

Ministère de l'écologie et du développement durable

Réponse au questionnaire sur le phragmite aquatique établi dans le cadre de la rencontre internationale organisée sous l'égide de la convention sur les espèces migratrices (juin 2006)

Ce questionnaire a été établi avec le concours du Muséum national d'histoire naturelle

Réponse aux questions (indiquées en faisant référence à leur numérotation sur le questionnaire)

1.1.1.

a) Yes, sufficient

b) Aquatic Warbler is strictly protected under French legislation. It's prohibited to destroy or catch eggs and nests, to kill, harm, catch, transport, use, sell, buy or possess specimens (decree as 17th April 1981).

It belongs to the list of protected and threatened with extinction vertebrate in France, the range of which exceed the limit of a department (decree as 9th July 1999).

c) /

d) Yes

e) A recent study has concluded that most of the European Aquatic Warbler population stop-over in France during their autumn migration. Moreover, the population appears to concentrate there comparatively to neighbouring country. The main area concerned by such phenomenon range from Picardie to the Gironde included the Loire Estuary being likely a key place for species. Yet, all suitable habitats within this range may hold significant number of Aquatic Warbler. The habitats of Aquatic Warbler in France are mainly estuarine reedbeds and neighbouring grasslands. As priority habitat (Habitat Directive), most of them are protected, but protection isn't specifically aimed at Aquatic Warbler.

France has designated 30 Special Protection Area where Aquatic Warbler is mentioned on migration. Primary SPA are Baie d'Audierne (249 i), Basse Seine Estuary and marsh (50 to 150i) Baie de Goulven (10 to 100 i), Baie du Mont St Michel (20 à 60 i) and Estuaire de la Gironde : marais de la rive nord (10-50 i). Yet SPAs are not specifically designated for Aquatic Warbler.

1.1.2. Country is outside of breeding range

2.

2.1. Country is outside of breeding range

2.2. Country is outside of breeding range

2.3.1

a)

	Statu s	Aquatic Warbler populatio n supported	Year of surve y	Total area	Area of the site under protectio n	Type of protection	Detriment al developm ents	Site managem ent plan
Baie d'Audier ne	P	1249 (trapped birds during ringing)		3100	>1704 ha	SPA, Hunting reserve, private reserve	?	D
Baie du Mont Saint Michel	P	98 (trapped birds during ringing)		63800	About 62000 ha	Hunting reserve, private reserve, Ramsar site, SPA		?
Estuaire de la Loire	P	712 (trapped birds during ringing)		21400	20193ha	Hunting reserve, SPA		D
Estuaire et Embouch ure de la Seine	P	201 (trapped birds during ringing)		21100	>18840 ha	SPA, Hunting reserve, Nature reserve		D
Estuaire de la Gironde	P	227 (trapped birds during ringing)		63500	>15648 ha	Hunting reserve, SPA		D

b) partially

Primary Aquatic Warbler sites are protected but not specifically for this species. There is no valuation of protected habitat network for Aquatic Warbler, and we don't know if network is sufficiently dense.

c) There is a Life project in Brittany of which the main motivation is to increase the surface of habitats favourable for the migrating aquatic warbler along the French coasts of the Atlantic. This general aim can be declined in two specific aims:

- maintaining or rehabilitating the essential ecological functions for the receiving of the migrating aquatic warbler in some important stop-overs;
- promoting the experience in management acquired by the persons in charge and by the managers of the string of coastal marshes.

In Brittany, the project is led on 3 sites designated in SPA, under the responsibility of the proponent, Bretagne Vivante – SEPNEB. This stakeholder proposes:

- to improve the knowledge of the migratory stop-overs and the role of their habitats for the species: the project plans a radio-tracking operation, a study of the diet through analyses of droppings collected on the ringing stations and a further inventory of the Brittany sites.
- to perpetuate the regulation protection of the most important stop-overs: this means a control on the use and the property status of 30 hectares by management agreements or acquisitions.
- to put in place a management adapted to the vital habitats : the planned work concerns 181 hectares of marshes and consists in rehabilitation work on the marshes by clearing out, digging ditches, installing gates or maintenance work by reaping of the reed beds and the subhalophilic meadows on a pluriannual basis and by the management of water levels.
- to make the local population aware of the importance of these zones by the production and the broadcasting of a film, by conferences in the localities, by the publishing of a brochure and by a programme of activities for the general public and school children. The Life will thus contribute to a local understanding and acceptance of the Natura 2000 sites.
- to share the acquired experience with the managers and persons in charge in France by the organisation of technical workshops and the publishing, at the end of the programme, of a collection of experiences. This booklet will at the same time propose an interregional conservation strategy. The creation of a web site and the planning of exchanges with the Spanish Life LIFE2002NAT/E/8616REV complete the communication chapter.

