

## RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus* BREEDING IN MAGPIE'S *Pica pica* NEST BUILT ON A PYLON

### Gnezdenje rdečenoge postovke *Falco vespertinus* v gnezdu srake *Pica pica*, zgrajenem na nosilcu daljnovoda

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Although in Europe the Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* has declined by 20% over the last 20 years (TUCKER & HEATH 1994, BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL 2004), the species has been constantly increasing in Italy: the first breeding was observed in 1995 in Parma province (BRICHETTI *et al.* 1995, GRASSI *et al.* 1999), and in subsequent years the species has expanded westwards (PIACENZA, AMBROGIO *et al.* 2001), to the southeast (Modena and Ferrara provinces, (TINARELLI 1997, PIRAS 1999) and northwards (Treviso province, NARDO & MEZZAVILLA 1999).

The species usually nests in old corvids nests (up to 13 - 20 m above ground and within 3 - 4 m from tree tops), especially along hedgerows and occasionally on cliffs or on the ground (CRAMP 1980, SNOW & PERRINS 1999).



**Figure 1:** Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* nesting in Magpie's *Pica pica* nest built on a pylon

**Slika 1:** Rdečenoga postovka *Falco vespertinus* gnezdi v srakinem *Pica pica* gnezdu, zgrajenem na drogu nosilcu daljnovoda

In Italy, Red-footed Falcons breed preferentially in open agricultural plain landscape dominated by intensive agriculture with tree lines (Mezzano), irrigation ditches and natural and artificial wetlands.

Pairs are usually grouped in loose colonies of 5 to 10 pairs or isolated and situated on abandoned corvids nests on trees.

In mid-May 2004, a pair of Red-footed Falcon occupied a Magpie *Pica pica* nest built on a pylon in Diolo, Soragna Municipality (Parma; Figure 1). The height of the nest was 10.5 m, and on 19 Jul 2004, 4 pulli were fledged.

In the study area, 29 pairs have been identified and all were nesting in trees (White Poplar *Populus alba*, English Elm *Ulmus campestris*, Black Locust *Robinia pseudoacacia*, etc.), occupying Magpie (80%) and Carrion Crow *Corvus corone corone* nests (20%). In the neighbouring Piacenza province, two breeding pairs used an old Magpie nest and an old Carrion Crow nest on poplars *Populus nigra* and *Populus* sp. in 2000 (AMBROGIO *et al.* 2001).

### Povzetek

V Diolu (Parma, Italija) je leta 2004 par rdečenogih postovk *Falco vespertinus* gnezdil v srakinem *Pica pica* gnezdu na drogu električnega daljnovoda; 19.7.2004 so se speljali 4 mladiči.

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## STRONG AGONISTIC REACTION OF TERRITORIAL MALE BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* AGAINST ITS SELF-IMAGE

### Močna agonistična reakcija teritorialnega samca kosa *Turdus merula* proti lastni podobi

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In spring, high level of testosterone in males induces the vigorous territorial behaviour and song production (CATCHPOLE & SLATER 1995). However, birds usually try to avoid direct agonistic interactions, since they can cause serious injuries. Therefore, territorial males communicate with threat postures and song rather than with the direct attacks (GILL 1995). Usually, both visual and vocal stimuli are important for an aggressive male to attack.

However, on 17 Apr 2006 I observed, at Hrastje near Modraže in NE Slovenia (UTM WM53), a 2Y male Blackbird attacking his self-image in a mirror, although no vocal communication was present (Figure 1). The bird was constantly attacking the mirror through the whole day. When scared, it flew away, but was soon back again repeating its attacking behaviour



**Figure 1:** Strong agonistic reaction of 2Y male Blackbird *Turdus merula* against its self-image, recorded on 17 Apr 2006 at Hrastje near Modraže in NE Slovenia (UTM WM53)

**Slika 1:** Močno agonistično vedenje drugoletnega samca kosa *Turdus merula* proti lastni podobi v ogledalu, opaženo dne 17.4.2006 v Hrastju pri Modražah (SV Slovenija; UTM WM53)

(Figure 1). I made a small experiment and placed a predator dummy, a stuffed Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*, to see if mobbing or predator-induced behaviour would prevail over social or territorial behaviour as known in some other bird species, e.g. Arabian Babbler *Turdoides squamiceps* (SOMMER & MUNDY 2005). At the beginning, the territorial Blackbird inspected the dummy, but later continued with attacks on its own image. When the mirror was removed, the bird came back several times to search for the “intruder”.

