

SUPPORTING INFORMATION / APPENDICE

Wintering range of western yellow wagtail *Motacilla flava* in Africa and Europe in a historical perspective: detailed results

FROM 1848 TO 1900**Southern Africa**

In South Africa, Layard (1867) reported a western yellow wagtail captured in Swellendam (Western Cape Province), and Malmgren (1869) reported a male from Durban in 1868 (KwaZulu-Natal Province). Another individual was observed in the same location around 1852 and one near East London (Eastern Cape Province) (Layard & Sharpe, 1875-1884; Shelley, 1900). In Transvaal, the species was common (Ayres, 1871), especially the subspecies *flava* of which at least six individuals were captured near Potchefstroom (North West Province) in the 1870s (NHM, 2017); a specimen belonging to the *lutea* subspecies (Ayres, 1873) and one to the subspecies *feldegg* (Ayres, 1871; Sharpe, 1871) was also reported. The latter, according to Shelley (1900), was the only individual of Black-headed western yellow wagtail observed south of the equator until 1900. Two other specimens (male and female) attributed to *lutea* were caught on 3rd January 1877 near Potchefstroom (North West Province) (Ayres, 1878) and another specimen (*lutea*) was collected in the same locality on 30th November 1879 (NHM, 2017). Ayres (1884) reported the last observation date for the subspecies *flava* in Transvaal on 17th April 1882, after a boreal winter during which the species was particularly abundant. According to Stark (1900), the latter subspecies also reached the KwaZulu-Natal Province. The subspecies *thunbergi* was observed once or twice in Transvaal (Shelley, 1900; Stark, 1900), and in particular, a specimen was collected at Potchefstroom on 3rd January 1877 along with an individual attributed to *flavissima*, but probably more attributable to *lutea* (Shelley, 1900; NHM, 2017).

In Namibia, the western yellow wagtail was very scarce, however some individuals of the subspecies *flava* and *thunbergi* were captured between 8th and 13th March 1865 in Otjimbingwe (Erongo Region) (Andersson & Gurney, 1872; Shelley, 1900; NHM, 2017).

Eastern Africa

In Zimbabwe, a male of the subspecies *flava* was collected on 26th February 1899 in Harare (NHM, 2017). The western yellow wagtail was reported by Marshall (1900) with particular reference to the *lutea* subspecies. Considering it somewhat erratic in its appearance, Marshall (1900) stated:

«... it is more often to be seen in the town than the other species, feeding round the puddles in the streets, generally in pairs.»

In Mozambique, the species was reported in the Tete area in the winter of 1858 (Livingstone & Livingstone, 1865). Some individuals collected by Livingstone were attributed to *lutea* (Layard & Sharpe, 1875-1884; Shelley, 1900; NHM, 2017), and Reichenow (1889; 1893) referred to this same subspecies for individuals observed in Qui-

limane (Zambezia) in 1889. In Zumbo (Tete Province), considerable numbers of immature birds appeared on 10th December 1898 (Alexander, 1899).

In Malawi, the *lutea* subspecies was reported by Zomba and Mount Malosa in the Shire Highlands (Southern Region) (Shelley, 1900; Trombone, 2013). A *cinereocapilla* (probably here to be interpreted as *thunbergi*) was also reported in the area surveyed by Zomba (Shelley, 1900; 1901).

In Zambia, Shelley (1900) reported individuals in Likulwe in November and in Katapana in March.

In Tanzania, the species was present in the area of Lake Malawi (Finsch & Hartlaub, 1870) (*flava*, *feldegg*, and *lutea*), in small groups along the east coast of Lake Tanganyika (Böhm, 1885; Matschie, 1887), in Kigoma Region (Reichenow, 1894), along the Indian Ocean coast from the Pwani Region to Tanga Region (Shelley, 1881; 1900; Fischer, 1884; 1885; Reichenow, 1894), in the Kagera Region (*lutea*) (Finsch & von Heuglin, 1869; Reichenow, 1892; 1894; Shelley, 1900), in the Arusha and Mwanza Regions (*flava*, *feldegg*, and *lutea*) (Reichenow, 1894; Shelley, 1900), and in the Kilimanjaro Region (Finsch & Hartlaub, 1870). A specimen of the *lutea* subspecies was collected in the Kilimanjaro Region in January 1889 (Orrell & Hollowell, 2017).

In the Seychelles, an individual attributed to *lutea* was collected on the Aldabra Islands on 20th December 1892 (Ridgway, 1895; Benson, 1967; Orrell & Hollowell, 2017).

In Kenya, the western yellow wagtail was reported in Malindi (Kilifi County), Tana River County (Fischer, 1879; 1885; Shelley, 1900), Kajiado County, Narok County (Fischer, 1885; Shelley, 1900), Homa Bay County (Reichenow, 1887a), Kiambu County (Trombone, 2013), Machakos County (very common on 1st February 1897; Hinde, 1898), and Baringo County (Jackson & Sharpe, 1899; Millen, 2017). For the latter county, Jackson & Sharpe (1899) specified that *flava* was very common, while they met only three *lutea* specimens during the years 1895-1898. The latter subspecies also belonged to a specimen captured on 12th January 1899 in Ngong (Kajiado County) (Hinde, 1900), one collected in November 1896 in Campi ya Simba (Laikipia County), as well as another caught in Escarpment (Kiambu County) in October 1900 (Trombone, 2013). On the eastern bank of Lake Victoria (Berkeley Bay) on 31st January 1898 at least four individuals were observed that were attributed to the subspecies *feldegg* (Jackson & Sharpe, 1899; Grant & Marks, 2017).

In Uganda, the western yellow wagtail was reported on Ssesse Island (Lake Victoria) on 16th December 1890 (Reichenow, 1892; 1894; Shelley, 1900), in Wakiso District (Grant & Marks, 2017), the Busoga sub-region, and Fort Portal (Western Region) (Hartert, 1900; Trombone, 2013), in the West Nile sub-region (Shelley, 1900). The subspecies *flava* was explicitly cited for Entebbe (Millen,

2017); *lutea* was present in the Western Region (Shelley, 1900; Trombone, 2013) and in Kampala (Trombone, 2013); *feldegg* was present along the northern shores of Lake Victoria (Shelley, 1900).

The data from Somalia refers mainly to the migratory periods: Hartlaub (1861) reported the presence of the *lutea* subspecies along the coasts of Somalia and in the Danakil desert during the migration, while Finsch & von Heuglin (1869) detected the presence of *flava*, *cinereocapilla* (?), *feldegg* and *lutea* in the Northern Somalia, and they found that arrivals already started in August. To the previous subspecies, Phillips (1896) also added *thunbergi*. In the Berbera District, there were spring catches of the subspecies *lutea*, *thunbergi*, *cinereocapilla*, and probably, *flava* (Elliot, 1897; Grant & Marks, 2017; Harvard University Museum & Morris, 2017). The strictly winter data showed an individual collected at Jifa Medir (Woqooyi Galbeed Region) on 5th January 1898 (Hawker, 1899; Shelley, 1900) and another one of ssp. *flava* captured on 29th January 1899 in Berbera (Woqooyi Galbeed Region) (Harvard University Museum & Morris, 2017).

In Ethiopia, the western yellow wagtail commonly wintered in Abyssinia along the mountain streams and on

the shores of Lake Tana (Fig. 1) (Andree, 1869; Finsch & von Heuglin, 1869). Salvadori (1884) reported specimens belonging to the subspecies *flava* and *lutea* caught at Addis Ababa on 20th November 1879. In winter, the ssp. *flava* was certainly present in good numbers from the sea coast to the Abyssinian plateau (Ogilvie-Grant & Reid, 1901). Along the shores of Lake Haramaya (Oromia Region), an individual of the ssp. *lutea* was caught on 30th December 1898 (this subspecies was considered very widely-distributed) and a *feldegg* on 1st January 1899 (Ogilvie-Grant, 1900). On 27th December 1900, a female *feldegg* was collected along the shores of Lake Abaya and a male of the same subspecies was also present (von Erlanger, 1907; Trombone, 2013). Along the shores of the same lake on 27th and 28th December 1990, there were also three individuals attributed to ssp. *flava* (1 adult and 2 juveniles) (von Erlanger, 1907). During migrations in the North-East provinces in the south of Abyssinia and along the shores of Lake Haramaya (Oromia Region), the subspecies *feldegg* was observed (von Heuglin, 1856; Finsch, 1870; Shelley, 1900; Ogilvie-Grant & Reid, 1901), and in Abyssinia, both *flava* and *cinereocapilla* (?) were observed (Shelley, 1900).



Fig. 1 - Beginning of the Blue Nile River by its outlet from Lake Tana, Amhara Region, Ethiopia. / Inizio del Nilo Blu all'uscita del Lago Tana, Regione di Amara, Etiopia. (Photo / Foto: Ondřej Žváček, CC-BY- 2.5).

In the Southern South Sudan, the western yellow wagtail was present during migrations (Shelley, 1888), in particular the subspecies *feldegg* was identified (Shelley, 1900).

In the north of Eritrea, there were abundant migratory movements of *feldegg* both in April and August (Finsch, 1870), as well as in the Debub Region (Sharpe, 1871) and in the Anseba Region (Antinori & Salvadori, 1873). In the Northern Red Sea Region on 12th March 1899, a specimen of the ssp. *lutea* was collected (Trombone, 2013).

Middle Africa

In Angola, the western yellow wagtail was observed in Luanda (Reichenow, 1877; Barbosa Du Bocage, 1881).

In the Republic of the Congo, it was reported near the Boyoma Falls (Reichenow, 1887b) and Yambuya (Tshopo) (Shelley, 1890; 1900).

In Gabon, it was detected in the Ogooué-Maritime Province (Hartlaub, 1857; de Compiègne, 1875; Shelley, 1900).

The species was also known in Cameroon (Reichenow, 1875; Shelley, 1900). Reichenow (1875) reported the presence of young individuals attributed to *cinereocapilla* in Cameroon.

The subspecies *flavissima* had been reported in Congo (Shelley, 1890; 1900), Gabon (Hartlaub, 1861; Bouvier, 1875; de Compiègne, 1875), and Cameroon (Reichenow, 1896; Shelley, 1900).

Western Africa

In Nigeria, the western yellow wagtail was reported for the Kwara State (Forbes, 1883; Shelley, 1883) with explicit reference to the subspecies *flava*, but also to a specimen probably attributable to *flavissima* captured on 27th October 1882. The subspecies *flavissima* was also present in the Nasarawa State (Hartert, 1886) and certainly wintered in the northern highlands (Shelley, 1900).

In Togo, the species was common (Reichenow, 1897; 1902; Shelley, 1900) and abundant along the coast in Ghana (Gold Coast) (Müller, 1855; Hartlaub, 1857; Shelley & Buckley, 1872; Reichenow & Lühder, 1873; Reichenow, 1875; 1891; Shelley, 1900). For the latter nation, almost all the authors explicitly cited the ssp. *flavissima*.

In Liberia, the western yellow wagtail was common, especially along rivers and near villages (Büttikofer, 1885; Shelley, 1900), as well as in Sierra Leone near Freetown (Shelley & Buckley, 1872; Shelley, 1900).

In Guinea, the presence of *flavissima* was known (Hartlaub, 1857).

In Senegal and Gambia, the species was common in winter and more authors reported the presence of the ssp. *flavissima* (Müller, 1855; Hartlaub, 1857; Sharpe, 1871; Bouvier, 1875; de Compiègne, 1875; De Rochebrune, 1884; Kendall, 1892), particularly in the Ziguinchor, Kolda, and Dakar Regions (Shelley, 1900) and along the Gambia River (Sharpe, 1871). Shelley (1900) also reported a specimen of *cinereocapilla* captured in Senegal and a western yellow wagtail collected on a vessel sailing in the Atlantic Ocean about ninety miles from the coast of Senegal. The same author remembered an individual of

flavissima caught in Cape Verde, probably during migration (Shelley, 1900).

Shelley (1900) highlighted the absence of data concerning the subspecies *thunbergi* in the West African subregion.

Northern Africa

In Sudan, the subspecies *feldegg* (prevalent), *flava*, and *cinereocapilla* (here to be interpreted as *thunbergi*) were known for populating the area around Khartoum (Brehm, 1852; Vierthaler, 1852; 1853; von Heuglin, 1856; 1862; Baldamus, 1857). The species was also present in the Northern State (Hartmann, 1864a; 1864b), in particular the subspecies *feldegg* (Sharpe, 1871). The latter subspecies was also present in the Sennar State along the Blue Nile (Brehm, 1857). Brehm (1852) pointed out that the subspecies *feldegg* already disappeared in mid-March, while *flava* and *cinereocapilla* (here to be interpreted as *thunbergi*) left north a month later.

An individual attributed to the subspecies *pygmaea* was collected in lower Egypt in January 1850 (Hartert, 1918), and normally, the species was present in winter along the banks of the lakes (probably the reference was to those of the delta of the River Nile) (Brehm, 1852). At the end of 1857, the species was present in Kafr El Dawwar (Beheira Governorate) (Cavafy, 1861). Adams (1864) reported the presence of the western yellow wagtail in Egypt, presumably along the River Nile, up to the first cataract (Aswan) and specified to have observed the ssp. *cinereocapilla* (here to be interpreted as *pygmaea*) and *feldegg* (for the latter, however, he did not explicitly speak about wintering). The same information was reiterated by Hartmann (1864c). Shelley (1871; 1872) pointed out *pygmaea* as common and present throughout the year, while he considered *flava* and *feldegg* present during migrations, especially in Nubia, as was also shown by Gurney (1876). At the end of January 1875, some specimens of *pygmaea* were captured between Girga and Abydos (Sohag), and in the early days of February, some individuals were also observed in the Cairo area (Grant & Marks, 2017). The presence of *feldegg* in March in the Faiyum Governorate was judged to be an exceptional event (Shelley, 1872). In February 1891, some specimens of *pygmaea* were collected at Abydos, and in January 1892, others were collected in the area of Damietta (Grant & Marks, 2017). An individual of the subspecies *thunbergi* was collected on 20th December 1890 south of Aswan (Grant & Marks, 2017).

In Tunisia, the species was numerous during the migrations (Koenig, 1893; von Erlanger, 1899). Regarding the winter period, the opinions differed, in fact, while Koenig (1893) defined the wintering as occasional, von Erlanger (1899) said he had met the species frequently (especially the subspecies *flava*).

In Algeria during the migrations, at least four subspecies appeared (*flava*, *flavissima*, *cinereocapilla*, and *feldegg*) (Loche & Bonaparte, 1858; Loche, 1867; Taczarowski, 1870; Gurney, 1871; Koenig, 1895), and the species was defined as wintering by Tristram (1860) during his exploration of the Sahara in the south to N'Goussa (Province of Ouargla).

In Morocco, the subspecies *flava* and *cinereocapilla* (here to be interpreted as *iberiae*) regularly wintered in areas with both sweet and salty water (Tristram, 1859), probably along the Atlantic coast. Reid (1885) defined the species as common when reporting individuals collected in December and January.

In the Canary Islands, the presence of the species was accidental (Bolle, 1857); for this reason, a winter observation is now doubtful.

Europe

In the United Kingdom, a pair attributed to the subspecies *flavissima* was noted feeding at the edge of a water-cress bed between Cassiobury Park and Rickmansworth (Hertfordshire, England) on 15th January 1873 (Bygrave Wharton, 1873a). Doubts were raised about their identification (Doubleday, 1873), but the observer declared himself to be sure of the birds' identity in consideration of prolonged and close observation (Bygrave Wharton, 1873b).

FROM 1901 TO 1945

Southern Africa

In South Africa, the subspecies *flava* was a regular visitor, but with discontinuous distribution: it was present in Natal, on the Transvaal and Drakensberg plateaus, in the Free State Province, in the Mpumalanga Province, and the Gauteng Province (Roberts, 1911; Haagner, 1912; Haagner & Ivy, 1923; Meinertzhagen, 1921; Austin, 1942). The subspecies *lutea* was instead considered rare (FitzSimons, 1923; Austin, 1942): a single specimen was seen on the Jokeskei River, north of Johannesburg, in December 1905 (Haagner, 1912; Haagner & Ivy, 1923), a female was captured in Port Elizabeth on 20th April 1909 (Eastern Cape Province) (FitzSimons, 1910; 1923), and a specimen was collected in 1916 at Warmbaths (the current Bela-Bela), 100 km north of Pretoria (Museum Victoria, 2016). An administrative measure of the Transvaal Province dated in 1935 declared both *flava* and *lutea* protected species (Provinsie Transvaal, 1935). The subspecies *feldegg* was considered accidental (Haagner, 1912; Haagner & Ivy, 1923; Austin, 1942) having as its sole reference the specimen reported by Ayres (1871) in the 19th century.

