

## Abstract

Depending on the resulting habitat mosaic, that is created, habitat loss can reduce the abundance and diversity of birds. Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*) is particularly likely to suffer from such pressure, yet few studies have been performed to evaluate its conservation status in Algeria. The information on breeding habitat requirements for turtle dove is important for managing remnant woodlots and shrub land used by this species. To address this issue we surveyed the species in a suburban area of 1087 ha situated in the Isser Valley in Boumerdes (northern Algeria). In order to determine past and predicted future trends in habitat availability we compared landscape types in 2006 with those present in the 1960s and found that nine of the 11 habitats surveyed were occupied by turtle doves in 2006-07. The mean density of turtle doves across our study area was 0.79 pairs/ha during 2006 and 2007. Hatching success was 36.5% and post-fledging nesting success reached 67.7%. A comparison of habitat diversity between the 1960s and 2006 showed an increase of forest- related habitats, which tends to favour turtle doves' persistence, and could possibly reduce the effect of the landscape homogenization related to anthropogenic land use practices. Being classified as a habitat specialist, the Turtle Dove is likely to decline in the Isser Valley under continuing habitat changes