

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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