

bird was pale above, had a dark band on the tail and small white patches on the underwing. Some of its feathers were also missing. For the second time we encountered it while walking back to the car, coming from the north of the airport, chased by a Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* and a Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*. Later a nervous pair of Peregrine Falcons *Falco peregrinus* joined the group attacking the Golden Eagle. In the thermal updraught the group circled up, until we could not see them anymore. The Golden Eagle was pale on the back. The third observation was made at the car itself. In this case the Golden Eagle flew in from the same direction as the bird observed for the second time. This bird, too, was chased by a Common Buzzard, but abandoned its chase as soon as the eagle flew away. The latter had large, long white patches on the underwing and with no missing primary and secondary feathers. We assumed that the first and the third bird were not the same, for it looked that they were of different age. Due to the blinding light, we did not have a good view of the second bird's underwings, but I believe that we were dealing with the same eagle as during the first observation. Apart from these sightings, we had two observations of a Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*, in both cases with a pale snake in its claws, and two territorial Hoopoes *Upupa epops*.

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KAČAR *Circaetus gallicus*

Short-toed Eagle – two observations near Dornberk in Vipavska dolina (UTM VL08, SW Slovenia): (1) a pair on 3 Aug 2002, (2) one individual with a snake on 17 Sep 2002

Dne 3.8.2002 sem nad Dornberkom opazoval par kačarjev, ki sta letela na medsebojni razdalji približno 50 m. Priletela sta iz jugovzhoda, usmerjena pa sta bilo proti severozahodu in se počasi spuščala. V tem letnem času je to prvo opazovanje v okolici Dornberka. Kolega Erik Šinigoj mi je povedal, da je tudi sam opazoval par kačarjev dva dni kasneje le nekaj kilometrov stran od Dornberka. Še enkrat pa sem tega orla opazoval 17.9.2002, ko je krožil s kačo v kljunu, prav tako nad Dornberkom. Opazoval sem ga približno deset minut, nato pa se je spustil v bližnji gozd.

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KANJA *Buteo buteo*

Common Buzzard – on 22 Dec 2002, five Common Buzzards and one Hooded Crow *Corvus corone cornix* were feeding on carcasses of at least two pigs and one goat at Medvedce reservoir SE of Pragersko (UTM WM53, NE Slovenia). About 100 meters away, another Common Buzzard was seen feeding on a bird cadaver caught in the ice. Common Buzzards were

quite numerous on that day, for altogether 75 individuals were counted between Maribor, Požeg and Medvedce reservoir.

Dne 22.12.2002 sem obiskal zadrževalnik Medvedce. Tam sem skoraj na koncu obhoda ob Polskavi videl vzleteti kanjo, kmalu nato pa še dve. Približal sem se in opazil, da se je pet kanj skupaj s sivo vrano *Corvus corone cornix* prerivalo na kadavrih vsaj dveh svinj in koze. Kasneje sem na zadrževalniku opazil še eno kanjo na tleh. Kanja se je hranila s kadavrom v led ukleščene ptice. Tega dne so bile kanje nasploh povsod številne, saj sem jih denimo v trikotniku Maribor – akumulacija Požeg – zadrževalnik Medvedce naštel kar 60, na samem zadrževalniku pa še dodatnih 15.

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ŽERJAV *Grus grus*

Common Crane – a flock of 26 birds observed on 7 Apr 2002 near Pragersko (UTM WM53, NE Slovenia). 5 birds landed and began to forage in the fields.

V Sloveniji se žerjavi v zadnjih letih pojavljajo dokaj redno, zlasti je opažena močnejša selitev spomladi. Iz doslej znanih podatkov je razvidno, da se pojavljajo posamezno ali po več deset ali sto osebkov hkrati. Doslej največjo jato sem imel priložnost opazovati 7.4.2002 pri Pragerskem, ko je 26 žerjavov v značilnem klinu nizko preletelo ribnike. Bilo je kristalno jasno jutro po prehodu hladne fronte in močnejšo ohladitvijo. Kmalu zatem ko so preleteli ribnike, se je skupina petih osebkov ločila od jate in se previdno spustila na zorano polje in se potem tam skoraj pol ure prehranjevala. Nato je tudi teh pet zamudnikov odletelo za matično jato v smeri Ptujja, pri čemer so uporabili termiko in se z jadranjem v krogih povzpeli zelo visoko na nebo. Omeniti velja tudi naslednji prav neljubi dogodek. Ko so žerjavi preleteli ribnike in tamkajšnje športno strelišče, so se za trenutek razpršili na vse strani ob nenehnem pokanju pušk. Ker je Pragersko oziroma celotna kotlina nekakšno ozko grlo pred širokim Dravskim in Ptujskim poljem, opažamo na tem prostoru močno selitev ptic, posebno ujed, različnih pobjeznikov in številnih pevok. Postavitve športnega strelišča neposredno ob ribnikih, ki so že tako močno degradirani zaradi športnih ribičev, je povsem nesprejemljiva za prostor izjemne selitvene pomembnosti. Tudi ta primer kot mnogo drugih kaže, kako v Sloveniji razumemo in uresničujemo varstvo prostoživečih živalskih vrst in narave v celoti.

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