have 86.5% of the birds in the complex and 74.3% of the records. The Pétrola lagoon stood out in both parameters.

The first observations of Common Shelducks, between 1985 and 1998, were practically all in winter, appearing irregularly and in small numbers, essentially detected in the Pétrola lagoon.

Over the years, the winter demographic trend in Albacete was clearly increasing and the occupation of localities expanded, with an almost continuous presence and significant interannual variations in populations.

As of 1998 the observations began to be distributed throughout the annual cycle, with the species occupying a greater number of wetlands and expanding its area, and going from sporadic wintering to resident.

The first confirmed breeding pair in Albacete, bred in the Pétrola lagoon (1998). Since then, *Tadorna* has reproduced in at least 20 provincial locations (successful breeding), 17 in the Pétrola complex, continuously, although records over the years have been very variable in terms of distribution (maximum of 11 wetlands in one season; 2013).

The total number of couples detected in the Albacete wetlands was 160 (period 1998-2019). In the Pétrola complex, 154 pairs would have reproduced, of which 118 would be with safe breeding. More than half of the safe pairs (n= 65), nested in the Pétrola lagoon, which placed this wetland as the main reproductive nucleus of Common Shelduck in the province of Albacete.

In the Pétrola complex, at least from 2013, the species would reach its maximum populations during the winter and reproductive periods, and minimum populations after breeding (molting period), being then very scarce or even absent.

From the point of view of conservation, the breeding population of Common Shelduck in the Pétrola complex would be very important, as it is located halfway between those in La Mancha and the wetlands of Eastern Spanish.

Key words: Common Shelduck, Albacete, distribution, abundance, status.

1. INTRODUCCIÓN

El Tarro blanco (*Tadorna tadorna*), figuras 1 y 2, es una anátida de distribución paleártica amplia, incluyendo una población en la cuenca del Mediterráneo (Cramp y Simmons, 1977; Carboneras y Kirwan, 2019).

Su distribución actual en el Mediterráneo occidental parece resultado de una recolonización reciente (detectada en la década de los años 80 del siglo XX; Robledano y Calvo, 1989; Carboneras y Kirwan, 2019), precedida por un periodo crítico que diez-

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