

A new bird species record for Turkey: Hume's wheatear (*Oenanthe albonigra* Hume, 1872)

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Abstract

Objective: The aim of this study is to report *Oenanthe albonigra*, the new record to the avifauna of Turkey.

Material and Methods: This report includes the first record of Hume's wheatear in Turkey which has been observed around the Historical Hoşap Castle in Van province. The observations were made out between 2014 and 2016. It is first recorded in 2014. And for 2015 and 2016 field studies have been planned. The field work was carried out in the months of May, June, July, August and September for each year. Field work was done one day per month. In total, 15 observations were carried out during these three years

Results: The species Hume's wheatear was observed for the first time inside the borders of Turkey in June 2014. The first detection of the species was achieved at Hoşap Castle, which belongs to the Gürpınar district of Van province. At the first encounter, two pairs (four individuals) were seen. The species was seen at 11 locations in total. The species were observed in the area in the period between May and September each year. In total, 6 individuals were recorded in 2015, and 10 individuals were recorded in 2016

Conclusion: By this study, it was revealed that the species Hume's wheatear was detected during the observations in Van province for the first time in Turkey. Therefore, this species is a new record for birds of Turkey. The number of bird species in Turkey has been increased to 513 by this result. As a result of these observations, it was concluded that the species is a Summer Migrant for the area, and they incubate.

Key Words: Hume's wheatear, *Oenanthe albonigra*, Birds, Van, Turkey, First record

Introduction

The genus *Oenanthe*, which is a member of Passeriformes order in the family Muscicapidae, consists of 22 species all over the world. 16 of these species are distributed in Palearctic and Afrotropic zones (1).

Hume's wheatear was named by Allan Octavian Hume for the first time in Pakistan in 1872 as *Saxicola alboniger*. The synonym *Oenanthe albonigra* was also expressed in later periods. The species distribution seems to include Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Bahrain, India, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar and United Arab Emirates. The species is listed in the LC (Least Concern) criteria of IUCN.

There is no information about the observation of the species in Turkey in the studies of Birds of Turkey made by Ergene, Vielliard, Kumerlove, Kiziroğlu, Clements, Kirwan and others from 1900's to our time (2-6).

Additionally, there is no information about the distribution of the species in Turkey and further north in Heinzel and Svensson's field guides (7-8). Before that record, number of species belonging to the genus *Oenanthe* was 11 in Turkey (6). As for Van province, there were 7 records regarding *Oenanthe* species (9-10). This new type of record is important because it will contribute to Turkey's avifauna.

Materials and Methods

The first record for Hume's wheatear in Turkey was made in and around the Historical Hoşap Castle in Van province. The Castle is approximately 40 km far from the center of Van, 55 km in the east, and 160 km in the south from Iran border as a beeline. It is in a distance of 125 km from Iraq border in south (Fig. 1).

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The observations were made out between 2014 and 2016. It is first recorded in 2014. And for 2015 and 2016 field studies have been planned. The field work was carried out in the months of May, June, July, August and September for each year. Field work was done one day per month. In total, 15 observations were carried out during these three years.

Dobinson method was utilized for field work (11). This method includes the surveillance of a vantage point and transects observations on a particular line with optical equipment. The coordinates of the species' visual contact points, number of individuals and videos were recorded.

