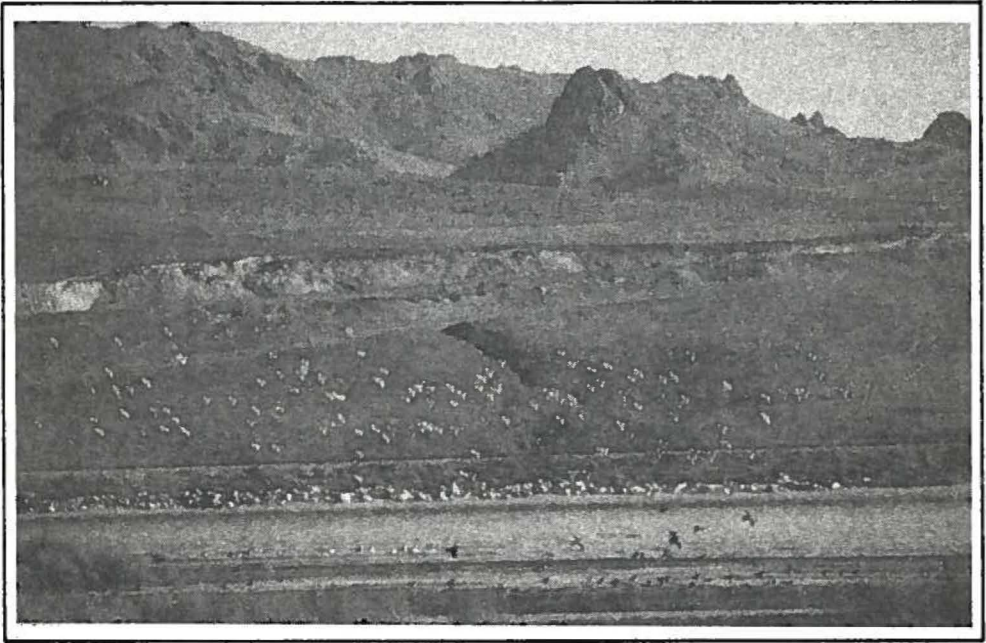




BIRDS OF TURKEY

TÜRKİYE KUŞLARI



I

Erçek Gölü

**Birds of Turkey** is a series which provides conservationists, birdwatchers and ornithologists with documents on bird areas of Turkey. This is accomplished by combining the records of many birdwatchers. Several documents will be published every year and each issue will cover one area. If enough new records are available, improved lists will be prepared even on areas on already published lists. The editorial board (address below) would be grateful to receive any bird records from Turkey.

**Türkiye kuşları doğa korumacılarına, kuş gözlemcilerine ve ornitologlara (kuşbilimcilere)** Türkiye'deki önemli yöreler üzerine bilgi veren bir yayın dizisidir. Bu dizi, birçok gözlemcinin kayıtlarının birleştirilmesiyle oluşmaktadır. Her yıl, her biri belirli bir yöreyi kapsayan birkaç kitapçık yayımlanacaktır. Daha önce yayımlanmış olsa bile, bazı yöreler yeni bilgilerin ışığında elden geçirilerek yeniden basılacaktır. Yayın kurulu (adresi aşağıda) kuşlarla ilgili Türkiye'de kaydedilmiş her türlü bilgiyi sevinerek kabul edecektir.

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**Postcheckkonto Karlsruhe** 21 44 57 — 758

**Price of this copy** £ 1.00 (or DM 4,-) including postage and mailing  
published in Heidelberg in october 1983

The birds of lake Erçek  
- a preliminary species list -

Erçek Gölü'nün kusları  
- geçici bir tür listesi -

compiled by Max Kasperek and Joost van der Ven

1. Geographic position

The Erçek Gölü is situated in the Van Gölü area in Eastern Anatolia. The closest distances to the Van Gölü are 15 km in NW and 24 km in SW. The village Erçek can be reached by road from Van to Üzalp. Co-ordinates of the lake:  $38^{\circ}39' N$ ,  $43^{\circ}33' E$ .

2. Altitude

1890 m NN. The altitude (1803 m) given by TUNCEL (1975) is wrong. Thus lake Erçek is situated 170 higher than lake Van.

3. Surface and depth of the lake

98 km<sup>2</sup>. The east side of the lake is shallow and the west side is steep. Maximum depth is 30 m.

4. General description of the area

The Erçek Gölü was formed in a volcanic depression which was closed by a lava stream in the Northeast. The one kilometre wide lava stream splits up from the Karasu (Marmit) valley in the north of the Erçek Gölü. Karasu stream originates in the east, in Iran, and pours into the Van Gölü. The lake itself is fed by the Memedik stream which pours into the east side. There are muddy meadows with a bit of reed growing on them. The west of the Erçek Gölü is bordered by the slopes of Çomaklıbaba dağı (2650 m). In the south and southeast of the Erçek Gölü the Irgat dağı is situated with an altitude of 2750 m. Other mountains in the nearer surrounding of the lake have altitudes of 2510 and 1810 m NN.

3 km SW of lake Erçek the small Çenge Gölü is situated. It is of some ornithological importance, too. Some observers did not treat the Çenge Gölü separately from the Erçek Gölü in their notes.

South of the road from Van to Erçek, close to Zimzim dağı, on which the historical Toprakkale is built, there is another small wetland,

the Bostancı Gölü. There are several activities in this area such as transportation of gravel and close to the lake there is a sewage disposal.

Another small wetland, the Ermanız Gölü, is situated south of the Erçek Gölü, at the Irgat mountain. Its altitude is about 2300 m.

There is a fourth small wetland in the area: The Keşiş Gölü which is an artificial lake built in approximately 730 B.C. and was part of the Urartu irrigation system that supplied the areas surrounding Van. This lake is rich in vegetation. It must be reached from the south.

Although the birdlist only refers to Erçek Gölü, some records from these smaller wetlands and from the surrounding mountains are also included. But in these cases the locality is given.

#### 5. Water quality

The water of the Erçek Gölü has an electrolyte content of 21 g/l which is thus a bit lower than in the nearby Van Gölü (24 g/l). The pH is rather high and the same as in the Van Gölü (9.9). The frequencies of the main ions are given according to IRION (1973) in mg/l:

Na <sup>+</sup>	7510	CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	3510
Cl <sup>-</sup>	4480	Mg <sup>++</sup>	80
SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>--</sup>	2220	Ca <sup>++</sup>	1
HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	2790	K <sup>+</sup>	80

There is a striking abundance of HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and CO<sub>3</sub><sup>--</sup> which is characteristic for the Anatolian lakes which have an depth of more than 20 m.