In Namibia, there were only generic data according to which the subspecies *flava* was known in Damaraland (Erongo Region) (Haagner, 1912; Haagner & Ivy, 1923; Austin, 1942).

Eastern Africa

In Mozambique, the subspecies *flava* was reported in the area of Beira (Sofala Province) (Austin, 1942). In the Natural History Museum of London, three individuals of the subspecies *lutea* (one male and two females) collected in March 1932 are preserved, but the exact location of capture is unknown (NHM, 2017). Another specimen captured on 3rd March 1932 (same date as the *lutea* male)

is attributed to *flavissima*, but the data appears implausible, and it is very likely that it is also a *lutea* individual (NHM, 2017).

In Malawi at the end of 1930s, Benson (1940) reported a male *flava*, two male *thunbergi*, and a male *flavissima* in the area of a Mzimba (Northern Region). For the latter, he specified: «Adult male differs from that of *B. f. luteus* in having forehead yellowish-green, uniform with crown, not more yellow», however it is believed that the individual was *lutea*. The *lutea* subspecies was instead observed with certainty in January in the Dedza District (Central Region) (Benson, 1940).

In Zambia, the subspecies *flava* was reported on 3rd March 1905 at Lusaka (Stoehr & Sclater, 1906), and at least two individuals were reported in the Matopo District (Mouritz, 1915). The subspecies *lutea* occurred in the Luangwa Valley (a female in November 1903) (Stoehr & Sclater, 1906; Neave, 1910), in the Western Province (Winterbottom, 1942), and in 1944 and 1945, in the Ndola District (Copperbelt Province) (ANSP, 2016; Grant & Marks, 2017). In the Luangwa Valley, the subspecies *thunbergi* was also reported on 23rd April 1907 (Neave, 1910); in April 1945, some birds of the same subspecies were caught in the Ndola District (Copperbelt Province) (ANSP, 2016; Grant & Marks, 2017). The South African Museum in Cape Town preserves a specimen collected on 3rd March 1905 (the same reported as *flave* by Stoehr & Sclater in 1906) attributed to the subspecies *beema* (Gill, 1941).

In Tanzania, the western yellow wagtail was present in the Mtwara Region (*flava* and *lutea*) (Grote, 1913), the Mbeya Region (*flava*) (Harvard University Museum & Morris, 2017), the Dar es Salaam Region (*flava* was common in the Region and *lutea* was common in Northern Tanganika) (Friedmann & Loveridge, 1937; Harvard University Museum & Morris, 2017), the Morogoro Region (*flava* and *lutea*) (Friedmann & Loveridge, 1937; Trombone, 2013; CUMV, 2017), the Tanga Region (*lutea*) (Sclater & Moreau, 1932), both east and west of Kilimanjaro, as well as in the steppes inhabited by the Masai south of this mountain (prevalence of *lutea*, but also presence of *flava*) (Oberholser, 1905; Sjöstedt, 1906), on the Ukerewe Island (Mwanza Region) (*thunbergi*) (Grote, 1919; 1921), and in the Kagera Region (*lutea* was common, but *flava* and *thunbergi* were also present) (contradicting Grote's assertion that *thunbergi* was observed only in Western Africa before 1919, Sassi reported *thunbergi* as early as 1909, 1910, and 1911) (Sassi, 1925; Friedmann & Loveridge, 1937; Harvard University Museum & Morris, 2017).

In Burundi, the subspecies *flava* was reported along the coast of Lake Tanganyika (Orrell & Hollowell, 2017) and in Southeastern Rwanda (Sassi, 1925).

In Kenya, the species arrived in the Nairobi District at the end of October and left the Nairobi District in March (van Someren, 1918a). The species was reported in Taita-Taveta County (*flavissima*, here to be interpreted as *lutea*), Kilifi County (*lutea*) (Bannerman, 1910; van Someren, 1922), Lamu County (*lutea*, up to 24 individuals together) (van Someren, 1918b), Garissa County (*flava*, *beema*, and *lutea*) (Trombone, 2013), Kajiado County (*lu-*

tea) (Friedmann & Loveridge, 1937), Machakos County (*lutea*) (Dearborn, 1909), Nairobi County (*flava*, *beema*, *cinereocapilla* (?), *feldegg/melanogrisea*, *thunbergi*, *flavissima* (?), *lutea*, and *leucocephala*) (Chapman, 1908; Dearborn, 1909; 1917; van Someren, 1922; 1931; 1932; Granvik, 1923; Sclater, 1924; Grant & Marks, 2017; Harvard University Museum & Morris, 2017), Embu County (*flava*) (Harvard University Museum & Morris, 2017), Muranga County (*flava* and *lutea*) (Harvard University Museum & Morris, 2017; Orrell & Hollowell, 2017), Nyeri County (*flava*, *flavissima* (?), and *lutea*) (Stone, 1905; Orrell & Hollowell, 2017), Meru County (*lutea*) (Harvard University Museum & Morris, 2017), Nakuru County (*lutea*) (Dearborn, 1909; 1917; van Someren, 1922), Kisumu County (*flava*, *beema*, *cinereocapilla* (?), *feldegg*, *thunbergi*, and *lutea*) (van Someren, 1918a; 1922; 1932; Trombone, 2013), Vihiga County (*flava*) (Orrell & Hollowell, 2017), Siaya County (*feldegg/melanogrisea*) (ANSP, 2016), Uasin Gishu County (*flava*) (Friedmann & Loveridge, 1937; Harvard University Museum & Morris, 2017), Samburu County (*thunbergi*) (Oberholser, 1945), Marsabit County (*feldegg/melanogrisea*) (ANSP, 2016) and Turkana County (*flava*, *cinereocapilla* (?), *beema*, and *thunbergi*) (van Someren, 1922; 1932; Mac Innes, 1933-1934; Oberholser, 1945).

In Uganda, the western yellow wagtail was present in the Kisoro District (*thunbergi*) (Peters & Loveridge, 1942; Harvard University Museum & Morris, 2017), in the Kalangala District (*thunbergi*) (Millen, 2017), on the Damba Island of Lake Victoria (Mukono District) (*flava* and *lutea*) (Harvard University Museum & Morris, 2017), in the Busoga area (*flava*) (van Someren, 1916), Jinja District (*feldegg* and *lutea*) (van Someren, 1916), Wakiso District (*feldegg*, *flavissima* (?), *lutea*, and *thunbergi*), Mukono District (*flava*, *flavissima* (?), *lutea*, and *thunbergi*) (Trombone, 2013; Orrell & Hollowell, 2017), Kampala District (*flava*, and *thunbergi*) (Harvard University Museum & Morris, 2017; Orrell & Hollowell, 2017), Mount Elgon (*flava*, *cinereocapilla* (?), and *thunbergi*) (Meinertzhagen, 1921; van Someren, 1922; Millen, 2017), Luweero District (*flava* and *feldegg*) (Orrell & Hollowell, 2017), Kiboga District (*thunbergi*) (Orrell & Hollowell, 2017), Ankole and Toro (*flava* and *thunbergi*) (van Someren, 1916; Millen, 2017), along the coast of Lake Albert (Berger, 1911), Hoima District (*thunbergi*) (Harvard University Museum & Morris, 2017), Masindi District (*flava*, *thunbergi*, and *feldegg*) (van Someren, 1916; Peters & Loveridge, 1942; Trombone, 2013; Harvard University Museum & Morris, 2017), Arua District (*flava*, *feldegg*, and *cinereocapilla* (?)) (Harvard University Museum & Morris, 2017; Orrell & Hollowell, 2017). According to van Someren (1916; 1918c; 1921) and van Someren & van Someren (1917), *flava* was a very common migrant, *feldegg* was fairly common, *lutea* was most common during migration, but few stayed to overwinter, and *cinereocapilla* (here to be interpreted as *thunbergi*) was not so common. The latter subspecies (*thunbergi*), however, was common around the area of Mount Elgon (Meinertzhagen, 1921).

In Somalia, with regard to the subspecies *thunbergi* and *feldegg* (including the *melanogrisea* form), the data

were scarce and limited to the spring period (Gall, 2017). Only Sclater (1924) reported the wintering of *feldegg*.

In Ethiopia, the western yellow wagtail regularly wintered in small numbers, especially in the southern part of the country near the Chamo and Abaya lakes (*flava*, and *feldegg*) and the Bale Mountains (Oromia Region) (*flava*) (von Erlanger, 1907), but is present in January also in Addis Ababa (*flava*, *feldegg* var. *melanogrisea*) (Neumann, 1906; Sclater, 1924; Cheesman & Sclater, 1935; Friedmann, 1937; Smith, 1944; Benson, 1946). Other reports concern the Melka Sede area (Afar Region) (Friedmann, 1937). Data relating to the *thunbergi* subspecies for the Oromia Region concerned the spring period (Ogilvie-Grant, 1904), but two specimens were reported in December 1922 in Dolo (Somali Region) (van Someren, 1929). A female of ssp. *lutea* was collected at Jimma, in southeastern Ethiopia on 18th January 1934 (Cicero, 2017). Moltoni & Gneccchi Ruscone (1944) reported the presence in this area of the subspecies *flava*, *feldegg*, and *lutea*.

In South Sudan, the subspecies *flava*, *feldegg*, and *thunbergi* were reported in the Jubek State (Sassi, 1906; Rogers, 2016), while other observations (*thunbergi*) concerned the area of Gondokoro (Equatoria) (Rogers, 2016).

In Eritrea, the subspecies *feldegg* was regularly wintering in the plateau, while other subspecies (*flava*, *thunbergi*, and *cinereocapilla* (?)) were present only during migrations (Zedlitz, 1911; Trombone, 2013).

Middle Africa

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the western yellow wagtail was reported along Lake Tanganyika (*thunbergi*), in the Marungu highlands (Katanga) (*flava* and *lutea*), in the South Kivu Province (*flava* and *thunbergi*), in the North Kivu Province (*flava*, *feldegg*, and *beema*), in the Mai-Ndombe Province (*flava*), in the Oriental Province (*flava*, *flavissima* (?), *feldegg*, and *thunbergi*), in the Bas-Uele Province (Schouteden, 1918; 1938; Sassi, 1925; Chapin, 1932; 1953; Trombone, 2013), and in Kongo Central (*flava*) (Bannerman, 1936; Chapin, 1953). It was also known in the Shaba Province (Grant & Marks, 2017), Kasai Oriental Province (*flava*), Mongala Province (*thunbergi*), and Haut-Uele Province (*feldegg*) (Chapin, 1953; Harvard University Museum & Morris, 2017). Chapin (1953) thus summarized the situation of the different subspecies:

«The races of most frequent occurrence are the gray-crowned *M. f. flava* and *thunbergi*, though the green-crowned *flavissima* is not rare. The black-crowned *feldegg* seems to stray less from muddy or marshy spots than the other forms. *M. f. lutea* reaches the Congo mainly in the southeast, while *beema*, *dombrowskii*, and *cinereocapilla* are either rare or of doubtful occurrence».

In Congo, at the beginning of the century, Dubois (1905) cited the subspecies *cinereocapilla*, while van Someren (1931) mentioned *flavissima*, but geographical areas are not well defined.

In Gabon, a male of the subspecies *campestris* (now *flavissima/lutea*) was caught on 11th December 1907 at La-

ke Azingo (Moyen-Ogooué Province) (Trombone, 2013), while Bannerman (1936) generally cited *flava* for this area.

In Central African Republic, a specimen ssp. *campestris* (*flavissima/lutea*) in the early 1900s was observed in the Kémo Prefecture (Oustalet, 1904-1905), while three specimens *feldegg* var. *melanogrisea* were captured in Nola (Sangha-Mbaéré Prefecture) in late autumn of 1934 (ANSP, 2016).

In Cameroon, the species was reported in the Dja-Et-Lobo Region (*flava*, *flavissima*, and *thunbergi*) (Sharpe, 1908; Grant & Marks, 2017), in the Océan Department (*flava* and *flavissima*) (Rogers, 2016; Grant & Marks, 2017), Littoral Region (*flava*) (Rogers, 2016), Center Region (*flava* and *thunbergi*) (Rogers, 2016; Grant & Marks, 2017), East Region (*flavissima*) (Orrell & Hollowell, 2017), West Region (*flava*) (Grant & Marks, 2017), Southwest Region (*flava* and *flavissima*) (Young, 1946; Rogers, 2016), Adamawa Region (*flava* and *flavissima*) (Orrell & Hollowell, 2017), Northwest Region (*flava*) (Grant & Marks, 2017) and Far North Region (*flavissima*) (Grant & Marks, 2017). Young (1946) considered *flava* an abundant winter visitor. Near Lake Chad, the subspecies *flava* was very common (Golding, 1934).

Western Africa

In Nigeria, Bannerman (1921a) reported an individual western yellow wagtail taken on 10th January 1920 in Lagos; in the same days, specimens belonging to the *thunbergi* subspecies were collected in Kano (Bannerman, 1936; Trombone, 2013). Subsequently, Bannerman (1936) defined a few *flava* both in Northern and Southern Nigeria and *thunbergi* present in the Delta State.

In Niger, individuals attributed to the subspecies *thunbergi* were reported (Bates, 1930; Bannerman, 1936). In the Zinder Region, the species was present from September to March (Rousselot, 1947).

In Ghana, Alexander (1902) observed specimens present in autumn or spring, while Reichenow (1904-1905) reported the presence of the subspecies *flava* in Wassa, Cape Coast, and Accra. The species was considered common in the Ashanti Region (Bannerman, 1936). The subspecies *flavissima* was observed in Cape Coast (Bannerman, 1936).

In Ivory Coast, both *flava* and *cinereocapilla* were present (Bannerman, 1936).

In Liberia, the subspecies *flava* was reported by Reichenow (1904-1905) for the Grand Cape Mount County; it was present in the same County in October 1926 (Harvard University Museum & Morris, 2017) and was then confirmed wintering by Allen (1930) and Bannerman (1936).

In Sierra Leone, the western yellow wagtail was common from October to April (Kelsall, 1914), and in particular, the subspecies *flava* was known in the Southern Province (Reichenow, 1904-1905) and on the Tasso Island (Lowe, 1921). This subspecies was the only one mentioned by Bannerman (1921b) in the first decades of the 20th century. Other individuals, probably *flava*, were observed in Freetown and on the Sherbro Island (Bannerman, 1936; Trombone, 2013). Also, the subspecies *thunbergi* was reported in Freetown (Bannerman, 1936).

In Guinea, individuals were reported to the north of the Fouta-Djalon highland in October (Klaptocz, 1913).

In Mali, some individuals were captured in March 1935 in Bamako (Grant & Marks, 2017).

In Senegal, the subspecies *flavissima* was reported in Thiès (Trombone, 2013); this subspecies was the most common, but there were also *flava*, *cinereocapilla*, and *iberiae* (Bannerman, 1936).

In Gambia, the subspecies *flava*, *cinereocapilla*, *iberiae*, and *flavissima* (the latter very common) were present (Bannerman, 1936).

Northern Africa

In Sudan, both subspecies *flava* and *feldegg* (occasionally included the *melanogrisea* variety) were very common in winter and distributed in Blue Nile State, Sennar State, Al Jazirah State, Khartoum area, Kordofan, North and Central Darfur, and near Al Dabbah (Beds Basin, Northern State) (Ogilvie-Grant, 1907; Butler, 1908; Sclater & Mackworth-Præd, 1918; Nicoll, 1922; Lynes, 1924; Sclater, 1924; Bowen, 1931; Madden, 1935; ANSP, 2016; Harvard University Museum & Morris, 2017). Bowen (1931) pointed out the area of Khartoum as a common wintering area for *lutea* to. The subspecies *thunbergi* and *cinereocapilla* were observed only during migrations (Bowen, 1931). A wandering individual of subspecies *pygmaea* appeared at Khor Arbat in 1908 (Goodman & Atta, 1987).

