

Manuel B. Morales, Juan C. Alonso, Javier A. Alonso, and Enrique Martín. 2000. Migration Patterns in Male Great Bustards (*Otis tarda*). *The Auk* 117: 493-498.

Abstract

Seasonal movements of wing-tagged and radio-marked male Great Bustards *Otis tarda* were studied in a population in northwestern Spain during 1983-1998. Two different patterns were found: males that migrated between mating and post-breeding areas, displaying interannual fidelity to both (69%), and males that stayed all the year round within a relatively small home range area close to their mating sites (31%). The proportions of these two types of males in the population were confirmed by the results of monthly censuses carried out during 1987-1998. The male population in the study area reached peak numbers of 696 birds in March, due to the arrival of individuals from surrounding areas to concentrate at leks, and decreased to a minimum of 219 in July (31% of the March average), when many of them had already left for their post-breeding ranges. Males tended to use as adults areas that they had already visited during their juvenile dispersal (83% of cases). Neither age nor social dominance seemed to affect migratory status. Average migration distance was significantly higher for males (12.5 km) than for females (4.5 km) in the study area.

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