



SCOLOPAX RUSTICOLA WITHOUT FRONTIERS: «ARABA» FROM THE BASQUE COUNTRY TO KARELIA

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Abstract. We deal with our third experiment about the tracking of the *Scolopax rusticola*. As in the previous experiments, the point is to know the Eurasian woodcock's migration along the Western Palearctic.

In March 2008, MTI gave us two new prototypes (9.5 grams) equipped with a new technology, to try and prove them. One of the prototypes was used with «Araba».

MTI wanted to check the prototypes in Europe and with woodcocks:

- (a) To know whether the prototypes charge better or not.
- (b) To know if the new PTTs charge well with such a special bird as the woodcock is (moving in special spaces, traveling at night, and so on).
- (c) To know the performance of the new PTTs against the European interferences. (We do know that in order to overcome the interferences the PTT's charge is the main variable.)

Araba went from the Basque Country up to Karelia.

Here some clear consequences of the use of this new technology during 2008 with *Araba*:

- a) The charge has been greater than in our previous experiments.
- b) In each emission per day, Argos has given more locations this year than in the previous two years.
- c) The emissions' data given by Argos have been much better in quality and quantity.
- d) The frequency of the emissions has been more regular than in the two previous projects.
- e) The frequency has been broken only in very few occasions, when clearly there were no interference problems. So, as hypothesis, we have tried to link this phenomenon with the woodcocks' *roding* or *croule*.



f) The problem of the interferences has been overcome with high charge, as we proposed in our previous experiments.

From September 14th on, 2008, in all the different emissions the activity sensor has not changed: the bird is dead and/or his PTT is detached.

The final result is net: the European interferences have been overcome with this new PTT, during all the time the tracking lasted and in all the different atmospheric circumstances.

(Note: *Araba*'s PTT was recovered in Rantala, region of Suojarvi, Karelia in September, 2009.)



DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE OF AMERICAN MINK (*MUSTELA VISON* SCHREB.) IN LENINGRAD AND VOLOGDA REGIONS

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The American mink (*Mustela vison* Schreb.) is widely spread in the North-West of Russia. It has never been intentionally introduced in Leningrad Region. The species appeared on the border with Karelia in post-war time due to successful acclimatization and actively populated the territory, spreading from Karelia and Finland as well as escaping from fur farms. In the late 1970s already, the migrants completely replaced the native European mink in the waters of the Karelian Isthmus and in the region's eastern areas bordering Karelia. In this territory the density of the mink population was around 0.74 – 1.54 ind./1000 ha of suitable habitats, and the range was continuously growing. By the mid 1980s, the combined population of the two mink species reached 20 000–21 000 animals, wherein the American mink's