

ČOPASTA ČAPLJA *Ardeola ralloides*

Squacco Heron – one caught on 8 Apr 2007 at Velo blato, Pag Island (UTM WK01, Dalmatia, Croatia), and observed catching European Mole Cricket *Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa* in shallow water



Slika 16 / Figure 16: Čopasta čaplja / Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*, 8.4.2007, Velo blato, Pag. Foto: D. Šere

Dne 8.4.2007 sem obročkal ptice na Velem blatu na otoku Pagu (UTM WK01, Dalmacija, Hrvaška). Ob obali sem imel na čistini postavljeno mrežo za lov ptic, in ko sem se ji po določenem času začel približevati mreži, sem pred seboj na poplavljenem travniku zagledal dve čopasti čaplji. Ena je zletela naprej mimo mreže, druga pa je pristala tik pred mrežo in s kljunom začela nekaj vleči iz plitve vode. Ko sem se ji bolj približal, je zletela s »plenom« naravnost v mrežo. Zelo sem bil presenečen, ker se je čaplja ujela v mrežo, saj ta sploh ni namenjena za tako veliko ptico. Še bolj pa sem bil presenečen, ko sem opazil, da ji je iz kljuna padel v mrežo plen, to pa je bil bramor *Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa*. Nato sem v mreži slikal bramorja, v roki pa tudi to čapljo, ki sem jo še prej označil z obročkom ZAGREB LA 2801 (slika 16). Potem sem tako bramorja kot čopasto čapljo izpustil. Podatek pomeni, da se lahko čopasta čaplja prehranjuje tudi z bramorji. Postavlja pa se vprašanje, ali lahko bramor živi tudi nekaj časa pod vodo, zlasti takrat, ko so travniki poplavljeni, in ali se takrat tudi oglaš. Na tem območju živi namreč tudi zelena krastača *Pseudepidalea viridis*, ki se oglaš zelo podobno kot bramor in ju zato lahko po »petju« zamenjamo.

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GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

Črna prosenka – dne 26.10.2008 opažen en osebek na otoku Olibu (UTM VK81, Dalmacija, Hrvaška)

Quite a few data have been recently published on the occurrence of Grey Plovers in the coastal areas of Croatia (RUCNER 1998). This species appears regularly in the Dalmatian region during the spring and autumn migrations and may even overwinter there in small numbers (KRALJ 1997). The threatened overwintering population in the northwestern coastal areas of the northern Dalmatian wintering area is estimated at about 50–80 individuals (RADOVIĆ *et al.* 2003). On 26 Oct 2008, one Grey Plover was observed in a barren wetland area with marshy soil somewhat inland from Slatina Bay, Olib Island (UTM VK81, Dalmatia, W Croatia). It is interesting to note that there were no other waders in the area, but we found plenty of empty shotgun cartridges in the 10–20 m wide land strip extending between the salty marshland and the bay area. This observation suggests that the site is probably well known among hunters. Considering that little is known about the avifauna of Olib, it is important to record the occurrence of the Grey Plover. The island of Olib is located in the northern part of the Zadar island region, which forms part of the Croatian “National Ecological Network – areas important for birds in Croatia” (RADOVIĆ *et al.* 2005).

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GULL-BILLED TERN *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Črnonoga čigra – dva osebkata opažena 26.10.2008 in 29.10.2008 v bližini otoka Olib (UTM VK81, Dalmacija, Hrvaška)

At 10.00 a.m. on 26 Oct 2008, two Gull-billed Terns, both occupied with catching fish, were observed about 0.5 km southwest from the harbour of Olib Island (UTM VK81, Dalmatia, W Croatia). Once again, three days later (29 Oct 2008), two Gull-billed Terns were spotted along the eastern coast of the island in Samotvorac Bay (it is possible that these were the same birds that had been recorded previously). There are only few published data on the occurrence of Gull-billed Terns in the region of Dalmatia; mostly solitary specimens were observed during autumn and spring migration (KRALJ 1997). In addition to the fact that this species is a rare migrating bird, our observation is important also because of its location, since the area of Zadar islands (Premuda, Silba, Olib, Škarda, Ist, Molat etc.)