

## BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA/ BOSNA IN HERCEGOVINA

### GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

**Čopasti ponirek** – na treh četrтинah vodne površine Buškega jezera (UTM XY63, Hercegovina) je bilo dne 9.6.2002 prešteti 523 osebkov. Glede na enakomerno razporeditev ptic se je na jezeru tega dne verjetno zadrževalo okoli 700 osebkov. Glede na habitat zaradi velikega nihanja vodne gladine vrsta verjetno tu ne gnezdi.

While taking a quick look through field glasses at Buško jezero (Hercegovina) on June 9<sup>th</sup> 2002, I noticed a large number of Great Crested Grebes in display plumage swimming either in pairs or in small groups on the lake's surface. From the spot near the village of Miši, I eventually surveyed, with a telescope, about three quarters of the lake. I counted no less than 532 individuals. Considering the fairly regular distribution of the grebes on the surface, I presumed that some 700 individuals frequented the lake on that particular day. In spite of the fact that they were mostly adults and that many swam in pairs, they did not breed there, presumably due to the lack of suitable breeding sites. Namely, the lake's shore is bare, and in view of this as well as of some visible signs of rapidly changing water surfaces it could be presumed that the water-level was being regulated at the nearby dam at short intervals. Great Crested Grebe stay quite late at their nest-sites and appear on their wintering grounds only in October or November [IL'ICHEV, V.D., ed. (1985): Handbuch der Vögel der Sowjetunion, Bd. 1. Gaviiformes, Podicipediformes, Procellariiformes, 1. Aufl. Wittenberg, Lutherstandt]. Considering this fact as well as my own observations at suitable places in Hercegovina (Svitavsko jezero, June 12<sup>th</sup> 2002, 110 pairs of Great Crested Grebes), it could be expected that the grebes would breed there at that time of the year. On Lake Constance in Germany, up to 2,500 pairs of Great Crested Grebes gather in summer flocks, but the breeding population still reaches 1,400 pairs on the very same lake [GÖNNER, C. (1999): Haubentacher – *Podiceps cristatus*. In: HEINE, G., H. JACOBY, H. LEUZINGER & H. STARK, (eds.): Die Vögel des Bodenseegebietes. Orn. Jh. Bad.-Württ. 14-15: 190-194]. The question of why such great number of sexually mature individuals gathered here - but did not breed on the lake owing to the unsuitable habitat as a result of the oscillating water-levels - thus remains unsolved.

Borut Rubinič, Institute Ornis balcanica, Pražakova 11, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia, e-mail: rubinic@siol.net

### KOTORNA *Alectoris graeca*

**Rock Partridge** – a number of Rock Partridges calling at the foot of Mt. Sniježnica (1804 m a.s.l.) on the NW edge of the Sutjeska canyon (UTM CP10, SE

Bosnia) on April 15<sup>th</sup> 2002. The author observed a Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* attempting to capture one of the partridges.

Severozahodni rob kanjona Sutjeske straži Sniježnica (1804 m n.v.), slikovita gora, ki se strmo in v skalnatih kaskadah pne nad Sutjesko ter obenem povezuje gori Vučevo (1512 m n.v.) na severovzhodu ter Maglič (2386 m n.v.) na jugovzhodu. Dne 15.4.2002 sem stikal pod zahodnim ostenjem gore in ves čas je bilo slišati oglašanje velikega števila kotorn, ki so ostenja tudi pogosto preletele. Toda ob vrnitvi iz pragozda Peručica sem opazil, kako se je samica sokola selca *Falco peregrinus* zaganjala za kotorno, ki pa si je srečno našla zavetje v ozki skalni razpoki v stenah Sniježnice. Oglašanje sokoljega para sem zasledil nedaleč od omenjenega dogodka, in sicer s sten Vidikovca, kjer po vsej verjetnosti tudi gnezdi, saj se je svarilno oglašal v obeh dneh, ko sem se zadrževal ob vzhodu stene. Ob robu pragozda se je ravno tako iz smeri Vidikovca oglašal še planinski orol *Aquila chrysaetos*, ki je kasneje tudi zajadril proti Volujku (2396 m n.v.). Velja zabeležiti še omembo Miloša, lovskega čuvaja v Nacionalnem parku Sutjeska, da je kamenjarica, kot tu imenujejo kotorno, precej pogosta vrsta ptice v širšem območju kanjona Sutjeske.

Boštjan Surina, Župančičeva 22, SI-6250 Ilirska Bistrica, Slovenija, e-mail: boštjan.surina@guest.arnes.si

### COMMON CRANE *Grus grus*

**Žerjav** – več opazovanj v Hercegovini med 6. in 9.3.2002: (1) 5 osebkov v bližini vasi Sajkovići (severni del Livanjskega polja, UTM XJ37), (2) 23 osebkov v Mostarskem blatu (UTM YJ10), (3) 10 osebkov blizu Karaotoka (Hutovo blato, UTM HY26), (4) 14 osebkov na vzhodnem obrežju Buškega jezera (UTM XJ63) in (5) okoli 50 osebkov v letu prek Biokova

During our three-day stay in Hercegovina between March 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 2002, the three of us, i.e. B. Štumberger, M. Schneider-Jacoby and the author, were constantly accompanied by most capricious spring weather. The rare moments of spare time and the short stops on the way to our destination in Mostar were dedicated in full to the observation of migrants in this ornithological poorly known region. We were particularly surprised by a large number of Common Cranes observed in various wetlands on our way. For the first time we noticed them on March 6<sup>th</sup> in the northern part of Livanjsko polje near the village of Sajkovići, when five (5) individuals flew towards the northern and almost entirely inundated part of the field. On the following morning of rainy March 7<sup>th</sup>, we counted 23 individuals during a short survey of Mostarsko blato. The cranes were not in a closely-knit group but in four (4) groups with two (2) adults and one (1) second-year bird each (4 x 2 ad. +1 juv.), and in groups of three adults (3 ad.), two adults (2 ad.) and six (6) individuals whose age,