The search lasted for approximately 15 minutes, and then the male engaged in singing or vocal display. The case shows that the territoriality in mating season can induce, at least in some males, strong agonistic reaction to intraspecific intruders. There is a question, however, whether this is a general phenomenon or is just restricted to some more aggressive or young males establishing their territories.

### Povzetek

Opazovanje drugoletnega teritorialnega samca kosa *Turdus merula*, ki je 17.4.2006 v zaselku Hrastje pri Modražah (UTM WM53, SV Slovenija) silovito napadal lastno podobo v ogledalu. Z agresivnim vedenjem ni prenehal niti tedaj, ko mu je bila nastavljena lutka plenilca, nagačena lesna sova *Strix aluco*. Napadati je nehal šele po odstranitvi ogledala. Primer kaže na močne agresivne odzive teritorialnih samcev v gnezditveni sezoni, zato bi bilo v prihodnje koristno preveriti, ali se pojav kaže le pri nekaterih osebkih ali gre za splošen pojav.

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## THE NUMBER OF SPANISH SPARROW *Passer hispaniolensis* NESTS IN THE NERETVA DELTA (S DALMATIA, CROATIA)

### Število gnezd travniškega vrabca *Passer hispaniolensis* v delti Neretve (J Dalmacija, Hrvaška)

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The Neretva delta region has probably played an important part in the expansion of the Spanish Sparrow, as this was the source area from where these birds colonized north Dalmatia and the islands further away in the late 1970's (LUKAČ 2004). Relying on his own data and literature reports on only 353 known nests in South Dalmatia, LUKAČ (2004) estimates the amount of Spanish Sparrows breeding in the region at around 3,500 – 19,000. As there is little information about Spanish Sparrows breeding in the Neretva delta (KRALJ 1996), it is important to publish as much data about the number of breeding pairs as possible.

Between 3 – 10 Apr 2006, we travelled several times from Metković to Lake Kutina. Along the 11 km long road between Bijeli Vir and Kutina, a total of 263 Spanish Sparrow nests were counted (no nests were found in Dubravica and Kosa). The distribution of the nests was as follows: in Bijeli Vir (YH16) 186 nests in 21 poplar trees *Populus* sp., and 2 in 1 willow *Salix* sp. In Mlinišće (YH16) 21 in 1 plane tree *Platanus* sp., 14 in 1 mulberry tree *Morus* sp., and 28 in 4 willows. In single poplars in Mislina (YH16), Badžula (YH16, YH15) and Kutina (YH15), 2, 7 and 3 nests were found, respectively.

The number of these nests (263) provides information on the breeding period of the previous year (2005). In case some of the breeding pairs built new nests for the second clutch, that meant somewhat less pairs. However, it is not known how many of the nests were lost during the winter, and how many of the nests were overlooked by the observers. Also, a certain number of nests inside the colonies might have been used by other sparrow species (*Passer domesticus*,

*P. montanus*). The number of Spanish Sparrows that may breed in the area seems to be a realistic figure. Any deviation in the survey result could be eliminated by repeating the counts both in the breeding season and after the leaves have fallen away.

### Povzetek

Avtorja sta napravila popis travniških vrabcev *Passer hispaniolensis* v delti Neretve (J Dalmacija, Hrvaška) na osnovi štetja gnezd v aprilu 2006. Skupno število gnezd je bilo 263.

