

ORIENTATION OF TRANS-SAHARAN PASSERINE MIGRANTS IN SOUTHWESTERN SPAIN – REVISITED

Przemysław Busse

ABSTRACT

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At the end of the 1980s, a relatively large data set was collected from orientation cage tests of nocturnal migrants caught in one locality in south-western Spain. It was published in *The Auk* in 1989. At the time of publication, the use of orientation cages was a major advance in detailed studies on passerine migration patterns. The basic evaluation procedure was to calculate the average vector of all numbers representing bird activity in a number of sectors of the full wind-rose and to use the Rayleigh test to determine the statistical significance of the distribution. However, due to hidden assumptions in the procedure used at that time, the resulting heading patterns could be called into question in light of further methodological development. The paper revisits the original set of orientation data collected in the last century in the reported study. The new results from the multimodal distribution accepting procedure are compared with the older pictures and are found to be much better at explaining the migration pattern there. In particular, the Garden Warbler and Reed Warbler, which were claimed to be 'disoriented', now show acceptable directionality patterns which do not differ in shape from those of other species.

P. Busse, Bird Migration Research Foundation, Przebendowo 3, 84-210 Choczewo, Poland;
e-mail: busse@wbwp-fund.eu

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