this note went to the Medvedce reservoir SE of Pragersko (NE Slovenia) to count birds. While counting ducks, we spotted a female Smew *Mergellus albellus* on the other side of the reservoir, from where it suddenly took off. I followed it as long as possible. A few moments later I noticed a strange silhouette in the air, and with the aid of my binoculars I realised that the Smew had just been caught by a Peregrine Falcon. It landed in a nearby field, where he killed the Smew, removed its feathers and began to gorge on it. We saw that it was an immature Peregrine Falcon. Full of excitement we left it alone with its lunch. The Peregrine Falcon's diet has not been researched so far in Slovenia, but according to Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer [Glutz von Blotzheim, U.N., K. Bauer & E. Bezzel (1971): Handbuch der Vögel Mitteleuropas. Bd. 4. Akadem. Verlagsgesellschaft, Wiesbaden] the Anatidae ducks can constitute up to 1% of its diet, sometimes even up to 20%.

Dejan Bordjan, Ul. 8.februarja 50, SI-2204 Miklavž na Dravskem polju, Slovenija, e-mail: dejanonih@email.si

Sokol selec *Falco peregrinus*

Peregrine Falcon – two individuals observed near Vrbje fishpond (NE Slovenia) on June 26th 2001

Dne 26.6.2001 sva se s prijateljem Sandijem odpravila na ribnik Vrbje. Že pred prihodom sva na cesti opazila divjo grlico *Streptopelia turtur*, ki se je prehranjevala z zrnjem, raztresenem po cesti. Ko sva prišla do ribnika, sva si najprej ogledala ptice, plavajoče na vodi. Naštela sva okoli 100 lisk *Fulica atra* in 10 zelenonogih tukalic *Gallinula chloropus*. Na nebu sva videla nekaj sivih vran *Corvus corone cornix*, kanj *Buteo buteo* in postovko *Falco tinnuncullus*. Nad ribnik sta kmalu priletela tudi dva (2) sokola selca. Dvajset minut sta v zraku uganjala bliskovite manevre. Domnevam, da bi lahko gnezdila v opuščenem kamnolomu nekaj kilometrov stran.

Primož Sedminek, Podlog 33a, SI-3311 Šempeter, Slovenija

Mokož *Rallus aquaticus*

Water Rail – calls of a single individual heard on June 14th and 16th 1998 at Mali Plac near Bevke (Ljubljansko barje, C Slovenia); according to the habitat and the available data, the author suspects that the Water Rail could have bred in the area.

Med nabiranjem herbarija sem 14. in 16.6.1998 na Malem placu pri Bevkah slišala kruljenje mokoža. Mali plac je ostanek nekdaj obsežnejšega visokega barja in je sedaj v veliki meri porasel z vodnimi in močvirskimi rastlinami (vodna perunika *Iris pseudacorus*, širokolistni rogoz *Typha latifolia*, šaši *Carex* spp., ločki *Juncus* spp., leče *Lens* sp., pokončni ježek *Sparganium erectum*, ipd.), med katerimi so si spletle gnezda številne mlakarice *Anas platyrhynchos*, mali ponirki *Tachybaptus ruficollis* in zelenonoge tukalice *Gallinula chloropus*. Pravega šotišča z rosikami *Drosera* spp., munci *Eriophorum* spp. in mahovnicami *Oxycoccus* spp. je le še za vzorec, saj vanj silijo krhlike *Frangula alnus* in breze *Betula pendula*. Glede na datum in primerni, razmeroma mirni habitat je seveda možna tudi mokožova gnezditev.

Katarina Denac, Gorkičeva 14, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenija, e-mail: katarina.senegacnik@guest.arnes.si

Grahasta tukalica *Porzana porzana*

Spotted Crake – observation of a single individual on Bajer pond near Zalošče (SW Slovenia), August 27th 2001

Bil je 27.8.2001, ko sem se zjutraj ob 7.00 uri odpravil k tako imenovanemu Bajerju pri Zaloščah. Upal sem, da bom lahko spet opazoval kozico *Gallinago gallinago*, ki sva jo dan prej tu videla s Tomažem Bercetom, vendar se mi je nasmehnila druga sreča. Imel sem priložnost opazovati grahasto tukalico. Sprva sem pomislil, da opazujem mladostni osebek zelenonoge tukalice, ki jih je v Bajerju kakih 4 do 5, a ptica je bila preveč temno obarvana. Podrepje je bilo v celoti bele barve, medtem ko ima zelenonoga tukalica bele barve le v obliki polkroga. Grahasta tukalica je bila verjetno le na selitvi, kajti prej je tod še nisem opazil, vendar pa gnezditev tudi ni izključena. Podatek je zanimiv, saj atlas gnezdilk [Geister, I. (1995): Ornitološki atlas Slovenije. DZS, Ljubljana] grahaste tukalice kot gnezdilke za JZ Slovenijo ne omenja.

Erik Šinigoj, Šinigojska ul. 5, SI-5294 Dornberk, Slovenija

Sloka *Scolopax rusticola*

Woodcock – spring and autumn observations in a continuous Dinaric beech forest with fir *Omphalodo-Fagetum* s. lat. on Mt. Krim (C Slovenia). In spring (March 29th 1997), one individual was observed flying over a small clearing at an altitude of 780 m a.s.l. In the autumn (November 2nd 2000), two ex. were frightened away at 760 and 940 m a.s.l. in a continuous forest habitat.