#### 6. Bird watching activity

Since 1966 the area was regularly visited by birdwatchers. They usually stayed no longer than a few hours. Maximum birdwatching activity took place in May and in August/September.

1966--20./21.5. P.A.D. Hollom & G.J.A. Jamieson (Kumerloeve 1967 and BR 1966/67)

1967--16.8. and 16.9. J. Vielliard (Vielliard 1968)

1968--28.5., 1., 14., 28. and 30.6. H. Kumerloeve (Kumerloeve 1969 and unpublished)

1969--25.-29.5. R.F. Porter, P.A.D. Hollom & B.A.E. Marr (BR 1968/69 and unpublished)

--4.12. L.J. Dijkzen & F.J. Koning (BR 1968/69 and unpublished)

- 1970-- 8./9.5. F. Dellmuth (BR 1970-73)
- 1971--31.5./1.6. G. Groh (Groh 1971, BR 1970-73 and unpublished)
- 8.8. G.E. Dobbs & M.G. Hodgson (BR 1970-73)
- 5.9. M.C. Harrison (BR 1970-73)
- 1972--4.6. and 19.8. some records are available via BR 1970-73
- 1973--17.8. and 20.8. J.C. Gallner (Gallner 1976)
- 1974--7.8. C.A. Harbard, T.A. Walsh and C.J. Fisher (multiplied report)
- 1.10. M. Beaman (BR 1974/75)
- 1975--18.5. P. Thomsen & P. Jacobsen (BR 1974/75)
- 9.6. M.H. Rowntree (BR 1974/75)
- 1979--27.9. J.A. van der Ven and G.F. Gheyselinck (multiplied report)
- 1980--31.8. H. Braun & M. Kasperek (unpublished)
- 29.9. J.A. van der Ven & G.F. Gheyselinck (multiplied report)
- 1981--14.4. D. Parr & P. Goriup (unpublished)
- 11.6. N. Koch together with M. Siering and several other bird-watchers (unpublished)
- 20.9., 21.9., 3.10. J.A. van der Ven (multiplied report)
- 1982--2./3.7. M. Schlorf & R. Völker (unpublished)
- 25.7. M. van den Berg & R. Damhuis (unpublished)
- 5.8. M. Renkhoff (unpublished)

#### 7. Ornithological importance of the area

Up to now 177 species have been recorded at the Erçek Gölü, although there have been no systematic regular observations there and the list is only a combination of the records of many birdwatchers. Therefore it appears that an increased number of regular visits result in a higher number of recorded species. Nevertheless the above mentioned figure clearly points out the ornithological importance of the Erçek Gölü for Eastern Anatolia.

The high altitude of the lakes promotes the breeding of many montanous birds (especially passerines) directly at or close to the lake. There is apparently an interchange of the populations of ducks and gulls at Erçek Gölü with those of the neighbouring Van Gölü.

The population size of the Ruddy Shelduck and the Shelduck is more than 100 pairs and about 50 pairs, respectively. Thousands of both species concentrate on the lake during the post-breeding period. In 1982



there is a breeding record for two pairs of the Red-breasted Goose. There is no reasonable explanation for it, as the breeding grounds of this species are thousands of kilometres far away and it is also unlikely that these are escaped birds. The lake is a very important resting place for the Little Grebe (up to 1,000) and for the Black-necked Grebe (up to 3,000) in the autumn. The Black-necked Grebe is also a breeding bird and the Red-necked Grebe seems to breed in some smaller wetlands around the Erçek Gölü. Flamingos can be seen more or less regularly as they seem to be part of the population at Urmia lake in Iran. The number of ducks usually do not exceed several thousand. Maximum counts are 2,000 for the Teal, 3,000 for the Mallard and 800 for the Shoveler. The Erçek lake is also an important breeding ground for waders and terns. There are populations of Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, Avocet, Stone Curlew, Lapwing, Redshank and Common Tern. In August/September up to 2,000 Avosets have been counted. The Marsh Harrier breeds in low numbers. There might be a small breeding population of the Great Bustard, but this has to be confirmed. Some Crane pairs seem to breed here. 8 species of larks and 5 (6?) species of Wheatears breed around the lake. Among the rarer birds of the Erçek Gölü, there is e.g. the Caspian Plover, the Terek Sandpiper, the Red-nacked Phalarope (up to 900), the Desert Wheatear and the Green Warbler.

#### 8. Nature Conservation

The specific conservation problems are not understood yet. But it is clear that the egg-collecting and hunting of the villagers are important factors. The egg-collecting influences the populations of the Shelduck, the Ruddy Shelduck, the Redshank and the Lapwing.

#### 9. Thanks

Our warmest thanks to Mr M. van den Berg (Amsterdam, NL), Mr L. Dijkse (Texel, NL), Dr. G. Groh (Neustadt, FRG), Dr. N. Koch (Malsch, FRG), Dr. H. Kumerloeve (München, FRG), Mr D. Parr (Malvern, GB), Mr R. Porter (Sandy, GB), Mr M. Renkhoff (Rhede, FRG) and Mr R. Völker (Hamburg, FRG) who submitted us the records of their visits at the Erçek Gölü. Our thanks are also due to Mr R. Völker for the photographs, Mr S. Barış for the vignette of the Ruddy Shelduck and Mr V. Kasa-Djukic for the design of the front-cover.

10. Abbreviations

ED = v.d. Berg &amp; Damhuis

Be = Beaman

BK = Braun &amp; Kasparek

De = Dellmuth

DH = Dobbs &amp; Hodgson

DK = Dijksen &amp; Koning

Ga = Gallner

Gr = Groh

Ha = Harrison

HJ = Hollom &amp; Jannieson

HWF = Harbard, Walsh &amp; Fisher

Ku = Kumerloeve

KS = Koch &amp; Siering

PG = Parr &amp; Goriup

PHM = Porter, Hollom &amp; Marr

TJ = Thomsen &amp; Jacobsen

Re = Renkhoff

Ro = Rowntree

Ve = v.d. Ven

VG = v.d. Ven &amp; Gheyselinck

VS = Völker &amp; Schlorf

Vi = Vielliard

++ = breeding has been confirmed

= üredigi kanıtlanmıştır

G. = göl (lake)

## 11. Species list

### Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Kılçık Batağan

This species seems to be a breeding bird in some pairs. Also at Çenge G. 2 singing ♂ on 28.5.69 (PHM). In the post-breeding period concentrations up to about 1,000 birds (27.9.79 VG). Smaller concentrations at Keşiş G.: 100 on 22.9.81 (Ve) and 150 on 29.9.80 (VG). One winter record: One on 4.12.69 (DK).

### Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* Bahri

Several adult and immature birds on 5.8.82 (Re) and 31 on 16.8.67 (Vi).

### Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* Kızılboyunlu Batağan

This species seems to breed at the smaller wetlands around Erçek G.: 4 at Çenge G. from 25. to 29.5.69 (PHM), 6-8 "breeding pairs" at Ermanız G. on 23.6.68 (Ku) and 6 at "marshes near Erçek" on 20.5.66 (HJ). Several adults and immatures on Erçek G. on 5.8.82 (Re).

### Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus* Kulaklı Batağan

One bird was seen at Bostancı G. on 4.6.72 (BR 1970-73).

### Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* Karaboyunlu Batağan

During the breeding season concentrations up to several hundreds: For example HJ noted "many hundreds" on 20./21.5.66, Ku 60 - 80 on 14.6.68, PHM 140 on 27.5.69 and VS 200 - 300 on 2.7.82. Ku assumes 50 - 70 breeding pairs, but there might be perhaps more. From August to October the Erçek G. and the surrounding smaller wetlands are very important resting areas which regularly provide several hundreds, sometimes several thousands. For Example 1300 - 1500 on 25.7.82 (BD), at least 570, probably about 1,000, on 7.8.74 (HWF), 1250 at Erçek G. and 300 at Çenge G. on 16.8.67 (Vi), 3,000 at Erçek G. and again 300 at Çenge G. on 16.9.67 (Vi), about 3,000 on 27.9.79 (VG) and 700 on 10.10.80 (VG).

### Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus* Kılçık Karabatak

3 on 27.9.79 (VG) and 60 on 5.8.82 (Re).

### White Pelican *Pelecanus onotrotus* Ak Pelikan - Ak Kutan

Two records (19 on 31.5.71, Gr, and 26 on 21.5.66, HJ) refer to birds flying over the lake. On 27.5.69 200 birds, including one albino, were counted by PHM.

### Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* Kılçık Balaban

One male on 27.5.69 (PHM).



Little Egret Egretta garzetta Kütük Beyaz Balıkcıl

25 on 5.8.82 (Re).

Great Egret Egretta alba Beyaz Balıkcıl

4 on 5.8.82 (Re).

Grey Heron Ardea cinerea Gri Balıkcıl

One record from May (4 on 29.5.69 PHM) and eight records from August to October. Maximum number 24 on 16.9.67 (Vi).

Purple Heron Ardea purpurea Erguvani Balıkcıl

One on 28.5.68 (Ku).

++ White Stork Ciconia ciconia Leylek

For 1966 and 1968, respectively, HJ and Ku mention one nest in the village Erçek. At least since 1979 there seem to be more than one (Ve, VG, PG). For 1969 one nest also recorded for the village Karagündüz (PHM).

Glossy Ibis Plegadis falcinellus Çeltikçi

25 on 30.6.68 (Ku). 16 at Bostancı G. on 16.8.67 (Vi).

Spoonbill Platalea leucordia Kaşıkçıl

Two on 28.6.68 (Ku).

Flamingo Phoenicopterus ruber Flamingo

More or less regular resting bird from August to October. Only one spring record.

14.4.81	40	PG	20. 9.81	388	Ve
8.8.71	300	DH	27. 9.79	26	VG
16.8.67	450	Vi	29. 9.80	561	VG
19.8.73	7	HR 1970-73	3.10.81	388	Ve
31.8.80	900	BK	12.10.80	655	VG
16.9.67	600	Vi			

The 900 birds in August 1980 included 50 first-year birds which were not full-grown, but able to fly. Among the 26 birds in September 1979 3 juvenile birds were recorded. Probably the birds belong to the breeding population of Lake Urmia in Iran which is less than 200 km away from Erçek.

White-fronted Goose Anser albifrons Sakarca Kazı

32 on 12.10.80 (VG) and 117 on 4.12.69 (DK).

Greylag Anser anser Bozkaz

During the breeding season 6 on 20. and 3 on 21.5.66 (HJ). In August 55 on 5.8.82 (Re) and one on 16.8.67 (Vi). 50 on 16.9.67 (Vi) and 7 on 4.12.69 (DK). On Keşiş G. 138 on 11.10.80 (VG).

++ Red-breasted Goose Branta ruficollis Kırmızı Gerdanlı Kaz

On 5.8.82 Re saw a group of 14 adults with 8 pulli in the SW-corner of Erçek G.. The flight feathers of juveniles started growing and thus they were not yet able to fly. Four adults were in closer contact to the pulli, thus it seemed that they were two families.

This breeding record cannot be explained yet. The breeding grounds of the Red-breasted Goose are in the North of the Soviet Union. The winter distribution ranges from the Caspian Sea to Irak, only a few records come from Eastern Anatolia. In the European winter quarters there is a marked increase in the number of birds during the last decades (cf. STIERBETZ & SZIJ, Vogelwarte 24, 1968: 266 - 277).

It seems unlikely that a breeding area of this striking and easily identifiable species in the Middle East has been overlooked untill now. So future observations will show, how to interpret the above mentioned breeding record.

++ Ruddy Shelduck Tadorna ferruginea Angıt

Common breeding bird in perhaps more than 100 pairs. Breeding was proved by Ku on 1.6.68 and 28.6.68. On 23.6.68 he saw also one bird with 9 young at Ermanız G.. Maximum during the breeding season is 1,000 - 1,500 on 14.6.68 and about 2,000 on 28.6.68 (Ku). Larke flocks also in the post-breeding period with maximum counts of at least 1,000 on 16.8.67 (Vi), 2,500 on 20.9.81 (Ve) and 1,000 on 12.10.80 (VG).

++ Shelduck Tadorna tadorna Suna - Alakaz

Several breeding records from 1967, 1968, 1979 and 1980. The size of the breeding population seems to be around 50 pairs i.e. lower than that of the Ruddy Shelduck. Maximum 1,500 birds on 20. and 21.9.81 (Ve) and about 2,500 on 16.9.67 (Vi).

Gadwall Anas strepera Boz Ördek

One pair on 21.5.66 (HJ) and 30 on 16.9.67 (Vi). VG saw 150 at Keşiş G. on 11.10.80 (VG).

Teal Anas crecca Çamurcun

One record from spring (15 on 14.4.81 PG), several from August to October (Maximum 1,000 on 27.9.79 VG and 2,000 on 12.10.80 VG) and one from December (425 on 4.12.69 DK).