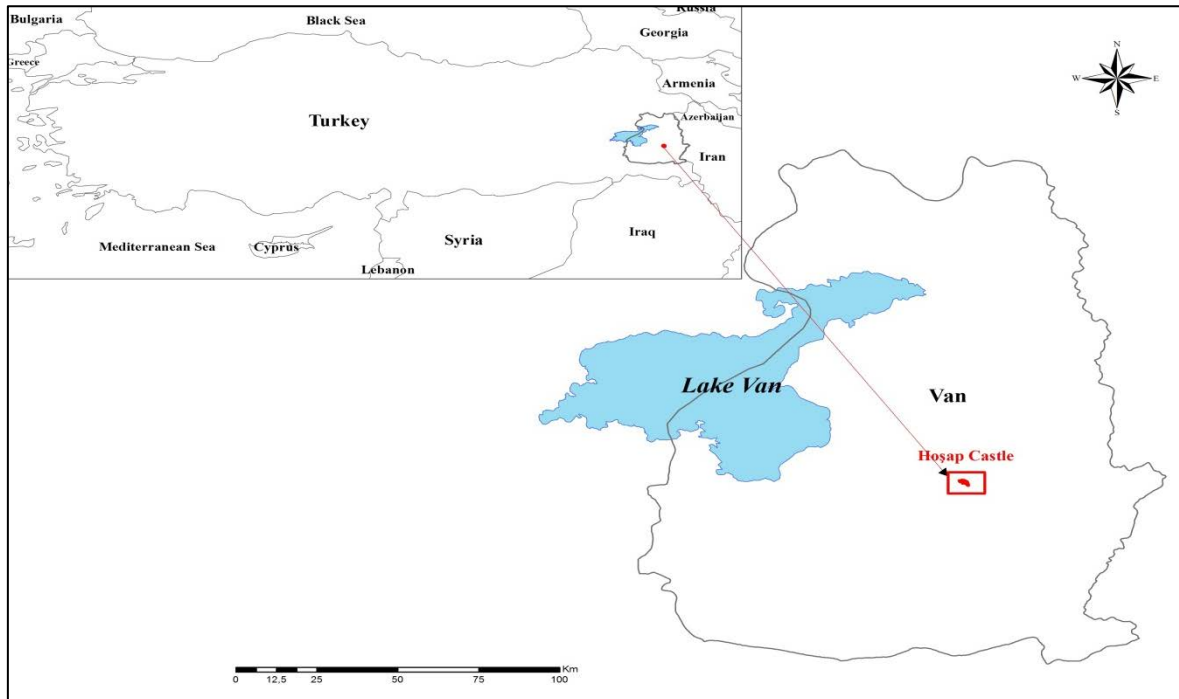


Figure 1: The location map of research area

Table 1: The coordinates of detection for the species in the research area

Year	Number of Individuals	UTM	X	Y
2014	2	38 S	395175 E	4241687 N
2014	2	38 S	395236 E	4241684 N
2015	2	38 S	395254 E	4241709 N
2015	1	38 S	395146 E	4242007 N
2015	1	38 S	395058 E	4242190 N
2015	2	38 S	395685 E	4241297 N
2016	3	38 S	396058 E	4240644 N
2016	2	38 S	395266 E	4241639 N
2016	2	38 S	395294 E	4241675 N
2016	2	38 S	393875 E	4241766 N
2016	1	38 S	393661 E	4241742 N

Table 2: Numerical distribution of individuals of the species in the research area based on years

Year/Month	May	June	July	August	September	Total
	Number of Individuals					
2014	-	4	-	-	-	4
2015	1	1	2	2	1	6
2016	2	2	1	3	2	10
Total	3	7	5	3	2	20

Results

The species Hume's wheatear was observed for the first time inside the borders of Turkey in June 2014. The first detection of the species was achieved at Hoşap Castle, which belongs to the Gürpınar district of Van province. At the first encounter, two pairs (four individuals) were seen.

Additionally, surveillance was conducted in the first observation point and its vicinity in 2015 and 2016. The species was seen at 11 locations in total. The coordinates of these locations are shown in Table 1.

The species were observed in the area in the period between May and September each year. In total, 6 individuals were recorded in 2015, and 10 individuals were recorded in 2016 (Table 2, Fig. 2).

It was observed that the individuals of the species which made nests in the area carried food to their nests. The individuals carrying food in their mouths to their nests were followed and it was seen that they prefer hollow spaces in rocks in the castle as nesting places (Image 1).

