
Continuity or adventure- Avocets in Portugal and Senegal

Sabine Dietrich, Anne Segebade, Bundesstr. 26, 2251 Hattstedt, Germany.

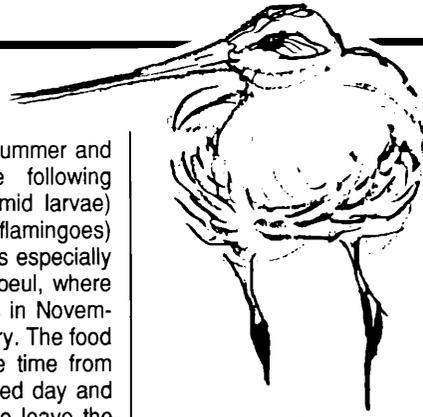
Hermann Hötter, Adolf-Brütt-Str. 37, 2250 Husum, Germany

Sightings of colour ringed birds show that Avocets from the Wadden Sea may spend their winter as well in the Tejo estuary in Portugal as in the delta of the river Senegal in west Africa. Both wintering sites differ fundamentally in habitat structure and stability of the food supply.

In the Tejo estuary the c.10,000 Avocets wintering on the site find a very stable and diverse food supply each year with a minimum biomass of about 6g AFDW/m². The feeding activity on the mudflats is ruled

water after the rainy season in summer and they then dry out until the following February. Prey (mainly Chironomid larvae) and predators (waders and flamingoes) concentrate in a few sites. This is especially the Réseve du Faune de Guembeul, where the salinity increased from 5.2% in November to 16.0% at the end of January. The food biomass decreased in the same time from 4.2 to 0.12 AFDW/m². Avocets fed day and night on the lagoon. They had to leave the region by the beginning of February. Due to insufficient rainfall there is not any suitable habitat available in some years. Colour-ringed Avocets from the Waddensee were under represented.

The hypothesis that the Avocets reached the carrying capacity of the Tejo estuary is discussed.



List of Members changes since Bulletin 58

NEW MEMBERS

SWETS SUBS. SERVICE, PO Box 8452160, SZ LISSE, Netherlands.

K OSBORN, 20 Nederdale, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 05A, UK.

G O KEIJL, Stephensonstraat 15/11097, BA Amsterdam, Netherlands.

J BLEW, Theenrade 2w-2323, DERSAM, Germany

J ELFRINK, Oude Doesburgseweg 446901, HK Zevenaar, Netherlands.

L CASINI, Via F. Casadei, 3097037 Rimini, (FO) Italy.

K KRAVOS' via Fornace 1, Trieste, Italy.

P UTMAR, Largo Mioni 334137, Trieste, Italy.

D PIACENTINI, Via San Marco 1531031, Caerano, San Marco (TV), Italy.

R JESSOP, 14 Myrtle Grove, Altona, Australia 3018.

P DANN, Riverbend, Bass Highway, Bass, 3991 Victoria, Australia.

P DE GOEIJ, Semarangstraat 31 hs, 1095 GB, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

H FABRITUS, Oost-Myzen 61633 WB, Avenhorn, Belgium.

A DIDYK, 106-780 Montgomery St, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B 2Y1.

J BROWN, 210B Woodward Hall, University of Rhode Island, Kingston RI 02881, USA.

L BRUINZEL, Donderslaan 219728 KN, Groningen, Netherlands.

Y VERHUIL, Dageraad 11797 SK, 9t Hornte, Texel, Netherlands.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

R A CADMAN, 57 Greenways, Over Kellet, Carnforth, Lancashire LA6 1DE, UK.

R A EADES, 28 The Stray, South Cave, Brough, N Humberside, HU15 2A5, UK.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, Kalo, DK-8410 Ronde, Denmark.

N GROEN, Paardenkamp 491541, XN Koog aan de Zoon, Netherlands.

P S THOMPSON, Dept Biological Sciences, Science Laboratories, University of Durham, Durham DH1 3LE, UK.

K OOSTERBEEK, Bosgonw 2671352, GX Almere, Netherlands.

