

THE BREEDING OF WHITE-BACKED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos leucotos* ON MOUNT LISINA NEAR MRKONJIĆ-GRAD (BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA)

Gnezditelj belohrbtega detla *Dendrocopos leucotos* na gori Lisina pri Mrkonjić-Gradu (Bosna in Hercegovina)

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Observations of White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos* are rare on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina in recent times. I observed it only twice:

(1) 27 Apr 2002 Preville near Mrkonjić-Grad in a Beech *Fagus sylvatica* forest; 1 ♂ flew from the slopes of Lisina to the nearby mountain Orugla, where I observed it; in the vicinity, drumming of another woodpecker was heard;

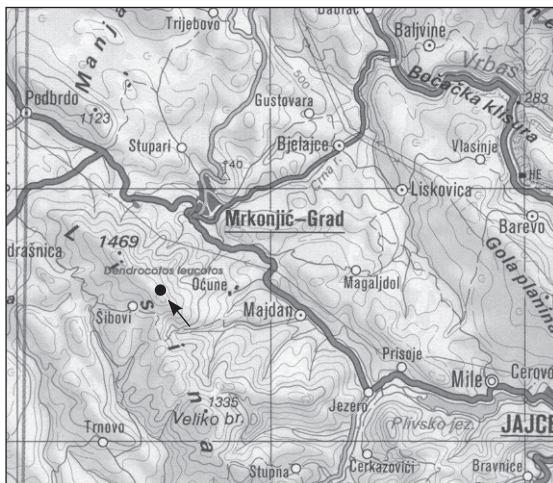


Figure 1: The location of the White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos* breeding ground on Mt Lisina (Bosnia and Herzegovina) in 2006

Slika 1: Lokacija gnezdišča belohrbtega detla *Dendrocopos leucotos* na gori Lisina (Bosna in Hercegovina) v letu 2006



Figure 2: Habitat around the nest of White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos* (photo: R. Gašić)

Slika 2: Habitat v okolici gnezda belohrbtega detla *Dendrocopos leucotos* (foto: R. Gašić)

(2) 16 Jul 2005 Jahorina Mt, Rajska dolina (trees in the hotel resort), I observed 1 individual.

A few times I heard »White-backed Woodpecker like« drumming, but could not determine species with absolute certainty.

In 2006 R. Gašić found an active nest of White-backed Woodpecker on Mt Lisina west of Mrkonjić-Grad (UTM XK61; Figure 1). During his mycological work, Radoslav Gašić noticed a pair staying in a particular area on 16 Apr and 1 May 2006, the habitat being Beech forest on the locality Kotac (44°22.527' N, 17°04.427' E, 1110 m a.s.l.; RADOSLAV GAŠIĆ, *pers. comm.*; Figure 2). This awoke suspicion that an active nest was nearby, moreover since he had observed a pair during spring 2005. On 16 May 2006, while observing this pair, he located the entrance of the nest in the upper part of a dry Beech. The nest was just a few metres below the Preville to Šibovi forest road. He photographed the nest and the birds carrying some kind of material from the nest.

To begin with I thought they were carrying chips of wood from the hollow. I visited this nest personally for the first time on 20 May 2006. The nest was approx. 14 m from ground level, with the opening oriented west. Further observations conducted by myself and R. Gašić (20 & 27 May 2006) showed that in the nest there were already feathered young and that the parents were carrying their excrement from the hollow (Figure 3 & 4). We could not determine the actual number of young but there were not less than three. The young were seen in the nest on 27 May 2006 and on 3 Jun the nest was empty.



Figure 3: Young White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos* on the nest (photo: R. Gašić)

Slika 3: Mladič belohrbtega detla *Dendrocopos leucotos* na gnezdu (foto: R. Gašić)

The general impression concerning White-backed Woodpecker in Bosnia and Herzegovina is that it is widespread but in low numbers and therefore rarely seen.

Plenty of data exists from the period of Otmar Reiser in Sarajevo, 1887–1920. The presence of White-backed Woodpecker was registered at a relatively large number of localities (44). These data were collected and presented by Svjetoslav Obratil (OBRATIL 1977). There is one report regarding the breeding: on Mt Vlašić – Han Goštjel on 23 Apr 1890, 1 pair breeding (OBRATIL 1977). Specimens from 7 localities were denoted as juv. and from one additional locality as semipull. which is an indirect proof of this species' breeding in Bosnia and Herzegovina before World War II.

After World War II very few data exist. RUCNER & OBRATIL (1973) refer to it as the species of mountain forest communities (*Musco-Fagetum*, *Mercuriali-Fagetum*, *Abieti-Fagetum*, *Orchido-Abietetum* & *Dryopteridi-Fagetum*) and of subalpine forests (*Aceri-Fagetum*, *Aceri visianii-Fagetum*, *Vaccinio-Fagetum* & *Aceri-Fraxinetum*).

However neither actual nesting data nor population data in these habitats are presented, only the number of individuals and pairs in specific transects.

OBRATIL (1987) reports that this species is present during the summer in montane Beech forests (*Fagetum moesiacaе montanum* BLEČ. et LKŠIĆ 1970) at 1040 m a.s.l., in the beech-fir community (*Abieti-Fagetum moesiacaе* BLEČ. et LKŠIĆ 1970) on locality Dragoš sedlo at 1200 m a.s.l., and in the community of subalpine beech forests (*Luzulo-Fagetum moesiacaе* LKŠIĆ 1969) on Prijedor at 1040 m a.s.l. There are no concrete breeding data.

There is only one additional piece of data: Hutovo Blato on 29 Nov 1960 when one a female White-backed Woodpecker was shot.

There are no data from northern Bosnia according to Obratil (OBRATIL 1983).

Povzetek

Dne 16.5.2006 je bilo najdeno aktivno gnezdo belohrbtega detla *Dendrocopos leucotos* v bukovem gozdu na planini Lisini v bližini Mrkonjić-Grada



Figure 4: Male White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos* near the nest (photo: R. Gašić)

Slika 4: Samec belohrbtega detla *Dendrocopos leucotos* v bližini gnezda (foto: R. Gašić)

(UTM XK61). Gnezdo je bilo v duplini v odmrli bukvi na lokaliteti Kotac (44°22.527' N, 17°04.427' E, približno 1110 m n.v.). Natančno število mladičev ni bilo ugotovljeno, vendar ocenjeno na najmanj tri. Zadnjič so bili na gnezdu mladiči opaženi 27.5.2006.

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