O sloki slovenski ornitologi ne vemo kaj dosti, predvsem zaradi njenega skoraj neopaznega načina življenja. Medtem ko smo se, večinoma po zaslugi Petra Trontlja, nekako spoznali z odkrivanjem sloke v gnezditvenem obdobju, teritorialnimi leti samcev v mraku, pa nam je selitveno obdobje še vedno tuje. O jesenskem pojavljanju sloke na selitvi so večino podatkov v preteklih obdobjih zbrali lovci [Sovinc, A. (1994): Zimski ornitološki atlas. Tehniška založba Slovenije, Ljubljana], sicer pa večina ornitoloških opažanj zadeva le naključna srečanja. Jeseni se z Daretom Fekonjo navadno odpraviva pregledovat gnezdilnice po Krimskem hribovju. Tako je bilo tudi 2. 11. 2000.

Presenečenje naju je čakalo na Krimu, saj sva v eni izmed gnezdilnic za kozačo *Strix uralensis* naletela na kozačina peresa, medtem ko je vhod druge, ta je bila namenjena koconogemu čuku, zazidal brglez *Sitta europaea*. Med pregledovanjem gnezdilnic sva na dveh mestih splašila sloko. Prvič na nadmorski višini 760 m, drugič na 940 m, obakrat v strnjenem bukovem gozdu z jelko *Omphalodo-Fagetum* s. lat. Sloke, ki jih poznamo kot gnezdilko vlažnih gozdov [Geister, I. (1995): Ornitološki atlas Slovenije. DZS, Ljubljana], na seltvi očitno zaidejo tudi v više ležeče dinarske gozdove, kjer je prst dovolj mehka za njihov način prehranjevanja. Ali v tem okolju tudi gnezdi, pa ni znano. V tej povezavi je zanimiv tudi podatek o večernem opazovanju sloke 29.3.1997, ko se je osebek spreletel nad manjšo poseko v bližini hriba Strmec na nadmorski višini okoli 780 m. Sklepam, da je Krim pomembna postaja tudi na spomladanski selitvi teh ptic.

Al Vrezec, Pražakova 11, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenija, e-mail: al.vrezec@uni-lj.si

Rjavi galeb *Larus fuscus*

Lesser Black–backed Gull – 1 ad. at Medvedce reservoir on May 1st 2002 SE of Pragersko (NE Slovenia)

Skupaj z Nado Labus in Cvetko Markholt smo se dne 1.5.2002 odpeljali na Medvedce JV od Pragerskega preštevat vodne ptice. Bili smo sredi pogovora, ko sem v zraku opazil nekaj večjega in svetlega. V pričakovanju rumenonogega galeba sem pogledal proti ptici. Galeb je vsekakor bil, vendar je imel zgornjo stran peruti skoraj črno in glede na velikost ni mogel biti kaj drugega kot odrasel osebek rjavega galeba. Vsi smo ga tega dne prvič videli, zato smo si ga ogledali še posebej natančno. Galeb je samo zdolgočaseno dvakrat zakrožil nad nami in odjadral proti jugu.

Dejan Bordjan, Ul.8.februarja 50, SI-2204 Miklavž, Slovenija, e-mail: dejanonih@email.si

Ural Owl *Strix uralensis*

Kozača – v gnezdilnici na Krimu smo 11.6.2002 našli valečo samico na treh jajcih. Z metodo 24-urnega snemanja z IR kamero smo želeli registrirali prinose hrane mladičem. Opravili smo dva snemalna dneva. 1.7.2002 je okoli 21.40 priletela samica, 4.7.2002 pa je gnezdilnico ob 21.00 obiskal par. Obakrat je bila gnezdilnica obiskana le enkrat v noči. 8.7.2002 smo pogledali vanjo in ugotovili, da je gnezdo propadlo. Kljub temu pa je par še vedno obiskoval in nadzoroval gnezdilni prostor.

In Slovenia, the Ural Owl breeds in nest boxes very rarely, for in spite of a number of boxes placed in the forests in which this species breeds with certainty, only a single case of box nesting has been established so far, i.e. on Mt. Kum [Božič, I.A. (2000): Ural Owl *Strix uralensis*. Acrocephalus 21 (98-99): 95]. In 1997, three nest boxes were placed on Mt. Krim near Ljubljana for this bird. Although periodically checked, no breeding was confirmed in them. In 2002, however, a Ural Owl's nest was discovered in a nest box near Srednji hrib on Mt. Krim at an altitude of 800 m in the standing growth of *Omphalodo-Fagetum* s. lat. within otherwise dominant forest association. In the box placed on a beech *Fagus sylvatica* some eight metres from the ground

we found, on June 11th 2002, a female sitting on three eggs. Towards the evening of the same day, a male and a female were heard calling near the box, which is quite characteristic of these birds during the incubation period [Lundberg, A. (1980): Vocalizations and courtship feeding of the Ural Owl *Strix uralensis*. Ornis Scandinavica 11: 65-70]. In the next 10 days, we periodically monitored the events in the box without disturbing the brooding female. The eggs and the female were observed for the last time on June 24th 2002. In order to evaluate the Ural Owl's activities, we wished to monitor the events around the nest box and to register the male and the female bringing food to their young. To avoid the disturbing factor of human presence, which could possibly affect the birds' activities, we opted for the method of 24hour shooting with IR film camera, placing it some six metres from the box to cover its entrance as well as the nearest branch (see photograph). The first trial shooting took place on June 27th 2002, but to our surprise no Ural Owl appeared at the nest box. At 21.40 hrs of July 1st, however, the female landed on the box's opening, stuck her head inside for some 10 seconds, continuously calling at the same time. We were surprised, however, that in the ensuing hours the box was not revisited.

On July 7th 2002, the shooting was repeated, and at about 21.00 hrs the male and the female appeared at the box. The female again stuck her head into the opening and then flew away, and a few minutes later the male looked into it as well (see photograph). The entire visit lasted about five minutes, the only one in that particular night. We presumed that there were just hatched young in the box, which would mean that the frequency of food being brought to the box