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## NOVA OPAZOVANJA SELITVE UJED NA VOLOVJI REBRI (J SLOVENIJA)

### New observations of birds of prey migrating over Volovja reber (S Slovenia)

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Ujede se med selitvijo pogosto odzivajo na topografijo, kar se kaže v večjem koncentriranju teh ptic vzdolž gorskih grebenov in prelazov (HAUGH 1972). V sklopu raziskav selitve ujed v Sloveniji je bilo v jeseni 2006 organizirano opazovanje na več lokacijah po Sloveniji. Opazovanja so se začela konec avgusta in že prvi dan opazovanja so se na Volovji rebri (UTM VL44) pokazali zanimivi rezultati.

Selitev ujed na Volovji rebri smo opazovali 29.8.2006 med 7.30 in 15.00 h. Ponoči je deževalo po vsej Sloveniji, zjutraj pa se je v zahodni Sloveniji razjasnilo. Meja med oblačnostjo na vzhodu in jasnino na zahodu je bila prek celotnega opazovalnega dne nad točko opazovanja. Na območju je nad tlemi pihal srednje močan SV veter, zračne mase pa so se sodeč po oblakih že kakih 100 – 200 m nad temi premikale v nasprotni smeri.

Selitev sva večino časa opazovala dva opazovalca na grebenu med Veliko Milanjo (1099 m) in Devinom (1088 m). Za opazovanje sva uporabljala daljnogleda s karakteristikami 7 × 42 in 19 × 42, ter teleskopa 20 – 60 × 80 ter širokokotni 30 × 80.

Ob prihodu na opazovalno točko sta z vrha Lunjevica (1014 m) zletela dva beloglava jastreba *Gyps fulvus*, ki sta tu verjetno prenočevala, saj je bila Lunjevica v tem času še v megli oz. oblakih. Jastreba sta sedela na boru in odletela proti SZ. Grebenu sta se spet približala nad Belimi ovcami (1030 m) in do Milanke (948 m) letela okrog 50 m nad grebenom.

Najštevilčnejša vrsta znotraj časa opazovanja je bil rjavi lunj *Circus aeruginosus*. Prvi osebek je preletel območje ob 8.15, zadnji pa ob 11.01. Lunji so preletavali območje posamič ali v skupinah do max. 5 osebkov. Skupaj je bilo opazovanih 22 rjavih lunjev. Lunji so širše območje Volovje rebri preletavali v dveh zgoštitvah. Devet jih je preletelo greben med Belimi ovcami in Milanko, ter nadaljevali let v smeri JZ. Greben so preleteli v pasu med 10 in 100 metri nad tlemi. Druga zgoštitvev rjavih lunjev, po kateri je

območje preletelo 12 ptic, je bila vzhodno od Velike Milanje, kjer so ptice prek Devina, prav tako v pasu pod 100 m, nadaljevale pot naravnost proti jugu.

Zelo podobno kot rjavi lunji so območje preletavali sršenarji *Pernis apivorus*. Opaženih je bilo 10 sršenarjev, od katerih se je en par vedel teritorialno (svatovski let) in se je stalno zadrževal nad Suhim vrhom (1171 m). Drugi so območje preleteli na istih mestih kot rjavi lunji. Svatovanje para sršenarjev se je časovno ujemalo s preletom drugih sršenarjev in rjavih lunjev. Teritorialno vedenje para je zanimivo, saj naj bi sršenarji gnezdišča v tem času že zapuščali (CRAMP 1980).

Od selečih se vrst je bil opazovan še ribji orol *Pandion haliaetus*, ki je greben preletel na višini okrog 40 metrov, med Veliko Milanko in Devinom, ter nadaljeval proti JZ.

Druge opazovane vrste ujed smo uvrstili med stalnice. V času opazovanja je območje dvakrat preletel planinski orol *Aquila chrysaetos*, prek celega dopoldneva so se med Belimi ovčami in Devinom pojavljali skobec *Accipiter nisus*, postovka *Falco tinnunculus* ter kanje *Buteo buteo* v skupinah po največ 2 osebka. Seleče se vrste ujed smo opazovali samo med 8.15 in 11.10 h, stalnice pa tudi v preostalem času opazovanja.

