

Situation of The Aquatic
Warbler (*Acrocephalus
paludicola*) in Leon province
(NW Spain): first data on its
phenology, stopover and
problems of conservation

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In the present work the first collected data from a bibliographical revision and from its ringing in the field are presented.



Material and Methods

First phase

Bibliographical revision of the published observations.

Query to the local ornithologists and ringers.

Our own data.

Second phase

17 ringing journey (August the 20th and October the 8th).

Total effort of 69.25 hours.

The capture method was based in mist nets (6-12 nets).

72-144 meters long, and 180-359 square meters of vertical surface.

The nets were actived between 3 and 5 hours.

Use of digital Aquatic Warbler's birdcall.

The captured birds were ringed with official rings

Afterwards data were taken by using the recommended standards.

Study area

The marshy ecosystems are associated to the sedimentary river basins of large rivers; this is the case of the Depression of the Duero.

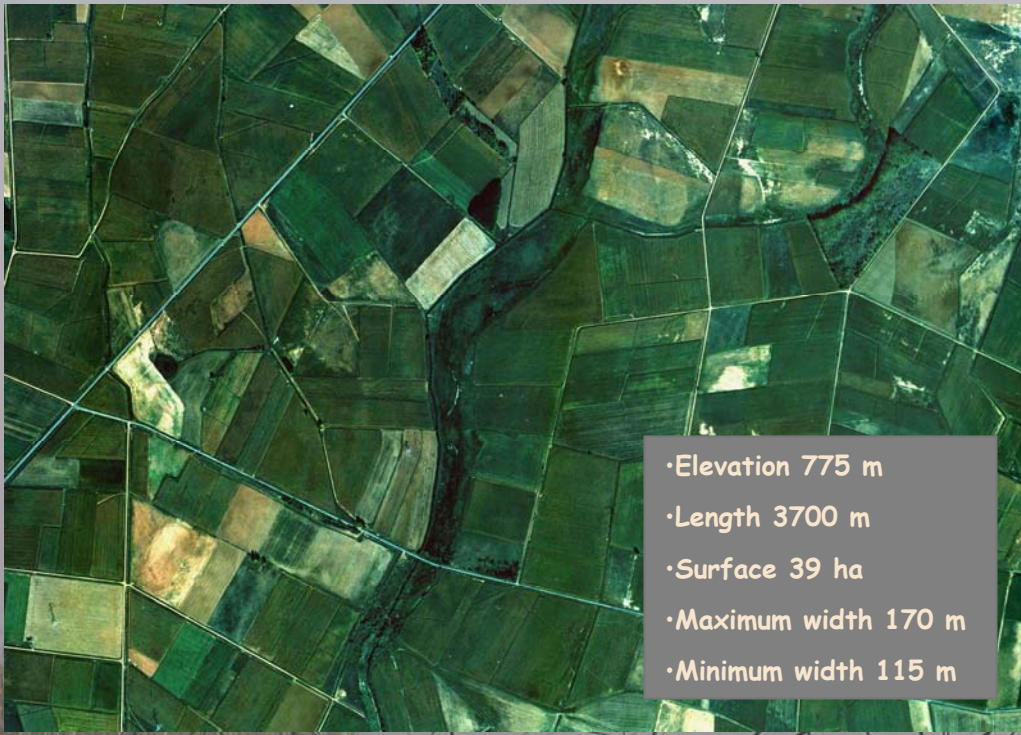


Two types of wetlands:

Endoreic and inland lagoons

Small plateau streams





- Elevation 775 m
- Length 3700 m
- Surface 39 ha
- Maximum width 170 m
- Minimum width 115 m



1% canalized stream.



2% arboreal species of *Salix* sp., *Populus* sp., *Crataegus* sp. and *Rosa* sp.

Valcavado stream (Zotes del Páramo)



90% herbaceous vegetation and marshy of low bearing.



7% occupy helophytic great vegetation: *Typha* sp. and *Scirpus* sp.

Valcavado stream (Zotes del Páramo)

Maize

Typha

Juncus and herbaceous vegetation



Results

Bibliographical revision



Ringling campaign



Site	Area	Records	Specimens	Protected area
Laguna de Villadangos	El Páramo	1	4	Yes
Laguna Gudiosa	Payuelo	1	1	No
Arroyo El Pical	Payuelo	2	2	No
Arroyo Valcavado	El Páramo	9	9	No
Laguna San Andrés	El Páramo	1	1	No

Results (ringing campaign)

- 10 birds were captured: 4 adults (Euring 4) and 6 youthful ones (Euring 3).
- Five retraps of 3 different birds were obtained, that have allowed us to collect the following preliminary data on:
 - Rates of retraps (33,33%).
 - Fat deposition rates (-0,53 + 0,35 g/day).
 - Stopover patterns (minimum stay time 3-5 days).
 - Medium flight range (723 km).



Results (phenology)

The phenology pattern is similar to the found one in other Iberian peninsular zones .

No registry has been detected during the spring migration

It should be emphasized the capture of an adult bird at the 28th September.

Conservation

agricultural intensification

dryings

title concentrations



crops of *Populus x canadensis*

subsidized by Common Agricultural Policy



Conclusions

The Aquatic Warbler in Leon province is a regular but scarce migrant.

It uses wetlands of the south-eastern of the province of Leon as zones of feeding and stopover sites during its autumn migration, streams mainly associated to irrigable crops.

Conclusions

The volume of registries during year 2004 supports the idea of an important step of Aquatic Warbler through interior of the Meseta Norte, in concrete through the river basin of the Duero during its autumn migration.

It is necessary to provide these wetlands with some type of official protection in the future, with the objective to avoid their degradation and to manage them appropriately.

Ringling campaigning 2005

- We have begun 2nd August.
- 9 birds (only adults Euring 4).
- 5 retraps (a bird stay time 12 days).

Valcavado stream is a main stopover sites for The Aquatic Warbler in Spain