In Egypt, the subspecies *pygmaea* was present in the Luxor Governorate (Fig. 2), in the neighborhood of Cairo and Giza, in Wadi el Natrun (Beheira Governorate), in Faiyum and Sharqia Governorates, near Lake Manzala, and in Damietta Governorate (Nicoll, 1908; 1909; 1912a; Lynes, 1912; Trombone, 2013); it was also present along the Nile up to Aswan (Nicoll, 1919). The subspecies *flava*, *cinereocapilla*, *feldegg*, and *thunbergi* only appeared during migrations (Loat, 1905; 1906; Nicoll, 1908; 1912b; 1919; Lynes, 1912).

In Libya, there were spring reports of *flava* and *feldegg* (Hartert, 1923; Moltoni, 1928), but without winter data.

In Tunisia, the subspecies *flava*, *cinereocapilla* (probably including *iberiae*), *thunbergi*, *feldegg*, and *flavissima* were known, but without indication of wintering (Whitaker, 1905).

The subspecies *flava*, *cinereocapilla*, *iberiae*, *thunbergi*, and *feldegg* transited Algeria during migrations (Whitaker, 1905; Rosenius, 1910; Jourdain, 1915; Trombone, 2013). According to Loche, some were present even in winter (Whitaker, 1905).

The data relating to Morocco mainly concerned the summer presences of *iberiae* and, during migrations, also of *flava*, *flavissima*, and *thunbergi* (Hartert, 1928; Trombone, 2013). D'Aubusson (1915) reported the winter presence of the species in a wetland near Casablanca and Ramsay (1923) and claimed that some western tellow wagtails (*flava*, *flavissima*) stopped to winter in the southwestern part of the country.

On the Canary Islands, the species was considered a rare visitor (Polatzek, 1909; Bannerman, 1919; 1922).



Fig. 2 - Nile branch near Kings Island, south of Luxor, Luxor Governorate, Egypt. / Ramo del Nilo vicino a Kings Island, a sud di Luxor, Governatorato di Luxor, Egitto. (Photo / Foto: Marc Ryckaert, CC-BY-3.0).

Europe

In Malta, some winter reports were known (Sultana & Gauci, 1982), while for Italy the only available data concerned a specimen captured in Emilia-Romagna in January 1938 (Altini, 1942).

FROM 1946 TO 1980

Southern Africa

In South Africa, the western yellow wagtail was known in the Eastern Cape Province (*flava*, *lutea*), Western Cape Province (a specimen attributed to *thunbergi* in Muizenberg in January 1966, other individuals in Mossel Bay, Oudshoorn, Southwest Cape, and Worcester), Transvaal (*flava*, *thunbergi*, *lutea*), KwaZulu-Natal (*flava*, *thunbergi*, *lutea*) (Clancey, 1966; Winterbottom, 1968). For the subspecies *feldegg*, after the one who was observed in Transvaal in the 19th century (Ayles, 1871), there was a new observation in the 1960s in Worcester (Western Cape Province) (Clancey, 1966; Winterbottom, 1968). Clancey (1966) pointed out that *lutea* was proba-

bly more widespread than previously thought and hypothesized the possible confusion with *flavissima*. This hypothesis was supported by data of the specimens ringed in South Africa in the boreal winters between 1963 and 1970 all related to *lutea* (Elliott & Jarvis, 1970a; 1970b).

In Botswana, the species was reported as common in the Central District (*flava*, *flavissima*) and North-West District (*thunbergi*, *flavissima*) (Smithers, 1964; Clancey, 1966; Grant & Marks, 2017; Orrell & Hollowell, 2017; Gall, 2017). As known now, in place of *flavissima*, occurrences are understood to be *lutea*.

In Namibia, the subspecies *thunbergi* was reported in the Waterberg Plateau (Clancey, 1966).

Eastern Africa

In Zimbabwe, the western yellow wagtail was known in the Bulawayo Province (*flava*, *feldegg*) and in the Harare Province (*lutea*) (Clancey, 1966). The subspecies *flavissima* was also reported, but here it is to be understood as *lutea* (Ashton, 1955; Clancey, 1966).

In Mozambique, *flava* was the most abundant subspecies, but *thunbergi* and *lutea* were also present (Clancy, 1966). In the years between 1949 and 1953, individuals of the subspecies *lutea* were captured in the Maputo Province and in the Tete Province (Harvard University Museum & Morris, 2017; Orrell & Hollowell, 2017), while *feldegg* and *thunbergi* were only in the Maputo Province (Orrell & Hollowell, 2017).

In Malawi, an individual of the subspecies *leucocephala* was collected in 1947 in the Karonga District (Williamson, 1955), while for the Zomba District, the subspecies *thunbergi* and *lutea* were reported (Schulten & Harrison, 1975). Long (1976) reported specimens attributed to *flavissima* (here to be understood as *lutea*) collected in the Nsanje District.

In Zambia, the subspecies *flava*, *cinereocapilla* (?), *thunbergi*, and *lutea* were reported in the Copperbelt Province (De Schauensee, 1951; ANSP, 2016; Grant & Marks, 2017; Orrell & Hollowell, 2017). The species was present in the area of the Kafue National Park (Dowsett & de Vos, 1965) and in the early 1970s, it was wintering in small numbers in the Lukasa Province (Levatich & Padilla, 2016).

In Tanzania, the western yellow wagtail was common, mainly in the highlands, in the eastern regions, and in the Mtwara, Tanga, Manyara, Tabora, and Arusha Regions (particularly in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area), where the subspecies *flava* and *lutea* were known (Moreau, 1966; Reynolds, 1968; Beesley, 1972; Britton, 1980; Fjeldså, 2015; Feeney, 2016; Levatich & Padilla, 2016). Some reports also concerned the southern regions: 2 individuals on 1st January 1966 in the Mbeya and Loleza mountains (Mbeya Region) (Levatich & Padilla, 2016).

In Burundi, individuals of the subspecies *lutea* and *feldegg* were captured at the end of November 1980 by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, as well as two specimens of ssp. *beema* collected on 15th and 29th March 1980 at Gatumba (Bujumbura Rural) (Heughebaert, 2017). The same Institute in December 1946 and in November 1961 caught specimens of the subspecies *flava* in Rwanda (Heughebaert, 2017).

In Kenya, in the Rift Valley Province the most abundant subspecies was *lutea*, followed by *flava*, while *thunbergi* was only occasional spotted (Sessions, 1966; Reynolds, 1980). In Marsabit County, the *lutea* subspecies was common (Feeney, 2016). In Kitui County the western yellow wagtail was an uncommon but regular visitor (Lack *et al.*, 1980). The subspecies *flava* and *lutea* were reported in Nairobi County and Kyambu County (Backhurst, 1968; 1972; 1973; 1977); in Laikipia County, *lutea* was the most common, *flava* was frequent, and *thunbergi* was scarce. In the Nakuru County, *flava*, *thunbergi*, *cinereocapilla* (?), and *lutea* (Wallace, 1955) were reported. In the northern part of the country were *flava*, *thunbergi* and *lutea* (Tomlinson, 1950; Diamond & Keith, 1980). From 1960 to 1981 in Kariobangi (suburbs of Nairobi), 49,681 western yellow wagtails were ringed (Carter & Blencowe, 1960; Backhurst, 1988). The subspecies *cinereocapilla* was reported at Lake Turkana (Britton, 1980), but confusion with *thunbergi* is likely. Wallace (1955) pointed out that in the Rift Valley the subspecies *lutea* showed strikingly

different habitats preferences from the darker-headed subspecies: wagtails observed on the dry playing fields were without exception *lutea*, and this suggested that this subspecies was less dependent on water.

In Uganda, the species was present in the Central Region (*flava*, *feldegg*) (Ashton, 1950; Allen & Fripp, 1964), in the Kabarole District (Friedmann & Williams, 1970), in the Kampala District (*flava* and *thunbergi* were common, *feldegg* was rare, and an observation of subspecies *leucocephala* was reported in Entebbe on 4th April 1967) (Pearson, 1972; Britton, 1980). In the Eastern Region, the western yellow wagtail was widespread and common (Mann, 1976). The *lutea* subspecies was sporadic (Britton, 1980).

In Ethiopia, *flava* and *feldegg* wintered in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (especially along Lake Turkana), in the Oromia Region, in the Gambela Region, and in the Addis Ababa area (Guichard, 1950; Tyler, 1979; Orrell & Hollowell, 2017; Grant & Marks, 2017).

In South Sudan, some individuals were collected in January and February 1950 in Torit (Imatong State) (Grant & Marks, 2017).

In Djibouti, a specimen was observed on 25th December 1975 (Ash, 1985).

In Eritrea, western yellow wagtail was wintering: *flava* was very common, *thunbergi* was quite common, *feldegg* was particularly abundant in the plateau, and *lutea* was very scarce only during migrations (Smith, 1955; 1957).

Middle Africa

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the species was reported on 27th December 1976 in Virunga National Park (South Kivu Province); it was subsequently repeatedly observed in the Nyankunde village (Eastern Province) from 3rd January to 26th March 1978 (Levatich & Padilla, 2016). The other data concerning the Democratic Republic of Congo were essentially related to individuals captured in the 1940s and 1950s and kept in museums, but which have little detail about the locations of capture. The few reliable data were related to locations in the eastern provinces of the country (in particular Nord Kivu and Haut-Uele) and concern the subspecies *flava*, *thunbergi*, and *feldegg* (Scholes, 2015; Heughebaert, 2017). The most common subspecies was *flava*. For the subspecies *beema*, there was a single record north of Lake Edward on 28th March 1974 (Pedersen, 2010).

Smith (1950) mentioned the possible presence of *flavissima* in Northern Congo.

In Gabon, in analogy with what was known for the early 1980s, it can be assumed that at least in the 1970s, the species was commonly wintering in the Ogooué-Ivindo Province with a prevailing of *flava*, but also with *thunbergi* (Brosset & Énard, 1986). A specimen attributed to *flavissima* was observed in the same Province on 17th March 1974 (Brosset & Énard, 1986).

In December 1956 on the Bioko Island (Equatorial Guinea), a *cinereocapilla* was captured together with other specimens of undetermined subspecies (Trombone, 2013).

In Cameroon, the species was considered an abundant winter visitor and was especially frequent along the coast of the Southwest Region (*flava* and, less common, *flavissima*) (Good, 1952; Serle, 1959; Grimes, 1971) and present, in small groups, in the East Region (*flavissima*) (Grant & Marks, 2017), Center Region (*flava*, and *flavissima*) (Grant & Marks, 2017; Orrell & Hollowell, 2017), and Far North Region (*flava*, and *feldegg*) (Fry, 1970; Pettet, 1976).

In Southern Chad, the following subspecies were reported: *flava* (abundant), *cinereocapilla* (occasional), *thunbergi* (occasional), and *feldegg* (frequent) (Hopson, 1965; Feeney, 2016). In the Batha Region, *feldegg* was widely dominant (Newby, 1980).

Western Africa

In Nigeria, the western yellow wagtail was considered an ubiquitous winter visitor that was particularly abundant in the dry season in the savanna areas (Serle, 1957; Elgood, 1964; Button, 1964a; 1964b). Along the shores of Lake Chad, *feldegg* and *cinereocapilla* arrived at the beginning of September, while *flava* appeared at the beginning of October (Dowsett, 1969; Cowper, 1977), although there were reports of this subspecies in the marshes around Lagos already at the beginning of September (Hopson *et al.*, 1965). The arrivals, probably of the most northern species, continued until more than mid-November (more frequently from the third week of the month); the species remained until the last week of April/beginning of May (with a peak at the end of March) (Button, 1964c; Wood-Robinson, 1965). South of Lake Chad the species was more abundant at the beginning of winter and then gradually decreased during the dry season, except for areas with water (Holmes, 1974). In Northeastern Nigeria, the western yellow wagtail was common, and the subspecies were distributed as follows: *flava* (67%), *feldegg* (21%), *cinereocapilla* (4.5%), *thunbergi* (2.5%), *iberiae* (?) (1.5%); in the northern part of the country (up to 30,000 birds in Kano) the subspecies *flava*, *thunbergi*, *iberiae* (?), *cinereocapilla*, and *feldegg* were reported (Ebbutt *et al.*, 1964; Fry, 1965a; 1965b; Sharland, 1964; 1965; 1966; 1967a; 1967b; 1968; Moreau, 1972; Hall, 1976a; 1977a; 1977b; Sharland & Wilkinson, 1981). In the area of Sabongari (Kaduna Region), more than 300 individuals were present on 22nd December 1972 (Sauvage, 1992). It was reported in the Yankari Game Reserve (Gombe State) (Dyer & Gartshore, 1975). The species was also present in the southern provinces, although it was apparently less abundant (up to 3,000 birds in Ibadan and up to 500 in Lagos) (Boulter, 1965; Robinson & Robinson, 1966; Pettitt, 1967a; 1967b; 1968; Button, 1968; Heigham, 1968; 1969; 1976; Broadbent, 1969; 1971; Forrester, 1971). The species was frequent in December on the Mambilla Plateau (Hall, 1976b; 1977c) and common in the Enugu State (Cowper, 1977). In the Lagos area, the species arrived in September and some individuals could be observed until May (Gee & Heigham, 1977). In the eastern part of the Nigerian coast there were *flava* (prevalent), *thunbergi*, *cinereocapilla*, and *feldegg* (Wells & Walsh, 1969; Mackenzie, 1979). There seemed to be some sort of separation of

the races in their Nigerian winter quarters: *flava* was the most common, present throughout Nigeria, with a marked prevalence in the south of the country; *thunbergi* wintered abundantly in the southern part and progressively decreased in abundance to the north; *cinereocapilla* was common in the northeastern part; *iberiae* (?) was more abundant in the northwestern part; *feldegg* was common in the northern part of the country and scarce elsewhere (Ward 1964; Elgood *et al.*, 1966; Bass, 1967; Ashford, 1969; Wood, 1975). With regard to all the reports concerning the subspecies *iberiae*, however, there are justified doubts about the correct identification (Vielliard, 1972; Wood, 1975); in particular Wood (1975), also based on the recovery of ringed birds, considered that these reports were to be attributed to *cinereocapilla* specimens. The British subspecies, *flavissima*, was seen at Lagos (Rayner, 1962; Wallace, 1969; Mundy & Cook, 1971; 1972) and at Ife (Osun State) (Kenny, 2012), however doubts were expressed about the accuracy of these identifications (Elgood *et al.*, 1966). In the area of Ife (Osun State), the ssp. *flava* and *thunbergi* were reported (Farmer, 1979). The *beema* subspecies was reported by Dowsett (1968) along the shore of Lake Chad during spring migration; also for this subspecies Vielliard (1972) incorrectly judged reports made in winter.

In the Arli National Parks (between Bénin and Burkina Faso) in the 1960s and early 1970s, the species was rare (Green & Sayer, 1979) and was also scarce in Togo (included *flavissima*) (Douaud, 1956; 1957; De Roo *et al.*, 1969; Robinson, 1972), with a relative greater abundance in the Lome lagoon (*flava*) (Bernis, 1970; Browne, 1980).

In Ghana, the species was quite common in the dry season in all habitats except in closed forests (Sutton, 1965; Macdonald, 1978); however, it was scarce and irregular in the northern part of the country (Harvey & Harrison, 1970; Sutton, 1970; Greig-Smith, 1976; 1977). It was reported on several occasions from early October to late March in the Mole National Park (Northern Region) (Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett, 2008). In the Accra area, the subspecies *flava* and *thunbergi* were reported (Grimes, 2006). Among the subspecies, *thunbergi* was the most common, followed by *flava*, and then by *flavissima* and *cinereocapilla* (Macdonald, 1978).

In Ivory Coast, the species was present in the Gbêkê Region (Grant & Marks, 2017), in particular with the subspecies *flava* (Feeney, 2016), but also *cinereocapilla* was sporadically reported (Moreau, 1972; Monk & Jhonson, 1975).

In Liberia, in February 1947 the presence of the *flava* was confirmed, particularly in the Grand Bassa County (Rand, 1951), it was hypothesized that *flavissima* winter on the border with Guinea and Ivory Coast (Curry-Lindahl, 1964), and in 1945-46, the subspecies *thunbergi* was observed for the first time (Torben, 1950).

In Guinea, the species was reported to the north of the Fouta-Djalon highland (Bournonville, 1967).

In Niger, the western yellow wagtail was observed in the Dosso Department in December 1977 (Giraudoux *et al.*, 1988) and in the Ténéré Desert near Jikara (Newby, 1981).

