

Matajna from Zubovići to the top of Panus (218 m). Towards the evening, the Griffon Vultures gathered above Veli brig and north of the town of Pag, then flew towards Matajna and finally carried on, by circling in the updraught of warm air at a height of some 600-800 m, towards the east in direction of the Velebit mountain chain. In bad weather (October 24<sup>th</sup>), the Griffon Vultures of different age structure gathered towards the evening between 5.05 and 5.15 p.m., while in fair weather the group gathered between 3.00 and 4.00 p.m. On October 28<sup>th</sup>, at least 15 hunters went on a hunting spree, beginning at the Pag salt-pans and continuing on the slopes of Veli brig towards Sv. Ivan. The hunting began at 8.20 a.m. and ended just before noon. The intensity of shooting reached some 300 shots per hour; the "cleansing" was carried out in the area covering 3 km<sup>2</sup>. Until the end of my stay on November 1<sup>st</sup> 2001, the vultures were no longer to be seen on the island of Pag. This made me to believe that the group of 8 Griffon Vultures left the island due to the uncontrolled hunting in the area of Veli brig, which was of crucial importance for their social behaviour and diet.

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### ELEONORA'S FALCON *Falco eleonorae*

**Sredozemski sokol** – opazovanje 4 parov (8 osebkov) na otoku Vis in 5 parov (8 osebkov) na otoku Biševo (srednja Dalmacija, Hrvaška) v predgnezditvenem obdobju (2.5.2001) na njegovih že znanih gnezdiščih. Na otoku Vis je bil opazovan tudi en (1) osebek južnega sokola *Falco biarmicus* (Foto: B. Rubinič).

On May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2001, I and Borut Rubinič carried out a survey of seabirds around the islands of Vis and Biševo. As far as Eleonora's Falcons are concerned, the time of our survey was indeed not quite adequate, for these birds begin to breed there only at the end of July or in August, although they do occupy the breeding sites already in May [BIJLSMA, R.G. (1997): Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonorae*. In: HAGEMEIJER, W.J.M. & M.J. BLAIR (eds.): The EBCC Atlas of European Breeding Birds. T & AD Poyser, London]. On the above mentioned day, we observed four (4) pairs of Eleonora's Falcons on the island of Vis and on the surrounding islets and reefs, and at least five (5) pairs on the island of Biševo and in its vicinity. Altogether, no less than 16 individuals were recorded. Indeed, the area has already been known as an important Adriatic breeding ground of Eleonora's Falcons, which share their breeding habitat with some earlier breeders, such as the Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans*, Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*, and Common Raven *Corvus corax*. Although the data do concern the prebreeding period, they still could reflect the state of the Vis and Biševo population in the year 2001. LUKAČ *et al.* [LUKAČ, G., M. STIPČEVIĆ & N. TRVRTKOVIĆ (1997): The status and distribution of Eleonora's Falcon (*Falco eleonorae* Gene 1834) in Croatia.



Nat. croat. 6 (3): 323-333], for example, registered 4-6 pairs (8 individuals) in 1996 in the vicinity of Vis, and 2 pairs (3 individuals) in the vicinity of Biševo. In favour of the claim that the area is truly rich with the falcon avifauna also speaks the observation of the Lanner *Falco biarmicus* on the island of Vis, which had clearly not been recorded by LUKAČ *et al.* (1997) during their research.

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### STONE-CURLEW *Burhinus oediconemus*

**Prlivka** – en (1) osebek dne 30.12.2001 na otoku Srakane Vele (SZ Jadran, Hrvaška)

I have been closely watching the Stone-curlew on the island of Srakane Vele near Mali Lošinj (NW Adriatic, Croatia) for some twelve years. The bird breeds there regularly [e.g. GEISTER, I. & H. CIGLIČ (1997): Birds of Srakane Vele in the Cres-Lošinj Archipelago, Annales 11/97, pp. 73-84], although in the last two or three years its indeed low numbers have further decreased, seemingly due to the great expansion of the Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans*, which has virtually occupied the island covering no more than 1 km<sup>2</sup>. As far as I know, the Stone-curlew has never overwintered there (even RUCNER, D., (1998): Ptice hrvatske obale Jadrana / Birds of the Croatian Adriatic coast,