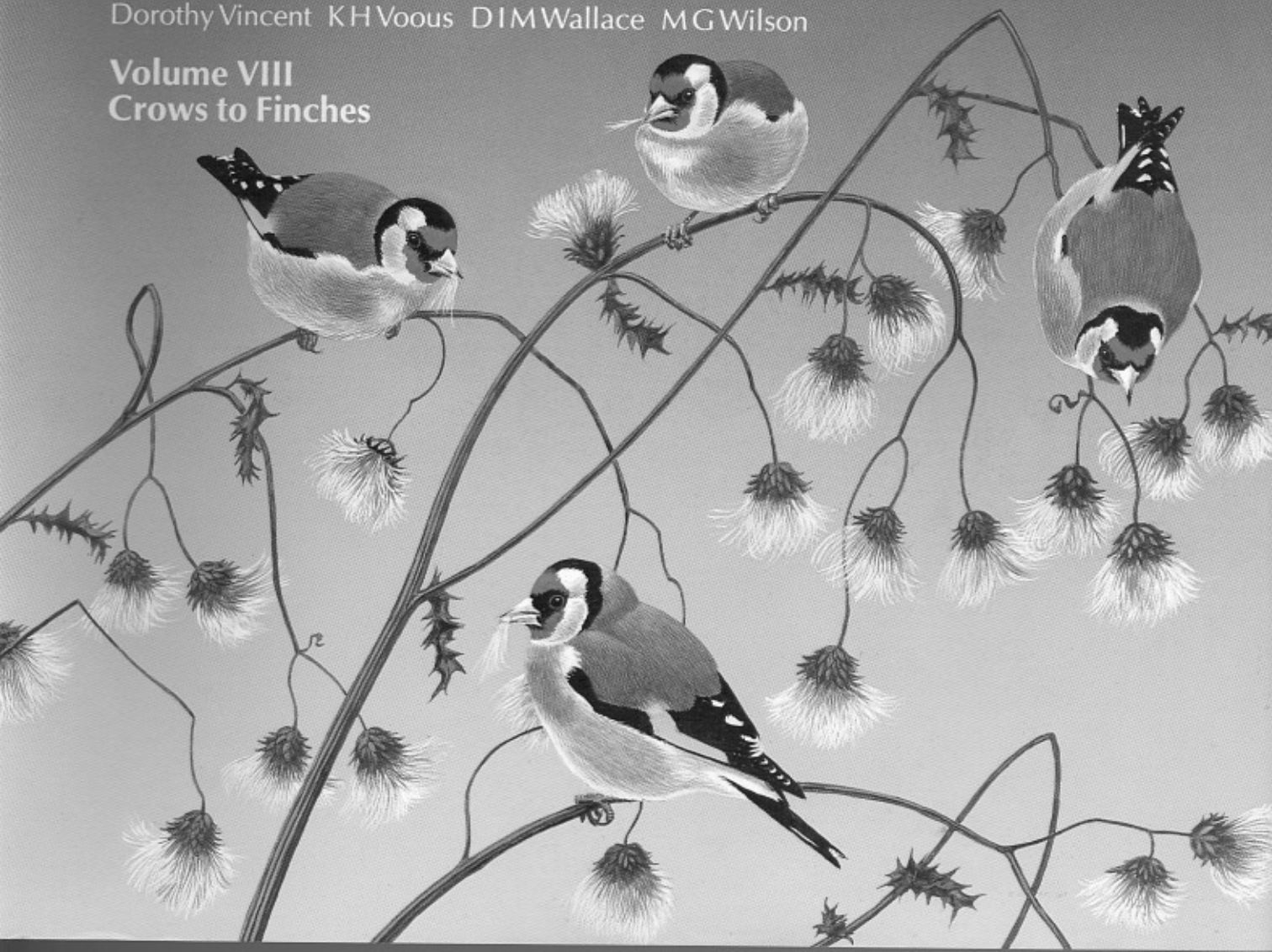


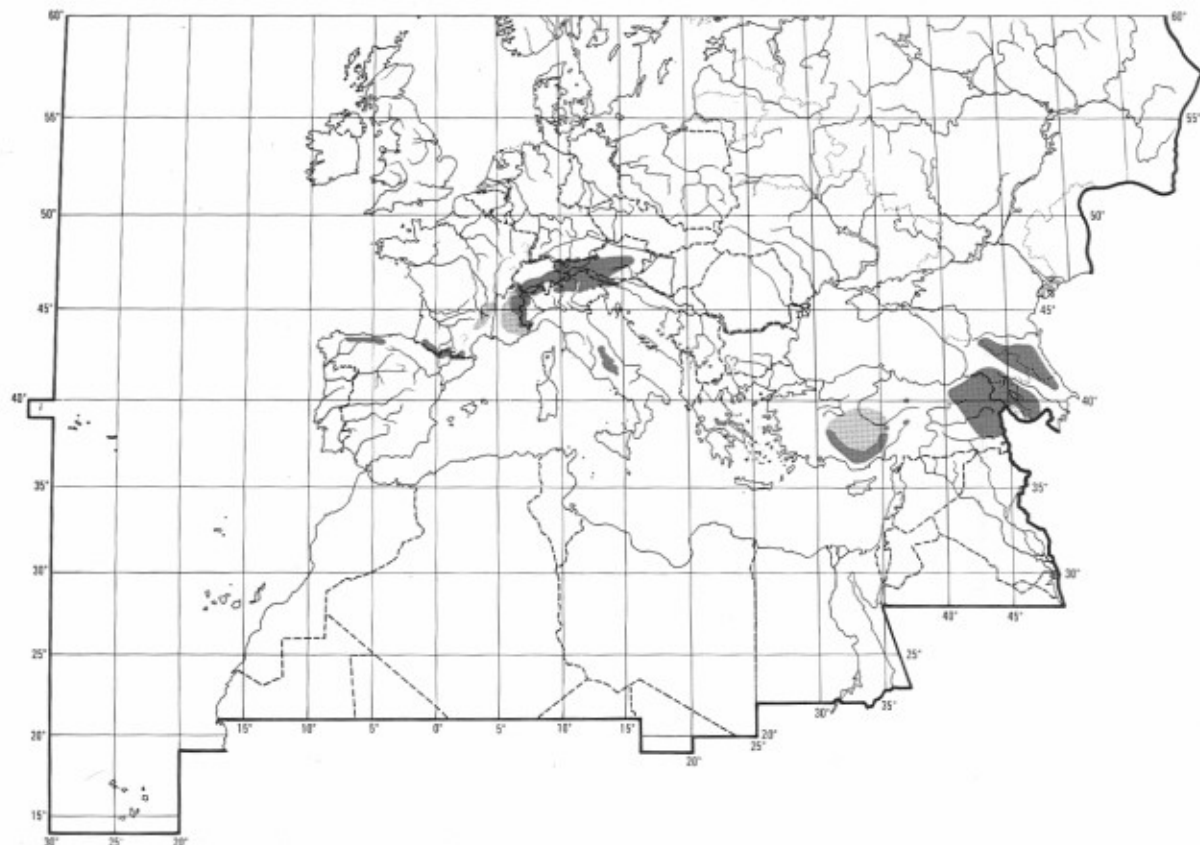
Handbook of the Birds of Europe the Middle East and North Africa

The Birds of the Western Palearctic

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Crows to Finches





ularly moving lower (to 1500 m) to take advantage of food in tourist areas; reported only occasionally below 800 m (Schifferli *et al.* 1982; Winkler 1984). In area of 19 km² at 1800–4000 m on Kleine Scheidegg in Berner Oberland (Switzerland), where *c.* 50 pairs breed, *c.* 600–800 birds wintered 1981–4, and were widely scattered throughout Berner Oberland (*c.* 650 km²) March–October; some travelled further, with 3 ringed 21–22 February 1984 recovered 275 km ESE in Tirol (Austria) 30 March 1987, and bird ringed 25 April 1982 recovered 437 km south-west in Gard (southern France) 20 October 1982 (Heiniger 1991). Most records of movements are from France, between north-west and south of Alpine breeding area, or north-east from Pyrénées. To west and north-west of Alps, reported from Jura and probably regular as far north as Vosges mountains, with one record at Lac Kir near Dijon at *c.* 230 m (Michelat and Viain 1984; Yeatman-Berthelot 1991). At southern edge of Alps in Haute-Provence (outside breeding area), winters regularly in Mont Ventoux (November–March), Montagne de Lure, Mourre de Chanier, and Cheiron; e.g. 21 January 1982, 3 groups of 90, 40, and 15 birds on Mont Ventoux; more irregular further south, where reported only as singles or very small groups (Cheylan 1973; Besson 1982); has reached coast in Camargue and at Nice (Michelat and Viain 1984). Further