++ Mallard Anas platyrhynchos Yeşilbaş

Breeding bird in several pairs. Ku saw young ones on 14.6.68 and found two nests with 5 and 8 eggs, respectively, on 28.6.68.

Maximum counts 1748 on 4.12.69 (DK) and 3,000 on 12.10.80 (VG).

Pintail Anas acuta Kilkuyruk

30 on 14.4.81 (PG) and 6 - 10 on 14.6.68 (Ku). 400 at Keşiş G. on 11.10.80 (VG).

Garganey Anas querquedula Çukrıkçı

Two males on 27./28.5.69 (PHM), 5 on 7.8.74 (HWF), about 100 on 16.9.67 (Vi). On 16.8.67 more than 30 had been seen at Erçek G. and 65 at Bostancı G. (Vi).

Shoveler Anas clypeata Kepçel - Kaşıkçı

Several records during the breeding season might indicate breeding of some pairs. In spring at least 50 on 14.4.81 (PG), in autumn for example 800 on 16.9.67 (Vi) and 660 on 4.12.69 (DK).

Marbled Teal Marmoretta anguirostris Dar Gagalı Ördek

About 16 on 5.8.82 (Re).

Pochard Aythya ferina Elmabaş

Perhaps a breeding bird at the Erçek G. and the surrounding smaller wetlands (e.g. 20 at Bostancı G. on 18./20.5.66, HJ, and 10 at Çenge G. on 27.5.69, PHM). Only smaller numbers, up to 10, during the post-breeding period.

Ferruginous Duck Aythya nyroca Pasbaş

4 on 20.9.81 (Ve). One pair at Çenge G. on 27.5.69 (PHM) might indicate breeding.

Tufted Duck Aythya fuligula Tepeli Patka

One on 28.5.68 (Ku) and 10 on 4.12.69 (DK).

++ Black Kite Milvus migrans Çaylak

Breeding in some pairs in the surrounding of the lake. Breeding was confirmed on 27.5.69 by one bird near the village Karagündüz carrying nesting material (PHM).

Red Kite Milvus milvus Kızıl Çaylak

Ro recorded two immature birds between Van and Erçek on 9.6.75.

Egyptian Vulture Neophron percnopterus Mısır Akbabası

Some records between April and August indicate breeding in the surroundings.

Griffon Vulture Gyps fulvus Kızıl Akbaba

2 on 27.5.69 (PHM).

Black Vulture Aegypius monachus Kara Akbaba

One on 16.8.67 (Vi), one more recorded 1974 - 75 (BR 1974/75).

Short-toed Eagle Circaetus gallicus Yılan Kartalı

One on 1.10.74 (Be).

++ Marsh Harrier Circus aeruginosus Saz Delicesi

Breeding at Erçek G., Bostancı G. and at Çenge G.: Breeding was proved for Çenge G. where PHM saw two pairs carrying nesting material on 27./28.5.69.

Hen Harrier Circus cyaneus Gök Delice

One ♀ on 20. and 21.9.81 (Ve). Two ♂ and four ♀ at Keşiş G. on 22.9.81 (Ve).

Buzzard Buteo buteo Şahin

Several records from May to October indicate breeding in the surrounding.

Long-legged Buzzard Buteo rufinus Kızıl Şahin

More common than the Buzzard, especially during September and October.

Spotted Eagle Aquila clanga Büyük Bağırgan Kartal

Three on 12.10.80 (VG).

Golden Eagle Aquila chrysaetos Altın Kartal

Four on 14.4.81 (PG), 1 adult and one immature on 27.5.69 (PHM), 1 on 1.6.68 (Ku) and one immature on 25.7.82 (ED).

Tawny Eagle Aquila rapax Bozkır Kartalı

One on 12.10.80 (VG).

Booted Eagle Hieraetus pennatus Kılıçlı Kartal

One near Erçek on 27.9.79 (VG), 2 on 10. and 5 on 12.10.80 (VG). One bird was seen at Keşiş G. on 11.10.80 (VG).

Lesser Kestrel Falco naumanni Kılıçlı Kerkenez

Seems to be a breeding bird in several pairs. Maximum 26 on 29.9.80 (VG).

Kestrel Falco tinnunculus Kerkenez

Seems to be a bit more common than the lesser Kestrel. One winter record: One on 4.12.69 (DK).

Hobby Falco subbuteo Delice Doğan

Records from May and June indicate breeding. Three records from September and October.

Lanner Falco biarmicus Bıyıklı Doğan

We watched two birds at Keşiş G. on 22.9.81.

Sakar Falco cherrug Uludoğan

One on 9.6.75 (Ro) and on 25.7.82 (BD), respectively. One more was seen between Van and Erçek on 23.8.75 (BR 1974/75).

Chuckar Alectoris chuckar Keklik

Recorded by KS on 11.6.81.

Quail Coturnix coturnix Baldırcın

Not a rare breeding bird according to several records from May to August. Ku noted Quails up to 2300 m.

Water Rail Rallus aquaticus Su Kalavuzu

Two on 31.5.71 (Gr).

Moorhen Gallinula chloropus Su Tavuğu

One on Bostancı G. on 4.6.72 (BR 1970-73) and one at Erçek G. on 21.9.81 (Ve).

++ Coot Fulica atra Sakarmeke

Breeding bird in several pairs at the Erçek G., Ermanız G., Çenge G. and Bostancı G.. Breeding was proved at Çenge G. on 27./28.5.69 (three pairs with young ones, PHM) and at Bostancı G. on 28.6.68 (several adults with young, Ku). Small concentrations in autumn, for example 250 on 12.10.80 (VG) or 200 at Keşiş G. on 11.10.81 and 22.9.81, respectively (Ve).

Crane Grus grus Turna

Breeding in some pairs at Erçek G., Çenge G. and Bostancı G. (still breeding at Bostancı G.?). Population size about 5 pairs. Before the start of breeding season 26 birds on 14.4.81 (PG). Maximum number 32 on 4.12.69 (DK).

Great Bustard Otis tarda Toy

5 on 14.6.68 (Ku), 8 on 29.9., 21 on 10.10. and 2 on 12.10.80 (VG). According to the information of local hunters in 1981 a small breeding population exists (PG).

++ Oystercatcher Haematopus ostralegus Poyraz Kuşu

Some pairs breed at Erçek G.. It was proved by PHM who found a nest on 29.5.69. Ku recorded up to 17 birds during the breeding season (14.6.68).