In Mali, the species was known in the Koulikoro and Mopti Regions (30,000 in January) (Malzy, 1962; Lamarche, 1981). The most abundant subspecies was *flava*; *flavissima* was quite common, as was *cinereoapilla*; *iberiae* (in the south) and *thunbergi* were few in number, while *feldegg* was rare (Delta and Plateau Dogon) (Lamarche, 1981).

In Senegal, the species was abundant in the lower reaches of the Senegal river, along the coast, and in Basse Casamance (Fig. 3) where three subspecies wintered: *flava* (the most abundant), *flavissima* (common), and *iberiae* (common) (Roux & Morel, 1964; Moreau, 1972; Morel, 1972; de Smet & van Gompel, 1980); *thunbergi* appeared only during migrations (Bernis, 1970; Morel, 1972). The subspecies *iberiae* disappeared before the end of March; *flavissima* was present from the end of March to the beginning of April; *flava* started in April; *thunbergi* began to pass from 20th April (Morel, 1972; Morel & Roux, 1972; 1973). According to Moreau (1972), the *cinereoapilla* subspecies also appeared sporadically.

In Gambia, the western yellow wagtail was widespread in winter with a prevalence of the subspecies *flava*, but *iberiae* and *flavissima* are also common (Andrew, 1969; Moreau, 1972; Morel, 1972).

In Mauritania, an *iberiae* male was observed on 17th October 1947 in Nouakchott (Dekeyser & Villiers, 1950). At the end of the 1970s, the species was common in the southwest of the country (Browne, 1982).

Northern Africa

In Sudan, the western yellow wagtail was common in winter in the Khartoum Province; in particular, *flava* was abundant, both *feldegg* and *lutea* were common (the latter more than the other subspecies frequent humid environments and along the banks of rivers), and the subspecies *thunbergi* was very scarce (Macleay, 1960).

In Egypt, the subspecies *pygmaea* was considered sedentary, however Simmons (1952) pointed out that the species was common during the reproductive period in the Suez Canal Zone in 1949-50, chiefly on the coastal strip and lagoon of the Great Bitter Lake, North and South Fayd, and in some lakes south of Ismalia, but no birds were observed in January and early February 1950. In December 1970 and January 1971, specimens belonging to the subspecies *pygmaea*, *flava*, and *thunbergi* were captured in New Nubia (Orrell & Hollowell, 2017). In January of the same year, *pygmaea* was also present in Abu Rawash (Giza Governorate) and in Alexandria Governorate (Orrell & Hollowell, 2017).

In Libya, in mid-December 1968, some western yellow wagtails were observed in the Karkur Ibrahim and Karkur Idriss valleys of Mount Uwaynat (Misonne, 1974).

In Algeria, an individual was reported on 20th December 1965 in Fort Flatters (Amenas District) (Dupuy, 1966) and one in Abalessa (Abalessa District) on 19th January 1980 (Levatich & Padilla, 2016). Some specimens were



Fig. 3 - Rice fields in Casamance, Senegal. / Campi di riso a Casamance, Senegal. (Photo / Foto: Dan Grec).

also present north of Sahara in Ouer gla (Ouer gla Province) (Bernis, 1970).

In Morocco, the western yellow wagtail wintered along the Atlantic coast (Bernis, 1970; Moreau, 1972). In the first half of 1960s, the subspecies *iberiae* was common in winter in Souss-Massa Region (Smith, 1965). The species was present in Merja Zerga (Kénitra Province) on 25th December 1969, and on 28th December of the same year, a specimen was observed in the Central Plateau near Maaziz (Khémisset Province) (Thévenot & Magnin, 1971). In the boreal winters 1969/70 and 1970/71 individuals, especially isolated, were observed in the wetlands near Oualidia (El Jadida Province), Kénitra, and Moulay-Bousselham (Kénitra Province) (Thévenot & Thuoy, 1974). In the two successive boreal winters in the Settat Province, the presence of the subspecies *flava*, *iberiae*, and *cinereocapilla* was ascertained (Thévenot & Thuoy, 1974). On 31st December 1972, about ten individuals were in an area west of Fez (Fès-Meknès) (Dubois & Dhautois, 1977). In December 1973, there were four other reports: two individuals at the mouth of the River Sebou (Kénitra Province), two others at Merja Zerga (Kénitra Province), the same number at El-Ksar el Kebir (Larache Province) and at Lower Loukkos wetland (Larache Province) (de Juana, 1974). The subspecies *flava* and *iberiae* occurred in most wet areas along the Moroccan side of the Strait of Gibraltar (Tingitana Peninsula) (Pineau & Giraud-Audine, 1979).

Zink (1975) reported the presence of specimens in Northern Africa from Morocco to Tunisia in January.

On the Canary Islands, an individual *iberiae* was reported in January on Gran Canaria (Bannerman, 1963).

Europe

In Greece, a specimen ringed in Kano (Nigeria) on 23rd November 1963 was collected by a shepherd in Lamia (Central Greece) on 4th December 1965 and another specimen, still ringed in Kano (Nigeria), was captured in a locality not better specified on 2nd February 1966 (Sharland, 1966; 1967b; 2009).

In Italy, at least two individuals were observed from 2nd November to 30th December 1975 in Pavia Province (Lombardy) (Ferlini, 1976).

In Spain, in the 1950s, the species was not included among the wintering species (Bernis, 1954) and the same situation was reconfirmed at the end of the 1960s (Bernis, 1970). Only in 1977, from 4th to 15th December, a group of four individuals was observed at the mouth of the Guadalhorce (Malaga Province); in the same place, the observations were repeated until winter 1979/80 (Padilla & Garrido Sánchez, 1983).

In France, a specimen was observed in Camargue on 6th December 1980 (Hafner *et al.*, 1982).

In Germany, a specimen was captured on the Helgolan Islands (Schleswig-Holstein) on 23rd December 1949 (Ornithologie ZMK, 2016), an individual was observed on 7th January 1967 near Hamm (North Rhine-Westphalia) (Köpke, 1967), a specimen was present from 29th October to 6th December 1969 in a wastewater treatment plant in Kamen (North Rhine-Westphalia), 25 km from

the previous locality (Fröhling, 1971), and an individual (*thunbergi*) in winter 1978/1979 was recorded in Offstein (Rhineland-Palatinate) (Henß, 1979).

FROM 1981 TO 2017

Southern Africa

In the southernmost part of Africa, the western yellow wagtail arrived in November-December and left in March-April. It was locally common in the wetlands of Botswana and the Okavango basin; presence was becoming scarcer in Southern Transvaal, Swaziland, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern and Northern Cape Province, and Northern Namibia (Sinclair, 1994; Harrison *et al.*, 1997; Carruthers, 2000; Newman, 2002; 2003; Sinclair *et al.*, 2002; 2005; Hockey *et al.*, 2005; Sinclair & Davidson, 2006). Isolated reports also occurred along the south coast of South Africa (Sinclair, 1994; Harrison *et al.*, 1997; Carruthers, 2000; Newman, 2002; 2003; Hockey *et al.*, 2005; Sinclair *et al.*, 2005; Sinclair & Davidson, 2006). The most frequent subspecies were *flava*, *thunbergi*, and *lutea*; *beema* was scarce and *feldegg* occasionally appeared (Harrison *et al.*, 1997). In South Africa in the last decade, there were reports of the species at Strandfontain (Western Cape Province) in January-February 2008 and an individual, perhaps of the subspecies *beema*, was observed from 12th to 18th March 2010 (Cardwell, 2010). Other reports in the Western Cape Province took place on 9th January 2012 when a western yellow wagtail was on the top of the Cape of Good Hope (Crane, 2012), at Boggoms Bay in January-December 2008 and 2016 and at Mossel Bay on 25th December 2005 (Brooks, 2017). The species was present in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (Northern Cape Province) in November-December 2011; a few were also at Spitskop Dam near Kimberley in December 2011 (AfricanBirdClub, 2012a). It was reported in Warrenton (Northern Cape Province) on 25th January 2006 (Brooks, 2017) and in the Free State, near Bethlehem, in December 2015 (Brooks, 2017). Isolated specimens attributed to the ssp. *flava* were observed at Wakkerstroom (Mpumalanga Province) on 19th December 2008 and at Hluhluwe (KwaZulu-Natal Province) on 23rd December 2008 (de Grissac & Cayzelle, 2009). In KwaZulu-Natal Province, for the period December-January, the following observations were also known: an individual on 10th December 2004 at UVS Dover Farm, five individuals on 27th January 2004 in Sappi Stanger, on 4th January 2013 in Mpempe, on 22nd January 2014 at Giba, in January 2014 and 2016 at Maphophoma Wetland, in January and December 2011-2016 there were repeated reports at Richards Bay, one at Blytshdale Beach, one south of the Karkloof Nature Reserve and one south of Ramantsho (Levatich & Padilla, 2016; Brooks, 2017). A specimen was present on 20th February 2013 at Nibela (KwaZulu-Natal Province) (Bøgelund *et al.*, 2011) and two on 14th December 2013 at River St Lucia mouth (Gordijn & Rijkes, 2013). For the Gauteng Province, there were reports to the Rooiwal water treatment plant on 9th December 1988, 14th December 2000, 18th January 2001, and repeated observations in January

2016 (Levatich & Padilla, 2016; Brooks, 2017). In the Marievale Bird Sanctuary, the species was observed on 23rd December 1999, on 9th January 2000, on 28th January 2001, and on 27th January 2002 (Levatich & Padilla, 2016; Brooks, 2017). The species was also observed in the North West Province on 27th January 1990 in the Barberspan Bird Sanctuary (Levatich & Padilla, 2016). Other reports included the Mpumalanga Province (on 27th January 2002 in the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve, on 21st-27th November 2011 and on 20th December 2015 in the Kruger National Park) and the Limpopo Province (on 16th December 2008 in the Marakele National Park) (Kruger National Park, 2011; Levatich & Padilla, 2016). Near the Pilanesberg National Park, it was confirmed to be fairly common (Mankwe Wildlife Reserve, 2014). On 11th November 2015, a specimen of ssp. *flava* was in the Marievale Bird Sanctuary (Gauteng Province), and on 15th November 2015, an individual of ssp. *thunbergi* was reported in the Borakalal National Park (North West Province) (Wedderburn, 2015), as well as one on 15th November 2015 at Zaagkuilsdrift (Limpopo) (Vasapoll, 2015) and one in Mpempe (KwaZulu-Natal Province) in February 2016 (Robbins, 2016).

In Swaziland, the species was an uncommon austral summer migrant in the low veld (Parker, 2016); in particular, reports in December and January occurred between 1988 and 1991 (South African National Biodiversity Institute, 2017) and in the years 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2013 (Brooks, 2017).

In Lesotho, an observation on 3rd November 1984 was known (Coetzer & Ranwashe, 2015).

In Botswana, the western yellow wagtail still appeared in the Category B Rarities (rare species with more than 10 reports) checklist dated 2002, but already in 2008 was removed from this category due to the availability of new data (Brewster, 2009). In particular, the species appeared in small groups: 18 individuals on 14th January 2003 on Dead Tree Island (Moremi National Park) (Stratford, 2003), ten specimens in mid-November 2006 in the Chobe National Park (Fig. 4) (Mileto, 2006), two on the River Okavango upstream at Shakawe (Rush, 2006), six in December 2014 at Lake Xau (AfricanBirdClub, 2015). Other reports concern the Linyanti area (Hancock *et al.*, 2008), the Mapungubwe National Park (Benadie, 2010), the River Chobe basin (*lutea*) (Finn, 2011a), the Chobe National Park (*thunbergi*) (MacLeod, 2013; Observation.



Fig. 4 - Chobe National Park, Botswana. / Parco Nazionale di Chobe, Botswana. (Photo / Foto: Released in Wikimedia Commons under PD by author).

org, 2017), the Okavango Panhandle (Boyce, 2015), Kasane (North-West District) (Hays, 2016), and the Gaborone area (AfricanBirdClub, 2008). The data collected by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology showed fairly regular presences in December and January starting in 2011 in the Chobe National Park, even in small groups (15 individuals on 2nd January 2012 in Duma Tau Camp and 40 on 10th January 2014 at Kasane) (Levatich & Padilla, 2016). For the same area, there were reports of isolated individuals present in the years 1999, 2000, and 2005 (Levatich & Padilla, 2016). An observation was made on 22nd December 1982 at Nxai Pan (Levatich & Padilla, 2016). In the recent work dedicated to birds of Botswana by Hancock & Weiersbye (2016), the presence of the subspecies *flava*, *lutea*, *thunbergi*, *feldegg*, and *beema* (the last two were rare visitors) was confirmed.

In Namibia, until 1988 in the Zambezi Region, only seven reports were known (Koen, 1988); three individuals were after observed at Katima Mulilo area from 4th December to 6th December 2002 (Benstead & Benstead, 2002), then there were reports on 5th November 2012 and as many as 25 individuals were present in the Chobe National Park area on 6th November 2012 (Levatich & Padilla, 2016). In November 2006, small numbers were present at the Rundu sewage ponds (Kavango-East Region) (De Keersmaecker & De Keersmaecker, 2006). For the same Region, observations were made on 26th December 2008, 3rd January 2009 and 13th March 2006 at the Shamvura Camp and on 7th and 9th January 2006 at Ndhovu Lodge (Levatich & Padilla, 2016). A specimen was observed on 3rd December 2008 in the Etosha National Park (Oshikoto Region) (Levatich & Padilla, 2016). On 7th January 2001, an individual was recorded at the River Kunene mouth (Kunene Region) (Anderson *et al.*, 2001). A western yellow wagtail was present at the Namiband Nature Reserve (Hardap Region) in late January 2012 (AfricanBirdClub, 2012b).

Eastern Africa

In Zimbabwe, in the winter 1995-96, 618 western yellow wagtail were ringed in a roost (Oatley & Best, 1996). The species was present throughout the River Zambezi basin (Mundy, 2000), in the Masvingo Province (de Beer, 2012; 2013), in the Bulawayo Province (Riddell, 2015), and along the Zimbabwe sector of the great reservoir of Kariba (Alegria, 2011). It was scarce in the Mashonaland Central Province (Dixon, 2016), some tens of individuals were observed in the Harare Province (Holmen, 2011; Reid, 2013; Rockingham-Gill, 2014), it was scarce at the end of December 2012 in Northern Zimbabwe (Phiri, 2012), and a few dozen were observed in the Mashonaland West Province (Dixon, 2012).

In Malagasy Region, the western yellow wagtail was present almost annually on Seychelles Islands (15 records since 2000 and at least 35 records since 2013) (October-December, February-May) and vagrant on Europa Island (two records: April, November-December); records include *flava*, *lutea*, *beema*, and *feldegg* subspecies (Skerratt & the Seychelles Bird Records Committee, 2001; Safford & Hawkins, 2013; Safford *et al.*, 2015). No data for Madagascar, Grande Comore, Mohéli, Anjouan, Mau-

ritius, and Rodrigues (Safford & Hawkins, 2013; Safford *et al.*, 2015). For the first time, there was one specimen in Mayotte on 20th November 2010 (Laubin *et al.*, 2019) and one specimen in Réunion in February 2017 (Riethmuller, 2017). Considering only December and January, a single western yellow wagtail, possibly of the subspecies *beema*, was on Providence Island on 27th January 2007, one specimen was on the Aride Island on 18th-20th December 2008; a single western yellow wagtail was on Bird Island on 27th November and on 20th December 2010, one was also in Alphonse Atoll on 10th-14th January 2011, and four western yellow wagtails were on the Assumption Island between 12th January and 3rd March 2012 (Demey, 2011; AfricanBirdClub, 2013a).

In Mozambique, the western yellow wagtail was observed singly around the shores of Lake Chualu (a total of 50 individuals were estimated in the Region) (February 1995-January 1996) (Parker, 1999), and a single bird was observed in January 2007 in the Banhine National Park (Pietersen & Pietersen, 2010). It was present in Gorongosa National Park (Anderson *et al.*, 1999) and, in general, in the Sofala Province (Doughty & De Beer, 2014; Sirotkin, 2015; Booyesen, 2015; Roadhouse, 2016), and in the Zambézia Province (two specimens) (Levatich & Padilla, 2016). Three races were reported (*flava*, *thunbergi*, and *lutea*) (Parker, 1999).

