Sex and Age Ratios of the Overwinter Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* in Southwestern Turkey

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**Aim of the study:** The aim of the study is to provide quantitative data on the sex and age ratios of the overwinter marsh harrier in southwestern Turkey and to compare them with those reported in the literature for Europe, in light of the proposed hypotheses for the evolution of differential migration in avian species.

**Material and Methods:** The study was carried out from 15 January to 15 February both in 2016 and 2017 at Beylerli, Acıgöl, Işıklı, Gökgöl and Karakuyu Lakes in Denizli and Afyonkarahisar districts. The point count and transect line were used to observations. Observed individuals counted as young, mature, male and female and noted for each lake. Each site was visited an average of two times per study period. Age and sex classes were determined according to Ferguson-Lees and Christie (2001).

**Results:** A total of 194 individual, 112 of which in 2016 and the rest in 2017, have been recorded during the study. It was seen that the female ratios are quite high in all areas: females 70/74.4%, males 16/14.6% and juveniles 14/11% in 2016 and 2017, respectively. These results have shown similar ratios and age classes as in Europe and support body-size and social-dominance hypothesis. The long term monitoring must have been done to get comparable and conclusive results.

**Keywords:** Marsh harrier, sex and age, migration, Turkey.