	
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i> Northern Goshawk		1	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i> Common Chaffinch	6	302
<i>Accipiter nisus</i> Eurasian Sparrowhawk		15	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i> Brambling	1	
<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i> Great Reed Warbler	51	5	<i>Gallinago media</i> Great Snipe	1	
<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i> Marsh Warbler	1	6	<i>Hippolais icterina</i> Icterine Warbler	91	38
<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i> Sedge Warbler	125	7	<i>Hippolais olivetorum</i> Olive-tree Warbler	1	
<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> European Reed Warbler	7	7	<i>Hippolais pallida</i> Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	21	1
<i>Anthus pratensis</i> Meadow Pipit	1	1	<i>Hirundo rustica</i> Barn Swallow	35	5
<i>Anthus trivialis</i> Tree Pipit	205	36	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i> Little Bittern	1	
<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i> Greater Short-toed Lark	1	1	<i>Jynx torquilla</i> Eurasian Wryneck	17	2
<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> European Nightjar	6	1	<i>Lanius collurio</i> Red-backed Shrike	1	19
<i>Carduelis carduelis</i> European Goldfinch	1	3	<i>Lanius minor</i> Lesser Grey Shrike		1
<i>Carduelis chloris</i> European Greenfinch	6	9	<i>Lanius senator</i> Woodchat Shrike	40	3
<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i> Common Rosefinch		1	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i> Thrush Nightingale		5
<i>Cettia cetti</i> Cetti's Warbler		1	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i> Common Nightingale	58	15
<i>Charadrius dubius</i> Little Ringed Plover	1		<i>Merops apiaster</i> European Bee-eater	11	6
<i>Circus pygargus</i> Montagu's Harrier	1		<i>Motacilla alba</i> White Wagtail		2
<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i> Hawfinch	1	2	<i>Motacilla flava</i> Yellow Wagtail	17	18
<i>Cuculus canorus</i> Common Cuckoo	3	1	<i>Muscicapa striata</i> Spotted Flycatcher	201	139
<i>Delichon urbicum</i> Common House Martin	7		<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> Northern Wheatear	2	
<i>Emberiza calandra</i> Corn Bunting	6	4	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i> Eurasian Golden Oriole	183	19
<i>Emberiza hortulana</i> Ortolan Bunting	1	1	<i>Otus scops</i> European Scops Owl	6	24
<i>Erithacus rubecula</i> European Robin	24	744	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i> Spanish Sparrow	54	34
<i>Falco eleonora</i> Eleonora's Falcon		1	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> Black Redstart		41
<i>Falco subbuteo</i> Eurasian Hobby		1	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> Common Redstart	79	133
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i> Common Kestrel	1	1	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> Common Chiffchaff	54	48
<i>Ficedula albicollis</i> Collared Flycatcher	47	15	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i> Yellow-browed Warbler		2
<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i> Pied Flycatcher	127	18	<i>Phylloscopus orientalis</i> Balkan Warbler	7	
<i>Ficedula parva</i> Red-breasted Flycatcher		128	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> Wood Warbler	127	27
<i>Ficedula semitorquata</i> Semi-collared Flycatcher	2		<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i> Willow Warbler	143	141

Table 2.(Continuation)

Species		Spring	Autumn	Species		Spring	Autumn
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Duncock		2	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	Subalpine Warbler	24	22
<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Goldcrest		6	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Common Whitethroat	84	18
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Sand Martin	102		<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Lesser Whitethroat	1	3
<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Whinchat	63	21	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Sardinian Warbler		2
<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	Common Stonechat	1	6	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Winter Wren		3
<i>Serinus serinus</i>	European Serin	1	5	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Common Blackbird		18
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	European Turtle Dove	58	1	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush	6	96
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common Starling		2	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle Thrush		2
<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Blackcap	87	212	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Eurasian Hoopoe	21	3
<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Garden Warbler	507	205				

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