In Malawi, the species was concentrated on Nyika National Park (Dowsett-Lemaire, 2006), in Liwonde National Park (Borrow, 2013), Lake Kazuni (Dowsett-Lemaire, 2014), and Quirimbas National Park (Sitoe *et al.*, 2010).

In Zambia, the western yellow wagtail arrived in November-December and departed in March-April and was widespread especially along the River Zambezi (Borrow, 2005; Leonard, 2005; Dowsett-Lemaire, 2006). In the period between 1971-2000, the earliest date of arrival was 23rd September 1972, and the the last date of departure was on 9th June 1973 (Dowsett, 2009). The *flava* subspecies was certainly present (Borrow, 2005). On 12th November 2010, at least 1,000 individuals were observed in Bengweulu Swamp (Northern Province) and identified as *flavissima*, but given the overall picture, they must be attributed to *lutea* (Murray, 2010). In the Bengweulu Swamp (Northern Province), numerous western yellow wagtails were also reported by Smith (2009). The species was observed in the following areas: Chitunta Plain, Source of the Zambezi, West Long National Park, Lukwakwa Game Management Area, Liuwa Plain National Park, Barotse Floodplains, Sioma Ngwezi National Park, Simungoma, Mosi-Oa-Tunya National Park, Batoka Gorge, Lochinvar National Park, Blue Lagoon National Park, Nkanga River Conservation Area, Lower Zambezi National Park, Chisamba, Lukanga Swamp, Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage, Kasanka National Park, Mutinondo Wilderness, North Luangwa National Park, Shiwa Ng'andu, Luapula Mouth, Lusenga Plain National Park, Kalungwishi, Mweru Wantipa National Park, Tondwa Game Management Area, River Saise, Uningi Pans, Nyika National Park, and South Luangwa National Park (Leonard, 2010). The species was abundant along the shores of Lake Mweru Wantipa and its associated wetlands from the end of the dry season (Compere & Symoens, 1987).

In Tanzania, the western yellow wagtail wintered in the Dar es Saalam Region (dozens of *flava*, some *beema*, single *lutea*) (Fintha, 1988), on Zanzibar archipelago (McIntyre & McIntyre, 2013) and, with isolated specimens, in the Morogoro Region (Levatich & Padilla, 2016); instead the species was not mentioned in the list of birds in the Gombe National Park (Kigoma Region) (Stanford & Msuya, 1995). In Lake Manyara National Park, in December-February, individuals were tens and sometimes hundreds in abundance, with a preponderance of *lutea*, but also with presences of *flava* (DOF-København, 1998; Collinge, 2004; Markus, 2011; Levatich & Padilla, 2016); in February-March, isolated individuals of *beema* and *thunbergi* were also observed (Beaman & Jännes, 2008; Jännes, 2010), as well as a male of the subspecies *leucocephala* was observed in March 2008 (Beaman & Jännes, 2008). Some were also present in the Tarangire National Park in the west shore of Lake Babati (Manyara Region) (Levatich & Padilla, 2016) and in the Arusha National Park (Arusha Region) (Watelet, 2004). In Ngorongoro Crater and, more generally, in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (Arusha Region) the subspecies *flava* and *lutea* were common in December-January (even hundreds) (Collinge, 2001; 2004; Markus, 2011; Stevenson, 2014; 2016; Levatich & Padilla, 2016), while between February and March, the birds became several hundred in abundance with a high prevalence of *lutea* (DOF-København, 1998). In the same area, also *beema* and *thunbergi* were reported (Vermeulen, 2007), as well as a male of the subspecies *leucocephala* on 5th April 2015 (Holmen, 2015). Some were observed in November-December in the Kilimanjaro Region near Nyumba ya Mungu Dam (certain the presence of *flava*) (Borrow, 2007; Markus, 2011). In the Serengeti (Mara Region), tens were present in January-February with a particular presence of *lutea* (DOF-København, 1998; Stevenson, 2014). According to Kennedy (2014), in the Serengeti and in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area the subspecies *flava*, *beema*, *feldegg*, and *lutea* were present. In the Kagera Region, isolated individuals were observed in the Minziro Forest Reserve, and groups of a few tens in Ntoma Beach (Levatich & Padilla, 2016).

In Burundi, the species was abundant (from 200 to 23,000 individuals) in the lagoons of the Rusizi National Park and in the sewage treatment station of Bujumbura (Bujumbura Mairie Province); the most common subspecies were *flava* and *thunbergi*, but also *beema* and *lutea* were present, as well as intermediate forms such as *xanthophrys* (Ledant *et al.*, 1986; LPO Vendee, 2010).

In Rwanda, the western yellow wagtail was generally considered rare (Jirle *et al.*, 2009), however concentrations of the subspecies *thunbergi* could be found in the wetlands and the savanna of Akagera, in addition to the presence of isolated specimens in other southern locations in the Eastern Provinces (Ledant *et al.*, 1986; Campbell, 2012; Levatich & Padilla, 2016). The subspecies *flava* and *beema* were also present (Jirle *et al.*, 2009).

In Kenya, the species arrived during the first ten days of September and left in April, however, there were reports of individuals at the end of August as well as in May (Pearson, 1979; 1981; 1983a; 1983b; Backhurst,

1984; Jackson, 1996; Pearson & Turner, 1998). Thousands of individuals in roost were seen in Nguuni (Eastern Province) (Ryall, 1992); in small groups, the species was present in the Watamu area, in Malindi and in the River Sabaki Estuary (Kilifi County) (Biggs, 2002; Levatich & Padilla, 2016); hundreds of individuals were in roost in the Lamu and Tana River Districts (mainly *lutea*, but also present *flava*) (Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett, 2014); it was not numerous in the Tsavo East National Park (Eastern Province) (Lack, 1985) and in the Tsavo West National Park (Taita-Taveta County) where the ssp. *flava*, *thunbergi*, *lutea*, and *beema* were reported (Aengwo & N'Gala, 2012; Kandie, 2012; Hansson, 2016; Observation.org, 2017). The species was present in Amboseli National Park (Fig. 5) and in Shompole (Kajiado County) (Biggs, 2002; Dowsett-Lemaire & Dowsett, 2014), as well as in the Masai Mara National Reserve (Larsen *et al.*, 2004; Rasmussen, 2004). Few individuals were reported in the Nairobi National Park (Nairobi County), including the subspecies *thunbergi* and *flava* (Aengwo & N'Gala, 2012; Peregrine Bird Tours, 2012; Observation.org, 2017) and dozens in Kiambu County (Levatich & Padilla, 2016). In December 2003, at least 30,000 western yellow wagtails were in the Mwea National Reserve (Embu County) (Butlin, 2003). The species was reported in December-January in Kinangop Plateau and Nyahururu (Nyandarua County) (Muchai *et al.*, 2001; Biggs, 2002; Thalund, 2007). It was a rare winter visitor in the Mpala Research Center and in Naro Moru plains (Laikipia County) (Bergstrom *et al.*, 2008), although it is quite common during migrations (The Gallmann Memorial Foundation, 2013; O'Brien & Kinnaird, 2013). In the reeds of Lake Naivasha, a roost of more than 4,500 western yellow wagtails (including dozens of *lutea*) was observed (Tyler *et al.*, 1991; Biggs, 2002; Larsen *et al.*, 2004; Rasmussen, 2004; Kandie, 2012; Bisschop-Larsen & Bisschop-Larsen, 2016); dozens of specimens were present in the Buffalo Springs National Reserve (Isiolo County) and in the Samburu National Reserve (Samburu County) (Larsen *et al.*, 2004; Rasmussen, 2004). The species was present in Aberdare National Park (Nyandarua County) (Bisschop-Larsen & Bisschop-Larsen, 2016), in the Trans-Mara Forest (Narok County) (Benun, 1991), and hundreds of individual (included *lutea* and *beema*) were at Lake Nakuru (Nakuru County) (DOF Travel, 1989; Larsen *et al.*, 2004; Rasmussen, 2004; Kandie, 2012; Stevenson, 2014; 2016). The western yellow wagtail was scarce both at Lake Bogoria and at Lake Baringo (Baringo County) (*flava*) (Larsen *et al.*, 2004; Rasmussen, 2004; Stevenson, 2014; Bisschop-Larsen & Bisschop-Larsen, 2016; Observation.org, 2017). Isolated individuals were observed in the Kakamega Forest National Reserve (Kakamega and Kisumu Counties) (Levatich & Padilla, 2016). The species was reported in the Ruma National Park (Homa Bay County) and was present in groups of tens in the Matangwe Banding Area (Siaya County) (Levatich & Padilla, 2016). It was reported in December in Marsabit County (Marsabit County Government, 2016). The species was present when migrating (September-October and March) in the southern part of the Kerio Valley National Park (Wilson & Wil-



Fig. 5 - Amboseli National Park, Kenya. / Parco Nazionale di Amboseli, Kenya. (Source / Fonte: cerc-ug.org, image from public Internet).

son, 1994). Overall in Kenya, it seemed to be mostly *flava* with a few *thunbergi* and *lutea* (Thalund, 2007). A western yellow wagtail of the White-headed race *leucocephala* was seen on Solio Ranch (Laikipia County) on 16th April 2009; this race was very uncommon in Kenya (AfricanBirdClub, 2010).

In Uganda, the western yellow wagtail was widespread and common to very abundant in open habitats in more humid areas from October to mid April with passage indicated by augmented numbers late in October-November and late in March to early April; most birds were *thunbergi* or *flava* (Pearson & Turner, 1986). In the Kampala area, it was very common, present from September to April, and there was an autumn passage from late October to early December and a spring passage from late March to early April (Carswell, 1986). With *thunbergi*, *flava* was the commonest race found in the area; it arrived first and forms about 20-50% of all flocks present from late September to early April (first date: 18th September; last date: 11th April) (Pearson, 1972). The subspecies *thunbergi* arrived a little later than *flava* and remained longer, being present from October to late April (Carswell, 1986). The subspecies *feldegg* arrived in the Kampala area beginning in November and was present in small numbers until the third week in April (first date: 15th November; last date: third week in April) (Carswell, 1986). Subspecies *bee-*

ma and *lutea* were very scarce; *beema* usually wintered to the east of Kampala and *lutea* wintered in drier areas (Pearson, 1972; Carswell, 1986). Additionally, the species was common on the Ngamba Island (Lake Victoria) (Wilson & Schipper, 2002), in the Sesese Islands (Lake Victoria) (Osborn, 1995), and in Southwestern and Western Uganda (Lake Bunyoni, Lake Mburo, Bwindi Forest, Ruhizha, Lake Edward, Queen Elizabeth National Park, Lake Katwe, Lake Nyinambuga, Kibale Forest National Park, Budongo Forest) (Butynski & Kalina, 1989; Evans & Balmford, 1992; Pomeroy *et al.*, 2003; Brown, 2004; Prevett, 2004; van Beirs, 2004; Naturetrek, 2005; Skov & Hoddinot, 2006; Bishop, 2013; Kverno, 2015; Gabiito, 2016). Up to 200 individuals were present in the Entebbe Botanical Gardens (Hoddinott, 2004); the species was also observed in the Mabamba Swamp (Ullrich & Zieger, 2015). The western yellow wagtail was abundant in Eastern Uganda (Mount Elgon National Park, Lake Bisina, Lake Opeta) (Odull & Byaruhanga, 2009; Tamwenya, 2016) and Northeastern Uganda (Kidepo Valley National Park) (Tamwenya, 2016). In the northern area, the species was presented in the Murchison Falls National Park (*feldegg*) (Brown, 2004; Kverno, 2016; Observation.org, 2017). In Central Uganda, it was presented in the Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary (Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, 2017). The western yellow wagtail overwintered with an estimated one

million birds roosting in the reedbeds along the Kazinga Channel in the Queen Elizabeth National Park, where the subspecies *flava*, *thunbergi*, *feldegg*, and *lutea* were certainly present (van Beirs, 2004; van Splunder & Groot, 2013). Both Pearson (1972) and Carswell (1986) expressed doubts on the reports in the literature concerning the presence of the subspecies *cinereocapilla* and *flavissima* in Uganda.

In Somalia, the subspecies *feldegg*, *flava*, *thunbergi*, and *lutea* (the last probably was the most numerous race) overwintered and the reports of *flavissima* were to be attributed to *lutea* (Ash & Miskell, 1983; Clarke, 1985). The western yellow wagtail was present in the Juba Valley (*flava*) (Lower Juba) (Pearson, 1989), Ban Cade Plains (*lutea*), Wajaale Plains (*flava*), and Tuuyo Plains (Togdher) (Jama, 2010).

In Ethiopia, the species overwintered widely. Several were in the Liben Plains, Dawa River Valley, Gibe Sheleko National Park (*flava*) (Hofland, 2015b; Levatich & Padilla, 2016), in the Rift Valley lakes: Lake Awassa (50 *flava*, 20 *beema*, 4 *feldegg*, 1 *lutea*), 1,000 individuals near the Lake Langano (*flava*, 100 *thunbergi*, few *feldegg*), Lake Ziway (25 *flava*, 25 *feldegg*, 1 *lutea*, 1 *thunbergi*, 1 *beema*), up to 100,000 specimens in the Abidjatta-Shalla National Park (*flava*, *thunbergi*, and *feldegg*), Lake Chelekkele (*flava*, 3 *feldegg*), and 150 individuals in Oromia Region (*flava*, *beema*), up to 200 individuals reported in the Amhara Region (Mulholland, 2000; Sørensen *et al.*, 2003; Forsyth, 2005; Valentine, 2006; King & King, 2007; Smets *et al.*, 2011; Borrow & Gabremichael, 2012; Waller, 2012; Gifford & Gifford, 2013; Carlberg, 2016; AfricanBirdClub, 2017). It was common in the Kafa Biosphere Reserve (Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region) (Beisenherz *et al.*, 2014); Kehoe (2008) included *lutea* among the subspecies present, but not *thunbergi*. The species overwintered in Melka Jebdu (Dire Dawa Region) (Levatich & Padilla, 2016), in the Awash Natural Park and Lake Beseka (Oromia Region) (20 *flava*, 500 *feldegg*, over 1,000 *beema* (?), 1 *lutea*), in the Entoto Natural Park and near Addis Ababa (40 *flava*, 20 *thunbergi*, *feldegg*) (Esayas & Bekele, 2011; Waller, 2012; Djerf, 2013; Hofland, 2015b), in the Gambela National Park (Gambela Region) (Levatich & Padilla, 2016), and near Debre Libanos (some *flava*, *feldegg*, 1 *thunbergi*) and Debre Birhan (*beema*). It was common in the Solulta Plains and Jemmu Valley (Oromia Region) (*flava*, 2 *beema*, *feldegg*, *lutea*), in Bale Mountains (Oromia Region) (*flava*) and Ankober Escarpment (Amhara Region) (Smets *et al.*, 2011; Bot, 2011; Redman & Gabremichael, 2011; Zoothera Birding, 2014; Hofland, 2015b; Gifford & Gifford, 2013; Matheve *et al.*, 2015; Carlberg, 2016). The species was reported in Sof Omar and south of Mega (*lutea*) (Oromia Region) (Smets *et al.*, 2011). It was observed along the shores of Lake Tana, along the Blue Nile up to the Blue Nile Falls and about 60 km west of Bahar Dar (Amhara Region) (Steiner, 2016; Levatich & Padilla, 2016).

In South Sudan, the western yellow wagtail was a common boreal winter visitor. Two main subspecies occur: *flava* was common from late September to March, whilst *feldegg* is almost always associated with swamps and wet grassland, arriving in mid October (Nikolaus,

1989). Other races had been reported (*lutea*, and *thunbergi*), but only in spring (Nikolaus, 1989). Few individuals are reported in Bor (Jonglei) and Bentiu/Rubkona (Northern Liech) (Levatich & Padilla, 2016).

In Djibouti, single specimens were reported in the lagoon, near the city of the same name, and in its southern outskirts (Jama, 2010; Levatich & Padilla, 2016; AfricanBirdClub, 2017). Certainly the subspecies *flava* was present (Hofland, 2015a), as well as a male of the ssp. *feldegg* in December 2008 (AfricanBirdClub, 2017).

In Eritrea, the species was scarce in the Menguda Mountain area (Debub Region), it was present with hundreds of individuals in Gurgusum (Northern Red Sea Region), and was scarce both near Asmara (Maekel Region) and Elabered (Anseba Region) (*feldegg*) (Brendstrup-Hansen, 2005). On 3rd April 2015 a dozen of specimens (*feldegg*) sought food on the ground in a desert area of the Danakil Depression (about 85 m below sea level); this was the only area where, thanks to the seasonal presence of water from the River Ragali, the cultivation of sorghum was possible and the migrating birds took advantage of the flooding of the fields before sowing (Fig. 6) (Chiozzi, *pers. com.*).



