WINTERING BEHAVIOUR AND HABITAT USE OF GPS-TRACKED EURASIAN WOODCOCKS IN HUNGARY

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Our study examines the wintering behaviour and habitat use of GPS-tracked Eurasian woodcocks in Hungary, concentrating on their movement patterns and habitat preferences during the winter season. Using data from satellite tracking involving eight individual woodcocks, the study aims to identify variations in home range size and location between day and night, as well as to assess differences in movement distances across various regions. The collected data was then separated into locations, daytime periods, and nighttime periods by filtering the raw data. This was done for all the countries the birds travelled to. The distance the birds travelled between their daytime and nighttime areas was also calculated. The home ranges were estimated using the Kernel density estimation (KDE) method. The results indicated that Eurasian woodcocks migrate for the winter to other countries, such as Slovenia, but their migration occurs during different time periods depending on the individual. In terms of home range during the day and night, the night-time home ranges are wider and larger compared to daytime home ranges. The findings suggest that Eurasian woodcocks adapt their foraging strategies and habitat selection according to their diurnal and nocturnal behaviours, which has implications for their management and conservation. This study underscores the significance of habitat conservation and targeted management strategies in ensuring the survival of Eurasian woodcocks in Hungary.