Pri opazovanjih je bila zanimiva predvsem nizka višina preleta ujed nad grebenom, kar pripisujemo vetrnim razmeram. Ocenjujemo, da so bile razmere za jadranje s pomočjo vzgornjиков zelo slabe. Noben od sršenarjev ni izkoriščal vzgornjиков za jadranje, kljub temu da sodijo v tipično skupino selivk, ki se selijo s pomočjo jadrnja v vzgornjиковih (SPAR 1997). Enako smo opazili pri rjavih lunjih, za katere v nasprotju z drugimi lunji prav tako velja, da v ugodnih razmerah v vzgornjиковih jadrajo kar pogosto (SPAR & BRUDERER 1997). Let obeh vrst se prav tako ni razlikoval od leta ribjega orla, ki ne velja za jadralca in v nasprotju z jadrajočimi vrstami pogosto prečka večja območja brez termike (KERLINGER 1985). Vse tri vrste so nadaljevale pot v nizkem ravnem jadrajočem letu, pogosto prekinjenem s kratkimi intervali zamahovanja s perutmi. Na celotni opazovani poti, ki je bila zaradi dobre vidljivosti dolga več kilometrov, so se tlom najbolj približale edino na grebenu Volovje rebri. Razlog za to je bil verjetno v izkoriščanju vetra, ki je nad grebenom pihal v smeri njihovega leta, zračne mase pa so se na višjih nadmorskih višinah pomikale v obratni smeri.

## Summary

Preliminary results of the observation of birds of prey during migration on Volovja reber (UTM VL44, S Slovenia) are presented. On 29 Aug 2006 several

interesting species were observed: 2 Griffon Vultures *Gyps fulvus* resting on the ground, 22 Marsh Harriers *Circus aeruginosus*, 10 Honey Buzzards *Pernis apivorus* and 1 Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*. The birds were flying in the belt below 100 m above the ridge.

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## NEW DATA ON THE BIRDS OF PONOR MOUNTAINS, (W BULGARIA)

### Novi podatki o pticah pogorja Ponor (Z Bolgarija)

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Up to year 2000 only fragmentary data about birds of the Ponor Mountain existed. After that more extensive studies were carried out. The bird species composition and status was determined by STOYANOV (2001) and breeding bird distribution and number by NIKOLOV (2003) and NIKOLOV & VASSILEV (2003 & 2004). The aim of the present study was to broaden the knowledge of bird species composition and status.



Figure 1: Location of the Ponor Mountains in Bulgaria

Slika 1: Položaj pogorja Ponor v Bolgariji

The Ponor Mountains is a part of the Western Stara Planina (STEFANOV 2002; Figure 1) and belongs to the continental moderate climatic zone (VULEV 1997). The study area comprises a total of 272 km<sup>2</sup> between 360 and 1601 m a.s.l. and borders to the west on the Ginska River, to the south on the Iskretska River; to the east on the Iskar River and abuts to north on the Koznica Mountains. The eastern border of the Ponor Mountains lies on the Via Aristotelis migration route. The major plant communities are formed by trees such as oak *Quercus* sp., hornbeam *Carpinus* sp. and Beech *Fagus sylvatica* (BONDEV 1991).

The present study was carried out during 8 years between 1996 and 2003, for a total of 115 days of

fieldwork. All habitats were visited and observations were made in all seasons. The status of species was described following SVENSSON *et al.* (2000) with some modifications: rB – resident breeding species: present during the whole year; mB – migratory breeding species: coming in spring, breeding in study area and migrating in autumn; P – passage visitor: present only during migration; W – winter visitor: present only during winter period; V – vagrant species: present occasionally, out of migration period and not breeding or wintering in the in the studied area; E – extinct species: conspicuous resident breeders in the study region, which were not proved for the present survey; NF – species with no fixed status: shy resident or migrating breeders, found during past works, but not observed during the present survey.

Till 2001 176 species were known for the Ponor Mountains (STOYANOV 2001). During the present study 9 species unrecorded before in the study area were found (Table 1).

