sciendo THE RING 40 (2018) 10.1515/ring-2018-0001

THE GENERAL PATTERN OF SEASONAL DYNAMICS OF THE AUTUMN MIGRATION OF THE WOOD PIGEON *COLUMBA PALUMBUS* IN ITALY

Enrico Cavina, Rinaldo Bucchi and Przemysław Busse

ABSTRACT

Cavina E., Bucchi R. and Busse P. 2018. *The general pattern of seasonal dynamics of the autumn migration of the Wood Pigeon Columba palumbus in Italy*. Ring 40: 3-18.

Given the scarcity of studies on the migration of the Wood Pigeon through Italy, the first systematic observations by a network of hunters, as citizen researchers, can be presented as a starting point for more in-depth analyses. Observations from the years 1998-2006 are analysed and presented in a generalized form. During this period more than 100 observation sites, covering most of Italy, were active for about 40 days every autumn. Migration over Italy was described in terms of the timing and intensity of migration. Special attention was directed to the long-term number dynamics and seasonal dynamics of the passage. The most intensive migration was observed within northern Italy, while lower intensity is visible more to the south of the peninsula. Following tendencies in numbers of observed migrants within the ten years of the study, we can find positive tendencies in most of the northern provinces, while three negative trends are visible in central Italy. The study of the seasonal pattern, in terms of the number dynamics of the passage and the frequency of pronounced peak days, strongly suggests that there are five or six waves of pigeons passing through Italy in different parts of the autumn that are quite stable between years. Every year the time of the passage includes a few peak days of migration.

E. Cavina, Club Italiano de Colombaccio, via Serraloggia 31, 60044 Fabiano (An), Italy; R. Bucchi, Club Italiano de Colombaccio, Italy; P. Busse (corresponding author), Bird Migration Research Foundation, Przebendowo 3, 84-210 Choczewo, Poland, e-mail: busse@wbwp-fund.eu

Keywords: seasonal migration pattern, autumn, migration peaks, migration waves, Wood Pigeon, Italy