

In preparation

Significant proportion of the French coastal endemic Bluethroat (*Cyanecula svecica namnetum*) discovered in a Bluethroat population wintering in the Sidi Moussa-Walidia complex (Morocco)

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Abstract. In order to start to document the potential importance of North West African coastal marshes for the wintering of the French coastal endemic Bluethroat (*Cyanecula svecica namnetum*) over ten days of winter 2015-2016, we carried out a ringing campaign in the Sidi Moussa-Walidia complex, a 10,000 hectares Ramsar site, located in the Moroccan Atlantic coast. Analysis of capture data with a non-parametric bootstrap resampling method revealed within the wintering Bluethroat population sampled a minimal mean proportion estimated at 38% of individuals belonging to *Cyanecula svecica namnetum* subspecies (17 - 54% within the 95% CI). Thanks to data collected for the first time in North Africa over a limited spatial and temporal scale, despite a small data set, our results confirm: 1) the potential significant proportion of *C. s. namnetum* among Bluethroat populations wintering in North African coastal wetlands and 2) the particular attention that should be given to North African grounds for a better consideration of threats to populations belonging to this subspecies of conservation concern given its restricted range and numbers and its dependence on Atlantic coastal wetlands.

Key words: marshland passerines, North African coastal wetlands, ringing in Moroccan wetlands, wetland conservation.