Fig. 6 - *Motacilla flava feldegg*, 3rd April 2015, in a desert area of the Danakil Depression. / *Motacilla flava feldegg*, 3 aprile 2015, in un'area desertica della depressione della Danalia. (Photo / Foto: Giorgio Chiozzi).

Middle Africa

In Angola, the western yellow wagtail was reported at the mouth of the River Congo (Ledant *et al.*, 1986) and on 12th April 2009 (probably already migrating) near Namibe (Levatich & Padilla, 2016). According to Lack (2010), the species was absent in southwest of Central Angola, while for Mills & Melo (2013) the species was present, but not common, in the south and along the coast.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (D.R.C.), Pedersen (2010) reported that in boreal winter the subspecies *flava* was very common, the *thunbergi* was common throughout the country, the *feldegg* was uncommon in the Eastern D.R.C. from Lake Kivu to Uele and the northern borders; the *lutea* was recorded in Katanga at Lake Suzi on the Marungu Plateau (but its status was unclear); *iberiae* is said to be a boreal winter visitor to western areas (status unclear); for *beema* there were no data after 1974 as a boreal winter visitor, but it could appear during migrations; *cinereocapilla* was uncommon to Eastern D.R.C., but this could refer to *thunbergi*; *flavissima* was claimed in the D.R.C., but this could refer to *lutea*. The detailed data suggest the presence of wintering birds essentially concentrated in the centraleastern provinces of D.R.C. (Katanga, South Kivu, Oriental, and Équateur provinces) (Patton, 2015; Levatich & Padilla, 2016). In the area of Lokutu (Eastern Province), the species was common (Butynski & McCullough, 2007). In a study on biodiversity in the D.R.C. the species was confirmed in the Équateur Province (CSB, 2014). A specimen attributed to *thunbergi* was observed in Nagero (Eastern Province) on 3rd December 2016 (Observation.org, 2017). In the western provinces, the species was present especially during migrations (Ifuta *et al.*, 2002; Ifuta & Ifuta, 2015), between the last ten days of September (first date: 20th September 2014) and the last ten days of April (Dowsett *et al.*, 2008; AfricanBirdClub, 2015). The species was reported along the River Congo (*flava*) (Hambuckers *et al.*, 2015). In the southern part, the western yellow wagtail was common at the Lake Upemba and wetlands of the Kamolondo depression (Compere & Symoens, 1987).

In the Republic of Congo, the species was reported in the Pool Department (Dowsett-Lemaire, 1997), in the Plateaux Department (King, 2011), in the Cuvette-Ouest Department (Odzala-Kokoua National Park, 2016), in the Sangha Department, in the Likouala Department (AfricanBirdClub, 2017), and in the Kouilou Department (GENIVAR, 2010). Large concentrations were observed in the confluence of the Rivers Sangha, Ubangui, and Congo (Ledant *et al.*, 1986).

In Gabon, it was present in Franceville (Haut-Ogooué Province), in Port-Gentil, and Gamba (Ogooué-Maritime Province) (Christy, 1989; Sargeant, 1993); in small numbers, the species was present in the Lopé National Park (Ogooué-Ivindo Province) (Wheatley & Hornbuckle, 2003; Ornitholidays, 2007; Blackburn, 2008; Levatich & Padilla, 2016). In the early 1980s in the Ogooué-Ivindo Province, the species was indicated by Brosset & Énard (1986) as a common wintering species, present from 10th October to 30th April, with dominance of *flava*, but also with some *thunbergi*.

In Equatorial Guinea, the species was reported on the Boioko Island and in other localities, however it is not clear whether the observations also concern the boreal winter or only the migratory period (Del Val Pérez *et al.*, 1994; Larison *et al.*, 1999).

In the archipelago of São Tomé and Príncipe, a specimen was observed on 1st December 2013 on the São Tomé Island (Levatich & Padilla, 2016). Other observations took place during the migration period, for example two individuals on the Príncipe Island on 13th April 2014 (Levatich & Padilla, 2016).

In the Central African Republic, the species was common in the wetlands and savanna of the Bamingui-Bangoran National Park, in particular: *flava* was common, *flavissima/lutea* was frequent, and *feldegg* appeared during migrations (Green, 1983; 1984; Carroll, 1988). The western yellow wagtail was common in the Lobaye Prefecture (Carroll, 1988), in the Manivi-Gounta-Saint Floris National Park (*flava*, and *thunbergi*) (Carroll, 1988), in Bangui (Levatich & Padilla, 2016), and in groups of tens (hundreds during migrations) in the Dzanga-Ndoki National Park (Green & Carroll, 1991; Trombone, 2013; Levatich & Padilla, 2016). In the northeastern part of the Central African Republic, it was considered a common migrant (Bretagnolle, 1993).

In Cameroon, the species was present, but not numerous, in the Bafut-Nguemba Forest Reserve (Northwest Province), in the Bamenda Plateau (Northwest Province), along the Sanaga River near Edea and Marienberg, in Mounjo (*thunbergi*) (Littoral Province), along the coast, and at Lake Ngaoundere (Adamaoua Province) (Vermeulen, 1997; Matheve *et al.*, 2006; Sedláček *et al.*, 2007; Van der Waarde, 2007; Observation.org, 2017). In the area of the Ngaoundaba Ranch (Adamawa Province), it was quite common (Barnes, 2011; Levatich & Padilla, 2016). The western yellow wagtail was common on Mount Oku (Northwest Province) and in the Bénoué National Park (North Province) (Mahé, 1988; Fotso, 2001); it was abundant from October to April in the Korup National Park (especially in the southern part) (Southwest Province) (Rodewald *et al.*, 1994; Green & Rodewald, 1996; Jacob & Jacob, 2006). Other reports relating to the Southwest Province occurred in January 2013 in the Mundemba area (Levatich & Padilla, 2016). In the Far North Region (particularly at Lake Maga, Waza National Park, and Kalamalou National Park) the species was common (11-100 individuals per day) from October to April with the presence of the subspecies *thunbergi*, *flava*, and *feldegg* (Scholte *et al.*, 1999; Beckers *et al.*, 2010; Levatich & Padilla, 2016). Strong concentrations (thousands of individuals) were observed around Lake Chad (Ledant *et al.*, 1986). In the Mount Kupe area (Southwest Region), the species seemed to arrive later than the at other Cameroon sites; in fact, it appeared only in the last ten days of November and started between March and April (Bowden, 2001). On 10th January 2013, an individual attributed to a first winter of the subspecies *flavissima* was reported in Lomié (East Province) (Pyhälä, 2014). Concerning the subspecies *cinereocapilla*, Louette & Prévost (1987) believed that its presence was uncertain and that the reports for Cameroon were to be attributed to individuals of the subspecies

thunbergi, however a specimen with the characteristics of *cinereocapilla* was observed in Waza National Park on 26th March 2003, then in an already migratory period (AfricanBirdClub, 2003). The species was very abundant around Lake Chad with concentrations of up to 50,000 individuals (*flava* and *feldegg*) (Ledant *et al.*, 1986).

In Chad, thousands of western yellow wagtail were concentrated at Lake Iro (Moyen-Chari Region), in the Adré area (Ouaddaï Region), along the shores of Lake Fitri (Batha Region), and in rice cultivations in the plain between the Rivers Logone and Chari (Ledant *et al.*, 1986).

Western Africa

In Nigeria, the species was present in the Akwa Ibom State, in Shagamu and in the Lagos area (Levatich & Padilla, 2016). It was abundant in the Gashaka Gumti National Park (provinces of Taraba and Adamawa) (Green, 1990), and it was present from October to April with a peak in January in the Yankari Game Reserve (Gombe State) (Talatu, 2008); strangely, the species did not appear in the check-list for the same Reserve established in 1989 (Green, 1989). Groups were present in Abuja (Federal Capital Territory) (Levatich & Padilla, 2016). It was frequent in the dry season in the Falgore Game Reserve (Ka-

no State) (Wilkinson & Beecroft, 1985) and very abundant (estimated over 193,000 individuals in 2005) in the Forest Reserve (Osun State) (Ajayi, 2005). In the Sahel area, there were both *flava* (about 50% of the population) and *cinereocapilla* (about 25% of the population), as well as other intermediate forms (*dombrowskii*, *superciliaris*) (Bell, 2006). The species was present in Kwara State and also found in the Omo Forestry Reserve (Ogun State) from November to March (Green *et al.*, 2007; AfricanBirdClub, 2017). In the 1980s, the importance of the wetlands of Kano (Kano State), Jos Plateau (Plateau State), Lower Komadugu-Yobé and Ngala (Borno State), and Ife (Osun) for the conservation of the species was highlighted (Ledant *et al.*, 1986).

In Bénin, the species was observed regularly in small numbers during the spring migration in the Pendjari National Park (Thonneriéux, 1985). In the 1960s and 1970s, it was considered rare (Green & Sayer, 1979). The western yellow wagtail was reported in January along the River Niger in the northern part of the country; it overwintered along the Atlantic coast and on the banks of the Lake Nokoué (*flava*, *thunbergi*, and *feldegg*, isolated specimens of *flavissima*) (Lougbeignon *et al.*, 2010; Lougbeignon & Codjia, 2011; AfricanBirdClub, 2017; Observation.org, 2017).

In Burkina Faso (Fig. 7), the species appeared in the second half of August, overwintered in the wetlands, and



Fig. 7 - Dusty storm, Burkina Faso. / Tempesta di polvere, Burkina Faso. (Photo / Foto: Jeff Attaway, CC-BY-2.0).

left in April (Thonnérioux *et al.*, 1989). The species was common in the Nazinga Forest (Center-South Region) (*flava*, *flavissima*, and *cinereocapilla*), the Zabré Department (Center-East Region), the Koubri Department, and the Kadiogo Province (Center Region) (Thonnérioux *et al.*, 1989; van der Spek, 2008; Levatich & Padilla, 2016). In February 2010, the subspecies *flava* was present at Lake Lemorodougou and in the marsh of Karfiguêla (Cascades Region) (Pavia *et al.*, 2012). In January, some were present both at the Tiebélé dam (Nahouri Province) and along the River Mouhoun at Boromo (Boucle du Mouhoun Region) (Louvel, 2004). Other concentrated areas were in the Yatenga Province (North Region) (Balança & de Visscher, 1997), Lake Bourzanga (hundreds), Sourou (Boucle Region), Dori, and Mare d'Oursi (1,000 specimens, *flava*) (Sahel Region) (Ledant *et al.*, 1986; van der Spek, 2008; Observation.org, 2017). The subspecies *cinereocapilla* was reported on the shores of Lake Higa on 22nd February 2012; in the same area, at least one *flavissima* was photographed in late February 2012 (AfricanBirdClub, 2013b).

In Togo, the western yellow wagtail was reported in small groups in Lomé (Maritime Region), and was present, but not common, in the Fazao-Malfakassa National Park (Kara Region and Central Region) (Radley & Campbell, 2008; Levatich & Padilla, 2016). There was an isolated specimen on 21st November 2013 in the Dapaong Reservoir (Savanes Region) (Levatich & Padilla, 2016). In April, *flavissima* was present at Lake Togo (Bishop, 2010). Along the shores of the same lake on 23rd December 2009, a specimen attributed to *thunbergi* was observed and photographed (Observation.org, 2017).

In Ghana, the western yellow wagtail was present in the lagoons of the coast of the Greater Accra Region (in particular up to 200 individuals in the Sakumono Lagoon in December 2013, usually isolated individuals) and in the immediate hinterland (Shai Hills Resource Reserve) (Berglund, 2012; Erterius, 2013; Hoddinott, 2014; Levatich & Padilla, 2016). In Accra, the western yellow wagtail was a regular visitor from late September to the end of March or early April (Grimes, 2006); the presence of *flavissima* was also reported on 3rd January 2013 and 22nd January 2017 (Netfugl.dk, 2017; Observation.org, 2017). It was present in Winneba (*thunbergi*), in the Cape Coast area (up to 40 individuals attributed to *flava*) (Blair & Blair, 2015), in Cape Three Points (Levatich & Padilla, 2016), in the Kakum National Park (Central Region), in the Bobiri Forest (*thunbergi*), and Lake Bosumtwi (*flava*) (Ashanti Region) (Bowman, 1996; Meijer & Renden, 2004; King & King, 2009; Krabbe & Rosendal, 2010; van der Woude, 2014). Few individuals were recorded in White Volta (Valentine, 2010), in the area of Mole National Park, Nasia (Northern Region), Tono Dam and Tongo Hills (Upper East Region) (Levatich & Padilla, 2016).

In Ivory Coast, the western yellow wagtail (*flava*, *iberiae*, *cinereocapilla*, *flavissima*, and *thunbergi*) was common in humid grassland and wetlands (less in the north) from September to May (Thiollay, 1985). Additionally, the species was very scarce both in the Tanoé Forest and in the Îles Ehotilés National Park (South-Comoé Region) (Yaokokoré-Béibro, 2010; Ahon *et al.*, 2012), was com-

mon in the rice fields of the coastal wetlands of Grand-Bassam (Sud-Comoé Region) (Odoukpe & Yaokokoré-Béibro, 2014), was frequent along the Bas-Sassandra District (Gbôklé Region) (*thunbergi*) (Lachenaud, 2006), was common in the Taï National Park (Chatelain *et al.*, 2001), was scarce in the Yapo Forest Reserve (Demey & Fishpool, 1994), had isolated individuals in the Bossematié area (*thunbergi*, 14th March 1996) (Waltert *et al.*, 1999), was present, but not abundant, in the Yamoussoukro District (Konan & Yaokokoré-Béibro, 2015), was uncommon to frequent in the Comoé National Park from 1994 to 1999 (Salewski, 2000), and was regular on the Ivorian side of Mount Nimba (Thonneriéux, 1987).

In Liberia, the western yellow wagtail was abundant (Gatter, 1988) and the subspecies *thunbergi* was certainly present (Gatter, 1987). It was regular, but in small groups in Nimba County (Levatich & Padilla, 2016) and was uncommon in the Gorge area (Gborpolu County) (Demey, 2007).

In Sierra Leone, the western yellow wagtail was observed near Lake Mape (Pujehun District) (Levatich & Padilla, 2016), in Gola Forest (uncommon), on the Tiwai Island, in the rice fields near Kenema (Eastern Province) (Hoddinott, 2010; Klop *et al.*, 2010; Borrow, 2010), in Njala area (Southern Province) (Levatich & Padilla, 2016), in the Freetown area (*flava*) (Borrow, 2008), in the Kono District (Levatich & Padilla, 2016), in the Bumbuna area (*flava*) (Borrow, 2008), near Kabala (*flava*) (Northern Province) (Orr-Ewing, 2013), and in the Outamba Kilimi National Park (two specimens in January) (Harding & Harding, 1982; Orr-Ewing, 2013; Karr, 2015). There were generic reports without precise indication of the location, also for the subspecies *feldegg*: ten individuals on 17th December 2004 and one on 29th January 2005 (Observation.org, 2017).

In Guinea, the western yellow wagtail was common in all the humid areas of the territory (Morel & Morel, 1988), in particular at Mount Nimba; present (40-50 individuals) along the River Milo and near Dabola in the Kankan Region (*flava* and *thunbergi*) (Walsh, 1987; Énard & Brosset, 2003; Levatich & Padilla, 2016), in the Macenta Prefecture with a prevalence of the subspecies *flava* and the presence of about 5% of *thunbergi* (Hallex, 1994), in the National Park of Upper Niger (*flava*) (Nikolaus, 2000), in the Kindia Region (Demey, 1995), and in the Labé area (Fouta Djallon Region) (Levatich & Padilla, 2016). The species was particularly abundant (estimated over 247,000 individuals) from November to February in the rice fields along the coast (Wymenga & Zwarts, 2010). It was probably in this area that a specimen of *flavissima* was photographed on 2nd January 2001 (Observation.org, 2017).

In Guinea-Bissau, the western yellow wagtail was present in the Cantanhez Forests National Park and Dulombi-Boe National Park (Levatich & Padilla, 2016), was scarce near Boé (Gabú Region) (Coppens, 2015), and had about 20 individuals on Ilha de Bubaque in January 1986 (Bolama Region) (Hazevoet, 1996); it was also scarce in the Bissau area (Levatich & Padilla, 2016).

