

Bean Geese *A. fabalis* at around 11:00 when geese return from arable land to the fishponds for drinking and resting. After landing, the swans began to swim and bathe, occasionally chasing Greylag Geese that approached them too close. Later they sat on the tree-stump, resting and preening. Later on, the Bewick's Swans were also observed by the second author, Stjepan Tkalčević, and Vatroslav Škrnjug. Breeding in Russian tundra and wintering mainly in northwestern Europe, Bewick's Swan is a very rare species in Croatia. The first occurrence of Bewick's Swans in Croatia was confirmed on the basis of a killed specimen from the Neretva delta in Dalmatia [CSÖRGEY, T. (1902): Fünf Monate in Spalato. – *Aquila* 10 (1/4): 66–104]. However, CSÖRGEY (1902) did not give the exact date of its recovery nor mentioned the fate of the body. According to some resources, the specimen ended in the Natural History Museum Trieste, but since there is no such account in Sadini's catalogue, recent authors consider this record as doubtful [SADINI, G. (1960/61): La raccolta regionale degli uccelli conservata nel Museo Civico di Storia naturale in Trieste. – *Atti Mus. Civ. St. Nat. Trieste* 22: 67–131; KRALJ, J. (1997): Croatian ornithofauna in the last 200 years. – *Larus* 46: 1–122]. The first accepted record of Bewick's Swan in Croatia dates back to 14 Feb 1998 when four birds were observed between Mužilovčica and Kratečko villages in Lonjsko Polje Nature Park. These birds were photographed by Lea Krivošić from Sisak. From these photographs, Bewick's Swans could be determined without any doubts [KRIVOŠIĆ, L. (1998): U Lonjskom polju – 243. ptičja vrsta. – *Večernji List*, 26.02.1998; MUŽINIĆ, J. & VASILIK, Ž. (2002): The first tundra swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) in Croatia. – *Israel Journal of Zoology* 48(3): 248–249]. Based on these data, we can conclude that our observation is the third possible occurrence and second valid record of Bewick's Swans in Croatia. Also it is the first record for Kopački Rit Nature Park, whose total number of bird species has now reached 292.

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### ČAPLJICA *Ixobrychus minutus*

**Little Bittern** – four records from the end of April 2004 on the island of Korčula (S Dalmatia): (1) exhausted individual at the village of Račišće (UTM XH65) on 27 Apr, (2) 1 individual at Donje Blato

(UTM XH75) on 29 Apr, (3) 1 exhausted female at Donje Blato on 30 Apr, and (4) 5 individuals on pond near Vela Luka (UTM XH45) on 29 Apr

Ob prihodu s terena na biološkem taboru na Korčuli v južni Dalmaciji dne 27.4.2004 sem zvedel, da je skupina pod mentorstvom Andreja Kaple v naselju Račišće našla izčrpano čapljico. Le-to so si lokalni otroci dobesedno podajali med sabo. Kljub hitremu posredovanju je čapljica kmalu poginila. Drugo čapljico smo opazili 29.4. na Donjem Blatu. Tam se je spreletela z enega grma na drugega. Naslednjega dne je na tem istem mestu Andrej Kapla našel samico čapljice. A tudi ta je čez nekaj ur poginila. Predvidevam, da sta bila oba osebka popolnoma izčrpana. Istega dne je Vesna Cafuta opazovala jato petih čapljic ob kalu blizu Vele Luke. Morda je otok Korčula pomemben kot počivališče te ptice na njeni poti čez Sredozemsko morje.

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### LANNER FALCON *Falco biarmicus*

**Južni sokol** – nova vrsta za naravni park Vransko jezero (UTM WJ46, S Dalmacija); dne 31.10.2004 je osebek lovil v kmetijskem območju med Benkovcem in Biogradom

At 10.40 on 31 Oct 2004, a Lanner Falcon flying from the direction of Vransko Jezero Nature Park tried to settle down on dry branches of a thick poplar along the Benkovac – Biograd road some four kilometers before the town in the agricultural area near the main canal. I could clearly see its thin beard and the more elegant, slenderer jizz as that of the larger Peregrine with longer wings and tail, but smaller in size. The bird was attacked by two Hooded Crows *Corvus corone cornix*, and while comparing the sizes of the two species, the falcon seemed to be slightly larger with longer wings. It flew off low over the cultivated area westwards in chase of birds. The area was full with smaller migrants such as pipits and wagtails, but also flocks of Yellow-legged *Larus cachinnans* and Black-headed Gulls *L. ridibundus*. The Lanner is a new bird species for Vransko Jezero, as it does not appear in the list of 234 species occurring in the Park [RADOVIĆ, D., TUTIŠ, V. & KRALJ, J. (2004): Inventarizacija i valorizacija ornitofaune Parka prirode Vransko Jezero. – Zavod za Ornitologiju HAZU, Zagreb]. The Croatian population is estimated at only 5 pairs [RADOVIĆ, D., KRALJ, J., TUTIŠ, V. & ČIKOVIĆ, D.