

that are distinct from those of other pipits (Tree Pipit *A. trivialis*, Meadow Pipit *A. pratensis*, Water Pipit *A. spinoletta* or Tawny Pipit *A. campestris*) present in the area. The birds were hiding in the grass and were difficult to observe owing to their quick movements and "rodent" type behaviour. After some time, however, we were able to observe them long enough to establish that they were in the first winter plumage as depicted in Collins Field Guide [MULLARNEY, K., SVENSSON, L., ZETTERSTÖM, D & GRANT, P.J. (1999): The most complete field guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe. – Harper Collins, London]. Unfortunately, we were not in position to photograph them. Red-throated Pipits are considered accidental and rare species in Croatia [KRALJ, J. & RADOVIĆ, D. (2002): Rare birds in Croatia. 1st Report of the Croatian Rarities Committee. – *Larus* 48: 73–83; KRALJ, J. (2005): Rare birds in Croatia. 2nd Report of the Croatian Rarities Committee. – *Larus* 49: 37–51]. Until this observation, only 21 individuals had been observed or ringed on five occasions in the Mediterranean part of Croatia from Pag Island to the Neretva delta. They have never been recorded in the continental part of Croatia, including Kopački rit Nature Park. This observation is therefore the first of this species in this area, making the 294th species on the checklist. It is interesting that Red-throated Pipits have been regular migrants during spring and autumn in nearby Hungary and the Vojvodina region, Serbia, where the senior author (J. MIKUSKA) had a chance to observe them on several occasions at Lake Ludasko and Kapetanski rit.

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CITRONASTA PASTIRICA *Motacilla citreola*

Citrine Wagtail – one observed on 29 Apr 2004 initially in a bush and eventually in flight above a wet meadow at Donje blato (UTM XH75, Korčula Island, S Dalmatia); the record was confirmed by the National Rarities Committee

Dne 29.4.2004 sva obiskala močvirne travnike Donje blato pri mestu Korčula na otoku Korčula v južni Dalmaciji. Tam sva ob prvi mlaki nekje na sredini travnikov na grmovju opazila majhno ptico, ki je nisva takoj prepoznala, kljub uporabi teleskopa in daljnogleda. Ptica je bila delno zakrita z vejami, tako da nama je bila razkrita le prva polovica telesa. Bila je rumena po glavi in sedela je na grmu, zato sva takoj pomislila na rumenega *Emberiza citrinella* ali pa plotnega strnada *Emberiza cirrus*. Zaradi posebnega vzorca rumene barve na glavi sva obe vrsti strnada izločila. Živo

rumeni podbradek se je nadaljeval v polkrožno rumeno črto, ki se je končala kot rumena nadočesna črta s koncem pri očesu. Preostali del glave je bil rumeno rjav. Ptica je najinega oprezanja imela očitno dovolj, in je odletela. V letu sva prepoznala značilni let pastirice, kar naju je v kombinaciji z rumeno glavo napeljalo na rumeno pastirico *Motacilla flava*, vendar sva potem opazila siv hrbet, kar naj bi govorilo o sivi pastirici *Motacilla cinerea*. Potem ko sva se "posvetovala" s Collinsonim priročnikom za opazovanje ptic, sva izločila vse podvrste rumenih pastiric, prav tako siva pastirica nima rumene glave. V opazovanem osebku sva tako prepoznala citronasto pastirico. Bila je bodisi samec ali samica v zimskem perju. Kljub intenzivnemu iskanju in večkratnim obiskom Donjega blata pa citronaste pastirice nisva več videla. Prav zlahka bi se skrila v grmovju ali med mnogimi rumenimi pastiricami, ki so ta kraj izkoriščale kot selitveno postojanko. Le-teh sva našla štiriinštirideset (44). Podatek je potrdila Nacionalna komisija za redkosti.

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ČRNOČELI SRAKOPER *Lanius minor*

Lesser Grey Shrike – on 10 Aug 2004, two young individuals were spotted in a tree on the edge of a stony pasture at Velo blato (UTM WK00, Pag Island, W Croatia); every few minutes an adult individual appeared

Dne 10.8.2004 sva se odpravila na Velo blato na otoku Pag. Tam sva opazovala dva mlada črnočela srakoperja, h katerima je vsakih nekaj minut priletel odrasel osebek. Mlada osebk sta sedela vrh nizkega drevesa na robu ograjenega kamnitega travnika na pobočju SV od Velega blata. Zanimivo je, da gnezdenje črnočelega srakoperja še ni bilo zabeleženo za hrvaške otoke – razen za otok Krk [RUCNER, D. (1998): Ptice hrvatske obale Jadrana. – Hrvatski prirodoslovni muzej, Ministrstvo razvitka i obnove, Zagreb]. Hranjenje mladih pa vsekakor kaže na možno gnezdenje, čeprav je datum nekoliko pozen.