As a final result the number of bird species observed in the Ponor Mountains is 185. Most of them are

Status of birds in the Ponor mountains

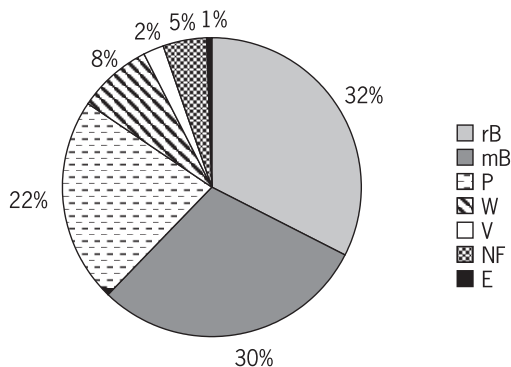


Figure 2: Proportion of different groups of birds according to their status in the Ponor Mountains (legend see text)

Slika 2: Delež skupin ptic glede na njihov status v pogorju Ponor (legenda glej tekst)

breeders – 115 species (NIKOLOV & VASSILEV 2004), where 60 are resident and 55 are migratory. The rest 70 species are not breeding in the study area: the passage visitors during spring and autumn migrations are 41, the winter visitors – 15, the vagrants – 4, these with no fixed status – 9 and there is 1 extinct species (Figure 2).

**Table 1:** New species found in the Ponor Mountains during the present survey, their status and observation details (abbreviations see text).**Tabela 1:** Nove vrste najdene med raziskavo v pogorju Ponor, njihov status in podrobnosti opazovanja (okrajšave glej tekst).

Species / Vrsta	Status	Date / Datum	N	Location / Kraj
<i>Circus pygargus</i>	P	9 May 1999	1 male	2 km north of Zimevitza village at 1400 m a.s.l.
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	P	15 Oct 2000	1	along the Iskar river near Svoге town
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	mB	Apr – Sep; 2001 & 2002	4	small marsh along the Iskar river near Svoге town
<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	NF			according to the information from local rangers the Chukar was introduced in the region (Manastirishte area) for hunt in the 90s but it was not confirmed during the present study
<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	rB	Feb – Jun; 2000 & 2002	4 males	near Dobravitzа village in 2000 and near Brakyovtzi village in 2002 in Beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> forest (NIKOLOV 2003).
<i>Apus pallida</i>	mB	May 2002	6 (3 pairs)	the hut Petrohan
<i>Anthus campestris</i>	mB	24 Jun 2002	2 (pair)	northwest of Breze village
<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	P	9 Apr 1999	3	Zimevishki Kladenec valley
		15 Oct 2000	5	Shiroki Val valley
<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	P	15 Oct 2000	1	outflow of Iskretska river

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### Povzetek

Članek prispeva nove podatke o sestavi in statusu nekaterih vrst ptic v pogorju Ponor, Z Bolgarija. Ugotovljenih je bilo devet novih vrst, obdobje raziskave pa je trajalo kar 8 let, opravljenih pa je bilo 115 terenskih dni med leti 1996 in 2003. Skupno število vrst tega območja se je tako povečalo s 176 na 185 vrst. Na pogorju gnezdi 115 vrst (60 stalnic in 55 selivk), ostale vrste pa so: 41 preletnih gostov, 15 zimskih gostov, 4 klateži, 1 izumrla vrsta in 9 vrst, ki imajo nejasen status.

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## A SHORT REVIEW OF THE STATUS OF BONNELLI'S EAGLE *Hieraaetus fasciatus* IN BULGARIA

### Kratek pregled statusa kraguljega orla *Hieraaetus fasciatus* v Bolgariji

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The Bonelli's Eagle is rather rare in Bulgaria with breeding population estimated at one to three pairs for the 1996 – 2002 period (BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL 2004) and one possible breeding pair for 2004 (NANKINOV *et al.* 2004). There have been seven published localities of the species so far and only one nest found in the country (SIMEONOV *et al.* 1990). Present below are three observations of Bonelli's Eagle in the region of Madjarovo town in the Eastern Rhodopes.