The Life is planned over a period of 4.5 years, from Jan 1st 2004 to Dec 31st 2008.

d) Management on migration stop over sites (to avoid disappearance of traditional agricultural land uses) and water level management would be implementing in SPA.

2.4. Country is outside of breeding range

3.1.1.

a) no :

The methodology advised by the Aquatic Warbler Species Action Plan for passage sites is the same methodology used in France at potential passage sites (Ringing with tape recorder).

b) /

c) The standardized mist-netting methodology (including tape-luring) was used by Bretagne Vivante at Treogat, France, from 1990 to 2003, and was extended to other French sites by CRBPO (national ringing centre) following years. In order to compare countries and sites in terms of their numerical importance to migrating Aquatic Warbler, CRBPO developed an index, termed “ACROLA”, defined as the total number of Aquatic Warbler captured divided by the total number of *Acrocephalus* warblers captured (as a percentage).

d) CRBPO provide ringer with method and there is publications on the subject:
Julliard, R.; Bargain, B., Dubois, A., Jiguet, F., (2006) Identifying fall migration routes for the globally threatened Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* – *Ibis*, 148,-...

3.1.2. Country is outside of breeding range

3.1.3.

a) yes

b) and c) About 30 French ringing sites use the standardized method (using tape-luring and a standardized spatial distribution of mist-nets). Three of these sites were almost constantly monitored during the post nuptial migration period (from 15 July to 30 September). These are Treogat (Baie d’Audierne), Genêts (Normandy) and Frossay (Loire estuary). Monitoring conducted on these sites concerned diet and habitat parameters:

- Knowledge of Aquatic Warbler’s preys on passage sites (and so relationship between prey and habitat) is essential for these conservation implications. The study of prey, led by Bretagne Vivante, is based on the analysis of excrement Aquatic Warbler. The analysis of 115 excrements provides identification of 570 preys. The primary prey is *diptera*, but among secondary preys, presence of big Insect is remarkable (dragonfly, spider...). In term of biomass, the importance of this big Insect is enormous. The conservation implications are interesting: it’s easier to favour dragonfly for example (with “plan d’eau libre”), than greenfly. At the moment, there is no publication, but a report is available at Bretagne Vivante.

- SEPNB has led a radio tracking operation in Brittany (Baie d’Audierne) at august 2001 and 2002. This operation provides information about type of habitat and size of territory used by Aquatic Warbler on passage sites. Whereas ringing operation indicates that reed bed with high vegetation is the major habitat of Aquatic Warbler, this radio-tracking operation underlines the importance of habitats with shorter vegetation (grasslands) for feeding sites.

d) medium

f) medium

g) Next objective is to study functional role of habitat and not only to identify passage sites.

3.1.4. Country is outside of wintering range

3.1.5.

a) Yes

b and c) See question 3.1.3.(b and c)

d) We don’t know if the quality water has an impact on the habitat of the Aquatic Warbler. Such a study would be developed.

3.1.7 YES. SEPNB is one of the stakeholders of the aquatic warbler conservation team for the migration flyway. Within the AWCT, we can compare our studies with Spanish results on their migration stop over sites. This NGO is led by German. It organises expedition to look for the species and coordinates a network of people focused on this conservation.

3.2.3.

a)Yes

b) A standardized method allows following the evolution of the numerical importance to migrating Aquatic Warbler of different passage sites in France and Spain. This method is used within the ambit of the acroproject (Euring) and a LIFE Interreg project.

c) The evolution of number of Aquatic Warbler captured provides information about dynamics of population and changes in migration routes.

4.1.

a) No

4.2. No or Yes locally (Brittany)

Because of the small height and the discretion of Aquatic Warbler, it's difficult to use this species as a flagship species, but promising experience in Brittany would be improves knowledge of the species for people at large.

4.3. Yes, specifically devoted to the Aquatic Warbler

Within the ambit of the LIFE (Brittany), SEPNB develop in France many educational and promotional materials:

- Production and broadcast of a film (finished in July),
- Publication of a brochure,
- Implementation of a game for children and school,
- Implementation of expositions for local elected representatives
- Etc...