

MAROKO / MOROCCO

BALD IBIS *Geronticus eremita*

Klavžar – opazovana jata 31 osebkov 8. 9. 2016 pri kraju Tamri (UTM MP 29, zahodni osrednji Maroko). Ptice so se prehranjevale na kamnitih tleh z redkim grmovjem; populacija v Maroku je stabilna, a kritično ogrožena IUCN kategorija C2a(ii).

In September 2016, the authors mapped the range of a striped ground squirrel *Euxerus erythropus* around Agadir in Morocco. On 8 Sep 2016, we travelled along the coastal road from Agadir towards Essaouira. In the Tamri National Park, coordinates N 30° 67' 45,00" W 9° 88' 0,90", altitude 32 m a.s.l., a flock of Bald Ibises *Geronticus eremita* flew over us. To our surprise, the birds landed near the road on the rocky cliffs with sandy dunes and started feeding. They were not particularly shy and did not pay attention to us, although we were only about 200 meters away. This gave us enough time for detailed observations (Figure 25). The Bald Ibises intensively scoured the ground and low bushes for food. There were 31 birds. We paid attention to a juvenile coloration and none of the animals had a fledged head, which is typical of the young. Not a single bird was ringed or otherwise marked. The area was desolated, with no human settlements around. The Bald Ibis is classified as critically endangered in The IUCN Red list of Threatened Species. It is known from two separate populations, the western in Morocco and the eastern in Turkey and Syria. At present, the western population is stable with 524 individuals (115 pairs) in 2014. There are 1,200 more individuals in European zoos (BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL 2015).

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Figure 25 / Slika 25: Bald Ibis / Klavžar *Geronticus eremita*, Tamri, 8. 9. 2016 (Photo: C. R. Stanciu)

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