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TRAVNIŠKI VRABEC *Passer hispaniolensis*

Spanish Sparrow – several observations of Spanish Sparrows during the Student Research Camp on Korčula Island (Dalmatia, W Croatia) in 2004; the first observation on 24 Apr 2004 concerned two

individuals frequenting the area near the village of Čara (UTM XH55); on 26 Apr 2004, we saw ten individuals in three groups near the town of Lumbarda (UTM XH75); on 27 Apr 2004, we observed five individuals in Postrana town; our last observation made on 28 Apr 2004 comprised forty individuals hiding in the bushes near the Vela luka – Cape Privala road (UTM XH45)

Med študentskim biološkim taborom na otoku Korčuli v letu 2004 smo se večkrat srečali s travniškimi vrabci. Prvič smo jih opazili dne 24.4.2004 pri naselju Čara, in sicer dva osebk, ki sta se kopala v obcestnem pesku. Dne 26.4.2004 smo pri naselju Lumbarda opazovali v treh skupinah deset osebkov, dne 27.4.2004 pa smo med poslušanjem smrdokavre *Upupa epops* v naselju Postrana opazili pet osebkov, ki so se zadrževali v bližini hiš. Nazadnje smo se srečali s to vrsto 28.4.2004 pri kalu ob cesti, ki vodi od Vele Luke proti rtu Privala. Opazovali smo štirideset osebkov, ki so se skrivali po grmovju.

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BOSNA IN HERCEGOVINA / BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica*

Rdeča lastovka – najdeni dve gnezdi: 29.10.2006 pri vasi Rajići v dolini Drežnice (UTM YJ12 Z od Mostarja) ter v jami Velika pečina (UTM YH38, J od Blagaja)

More than 20 years ago, S. Obratil gave an overview of the area inhabited by the Red-rumped Swallow in Bosnia and Herzegovina [OBRATIL (1982): Areal lastavice pečinske *Hirundo daurica rufala* Temm. U SR Bosni i Hercegovini. – Glasnik Zemaljskog muzeja, Prirodne nauke, nova serija, 21: 173–182], in which he referred to four localities: the western part of Popovo polje, Hutovo blato, the Bregava valley upstream from Stolac and near the town of Gornja Grabovica on the Mostar – Sarajevo road. Now we can add two more localities to this list. The first is a small cave above the village of Rajići in the Drežnica valley (northwest from Mostar) (UTM YJ12) along the road leading to Mala Čvrnsnica, which we visited on 29 Oct 2006. The second is Velika pečina, not far from Izvor Bunice (UTM YH38) south from Blagaj near Mostar, which we explored on 5 Nov 2006. In both caves, only nests were found, without the presence of birds, which is normal for that time of the year.

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WALLCREEPER *Tichodroma muraria*

Skalni plezalček – 1 osebek opažen dne 27.8.2006 na gori Čvrnsnici (UTM YJ12, S Hercegovina)

After some of the rare genuine mountaineers in Bosnia and Herzegovina, led by Faruk Zahirović and Zdravko Raštegorec, made the first bivouac in Zakamenica (UTM YJ12, N Herzegovina) under the cliff called Veliki kuk on Mt Čvrnsnica and set up some ropes to secure the path, the valley of Grabovica became one of the most visited places of this mountain. On 27 Aug 2006, Kenan Pašić, Ilhan Dervović and I went there to shoot some material for a documentary that had been in the making for almost three years. The visit to the left canyon (towards the entries to the alpinist routes) was rewarded with a Wallcreeper, spotted on a rock on the left side above the first metal steps. The ornithological literature of Bosnia and Herzegovina [OBRATIL, S. (1966): Pregled istraživanja ornitofaune Bosne i Hercegovine (I dio). – Glasnik Zemaljskog muzeja Bosne i Hercegovine u Sarajevu, Prirodne nauke, nova serija V: 191–268] makes no mention of this bird on Mt Čvrnsnica.

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ALPINE CHOUGH *Pyrrhocorax graculus*

Planinska kavka – jata 375 osebkov opažena dne 29.10.2006 nad Malo Čvrnsnico (UTM YJ12, SZ od Mostarja)

During our speleological explorations implemented in the last few years we have been intensively noting down all information on the occurrence and nesting of Alpine Chough on the mountains of Bosnia and Herzegovina. These are mostly smaller flocks nesting in certain pits and caves. The excursion to the valley of Drežnica (north-west of Mostar) on 29 Oct 2006 and the ascent along the old shepherd road towards Mala Čvrnsnica led us to the “bench” at Borovi rat. From one side, an unforgettable view of the Čvrnsnica valley and Mt Čabulja opens up, while from the other side the peaks of Krst and Srednji rat (UTM YJ12) of Mala Čvrnsnica are to be seen. Exactly above this second peak, a flock of Alpine Choughs appeared at the end of the day. Thanks to the photograph, I was able to count 375 birds. Besides me, Ilhan Dervović and Salko Lalić, a local man from Gornja Drežnica, were there to see the unusual sight.

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