Black-winged Stilt Himantopus himantopus Uzurbacak

Small breeding population whose size was estimated by HJ to 8 - 10 pairs. Maximum 50 on 2./3.7.82 (VS), about 100 on 25.7.82 (BD) and 60 on 16.8.67 (Vi).





Avocet    *Recurvirostra avosetta*    Kılıçgaga

Seems to breed in some pairs. In some years the number of birds is rather low (e.g. only 6 on 27.5.69, PHM), but in other years this number can rise up to e.g. 140 on 21.6.66 (HJ). The Erçek G. is a very important resting place during autumn and provides regularly some hundred, sometimes some thousand birds. Some examples:

16.8.67	1,000	(Vi)	20. 9.81	175	(Ve)
31.8.80	250	(BK)	27. 9.79	300	(VG)
16.9.67	1,500-2,000	(Vi)	3.10.81	240	(Ve)

Stone Curlew    *Burhinus oedicnemus*    Kocagöz

Breeding in some pairs at the Erçek G. and at the Bostancı G..

Pratincole    *Glareola pratincola*    Bataklık Kırılancısı

One on 20.5.66 (HJ).

++ Little Ringed Plover    *Charadrius dubius*    Küçük Halkalı Yağmurcun

Breeding was ascertained on 27./28.5.69, when one pullus was seen (PHM). For 1966 HJ mention at least 15 breeding pairs, but in 1968 not more than two pairs (Ku).

Ringed Plover Charadrius hiaticula Büyük Halkalı Yağmurcun

On 20. and 21.5.66 3 and 2 birds, respectively (HJ). Five records from August to October in low numbers.

Kentish Plover Charadrius alexandrinus Akgerdan Yağmurcun

HJ mention 3 - 4 pairs on 21.5.66. This number of breeding pairs is confirmed by records from other years.

Greater Sandplover Charadrius leschnaultii Büyük Yağmurcun

One on 21.5.66 (HJ).

Caspian Plover Charadrius asiaticus Hazar Yağmurcun

One on 5.9.71 (Ha).

Grey Plover Pluvialis squatarola Gümlüş Yağmurcun

One on 20. 5.66 (HJ).

++ Lapwing Vanellus vanellus Kızıkuşu

Breeding was proved in 1968: On 28.6. Ku saw eggs and several young ones. The population size is about 50 pairs. Small flocks, usually comprising groups of several dozens, untill December. On 4.12.69 still 411 birds (DK).

Little Stint Calidris minuta Kılçık Kumkuşu

One spring and 5 autumn records:

20./21.5.66	30-40	(HJ)	27. 9.79	50	(VG)
16.8.67	6	(Vi)	29. 9.80	150	(VG)
7.8.74	8	(HWF)	10.10.80	40	(VG)

Temminck's Stint Calidris temminckii

12 on 19.8.73 (BR 1970-73).

Dunlin Calidris alpina Kumkuşu

One on 16.9.67 (Vi), 60 on 20.9.81 (Ve) and 100 on 21.9.81 (Ve).

Ruff Philomachus pugnax Dövüşken Kuş

Two records from May (40 on 21.5.66, HJ, and about 230 between Van and Erçek on 8.5.70, De) and 12 records between August and October.

Maximum count 250 - 300 birds on 19.8.73 (BR 1970-73).

Snipe Gallinago gallinago Bekasin - Su Çulluğu

3 on 7.8.74 (HWF), 8 on 29.9.80 (VG) and one on 4.12.81 (DK).

Black-tailed Godwit Limosa limosa Batakılık Çulluğu

100 on 14.4.81 (PG) and one on 20.9.81 (Ve).

Curlew Numenius arquata Kervan Çulluğu

Seven records from August to October include up to 8 birds (16.8.67 Vi).

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* Benekli Kızılback

One on 27.9.79 (VG) and 4 on 3.10.81 (Ve).

++ Redshank *Tringa totanus* Kızılback

The population size is difficult to assess, but seems to be at least 50 pairs. Ku found two nests on 28.6.68, each of them contained 3 eggs. In July for example about 400 birds on 2./3.7.82 (VS). In August Vi counted 500 at the Erçek G. plus 42 at the Bostancı G. plus 100 at the Çenge G. on 16.8.67. In October for example 250 on 11.10.80 at the Keşiş G. (VG).

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* Bataklık Dûdûkçünü

One on 16.8.67 (Vi) and 3 on 27.9.79 (VG).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* Yeşilback

Two records from May and six from August and September.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* Yeşil Dûdûkçünü

14 records from April to October.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* Orman Dûdûkçünü

20 on 20./21.5.66 (HJ), 40 (plus 20 at Bostancı and 2 at Çenge G.) on 16.8.67 (Vi) and 12 at Bostancı G. on 16.9.67 (Vi).

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

7 on 20. and 2 on 21.5.66 (HJ), 3 on 5.9.71 (Ha). On 18.5.75 one was recorded in the "Van - Erçek - area" (TJ).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleuca* Dere Dûdûkçünü

Ku recorded two at the Memedik stream between Erçek and Özalp on 1.6.68 and assumes breeding. This is also indicated by other records from the breeding season. Maximum 30 birds on 16.8.67 (Vi) and about 50 on 25.7.82 (ED).

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* Taşçeviren

One on 31.8.80 (BK).

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* Deniz Dûdûkçünü

900 on 20. and 21.5.66 (HJ).

Little Gull *Larus minutus* Kılçık Martı

One immature on 20./21.5.66 (HJ).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* Karabaş Martı

Although a common visitor during the breeding season (e.g. 300 - 400 on 14. and 28.6.68, Ku), breeding seems not to take place. In August and September up to about 1,000 birds (16.9.67, Vi, and 29.9.80, VG).

Slender-billed Gull Larus genei Incegagalı Martı

One on 20. and 5 on 21.5.66 (HJ), 10 on 2.7.82 (VS). Small numbers from the beginning of August to the beginning of October according to BR 1970-73 and 1974-75.

Common Gull Larus canus

Some on 5.8.82 (Re), about 30 on 27.9.79 (VG) and 40 on 29.9.80 (VG).

Lesser Black-backed Gull Larus fuscus Karasırtlı Martı

Several records from September and October, sometimes some hundreds (Ve, VG).

Herring Gull Larus argentatus Gümlüşi Martı - Büyük Martı

Regular summer visitor (e.g. 200 - 300 on 28.6.68, Ku), perhaps coming from the colony at the Van Gölü. In August e.g. 400 (most of them adults) on 16.8.67 (Vi), in September e.g. 300 on 5.9.71 (Ha).

