14th Austrian Stable Isotope Network Meeting

Tulln/Donau, November 26th-27th 2015

Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH
Health and Environment Department

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences
Department of Chemistry (VIRIS Lab)
Austrian Institute of Technology and University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences

14th Stable Isotope Network Austria Meeting

Tulln/Donau 26th-27th November 2015

PROGRAM AND ABSTRACT
VOLUME

Editorial: STEFAN WYHLIDAL, ANDREA WATZINGER, REBECCA HOOD-NOWOTNY, THOMAS PROHASKA


Impressum:
Alle Rechte für das In- und Ausland vorbehalten.
Copyright: Austrian Institute of Technology, Konrad-Lorenz-Str. 24, 3430 Tulln, Austria
Medieninhaber, Herausgeber und Verleger: Austrian Institute of Technology, Tulln/Donau
homepage: www.ait.ac.at
ORIGIN OF WOODCOCKS (SCOLOPAX RUSTICOLA) HUNTED IN AUSTRIA

Horacek, M.\(^1\), Petrasko, M.\(^2\) & Spitzer, G.\(^2\)

\(^1\) HBLFA Francisco-Josephinum, BLT Wieselburg, Rottenhauserstr. 1, 3250 Wieselburg, Austria
\(^2\) Department of Theoretical Biology, University of Vienna, Althanstrasse 14, 1090 Vienna, Austria
e-mail: micha.horacek@josephinum.at

The woodcock in the EU is a protected species. Still, in several countries, among them Austria, its hunt is allowed. EU regulations, however, request the respective countries to protect their native woodcock population and to prove that the hunted woodcocks are alien migrants and not native ones.

For this purpose primary feathers of hunted woodcocks in Lower Austria have been collected and measured for their stable isotope signature. From the condition of the feathers juvenile and adult individuals are distinguished.

Expected are differences in isotope pattern between juvenile and adult woodcocks, as adult woodcocks have their moult in winter and thus report patterns representing the conditions in the wintering areas. Juvenile woodcocks report the conditions of the breeding sites in summer.

Preliminary results show the expected differences between juvenile and adult individuals. At least three different origins of the juvenile individuals are identified and at least two different ones for the adult ones. Furthermore there is evidence that woodcocks might not have a very high site-fidelity.