On 3 May 2003 two adult birds were observed flying together and taking liberties with one another in the region of Madjarovo town (UTM MG01). On 25 May 2005 a 3y Bonelli's Eagle was observed soaring at about 2 km north of Madjarovo town. The bird flew away in north-eastern direction. Second 3y Bonelli's Eagle was observed near the dam of the Studen Kladenetz Reservoir (UTM LG80) flying to the east along the Arda River at about 120 m height at 12.02 h on 21 May 2006. The bird was in transitional plumage with reddish-brown underbody and under wing-covers beginning to develop under wing black bar and dark trailing tail band (SVENSSON *et al.* 2000).

It is probable that the Bonelli's Eagle breeds in the area of Madjarovo town because the landscape there corresponds a lot to the habitat preferred by the species: arid, sparsely vegetated mountainous areas, with foothills, river valleys, gorges and steep cliffs (REAL *et al.* 1997).

### Povzetek

Avtorji podajajo nove podatke o pojavljanju kraguljega orla v letih 2003, 2005 in 2006 v bližini mesta Madjarovo v vzhodnih Rodopih (UTM MG01; Bolgarija), kjer je možna tudi gnezditve.

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## A RECENT EVIDENCE OF THE SPRING MIGRATION OF MEDITERRANEAN SHEARWATER *Puffinus yelkouan* ALONG THE BULGARIAN BLACK SEA COAST

### Novi dokazi o pomladni selitvi sredozemskega viharnika *Puffinus yelkouan* vzdolž obale Črnega morja v Bolgariji

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After the 1970s, the Mediterranean Shearwater has been observed passing along the western Black Sea coast in flocks of up to 13,500 or even 20,000 individuals in some years (SIMEONOV *et al.* 1990). It is known that the species is more numerous near the Bulgarian Black Sea coast between July and October (SIMEONOV *et al.* 1990). The data presented below for the past four years shows that the species passes in significant numbers near the Bulgarian Black Sea coast also in April and May.

In 2003: on 28 Apr, a flock of 30 Mediterranean Shearwaters was observed offshore in the region of Durankulak Lake (UTM PJ23); on 29 Apr, two groups of birds (consisting of 170 and 70 birds) were seen flying to the north offshore near Cape Kaliakra (UTM PJ01); on 5 May, a group of 272 Mediterranean Shearwaters flying to the north at about 1 km far from the coast was seen in the region of the village of Kamen Brjag (UTM PJ12) (NIKOLOV, B., NIKOLOV, S. & DUCOV, A. *pers. comm.*); on 10 May, a flock of 2,000 individuals was seen off the coast of Lake Atanasovsko (UTM NH03) (MICHEV *et al.* 2004); between 14 and 17 May, several groups consisting of 1,200 to 10,000 birds were observed feeding at the entrance of Varna

Gulf (UTM NH87) (MITEV, D. *pers. comm.*); on 19 and 20 May, few groups consisting of 5,400 to 12,000 birds were observed feeding at a distance of 400 to 2,000 m from the coast and spending the night in smaller groups (up to 500 – 1,000 individuals) in the region of Cape Kaliakra; on 28 May, a flock of 50 birds was seen flying to the north at a distance about 1 km from the coast in the region of Lake Alepu (UTM NG95). In 2004: on 9 May, two flocks consisting of 100 and 200 individuals were observed in the gulf of the Sveti Vlas village (UTM NH25) (PAPPS, S. *pers. comm.*); on 10 and 11 May, groups of respectively 6 and 21 birds were observed at the foregoing site; on 11 May, a flock of 10 birds was seen offshore flying to the south near Irakli Bay (UTM NH73); on 13 May, 8 individuals were observed flying to the north on Cape Kaliakra; on 30 May, 2 birds were seen near the Sveti Vlas village. In 2005: on 10 May, one Mediterranean Shearwater was seen in the sea flying to the east in the region of the Sarafovo village (UTM NH41) and 9 birds (6 flying to the south-east, and 3 to the north) were observed offshore on Cape Emine (UTM NH72); on 12 May, a flock consisting of 450 individuals was observed offshore in the region of Durankulak Lake. In 2006: on 23 May, 50 birds were seen flying to the south at 1 km offshore in the region of Durankulak Lake at 9.30 h and a group of about 1,300 individuals was observed feeding together with 10 dolphins at a distance of 500 – 800 m from the coast at 16.30 h in the region of the Kamen Brjag village; on 25 May, a group of 3 birds was seen flying to the north at about 1.5 km distance from the coast in the region of Nesebar town (UTM NH25) at 10.00 h and 53 birds were seen feeding at a distance of about 2 km offshore in the region of Cape Kaliakra at 16.30 h; on 26 May, a group of 4 birds flying to the north at about 1 km distance from the coast was seen in the area of Lake Durankulak at 10.05 h and two groups consisting of 1,300 and 1,000 individuals were observed simultaneously flying to the north at distances 1.5 and 2 km respectively from the coast in the region of the Kamen Brjag village between 16.20 and 16.50 h.