Gull-billed Tern Gelochelidon nilotica Gülen Sumru

Two on 14.4.81 (PG), 2 on 14.6.68 (Ku) and 2 adult and one immature on 16.8.67 (Vi). On 16.8.67 also two adults and one immature at the Bostancı G. (Vi).

Caspian Tern Sterna caspia Hazar Denizi Martısı

15 - 20 birds on 5.8.82 (Re).

Common Tern Sterna hirundo Sumru

Ku estimated 13 - 16 pairs at the east and northeast side of lake Erçek in 1968. Beside this, only four more records (Juli, August).

Little Tern Sterna albifrons Küçük Tern

Seen by KS on 11.6.81. 15 - 20 birds on 5.8.82 (Re).

Black Tern Chlidonias niger Kara Sumru

Some on 16.8.67 (Vi). 8 in the "Van - Erçek area" on 18.5.75 (TJ).

White-winged Tern Chlidonias leucopterus Akkanatlı Sumru

Several records from May to August include up to 200 birds (20.9.81, Ve).

Black-bellied Sandgrouse Pterocles orientalis Bağırtaşlak

Several records from May to August usually comprise 2 - 6 birds. In spring 100 on 14.4.81 (PG), in autumn 33 on 3.10.81 (Ve) and 28 on 12.10.80 (VG).

Pigeon Columba livia Güvercin

Recorded during the breeding season.

Turtle Dove Streptopelia turtur Üveyik

Seen by HJ on 20./21.5.66. Six on 27./28.5.69 (PHM) and about 5 on 25.7.82 (BD).

Cuckoo Cuculus canorus Guguk

Singing males were recorded at Erçek G., at the Bostancı G. and at the slopes south of the Erçek G. up to 2300 m in May and June.

Little Owl Athene noctua Kukumav

Some can be seen regularly between April and October.

Nightjar Caprimulgus europaeus Çobanaldatan

Vi found a dead Nightjar on the road near Erçek on 16.8.67.

Swift Apus apus Karasağan

Not rare summer visiter, probably from breeding places in the surrounding mountains.

Alpine Swift Apus melba Akkarınlı Sağan

Records from May, June and August.

++ Bee-eater Merops apiaster Arı Kuşu

Ro found a colony of this species (the holes were occupied by the Rock Sparrow). Re saw a small colony between Van and Erçek. Latest record 2 on 10.10.80 (VG).

Roller Coracias garrulus Gökkuşgun

Several records especially from the way from Van to Erçek, where BD counted 25 on 25.7.82. In the nearer surrounding of the Erçek G. breeding bird in 2 - 3 pairs.

++ Hoopoe Upupa epops İbibik - Hilthüt

PHM saw two birds carrying food on 28.5.69. Records up to 2300 m.

Syrian Woodpecker Dendrocopos syriacus Suriye Ağaçkakan

Ku saw one flying Syrian Woodpecker at the slopes south of the Erçek G. on 23.6.68.

Calandra Lark Melanocorypha calandra Boğmaklı Toygar

Common breeding bird.

++ Bimaculated Lark Melanocorypha bimaculata Küçük Boğmaklı Toygar

Ku found two nests on 14.6.68, each containing 4 eggs. Common breeding species.

Short-toed Lark Calandrella brachydactyla Bozkır Toygarı

Common from April to October.

Lesser Short-toed Lark Calandrella rufescens Küçük Bozkır Toygarı

Very common breeding species.

Crested Lark Galerida cristata Tepeli Toygar

Recorded on 11.4.81 (PG) , 25.7.82 (BD) and on 5.8.82 (Re).



Woodlark Lullula arborea Orman Toygarı

Some singing males on 5.8.82 (Re).

++ Skylark Alauda arvensis Tarla Kuşu

Common breeding species. Ku found three nests on 23.6.68.

Shore Lark Eremophila alpestris Kulaklı Toygar

Rare breeding bird. One male was collected at 1900 m near the Erçek G. on 28.6.68. More common at 2300 m on 23.6.68 (Ku).

Sand Martin Riparia riparia Kum Kirlangıcı

Some records in May, June and August.

Swallow Hirundo rustica Kirlangıç

Common from April to September.

House Martin Delichon urbica Pencere Kirlangıcı

About 10 on 20.5.66 (HJ) and about the same number on 27.5.69 (PHM).

++ Tawny Pipit Anthus campestris Kır Incir Kuşu

Common breeding bird at the rocky slopes around the Erçek G.. Ku found a nest with 4 eggs on 1.6.68.

Yellow Wagtail Motacilla flava Sarı Kuyruksallayan

Common breeding bird at the east side of lake Erçek. Ku estimated 100 pairs in 1968. At Çenge G., Bostancı G. and the Ermanız G. breeding, too.

Grey Wagtail Motacilla cinerea Dağ Kuyruksallayanı

Recorded between 21.9. and 3.10.81 (Ve).

Pied Wagtail Motacilla alba Ak Kuyruksallayan

Some records from April, June, August and September.

Wren Troglodytes troglodytes Çit Kuşu

One on 14.4.81 (PG).

Robin Erithacus rubecula Nar Bülbülü

One on 5.8.82 (Re).

++ Whinchat Saxicola rubetra Akkaslı Taşkuşu - Çayır Taşkuşu

Not rare breeding bird in the whole area, for example also at Ermanız G., where Ku watched 4 - 7 birds on 23.6.68. Feeding adults were seen on 23.6.68 near Erçek (Ku).

++ Stonechat Saxicola torquata Taş Kuşu

Distribution similar to the Whinchat, feeding birds were seen on 23.6.68 (Ku) and on 5.8.82 (Re).

Wheatear Oenanthe oenanthe Kuyrukkakan

Common breeding bird up to 2900 m.

Black-eared Wheatear Oenanthe hispanica Karakulaklı Kuyrukkakan

Two pairs at the Çenge G. on 28.5.69 (PHM), one male at the Erçek G. on 27.5.69 (PHM) and 4 there on 29.9.80 (VG).

Desert Wheatear Oenanthe deserti Çöl Kuyrukkakanı

One was seen at 2200 m at Kuh dağı (south of the Erçek G.) on 17.8.73 (Ga).

Isabelline Wheatear Oenanthe isabellina Boz Kuyrukkakan

Common up to 2300 m.

Finsch's Wheatear Oenanthe finschii Karabaşlı Kuyrukkakan

Breeding in some pairs between Van and Erçek and between Erçek and Üzalp.

