

mudflats became relatively large and were soon occupied by several Black-headed Gulls *Larus ridibundus*, Yellow-legged Gulls *L. cachinnans*, Grey Herons *Ardea cinerea*, Common Sandpipers *Actitis hypoleucos*, Eurasian Curlews *Numenius arquata* and Dunlins *Calidris alpina*. A Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, a Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* and a Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* were also observed there.

Blizu naselja Karin ob Karinskem morju v severni Dalmaciji sem se mudil med 13. in 20.9.2003. Na severozahodu se v ta zaliv izliva potoček in z nasutjem materiala ustvarja plitvine. Ob oseki se tam razkrijejo obsežni blatni poloji. To pa izkoriščajo ptice. Plitvino sem opazil zaradi rečnih *Larus ridibundus* in rumenonogih galebov *Larus cachinnans*, ki so se tam zbirali, poleg njih pa sem tu opazoval še: črno prosenko *Pluvialis squatarola*, sive čaplje *Ardea cinerea*, male martinice *Actitis hypoleucos*, spremenljive prodnike *Calidris alpina*, velike škurhe *Numenius arquata*, sivo pastirico *Motacilla cinerea* in vodomca *Alcedo atthis*. Dne 15.9.2003 pa so me presenetili trije peščenci. Ta pobježnik sicer velja za redko ptico Hrvaškega primorja [RUCNER, D. (1998): Ptice hrvatske obale Jadrana. – Hrvatski prirodoslovni muzej, Ministarstvo razvitka i obnove, Zagreb].

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### GULL-BILLED TERN *Gelochelidon nilotica*

**Črnonoga čigra** – 6 prehranjujočih se osebkov dne 27.5.2002 na plitvinah ob izlivu reke Neretve (UTM YH06, J Dalmacija)

During our field trip on 27 May 2002, we decided to take some time to survey the mouth of the Neretva river (UTM YH06, S Dalmatia). On the sandbars there, we had a chance to observe some bird species considered rare in Croatia. Amongst 20 Little Egrets *Egretta garzetta*, 12 Grey Herons *Ardea cinerea* and 3 Yellow-legged Gulls *Larus cachinnans* (all of them common species in Croatia) we saw 6 Oystercatchers *Haematopus ostralegus*, 6 Ringed Plovers *Charadrius hiaticula*, 1 Little Stint *Calidris minuta*, 3 Curlew Sandpipers *Calidris ferruginea*, 1 Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, 1 Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*, and 6 Gull-billed Terns foraging in the shallow sea. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, this tern used to be noted more often in Dalmatia during the spring than autumn migration [KRALJ, J. (1997): Ornitofauna Hrvatske tijekom posljednjih dvjesto godina. – *Larus* 46: 1–112]. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, only individual sightings were made (again during migration). One was killed on 28 Apr 1920 near Nin (UTM WJ19), four were recorded in the mouth of the Neretva river in May 1951 (KRALJ 1997), and some were observed on Lake Vransko on 10 Jul 1972 (UTM WJ46; KRALJ 1997). More recently, 10 individuals were observed at the end of April

and at the beginning of May 2001 in the mouth of the Neretva river [DUMBOVIĆ RUŽIĆ, V. & ŠTUMBERGER, B. (2002): Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*. – *Acrocephalus* 22 (109): 240–241]. Considering our observation made in May 2002, we may conclude that Gull-billed Terns occur quite regularly in late spring in the Neretva estuary.

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### ČUK *Athene noctua*

**Little Owl** – while censusing Scops Owls *Otus scops* on 20 Apr 2003 at Milna on the island of Brač (UTM XH19, Central Dalmatia), a male Little Owl was provoked. Quite surprisingly, it responded to the recording of Scops Owl very early in the evening (20.50 hrs).

Med popisom velikih skovikov *Otus scops* v sklopu dalmatinskega biološkega tabora Brač 2003 smo v noči 20.4.2003 popisovali tudi v naselju Milna na zahodnem delu otoka. Takrat smo poleg iskanih skovikov zaslišali še čuka. Ta se je odzval na izzivanje s posnetkom velikega skovika in tudi v skupini drugih skovikov je nekajkrat “zamijavkal” svojo pesem. Zanimivo je tudi to, da se je dal izzvati dokaj zgodaj, saj je bila ura šele 20.50. Sicer pa je čuk v Hrvaškem primorju pogosta vrsta, tudi na otoku Braču [RUCNER, D. (1998): Ptice hrvatske obale Jadrana. – Hrvatski prirodoslovni muzej, Ministarstvo razvitka i obnove, Zagreb].

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### TRAVNIŠKI VRABEC *Passer hispaniolensis*

**Spanish Sparrow** – overview of localities of its breeding colonies on Pelješac peninsula (S Dalmatia), with two new localities added in 2003. Only one large colony is known from Pelješac so far, i.e. at Mali Ston (UTM YH14), while others are very small, but all confined to the vicinity of settlements: Žuljana (UTM YH05), Viganj (UTM XH75), Kučište (UTM XH75), Ston (UTM YH14), and two new ones at Sreser (UTM YH05) and Potomje (UTM XH95).

Travniški vrabec je v južni Dalmaciji pogosta vrsta, ki naseljuje zlasti večja nižavja, kjer se lahko pojavlja celo v zelo velikem številu (lastna opazovanja). Vendar pa na primer reliefno precej razgibani polotok Pelješac naseljuje zelo raztreseno, predvsem v okolici naselij, kot so Žuljana, Viganj, Kučište, Mali Ston in Ston [RUCNER, D. (1998): Ptice hrvatske obale Jadrana. – Hrvatski prirodoslovni