In Niger, the species was reported to Gaya (Dosso Region) (Giraudoux *et al.*, 1988). In Park W, it was present

from January to April (Koster & Grettenberger, 1983) and was observed for the first time only in December 1986 (Shull *et al.*, 1986), but since the following decade, the species has become common and present from November to May (Crisler *et al.*, 2003). In the Niamey area, the species was abundant from November to March (even hundreds of individuals) and the subspecies *feldegg* was present with certainty (Giraudoux *et al.*, 1988; Crickmore, 2004). In the Zinder Region, the species was present from September to March, as well as in the Tahoua Region (Giraudoux *et al.*, 1988). In the Northern Air, the western yellow wagtail was present during migration (Newby *et al.*, 1987). In Niger, only *flava*, *feldegg* and *thunbergi* were recorded (Manvell, 2010).

In Mali, the species was present in the Bamako District, in the Baoul National Park, and in the Ségou Region (*flava*, *iberiae*, and *feldegg*) (de Bie & Morgan, 1989; AfricanBirdClub, 2017). In January, it was common along the banks of the Niger River in the Mopti Region with a concentration of 10,000 individuals in a roost (*flava*, *iberiae*, and 1 *flavissima*) (Louvel, 2004; van der Kamp *et al.*, 2012; Levatic & Padilla, 2016). It was uncommon in the Adrar des Ifoghas (Clouet & Joachim, 2013). In general, the species was common in the center of the country (Brown, 1982). Two individuals were observed in the Sahara Desert about 50 km north of Timbuktu on 16th January 2009 (Levatic & Padilla, 2016). In February, a thousand were observed in Timbuktu (desert and lakes) (Cohen & Mills, 2006). The species was particularly abundant both during migration and during wintering (hundreds of thousands of individuals) in the rice fields (area of Officie du Niger, near Lake Salingue, and Inner Niger Delta) (Ledant *et al.*, 1986; Thieme *et al.*, 2005; Wymenga & Zwarts, 2010; Brown & Mockrin, 2015).

In Senegal, the subspecies *flava*, *iberiae*, *cinereocapilla*, *flavissima*, and *thunbergi* were reported (Borrow & Demey, 2011). The species was common in the Tambacounda Region, with ten groups in the Niokolo-Koba National Park (*flava*) (Sauvage & Rodwell, 1998; Sauvage *et al.*, 1998; Linderström, 2003; Bussi re, 2009; Finn, 2011b). It was also common along the coast (Sine-Saloum Delta and Petit C te up to Dakar) (mainly *flavissima*, but *flava* and *iberiae* were also present) (Schepers *et al.*, 1998; Corre, 2003; Finn, 2011b). Some roosts in sugar canes (up to 2,000 birds) were found in the southwest of Richard Toll (Saint-Louis Region) (Loske, 1990). In December 1992, about 250,000 individuals were in roosts inside the Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary, and thousands were also present in December 2003 (Saint-Louis Region); the subspecies *flava* was the most common, *iberiae* was relatively common, while *cinereocapilla* and *flavissima* were present in small numbers (most numerous *flavissima* during migrations); there were few units attributable to *thunbergi* (Rodwell *et al.*, 1996; Sauvage *et al.*, 1998; Corre, 2003; Berlijn, 2006; Borrow & Jallow, 2010; Kehoe, 2013; BTO, 2017). The species was common in the Guembeul Natural Reserve, and some specimens were present in Saint-Louis (Saint-Louis Region) (Corre, 2003). The species was very abundant (hundreds of thousands of individuals) in the rice fields near the Senegal Delta (Wymenga & Zwarts, 2010). From a quantitative point of view, the subspecies

are distributed as follows: *flava* 89%, *iberiae* 8.5%, and *flavissima* 2.5% (Loske, 1990).

In Gambia, the species was reported at the Kartong Bird Watching Observatory (Kombo South District) (20-30 individuals in January 2015) (BTO, 2017), in Tujereng (Jones & Colley, 2014), in the Kaur area (tens) (*flava*, some *iberiae*, 2 *flavissima*, 1 *thunbergi*) (Earl & Touray, 2003; Southworth *et al.*, 2003; Janse, 2004; Earl, 2006), in Yundum (Bantock & Bantock, 2004) and Pirang (Western Division) (up to six *flavissima*), in the Tanji Bird Reserve (Western Division) (*flavissima*) and along the coast to Banjul (Banjul Division) (Jallow & Ashby, 2002; Earl & Touray, 2003; McFadden, 2003; Linderstr m, 2003; Marsh *et al.*, 2004; Sj stedt, 2005; Berlijn, 2006; Easterbrook, 2006), and in Barra (North Bank Division) (Ashby, 1997; Linderstr m, 2003); it was scarce in Tendaba (Lower River Division) (de Lange, 2009; Hillery, 2010; Sj stedt & Jansson, 2015), present in the Bao Bolon Wetland Reserve (North Bank Division) (*flava*), and common in the area of Soma (Lower River Division) (*flava* and *iberiae*) (Ashby, 1997; Hughes, 2003; BTO, 2017). Ward & Ward (2004) reported in November-December 2004 the presence of individuals attributed to *feldegg* in rice fields in Gambia; a male was reported on 27th December 2004 also along the Kotu Stream near Serrekunda (Banjul) (Observation.org, 2017).

According to Browne (1982), in winter the western yellow wagtail was common in SW Mauritania and scarce in NW Mauritania. In particular, it was present in Diama Dam (Levatic & Padilla, 2016), common in Diawling National Park (*flava* and *iberiae*, with occasional presence of *flavissima*) (Trarza Region) (Salewski & Seifert, 2010; Levatic & Padilla, 2016; Observation.org, 2017), common in Lake Rkiz (Trarza Region) (Ledant *et al.*, 1986) and along the shores of Lake Aleg (Brakna Region) (Ledant *et al.*, 1986; Lafont & Measson, 2001), scarce both in the strip of coast near Nouakchott (*flava*) (Gee, 1984; Bonser, 2006) and in the Banc d'Arguin National Park (single *cinereocapilla* specimens on 7th December 2007 and *feldegg* on 17th January 2012, up to 15 *iberiae* were present in winters between 2001 and 2013) (Levatic & Padilla, 2016; Observation.org, 2017). An up-to-date picture of the distribution in winter in Mauritania was provided by Browne (2016). The species (*iberiae*) was breeding in the Banc d'Arguin National Park (Gee, 1984), and in mid-February there were already formed couples (Y fera, 2004).

In Cape Verde up to 2014, there were 7 reports of western yellow wagtails, but all relating to migratory periods (September-November, March-May) (Barone *et al.*, 1999; Hazevoet, 2012; 2014).

Northern Africa

In Sudan, the western yellow wagtail overwintered in the area of Sennar (Blue Nile State), near Khartoum (25 individuals), in the Sabaloka Game Reserve (Khartoum), and at the 4th cataract of the River Nile (two individuals) (Levatic & Padilla, 2016). In January 2006, it was common on the Tuti Island (Khartoum) and in agricultural areas elsewhere (most of ssp. *flava*, but also a few *thunbergi*

and one *lutea*) (Elleström, 2006). In January 1986, some specimens (*feldegg*) were observed along the shores of Lake Al-Fashir (North Darfur) (Holländer, 1987). In late January 2011, just south of Khartoum, there were about 30 individuals attributed to four subspecies (dozens of *feldegg*, two *thunbergi* and a few *beema* and *lutea*) (Jenner, 2011).

In Egypt, the species was present along Lake Nasser (*thunbergi*, *feldegg*) (Ornitholidays, 2010; Observation.org, 2017), few *feldegg* specimens were near the Monastery of St. Simeon at Aswan, *cinereocapilla* (?) was present at Aswan (Aswan Governorate) (Miles, 2004; Fischer, 2007; Willaert & Veramme, 2010; Observation.org, 2017). Some western yellow wagtails were along the Nile between Edfu and Kom Ombo (*pygmaea*) (Aswan Governorate) and Qena Governorate (Rasmussen *et al.*, 2012). The species was numerous in Luxor (over 1,000 *flava*, tens of both *thunbergi* and *feldegg*, and in good numbers, *pygmaea*) (Broughton, 2001; el Din & Grant, 2001; Grundsten & Eriksson, 2004; Walsh, 2011; Prescott, 2012; Orrell & Hollowell, 2017). It was common in Bahig (Alexandria Governorate) (*pygmaea*) (Orrell & Hollowell, 2017), present at Memphis (Cairo Governorate) (*pygmaea*) (Gaskell, 2003), common on the Nile in the Cairo area, near Giza, and in the Maadi area (*pygmaea*) (Rasmussen *et al.*, 2012; Levatich & Padilla, 2016; Orrell & Hollowell, 2017). The species was present, but not abundant, along the shores of Lake Qarun (Faiyum Governorate) (a dozen *pygmaea*, one *feldegg*) (Grieve, 2000; Farinelle, 2003), at least a dozen *pygmaea* and single *feldegg* specimen were in Wadi el Natrun (Buhayra Governorate) (Farinelle, 2003; Observation.org, 2017). The subspecies *pygmaea* was a common resident at Lake Burullus, and a rare resident in the Omayed Protected Area (Nations Unies, 2005). It was present, but numerically scarce, near the lake basins of the delta of the Nile west of Alessandria (*flava* and *pygmaea*) (Grieve, 2000).

In Libya in January 2008, five individuals attributed to the subspecies *flava* were observed in Hajara (Sabha District) (Hamza *et al.*, 2008) and one was in Maknusa (Wadi al-Hayaa District) (Hering, 2009). On 16th December 1982, a specimen was observed in Marsa El Brega (Al Wahat District) (Levatich & Padilla, 2016).

In Tunisia, the species was considered a breeding migrant (Tounsi, 2005; GDA Sidi Amor, 2017), but by the 1990s, Keith *et al.* (1992) indicated it as a rare, but regular winter visitor, as confirmed by subsequent reports and by other authors (Isenmann *et al.*, 2005). In particular, in January 1997, western yellow wagtails were reported in the Kebili Governorate (Anonymous, 1997), and on 25th December 2004 an individual was observed in Thyra (Sfax Governorate) (Levatich & Padilla, 2016), on 2nd February 2007 a specimen was present in Tamerza (Tozeur Governorate) (Barteï & Zabardi, 2007), and on 5th February 2008 a western yellow wagtail was observed at Hammamet (Nabeul Governorate) (Borg *et al.*, 2008).

In Algeria, the species was considered a nesting migrant (Isenmann & Moali, 2000; Abdelguerfi, 2003; Benyacoub *et al.*, 2007; Moulay Meliani, 2011). According to Keith *et al.* (1992), the subspecies *flava* frequently was wintering in Algeria. The species was reported in winter

in the El Oued Province around Lake Ayata (Chenchouni, 2012) and in the Oum el-Bouaghi Province near an artificial water reservoir (Imane *et al.*, 2014). A possible wintering area, certainly regularly frequented during migrations, is the region of Ahaggar and Tassili N'Adjer (Hamdine, 2001). Another potentially suitable area is that of the Gulf of Annaba and the National Park of El Kala in consideration of the presence of vast wetlands, but in the course of recent research, the species was not found (Amoura, 2014).

In Morocco, isolated individuals of *iberiae* were present in Punta de La Sarga (Dakhla) in January (Lees *et al.*, 2010; Bergier *et al.*, 2011; 2016). On 3rd February 2016, on the northern side of Dakhla Bay one western yellow wagtail (*flava*) (Elorriaga & Seminar, 2016) and one in Imlil (*cinereocapilla*) were present (Observation.org, 2017). The western yellow wagtail wintered in Tarfaya (Laâyoune-Boujdour-Segouia El-Hamra) (Pöyry-EWI Maroc, 2012) and in the Khnifiss National Park (up to forty *iberiae*, one *thunbergi*) (Laâyoune-Boujdour-Segouia El-Hamra) (Bergier *et al.*, 2013; 2014; Dufourny, 2013); some tens (up to 50 individuals) wintered in Oued Massa (two *flava*, two *cinereocapilla*, eight *iberiae*) (Chtouka-Aït Baha Province) (Pouteau, 1991; Schollaert & Franchimont, 1996; Jansen, 2004; Berthold *et al.*, 2005; Fareh & Franchimont, 2007; Fisk *et al.*, 2015). Some (up to 15 individuals) individuals were present at Taroudant (*iberiae*) (Taroudant Province) (Pouteau, 1991; Ortvad, 2000; Hagerman & Hansen, 2002; Nossent, 2002), and about 300 specimens were at Oued Sous (Souss-Massa-Drâa) (Hagerman & Hansen, 2002). Some were present in Tamri (Agadir-Ida Ou Tanane) (*iberiae*) (Jansen, 2004; Naturgucker, 2016), a few isolated individuals (*iberiae*) were in Tazenakht (Ouarzazate Province) (Bally, 2011), and tens (maximum 100 on 12th January 2017) were at Ouarzazate with prevalence of *iberiae*, but also *flava* were present (Ouarzazate Province) (Ramos Melo, 2011; Hoddinott, 2013; Observation.org, 2017). One individual was in Erfoud (Errachidia Province) (Pouteau, 1993), and some *iberiae* were at Oukaïmeden (Marrakech-Tensift - El Haouz) (Hoddinott, 2013). Dozens of individuals were present in Sidi Bennour (Sidi Bennour Province) (Pouteau, 1993), up to 200 *iberiae* were in Khémis Zemamra (Doukkala-Abda Province) (Observation.org, 2017), and many were observed in Oualidia (El Jadida Province) including males showing characteristics of the subspecies *iberiae*, *flava* (one), *cinereocapilla*, and *thunbergi* (Jay-Fayez *et al.*, 1990; El Ghazi *et al.*, 1998-99; Bertrands, 2015; Malczyk, 2016). Tens of individuals were south of El Jadida (Levatich & Padilla, 2016), one was on the shores of Lake Afennourir (Ifrane Province) (Schollaert *et al.*, 1994), some were present at Barrage Idriss Ier (Taza-Al Hoceima -Taounate), dozens were at Sidi-Yahya-des-Zaër (Skhirate-Témara) including some *iberiae* and one *thunbergi* (Berthold *et al.*, 2005; Fareh & Franchimont, 2007), some were in Ait Ouribel (Khémisset Province) (*iberiae*) (Observation.org, 2017), dozens were also in Sidi Kacem Province (Schollaert *et al.*, 1994; Levatich & Padilla, 2016), and one was in Sidi Slimane (Sidi Slimane Province) (Schollaert *et al.*, 1994). A specimen attributed to *flavissima* was observed south of Casablanca

on 21st January 2013 (Observation.org, 2017). The species was also present in Rabat (El Ghazi *et al.*, 1998-99), with up to 200 individuals in Moulay-Bousselham and Merja Zerga (Kenitra Province) (*iberiae*, *flava*, *cinereocapilla*, and *thunbergi*) (Franchimont, 1989; Pouteau, 1991; 1993; Schollaert *et al.*, 1994; Schollaert & Franchimont, 1995; El Ghazi & Franchimont, 1998-99; Hagerman & Hansen, 2002; Thévenot *et al.*, 2003; Berthold *et al.*, 2005; Bally, 2011; Malczyk, 2016). Up to 100 *iberiae* were observed at Larache (Meinken, 2011; Observation.org, 2017), up to 20 *iberiae* were at Merja Khalloufa (Larache Province) (El Ghazi *et al.*, 1998-99), and hundreds (almost completely *iberiae*, *cinereocapilla*, *thunbergi*) were in the flooded fields at Loukkos River (Larache Province) (Jay-Fayez *et al.*, 1990; Pouteau, 1991; 1993; Schollaert & Franchimont, 1996; Mawby, 1997; Hagerman & Hansen, 2002; Jones, 2009; Levatich & Padilla, 2016). About 500 birds seen at Lower Loukkos Marches on 2nd January 1996 (Thévenot *et al.*, 2003) and some 1,000 western yellow wagtails were observed at Lower Loukkos wetland on 11th December 2015 (MaghrebOrnitho, 2015). On 8th February 2001, a *cinereocapilla* was also observed in the same area (Bengtsson, 2001). Over one hundred specimens were present on 10th December 1993 in Asilah, and one was observed on 6th December 2015 in Lkhaloua (Tangier-Tetouan) (Levatich & Padilla, 2016). In the area of Oued Laou (Tangier-Tetouan), the species was reported only as a summer breeder, but did not overwinter (Qinba & Radib, 2006). There are few reports on the Mediterranean coast: five individuals (*iberiae*) were present in January 2011 in M'diq (Tangier-Tetouan), and three specimens were present on 25th December 2016 in Al Hoceïma (Al Hoceïma Province) (Observation.org, 2017).