Pied Wheatear Oenanthe pleschanka Alaca Kuyrukkakan

One adult male was seen between Van and Erçek on 1.10.74 (Be).

Cetti's Warbler Cettia cetti Setti Bulbülü

Some were singing on 23.6.68 (Ku).

Savi's Warbler Locustella luscinioides Dere Bulbülü

One singing male at the Çenge G. on 27.5.69 (PHM). Also recorded at the Bostancı G. on 11.6.81 (KS).

Moustached Warbler Acrocephalus melanopogon Bıyıklı Bulbülü

At least two singing males and two more birds at Çenge G. on 27./28.5.69 (PHM). According to Ku 2 - 3 pairs at the Bostancı G. in mid June 1968.

Sedge Warbler Acrocephalus schoenobaenus Çit Bulbülü

Some records in June in up to 3 singing ♂. Also recorded at the Bostancı G..

Marsh Warbler Acrocephalus palustris Bataklık Bulbülü

Repeatedly recorded by Ku on 28.5. and 14.6.68.

Reed Warbler Acrocephalus scirpaceus Saz Bulbülü

Two recorded in the "Van - Erçek area" on 18.5.75 (TJ).

Great Reed Warbler Acrocephalus arundinaceus Büyük Saz Bulbülü

PHM counted at least 30 singing ♂ at the Çenge G. on 27./28.5.69. Some also singing at the Bostancı G. (28.5. and 28.6.68, Ku).

Olivaceous Warbler Hippolais pallida Beyaz Ardic

Two singing ♂ on 27.5.69 (PHM).

Whitethroat Sylvia communis Çalı Ötleğeni

Ku recorded some singing ♂ at the slopes above the Erçek G. up to 2300 m on 23.6.68.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* Bahçe Ötleğeni

3 on 27.5.69 (PHM).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* Karabaslı Ötleğeni

One male on 27.5.69 (PHM).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* Orman Söğüt Bülbulü

Ga recorded one bird in the village Erçek on 20.8.73.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* (Söğüt Bülbulü)

About 20 on 9.5.70 (De) and 4 on 27.5.69 (PHM).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* (Söğüt Bülbulü)

One on 16.9.67 (Vi).

Green Warbler *Phylloscopus niditus* Yeşil Söğüt Bülbulü

De recorded 5 birds, "clearly on passage", on 9.5.70.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* Benekli Sinekyyutan

Some on 20./21.5.66 (HJ) and 2 on 27.5.69 (PHM).

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* Küçük Sinekyyutan

One in the "Van - Ercek area" on 18.5.75 (TJ).

Rock Nuthatch *Sitta neumayer* Kaya Sıvacı Kuşu

One on 25.7.82 (BD).

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus* Çulha Kuşu

Seems to be a breeding bird at least in the villages Erçek and Karagündüz.

++ Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* Çekirge Kuşu

Re saw some young which were still fed by the adults on 5.8.82.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* Kara alınlı Örümcekkuşu

HWF counted 14 between Van and Erçek on 7.8.74. One on 16.9.67 (Vi), also recorded by Re on 5.8.82.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* Dokuz Boğan

One on 5.8.82 (Re).

Magpie *Pica pica* Saksağan

Five on 11.4.81 (PG).

Alpine Chough *Pyrrhocorax graculus* Sarıgagalı Dağ Kargası

One in the "Van - Ercek area" on 18.5.75 (TJ).

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* Kırmızıgagalı Dağ Kargası

Some above Erçek on 23.6.68 (Ku).

++ Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* Küçük Karga

Regularly seen throughout the breeding season. PHM found some nests under the bridge at Memedik Cayı.

++ Rook Corvus frugilegus Tohum Kargası

A small colony exists in the village Erçek. Between 28.9. and 11.10.80 VG saw about 1,000 birds at a roost.

Carrion Crow Corvus corone Leş Kargası

Recorded during the breeding season.

Raven Corvus corax Kuzgun

One on 9.6.75 (Ro), some on 23.6.68 at the slopes above Erçek (Ku) and 4 on 5.8.82 (Re).

++ Starling Sturnus vulgaris Sığircık

Common breeding bird and summer visitor. PHM saw 100 - 150 nests in a loose stone wall and thousands at a roost between 27. and 29.5.69.

Rose-coloured Starling Sturnus roseus Ala Sığircık - Pembe Sığircık

About 25 on 1. and several on 23.6.68 (Ku). One first-year bird on 7.8.74 (HMF).

House Sparrow Passer domesticus Serçe

Common breeding bird in the villages. Larger flocks in the post-breeding period.

++ Rock Sparrow Petronia petronia Kaya Serçesi

Not common breeding bird around the Erçek G.. Ro saw a colony in the nesting holes of Bee-eaters.

Goldfinch Carduelis carduelis Saka

30 on 14.4.81 (PG) and 2 - 3 on 25.7.82 (BD).

Linnets Carduelis carnabina Ketenkuşu

Not common breeding bird at the slopes around the Erçek G.

Crimson-winged Finch Rhodopechys sanguinea

Regularly recorded SW of the Erçek G. with a maximum number of 50 on 14.4.81 (PG).

Ortolan Bunting Emberiza hortulana Ortolan Kiraz Kuşu

Several singing ♂ at the rocky slopes S of the Erçek G. on 23.6.68 (Ku).

Reedbunting Emberiza schoeniclus Bataklık Kiraz Kuşu

Singing ♂ on 5.8.82 (Re).

Black-headed Bunting Emberiza melanocephala Karabaslı Kiraz Kuşu

Not rare breeding bird in the surrounding of lake Erçek.

Grey-necked Bunting Emberiza buchari

Breeding between Van and Erçek, at the road from Erçek to Üzalp and at the slopes up to 2900 m in 1968 (Ku). One at the Erçek G. on 31.5.71 (Gr).

Cinereous Bunting Emberiza cineracea

One ♂ on 8.8.71 (DH).

Corn Bunting Miliaria calandra Ekin Kiraz Kuşu

Common breeding bird up to 2300 m.

### Özet (Turkish summary)

Erçek Gölü, Doğu Anadolu'da Van ili sınırları içinde yer almaktadır. Van Gölü'ne kuzeybatı köşesinden 15 km. mesafede bulunan göle Van - Özalp karayolu üzerindeki Erçek bucak merkezinden ulaşılabilir.

