



5th Pan-European Duck Symposium

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Isle of Great Cumbrae, Scotland

Programme and Abstracts

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First tracking data on Eurasian teals (*Anas crecca*) provides new information on their spring migration phenology

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The knowledge of waterfowl migratory strategies is crucial for developing effective conservation and management actions on these species and on their habitat at continental scale. The available satellite tracking data on migrating European ducks mostly regard the largest species, while for smaller ones, like the Eurasian teals *Anas crecca*, the information on migratory movements mostly derives from ringing recoveries. Starting from 2013, 29 Eurasian teals wintering in Italy were captured and tagged with PTTs. The departure date from wintering grounds was determined for 21 birds, 15 of them were tracked for the whole spring migration. The starting date of migration (SDM) was determined: a) as the day a given birds moved >30 km in any direction with no return to the wintering site; b) by fitting the Net Square Distance with linear or mixture models. In seven cases the SDM estimated by the two approaches coincided, while for the remaining birds method b) delayed the SDM significantly with respect to a). This occurred because starting from February most teals left their capture sites and then stopped for several weeks along the route before resuming their movement. Successive stops were usually shorter and shortened as birds arrived nearer their breeding grounds (BGs). Total migratory speed resulted to be quite slow (<50 km/day), but teals moved at high speed (~900 km/day) when considering only the segments spent flying. All birds followed the Black Sea-Mediterranean flyway; BGs were highly scattered in Central and North-Eastern Europe, reaching also the East of the Urals. These results outline for the first time the spring migratory strategies of European teals at individual level.

POSTER



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