

Professional English-II (6rd Week-Fallow Deer)-11.03.2019

Some Forestry Terms:

Reproduction: ođalma, üreme

Fallow: Ala

Homeland: Anavatan

Breeding: Üreme

Degradation: Bozulma

Population: Nüfus

Set aside: Ayrılmıř alan

Scrub: Bodur

Ruminant: Geviř getiren

Ungulate: Toynaklı

Toe: Ayak ucu

Antler: Boynuz

Shed: Dökmek

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Reproduction of Fallow Deer (*Dama dama*) and Its Reintroduction into Ex-Habitats

Preamble:

Fallow deer population has decreased drastically in Turkey in recent decades because of environmental degradation and over hunting. Most of its previously existing populations are either currently extinct or very close to extinction.

With this project, it is aimed to support natural population of fallow deer with the individuals taken from the breeding center and also to provide new territories for fallow deer among the suitable habitats.

Duration : 5 years

Starting date : 2010

Finishing date: 2014

OBJECTIVES

Our objective is to save fallow deer from extinction in Turkey. This is very important as it is the original population in the world. Once it reaches to a tolerable level, it is aimed to use the species in eco-tourism activities.



WORK SUMMARY

Fallow deer's homeland is the *Pinus brutia* forests and scrub vegetation of South Anatolia within 0-800 m altitude. It became extinct in mid and north Europe during the last ice age and it only remained in Anatolia. Later, in the 15th century, fallow deer taken from Anatolia were moved to Holland and England. Being reproduced as park animals there, it was introduced into the rest of Europe, North Africa, South America and New Zealand. Thus it became the major game species in most of the world. In Turkey, fallow deer was first taken under protection in 1966 with the establishment of a 1750 hectare protected area in Düzlerçamı region of Antalya province. 25 hectare part of the areas was set aside as breeding station, which was then fenced in 1975. Reproduction of fallow deer in this station started with 7 individuals captured from nature. In 1977 some of the population was transferred to Muğla province but that study could not be successful. After 20 years, carrying capacity of the Düzlerçamı station was reached and natural features of the habitat were lost. A new station was needed urgently, and in 2003 Düzlerçamı population was transferred to that 521 hectare new station. At present, reproduction works are conducted in this station where there are 85 individuals currently. Natural population just outside the station is estimated to be at 100. Thus it can be stated that the total fallow deer population in Turkey is at 200.

General Features of Fallow Deer

Fallow deer belongs to the Cervidae family under the ruminants sub-orde of the ungulates. Average length from tip to toe is 130-165 cm, tail length is 16-20 cm, height at withers is 85-115 cm; weight is 75-135 kg. Bucks have prong-like antlers, whereas does have no antlers at all. They shed their 5-7 kg antlers every March – April. Prong-like structure of the antler forms after 2-3 years of age. Fur color is rusty reddish brown in the summer time. There are large white spots at their back and on the two sides. In the winter time, fur color changes into grayish dark brown and spots are not clear. There is a black line at their back from the neck to the tail. The tail is long with white sides and black middle part. They live in small groups. In spring and summer females and juveniles form their own groups which is separate from young males' groups. Adult males live in groups of 2-4. Old males are solitary. Although they usually forage at night, they are more motile during sunrise and sunset. They feed on various herbs, leaves and buds, fruits, tubers and juicy tree barks. Rutting season is the end of October and beginning of November. During this period, strong bucks leave the herd and gather does around them by bellowing and by pheromones. Females give birth to 1 or 2 juveniles 8 months after mating. Juveniles are 4-5 kg on the average.



Reintroduction of Fallow Deer

It is not only important for Turkey's biodiversity but also for the biodiversity of the world to protect this species whose original population is in Turkey and spread to whole world from here. At present, fallow deer's last natural population in Turkey, Düzlerçamı population is under human influence. Because of this high level of influence, fallow deer population does not enough space for dispersal. Besides, any possible epidemics or forest fire is potentially capable of destroying the whole population. Therefore, it is crucially important to reintroduce this species to several other suitable habitats in different parts of Turkey. For this reason a cooperation work was initiated recently with Middle East Technical University. Both reintroduction and monitoring will be achieved by this cooperative work. With this work, two possible sites were determined for reintroduction. These areas are Aydın Kuşadası Dilek Peninsula National Park and Muğla Köyceğiz. Both of these areas are well protected. 21 fallow deer were reintroduced in Dilek Peninsula and 7 to Muğla Köyceğiz up to present. Reintroduced individuals are being monitored by satellite transmitters. We have acknowledged that those individuals adapted to their new habitats because they produced offspring in the first year. This work is still in progress and it is planned to reintroduce 20 more individuals to Muğla Köyceğiz.