Denizden 1890 m. yükseklikteki göl, 92 km<sup>2</sup>'lik bir alana yayılmıştır. Yükseklikleri 2300 - 2800 m. arasında değişen dağlarla çevrili ve volkanik set gölü karakterindeki Erçek Gölü, doğudan Memedik Çayı ile beslenmektedir. Doğuda sığ ve sulak çayırlarla çevrili olan göl, batı kıyısında maksimum 30 m. derinliğe ulaşmaktadır. Göl suyu alkali nitelikte olup karbonat ve bikarbonat iyonları açısından oldukça zengindir.

Van yolu üzerinde, sazlıkları nedeniyle ornitolojik önemi bulunan Bostancı Gölü ve Çenge Gölü vardır. Erçek Gölü'nün güneyindeki dağlarda Ermanız Gölü ve Keşiş Gölü vardır. Bu göllere ve Erçek Gölü'nün civarındaki dağlara ait bazı önemli kayıtlar da burada verilmiştir.

Bölge 1966 yılından bu yana kuş gözlemcileri tarafından düzenli olarak ziyaret edilmiştir. Çoğu birkaç saati geçmeyen bu gözlemler özellikle Mayıs ve Ağustos/Eylül aylarında yoğunlaşmaktadır.

Şu ana kadar Erçek Gölü'nde 177 tür kaydedilmiştir. Henüz sistematik gözlemler yapılmadığından bu sayı daha düzenli gözlemlerle artabilir, fakat bu değer bile Erçek Gölü'nün Doğu Anadolu kuş toplulukları için önemini sergilemeye yetmektedir. Bazı türlerin yakındaki Van Gölü'ne belirgin ölçüde gidip gelmesi de sözkonusudur.

Gölün en belirgin türlerinden Angıt ve Sunaların yazın yüzlercesi kuluçkaya yatarken, üreme mevsimi sonrasında da binlercesi bir arada görülmektedir. Sonbaharda göl, Karaboyunlu Batağan (max. 3000) ve Küçük Batağan (max. 1000) için çok önemli bir konaklama alanıdır. Sayıları elliyi bulan Karaboyunlu Batağan, aynı zamanda, kuluçkaya yatmaktadırlar. Sayıları, aralarında henüz uçmayı öğrenmiş 50 genç kuşun da olduğu, 900 - 950 bireyi bulan topluluklar halinde görülen Flamingoların 200 km. uzaklıktaki Urmiye Gölü'nde üreyen popülasyonla ilgili olduğu sanılmaktadır. Yöredeki ördeklerin sayısı genellikle birkaç bini geçmemektedir. En yüksek sayılar Çamurcun için 2000, Yeşilbaş için 3000 ve Kepçel için 800 olarak saptanmıştır. Pasbaş'ın (yanısıra Kepçel ve Elmabaş'ın da) yörede kuluçkaya yatması olasılığı da bulunmaktadır.

1982 yılında Kırmızı Gerdanlı Kaz'ın iki çifti kuluçkaya yatmıştır. Bu türün kuluçka bölgesi Sovyetler Birliği'nin kuzeyinde bulunduğu ve

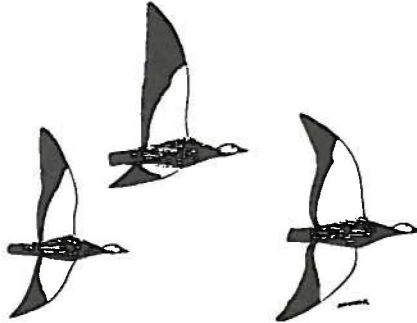


esaret kaçakları da beklenmediğinden bu mîstesna görüntüyü aydınlatmak mümkün değildir.

Erçek Gölü, Yağmurcunlar ve Sumrular için de önemli bir üreme ve konaklama bölgesidir. Poyraz kuşu, Uzunbacak, Kılıçgaga, Kocagöz, Kızkuşu (50 çift), Kızılbacak (max. 400 kuş) ve Sumru toplulukları kuluçkaya yatmaktadırlar. Ağustos, Eylül ve Ekim aylarında rastlayan üreme sonrasında ise saptanan en yüksek değerler Kılıçgaga için 2000, Kızkuşu için 200, Kılıçk Kumkuşu için 150, Dövuşken Kuş için 250 - 300, Kızılbacak için 500, Deniz Düdükcünlü için 900, Karabaş Martı için 1000 ve Büyük Martı için 400 olmuştur.

Erçek Gölü'nün çivarında 8 Toygar türü ve 5 - 6 Kuyrukcakan türü kuluçkaya yatmaktadır. Gölün yakında birkaç dağlık kuş türleri (özellikle Passeriformes) bulunmaktadır. Yırtıcı kuşlardan Saz Delicesi birkaç çifti gecmeyen sayıda gölde üretmektedir. Çevreledi çayırıklarda küçük bir Toy topluluğunun da ürettiği sanılmaktadır, ancak bu durum henüz kesinlik kazarmamıştır. Kuluçkaya yattığı sanılan birkaç çift Turna'nın yanı sıra, ender türlerden Kızıl Çaylak, Taş Çeviren, Hazar Yağmurcunu, Tringa terek, Çöl Kuyrukcakanı ve Yeşil Söğüt Bülbülü sayılabilir.

Yöreye özgü sorunlar tam anlaşılmamakla birlikte, yumurta toplama ve avcılığın kuş topluluklarına zarar verdiği bilinmektedir. Yumurta toplamadan özellikle Angıt, Suna türleri ile, Yağmurcun ve Sumru toplulukları etkilenmektedir.

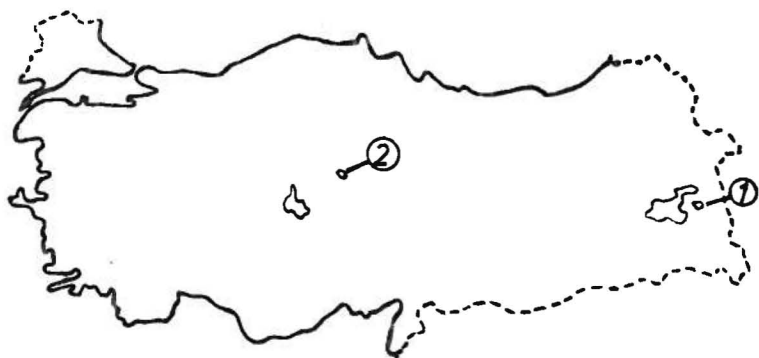


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BIRDS OF TURKEY      TÜRKİYE KUŞLARI



1 - - Ercek Gölü (published October 1983)

2 - - Seyfe Gölü (in preparation)