On the Canary Islands, some western yellow wagtails appeared during migrations, including *feldegg* accidentally. The same applies to Madeira (Romano *et al.*, 2010) where accidentally, in April-May, the subspecies *flava*, *iberiae*, *cinereocapilla*, and *thunbergi* were reported.

Europe

The western yellow wagtail presence in Cyprus during the winter months was rare until the early 2000s (Cyprus Ornithological Society, 2001; Gordon, 2002; 2003). A specimen was observed on 15th January 2005 in the Akrotiri Salt Marshes (BTO, 2017). The species became more regular in the second decade of the 21st century. In particular, one-two specimens, probably attributable to *flava*, were observed at Akhna Dam from 2nd December 2010 to 30th January 2011 (Richardson, 2011a; 2011b). In Mandria on 8th December 2011, there was a specimen, perhaps attributable to *cinereocapilla*, and on 11th December there was a juvenile (Richardson, 2012a); on 7th January 2012, two individuals were at Bishop's Pool (Richardson, 2012b). On 8th December 2012, two specimens were found in Larnaca (Richardson, 2013). In the Bishop's Pool, an individual was present in December 2014 and January 2015 (Hellicar & Tourapi, 2015a; 2015b). In December 2016, isolated specimens were at Larnaca Salt Lake and at Milia Water Treatment Plant (BTO, 2017; Stylianou, 2017).

In Greece, the species was considered breeding and migratory (Handrinos & Akriotis, 1997), but not wintering. This was also confirmed recently for the Crete Island (Xirouchakis, 2015), but for this island, a western yellow wagtail was observed along the River Keritis on 16th February 1995 (Townsend, 1996). An individual (probably in the first decade of the 21st century) was reported in the Kotychi-Strofylia National Wetlands Park (West Greece) (Probonas, *pers. com.*). A specimen, probably *flava*, was observed on 27th January 2016 on the Symi Island (*symi-floraandfauna*, 2017).

In Croatia, the species was never observed in winter (Kralj & Barišić, 2013; Barišić *et al.*, 2016).

In Malta, Sultana & Gauci (1982) cited an individual in January, but without other details. Other reports concerned individuals observed in December 1996 and one or two individuals from 6th to 30th December 1997 (Bonavia *et al.*, 2005). Still isolated individuals were reported on 8th December 2001 and on 9th December 2003 (Bonavia *et al.*, 2010).

In Italy, four individuals were reported in Sicily (mouth of the River Simeto) (Catania Province) on 14th December 1986 (Ciaccio & Priolo, 1997), with almost regular attendance in winter from January 1995 in the provinces of Catania, Syracuse and Ragusa and with a prevalence of the subspecies *flava*, *cinereocapilla*, and *feldegg* (Grussu & Corso, 1998; Corso *et al.*, 2000; Corso, 2005; Corso, Janni, Longoni & Rubolini, *pers. com.*). In the years from 2012 to January 2017, the presence of the species was confirmed in the provinces of Syracuse (Ientile and Scuderi, *pers. com.*), Agrigento (Panarisi, in www.ornitho.it, retrieved in December 2017), and Palermo (Cumbo, Cusmano, Torre, *pers. com.*). In particular, wintering was to be considered regular in the Biviere of Lentini (Syracuse) (Scuderi, *pers. com.*) and in the Pantani Cuba and Longarini (Siracusa) (Corso, *pers. com.*). In Sardinia, an individual was present in mid-1990s in the Cagliari Province (Corso *et al.*, 2000). In Calabria, an individual was observed on 3rd December 2000 near Gambarie (Reggio Calabria Province) (Corso *et al.*, 2000). In Apulia, in the Bari Province, isolated specimens were observed in Molfetta (*cinereocapilla*) on 17th December 2002 (Nitti, *pers. com.*) and in Barletta on 15th and 22nd December 2013 (Fiorella, in www.ornitho.it, retrieved in December 2017). A specimen was also observed in the Saline of Margherita di Savoia (Foggia Province) on 8th December 2007 (Liuzzi, *pers. com.*). In Campania, the species was observed repeatedly at the beginning of December in small groups from 1989 to 1996 (Milone, 1999). In Lazio, an individual was observed in Macchia-tonda (Rome Province) on 20th January 1993 (Corso *et al.*, 2000); some specimens were present in the Roman coastal strip on 11th and 13th February 1993 (Biondi *et al.*, 1999), an individual was present on 7th January 2001 at Maccarese (Roma Province) (Brunelli & Sorace, 2001), a male of the subspecies *flava* was in Ceccano (Frosinone Province) on 4th January 2015 (Roma, 2015), and an individual was in Santa Marinella (Rome Province) on 6th January 2015 (Fratelli, *pers. com.*). A group of four western yellow wagtails was reported in the Marche near the sources of the Pescara River in Popoli (Pescara Prov-

ince) on 19th January 2009 (Di Felice, in www.ornitho.it, retrieved in December 2017). In Abruzzo, a western yellow wagtail was present in Sant’Omero (Teramo Province) on 7th January 2014 (de Angelis, in www.ornitho.it, retrieved in December 2017). In Tuscany, individuals were reported in December 2001 and January-February 2002 in the Pisa Province, in December 2002 in the Livorno Province, in January 2003 in the Grosseto Province (Arcamone, 2005), and on 7th January 2006 in the swamp of Diaccia-Bottrona (Grosseto Province) (Arcamone & Puglisi, 2008). In Emilia-Romagna, the species was observed in the Ravenna Province in winter 2000-2001 (2-3 individuals), in the Bologna Province, in Budrio in December 2013 (Baccetti, *pers. com.*), in the Ferrara Province, in Comacchio in December 2013 and January 2014 (Fanesi & Fiorini, in www.ornitho.it, retrieved in December 2017), and in the Modena Province on 19th December 1994 (one specimen ssp. *cinereocapilla*) (Giannella *et al.*, 1996) and December 1998-January 1999 (one specimen) (Grattini & Sbravati, 2000). In Lombardy, the species was present with two individuals in the Pavia Province in December 2000-January 2001 (Corso *et al.*, 2000) and eighteen specimens were observed on 22nd December 2002 in the Como Province (Brichetti & Fracasso, 2007). On 6th January 2015, a western yellow wagtail was observed in Bernate Ticino (Milan Province) (Gariboldi, *pers. com.*).

In Spain, a western yellow wagtail was observed on 5th January 1985 in Ciudad Rodrigo (Salamanca) (Blanco, 2004). Considering only the months of December and January, in the years 1988 and 1989 there were six other reports for the provinces of Cuenca (1), Malaga (3) and Barcelona (2), on a total of 16 birds (de Juana, 1990); in the decade from 1991-2000, there were 22 reports distributed as follows: Malaga (7), Seville (3), Alicante (4), Madrid (1), Barcelona (1), Girona (1), Guipúzcoa (1), Lugo (1), and Balearic Islands (3) for a total of 60 birds (de Juana, 1991; 1993; 1995; EOA, 1993; 1994; 2000; GBO, 1994; 1995; 1998; Gorospe, 1995; De la Puente & de Juana 1997; De la Puente *et al.*, 1997; 1998; 1999; Paterson, 1998; Copete, 1998; 2000; Garrido, 2002; SEO-Alicante, 2002; Vidal & Salaverri, 2003). Among all the observations, there were as many as 21 individuals in Los Prados (Malaga) on 28th December 1991 (de Juana, 1993). From 2001 to 2010, there were at least 43 other reported sightings distributed as follows: Huelva (2) (*iberiae*), Seville (7) (*flava* and *iberiae*), Almería (1), Murcia (1), Valencia (3) (*flava*, and *flavissima*), Castellón (1), Alicante (5) (*iberiae*), Ciudad Real (1), Cáceres (1), Tarragona (8), Barcelona (6), Girona (1), Zamora (1), Coruña (2), and Balearic (3) totaling at least 92 individuals (De la Puente *et al.*, 2002; Garrido, 2002; GBO, 2002; 2004; Torralvo, 2004; Aymí & Herrando, 2005; Sales, 2006; SEO-Alicante, 2006; AAHSA, 2007; Estrada & Anton, 2007; Molina *et al.*, 2007; Tamayo Guerrero, 2007; Barragán *et al.*, 2008; Epifanio & Vidal, 2008; Tirado & Esteller, 2008; Zamora, 2008; SGO, 2009; SEO/BirdLife, 2012; de Juana & Garcia, 2015; Calvo *et al.*, 2017). Even after 2010, the species continued to appear in winter, mainly as isolated individuals, but also in small groups in the provinces of Huelva, Cadiz, Malaga, Almería, Alicante (*iberiae*), Valencia, Tarragona, Barcelona, and Salamanca (Schulz, 2014; Juana

& Garcia, 2015; Illa, 2015; Levatich & Padilla, 2016; BTO, 2017). In particular, in the Valencia area, wintering seemed to increase in coastal wetlands: in January and December 2012, 14 or 15 different specimens were counted, while in the same period during 2013, at least 7 individuals were present (Tirado *et al.*, 2017).

In Portugal, the first report was made on 14th January 1989 in Ponta da Erva (Lisbon) followed by the one on 16th January 1990 in Aljezur (Faro) (Elias *et al.*, 2015). In the decade from 1991-2000, there were five other reports concentrated between 1991 and 1993 (six birds) in the provinces of Faro (2) and Setúbal (3) (Feit, 2008; Elias *et al.*, 2015). In the decade from 2001-2010 there were nine observations (on a total of 12 birds) distributed in the provinces: Faro (4), Beja (1), Setúbal (3), and Lisbon (1) (Feit, 2008; 2009; 2010; Leitão & Cidraes-Vieira, 2010; Elias *et al.*, 2015). The presences recorded in 2011 were repeated in winter 2016-2017 with at least fifteen reports in the provinces of Faro (1), Beja (1), Lisbon (12), and Leiria (1), even with small groups of five-six individuals, totalling 24 individuals (Feit, 2011; 2017; Elias *et al.*, 2015; Levatich & Padilla, 2016). On the Azores Islands, an individual was observed on the Santa Maria Island on 15th January 1981 (Le Grand, 1983), but subsequently the data was judged to be doubtful by the author himself (Le Grand, 1993). Until 2012, the species appeared with isolated individuals another 7 times in the archipelago, but never in winter (one in March, one in September, and five in October) (Muchaxo *et al.*, 2011; Rodebrand, 2017a; 2017b). Subsequently, a single western yellow wagtail was observed on the Corvo Island on 8th-11th October 2014 and a single specimen (first certain winter data) on the São Miguel Island on 28th December 2014 (AfricanBirdClub, 2015).

In France, in Camargue a specimen was observed on 16th January 1986 (Boutin & Cherain, 1989), one was also observed on 28th December 1989 (Boutin *et al.*, 1991), and in the 1990s, wintering individuals were reported recurrently (Thibault *et al.*, 1997; Kayser *et al.*, 2003). In the winter 2009-2010, an individual was reported in the Loire Département, in the winter 2011-2012, one was in the Loiret Département, three in the Charente-Maritime Département, and one was in the Gironde Département; in the winter of 2012-2013, a specimen was still in the Charente-Maritime Département (Ornitho.fr, 2017). In December 2014, a specimen was observed along the banks of Lake Puydarrieux (Hautes-Pyrénées Department), and one was in Bagnoles-de-l’Orne (Orne Department); in December 2015, an individual was present at Ollainville (Essonne Department) and one was at Meaux (Seine-et-Marne Department) (Levatich & Padilla, 2016).

In Switzerland, a bird was observed in Buchs (Canton of St. Gall) on 11th December 2007; from 1960 to 2007, only eight reports were known in December (Vallotton & Piot, 2008).

In Austria, there were two reports: 17th December 2000 and 15th January 2001, probably related to the same specimen observed at Arnsbruk in Lenzing (Upper Austria) (Biologiezentrum Linz, 2017).

In Germany, there were reports in Schönefeld (Brandenburg) on 3rd January 2010, in Mainz (Rhineland-Palatinate) on 9th January 2011, and near Erding (Bavaria)

on 10th December 2015 (Naturgucker, 2016). The latter observation concerned a specimen attributed to *cinereocapilla* (Naturgucker, 2016).

With regard to the Netherlands, no data was available for December or January, but a male of the subspecies *flava* was observed on 23rd November 2014 in Stellendam-Buitenhaven (South Holland) (Janse, 2014).

Based on data collected by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO, 2017), the first wintering report of a western yellow wagtail in the United Kingdom in 20th century was 4th December 1983 when a bird was observed at Langstone Harbor and Farlington Marsh (Hampshire, England); thereafter, more than two decades passed before new observations. In fact, it was only on 7th January 2004 that the species reappeared with an individual (*flavissima*) in Severn Beach (South Gloucestershire, England) and on 28th December 2004 with an individual (*flavissima*) in Wood Street Village (Surrey, England). Also in 2005 there were two reports of isolated individuals (both *flavissima*): on 23rd January at Ryton (Tyne and Wear, England) and on 3rd December at Montford (Shropshire, England). In the following years, several isolated individuals appeared: on 14th January 2006 in Tiverton (Devon, England) (*thunbergi*), on 16th January 2007 at Stoke Hammond (Buckinghamshire, England), and on 10th January 2009 in Swallownest (South Yorkshire, England). From 4th to 19th December 2010, a first winter specimen was present in Colyford (Devon, England): for this specimen it is hypothesized that it was an Eastern western yellow wagtail (*Motacilla tschutschensis*). A specimen was reported on 6th December 2012 in Cottingham (East Riding of Yorkshire, England). In the following years, the presences increased both in frequency and in quantity. In fact, in 2013, isolated individuals appeared in three distinct locations: on 15th January in Nene Washes (east of Peterborough in Cambridgeshire, England), on 18th January in Crossgates (Powys, Wales), and on 25th January in Crag House Farm (Leeds, England). In the same year, there were still three reports: for the first time two specimens were observed together on 12th December in Havant (Hampshire, England), from 13th to 16th December a western yellow wagtail was observed on the Isle of Arran (North Ayrshire, Scotland), and finally one was reported in Warrington (Cheshire, England) on 29th December. On 20th January 2014 (about a year after the first report), a specimen was again observed at Nene Washes (east of Peterborough in Cambridgeshire, England). On 3rd December 2014, two specimens were in Glasgow (Scotland), on 3rd-4th December and then again on 23rd December 2014 a western yellow wagtail was present at Whitburn Steel (Tyne and Wear, England), and on 19th December of the same year two individuals were observed in a humid area 6 km NE of Crowe (Cheshire, England). During 2015 there were three new reports of isolated individuals: on 25th January in the southern part of the Isle of Wight (England), on 18th December in St Agnes (Cornwall, England), and on 31st December in Slimbridge (Gloucestershire, England). Finally, a western yellow wagtail appeared on 1st January 2016 at Bridge Sollers (Herefordshire, England). While admitting that some of these reports may be erroneous as they refer to gray wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) (Balmer and

Calbrade, *pers. com.*), the repetition of observations in the British Isles is still evident.

In Sweden, the presence of a western yellow wagtail was reported in Ängelholm (Skåne) on 31st December 2002, in Båstad (Skåne) from 3rd December 2004 to 15th January 2005, in Ängelholm (Skåne) on 2nd December 2009, in Karlstad (Värmland) on 15th December 2009, three individuals in Gävle (Gästrikland) on 31st December 2011, and two specimens again at Ängelholm (Skåne) from 28th to 31st January 2012. Another specimen (attributed to *thunbergi*) was observed in Varberg (Halland) on 2nd December 2012 (Shah & Coulson, 2017). Other data prior to 2002 were very uncertain about the attribution of the period of observation.

In Norway, a specimen (*thunbergi*) was present in December 2015 in Grimstad (Aust-Agder) (Hoem, 2017).

The most Northern European report concerns an individual that was present at least from the 27th November to 13th December 2016 on Viðoy Island (the northernmost in the Faroe Islands, Denmark) (Perlman, 2016; Netflugl.dk, 2017).

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