#### Povzetek

Avtorji podajajo nove dokaze o spomladanski selitvi sredozemskega viharnika *Puffinus yelkouan* vzdolž obale Črnega morja v Bolgariji; navajajo podatke za zadnja štiri leta (2003 – 2006), ki kažejo, da se sredozemski viharnik pojavlja redno in v precejšnjem številu, največje zabeleženo število pa je bilo 12.000 osebkov.

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## EVIDENCE FOR THE REGULAR SPRING AND AUTUMN MIGRATION OF TEREK SANDPIPER *Xenus cinereus* ALONG THE WESTERN BLACK SEA COAST

### Dokazi o redni spomladanski in jesenski selitvi sabljastega martinca *Xenus cinereus* vzdolž zahodne obale Črnega morja

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The Terek Sandpiper is a regular migrant to the region of the eastern Black Sea with important route between the Ural and Volga rivers and birds also passing through Transcaucasus and Ukraine (DEMENTIEV & GLADKOV 1951). The species is considered to be a rare visitor or vagrant farther west, including the Balkans (CRAMP 1983) and there are few published observations in Bulgaria (NANKINOV *et al.* 1997, MICHEV *et al.* 2004).

On 16 Sep 2002, a juvenile Terek Sandpiper was seen on the beach of nature protected site Poda (UTM NH03). The species was observed at the same site in the ensuing year (on 16 Sep). A Terek Sandpiper was seen on 22 and 31 Sep 2004 at Shablenska Tuzla salty lake (UTM PJ22). The observed individuals stayed separately from the other Waders presented at the foregoing sites. On 14 Aug 2005, two adult Terek Sandpipers in summer plumage were seen together at 14.00 h in the northern part of Pomorie Lake salt pans (UTM NH51). The birds were staying close (3 – 5 meters) to a number of Curlew Sandpipers *Calidris ferruginea*, Little Stints *C. minuta*, Dunlins *C. alpina*, Kentish Plovers *Charadrius alexandrinus*, Avocets *Recurvirostra avocetta* and one Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* all feeding around. The two Terek Sandpipers flew away together at 14.15 h. The species was observed during the next year at the same site:

in the middle part of Pomorie Lake salt pans between 9.06 and 9.28 h local time on 24 May 2006. It was an adult bird in breeding plumage: the body upperparts were brown-grayish with black feather centers, the legs were dingy orange and the up-curved bill was black with basal third tinged dirty orange (CRAMP 1983). The observed Terek Sandpiper stayed alone and did not join the Curlew Sandpipers, Little Stints, Avocets, Kentish and Ringed Plovers *Charadrius hiaticula* that were present nearby.

The foregoing observations reveal that almost every year several Terek Sandpipers pass (in spring and in autumn) along the western Black Sea coast through the Via Pontica flyway. In some years, some individuals even rest in Bulgaria during the summer (PETKOV 2005).

### **Povzetek**

Avtorji povzemajo nove podatke o pojavljanju sabljastega martinca *Xenus cinereus* na črnomorski obali (V Bolgarija). Posamični primerki so se v obdobju 2002 – 2006 pojavljali skoraj vsako leto, spomladi in jeseni.

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