west, Cévennes—equidistant (*c.* 300 km) from Alps and Pyrénées—perhaps also a regular wintering area; groups of birds recorded at scattered sites November 1972 to February 1973 (not a severe winter); provenance not known, but from either breeding area birds would need to leave mountains and traverse river plain (Cheylan 1973). Similarly, origin unknown of wintering or passage birds apparently regular further west in Montagne Noire and at Carcassonne; perhaps birds disperse north-east from Pyrénées, but west or south-west heading recorded twice at Carcassonne (mid- to late October), so Alpine origin also possible (Debru 1960; Cugnasse 1975). Present all year in Pyrénées, and some birds frequent ski resorts; increase in eastern records in winter shows that some birds from central Pyrénées move eastwards, perhaps due to mildness of Mediterranean climate (Muntaner *et al.* 1983). One record at sea-level near Barcelona (north-west Spain) (Soler 1963). In Piemonte and Val d'Aosta (north-west Italy), reported only exceptionally below 1000 m (450 m minimum) (Mingozzi *et al.* 1988); in Belluno (north-east Italy), recorded along Piave river at 330–420 m (Faveri 1989). Movements apparently with character of migration reported in central Italy; further south, on Ustica island (north of Sicily), group of 15 birds 16 October 1976 had presumably travelled 350 km south-west from nearest