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Note on the wintering of ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) in Southern Landes, Pyrénées-Atlantiques and Gironde between January 1993 and the winter 2009-2010.

FA key words : Aquitaine, osprey, wintering.

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Photo by reserve Ornithologique du Teich

- the first referenced wintering on the Reserve Naturelle du Marais d'Orx (40) dates back to winter 1999-2000. Since 2004-2005 1-2 individuals are seen each year on this site and around, in a radius of about 10 km; this includes this beginning of 2010. In the winter 2007-2008, the wintering of an individual different from those in Orx was confirmed on the Reserve Naturelle de l'Etang Noir (40) and the nearby lakes.

This note was established from personal data and from an extraction of the database <http://www.faune-aquitaine.org> (made on 9th January 2010) of the osprey sightings since 1993, between December 1st and February 15th.

Three areas are well identified, since the 1990's, as wintering areas of ospreys in the South of the Landes (40) and in the Pyrénées-Atlantiques (64):

- the wintering of at least one individual is known near Artix (64), along the Gave de Pau and on artificial lakes, from 1993 to January 2009.
- from 1997 to December 2009, at least one individual is regularly present in Sorde-L'Abbaye (40) and surroundings (64), along the Gave d'Oloron.

One can consider that all these sites together host at least 3-4 wintering birds on a regular basis since the year 2000.

During 2008-2009 and in December 2009, late sightings let us guess possible cases of wintering between the Adour mouth and St-Jean-de-Luz (64) as well as in the Gironde (33).

As a matter of fact, in the Gironde, the latest sightings are from December 2009 and January 2010, with 1-2 individuals present between the Bassin d'Arcachon and the lake of Lacanau. One of these birds has an orange ring, meaning it is probably derived from the Orléans population (the ring still has to be read). In Gironde, the first winter reports date back to January 1996: one individual seen twice in Izon (33) along the Dordogne river.

List of authors of the sightings

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This synthesis cannot be considered exhaustive. It was made for the purpose of the leader of the national osprey 2008-2012 restoration plan, in order to gain a better knowledge of the wintering in France.

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Photos by M. Quéral

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