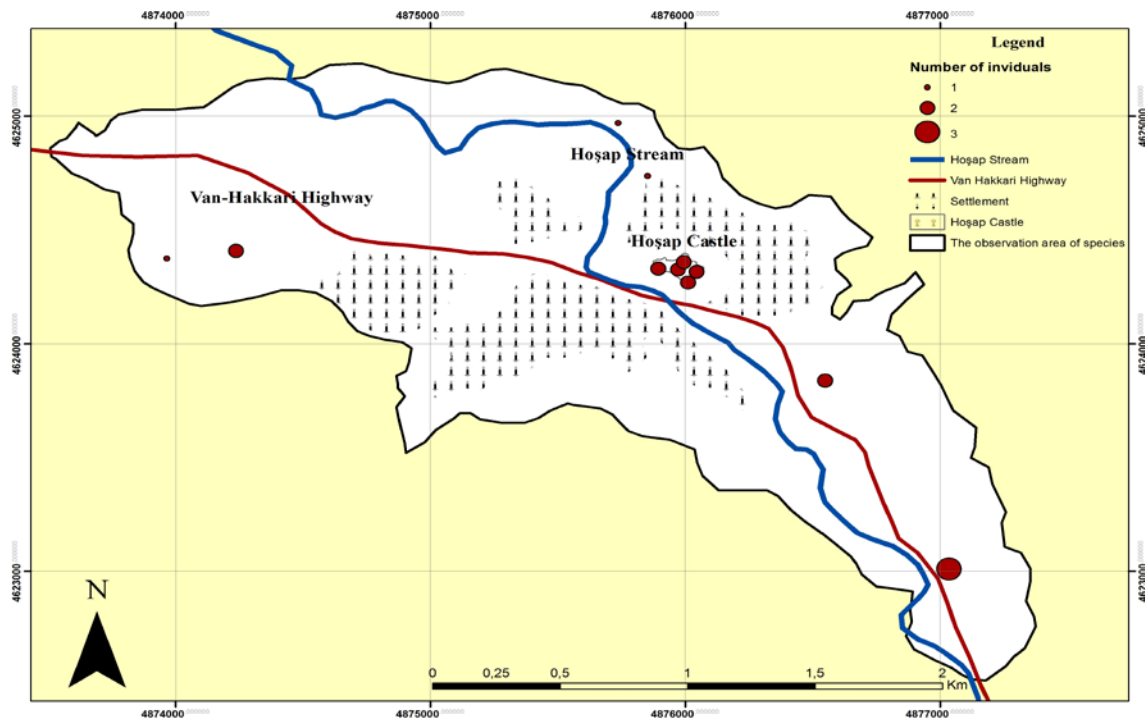


Figure 2. The distribution map of the species in the research area



Image 1: Images of the Hume's wheatear (*Oenanthe albonigra*) species in the research area, whereas the picture on the right shows individual carrying mouthfuls of food to its nest.

Conclusions

By this study, it was revealed that the species Hume's wheatear was detected during the observations in Van province for the first time in Turkey. There is no information about the species' distribution inside Turkey before 2014 within the available studies. Therefore, this species is a new record for birds of Turkey. The number of bird species in Turkey as been increased to 513 by this result (6).

Field work was conducted over three years to reveal the species' status in the surveyed area. As a result of these observations, it was concluded that the species is a Summer Migrant for the area, and they incubate.

The number of individuals belonging to the species in the area showed an increase by years. Additionally, the boundaries of its distribution area showed an extension in all directions from the point that it was seen for the first time. The species prefer rocky and barren districts in the area.

Based on the result of this study, it was proposed to the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs to include the species in monitoring program.

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Ethical issues: All Authors declare that Originality of research/article etc... and ethical approval of research, and responsibilities of research against local ethics commission are under the Authors responsibilities. The study was conducted due to defined rules by the Local Ethics Commission guidelines and audits.

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