

the night was moonless, the sky was almost cloudless and the wind and temperatures were very mild. At around 21:30, when we were a little less than 1 km away from Sv. Vid, we suddenly but clearly heard two or three successive mating calls of a male Little Crake from the drainage channel running along the road. The bird was in a very dense and impassable 1 to 3 m high vegetation belt at a distance of around 5 to 10 m from us on the opposite bank of the channel. The drainage channel on this spot runs parallel to the road and borders on small vegetable and fruit gardens on its other side. After a couple of minutes we compared the heard voices with the recordings we had brought with us [FEINDT, P. (1968): Vier europäische Rallenarten. – Eigenverlag] for the sake of certainty. D. Rucner [RUCNER, D. (1952/53): Birds of the Neretva valley. – *Larus* 6/7: 53–138] reported only one collected specimen from the lower Neretva region, shot on 2 Apr 1949 at Njivice. Other so far unpublished data were obtained in the lower Neretva valley during the census of Bittern and other reed birds carried out between 26 Apr and 2 May 2001 (see SACKL *et al.* 2003). During the census, Dominik Bombek, Barbara Pihlak and Jakob Smole heard, in the evening of 28 Apr 2001, mating calls of a single male in the reed beds near Opuzen. The same group heard one calling male again in the reed beds near Sv. Vid early in the morning of the following day (29 Apr 2001). The short calls were repeated only few times and the absence of reaction to the tape corresponds very well with explosive calls, one to two syllables long. On the grounds of our data, an occasional Little Crake's breeding in the lower Neretva is therefore possible.

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ČOKETA *Gallinago media*

Great Snipe – 4 ind. observed on 17 Sep 2003 on the rocky side of Velo blato on Pag island (UTM WK01, N Dalmatia) in addition to 1 Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*, Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*, Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, and Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Dne 17.9.2003 sem se odpravil na obhod Velega blata na Pagu. Na zahodni strani jezera sem opazil zelenonogega martinca *Tringa nebularia*, med hojo čez kamenje malega martinca *Actitis hypoleucos*, togotnika *Philomachus pugnax*, za njima pa še zlato prosenko *Pluvialis apricaria*, sicer dobro skrito v tamkajšnjem kamenju. Več težav sem imel s čoketo, saj sem jo tokrat videl prvič. Čoketa se v hrvaškem Primorju sicer redko pojavlja [RUCNER, D. (1998): Ptice hrvatske obale Jadrana. – Hrvatski prirodoslovni muzej, Ministrstvo razvitka i obnove, Zagreb]. Tokrat pa so se večkrat spreletele tik pred mano kar štiri in pristale nekoliko dlje. Na vodi so številčno prevladovali čopasti ponirki *Podiceps cristatus* in liske *Fulica atra*. Med temi pa so plavale posamezne race – reglja *Anas querquedula*, sivka *Aythya ferina*, konopnica *Anas*

strepera in žličarica *A. chpeata*. Iz skoraj popolnoma suhe krajine je priletel veliki škurh *Numenius arquata*.

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ČEBELAR *Merops apiaster*

European Bee-eater – 12 ind. on 25 Apr 2003 near Bobovišće on the west side of Brač island (UTM XJ10, central Dalmatia), and 2 ind. on 27 Apr 2003 near Sutivan (UTM XJ10)

Na biološkem taboru na Braču se je skupina za ptice 25.4.2003 mudila pred mestom Bobovišće na zahodni strani otoka. Tja smo prikolesarili in ob majhnem slanjem močvirju počivali. Pred odhodom smo na majhni razdalji opazili samca grilčka *Serinus serinus* in ko smo si ga ogledovali, sem zaslišal neko znano oglašanje. Takoj sem z daljnogledom sledil oglašanju in hitro preštel dvanajst čebelarjev. Dne 27.4. sem opazoval še dva osebka pri Sutivanu.

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RDEČA LASTOVKA *Hirundo daurica*

Red-rumped Swallow – between 13 and 20 Sep 2003 four Swallow species observed on their migration across the Sea of Karin near Zadar (UTM WJ18, N Dalmatia): House Martins *Delichon urbica* (which were prevalent in flocks with more than 300 individuals), Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* (seen in smaller flocks or individually), Red-rumped Swallows (mixed flocks with House Martins, especially juveniles, but also in flocks of adults with up to 100 individuals), and a single Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*. Additionally, a larger group of Crag Martins *Hirundo rupestris* was observed in the nearby Paklenica (UTM WK30).

Med 13.9. in 20.9.2003 sem dopustoval ob Karinskem morju vzhodno od Zadra. Tam so me že od samega začetka spremljale zelo številne mestne lastovke *Delichon urbica*, venomer v jatah s po več kot 300 osebki. Med njimi so bile tudi kmečke lastovke *Hirundo rustica*, a so bile precej redkejše in v manjših jatah. Največkrat sem jih videval posamič, redko pa v jatah s po več deset osebki. Tretja vrsta lastovke je bila rdeča lastovka. Sprva sem videl samo posamezne osebke, kasneje se je izkazalo, da so med mestnimi tudi mnogi mladostni osebki rdečih lastovk. Naslednje dni sem videl več odraslih tudi v jatah, ki so štele tudi do 100 osebkov. To kaže na dokaj močne populacije te vrste na Hrvaškem, katere širitev je bila zaznana šele v zadnjih 50 letih [KRALJ, J. (1997): Ornitofauna Hrvatske tijekom posljednjih dvjesto godina. – *Larus* 46: 1–112]. Prav na koncu sem opazil še breguljko *Riparia riparia* v mešani jati mestnih, kmečkih in