

the night was moonless, the sky was almost cloudless and the wind and temperatures were very mild. At around 21:30, when we were a little less than 1 km away from Sv. Vid, we suddenly but clearly heard two or three successive mating calls of a male Little Crane from the drainage channel running along the road. The bird was in a very dense and impassable 1 to 3 m high vegetation belt at a distance of around 5 to 10 m from us on the opposite bank of the channel. The drainage channel on this spot runs parallel to the road and borders on small vegetable and fruit gardens on its other side. After a couple of minutes we compared the heard voices with the recordings we had brought with us [FEINDT, P. (1968): Vier europäische Rallenarten. – Eigenverlag] for the sake of certainty. D. RUCNER [RUCNER, D. (1952/53): Birds of the Neretva valley. – *Larus* 6/7: 53–138] reported only one collected specimen from the lower Neretva region, shot on 2 Apr 1949 at Njivice. Other so far unpublished data were obtained in the lower Neretva valley during the census of Bittern and other reed birds carried out between 26 Apr and 2 May 2001 (see SACKL *et al.* 2003). During the census, Dominik Bombek, Barbara Pihlak and Jakob Smole heard, in the evening of 28 Apr 2001, mating calls of a single male in the reed beds near Opuzen. The same group heard one calling male again in the reed beds near Sv. Vid early in the morning of the following day (29 Apr 2001). The short calls were repeated only few times and the absence of reaction to the tape corresponds very well with explosive calls, one to two syllables long. On the grounds of our data, an occasional Little Crane's breeding in the lower Neretva is therefore possible.

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ČOKETA *Gallinago media*

Great Snipe – 4 ind. observed on 17 Sep 2003 on the rocky side of Velo blato on Pag island (UTM WK01, N Dalmatia) in addition to 1 Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*, Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*, Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, and Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Dne 17.9.2003 sem se odpravil na obhod Velega blata na Pagu. Na zahodni strani jezera sem opazil zelenonogega martinca *Tringa nebularia*, med hojo čez kamenje malega martinca *Actitis hypoleucos*, togotnika *Philomachus pugnax*, za njima pa še zlato prosenko *Pluvialis apricaria*, sicer dobro skrito v tamkajšnjem kamenju. Več težav sem imel s čoketo, saj sem jo tokrat videl prvič. Čoketa se v hrvaškem Primorju sicer redko pojavlja [RUCNER, D. (1998): Ptice hrvatske obale Jadrana. – Hrvatski prirodoslovni muzej, Ministrstvo razvitka i obnove, Zagreb]. Tokrat pa so se večkrat spreletele tik pred mano kar štiri in pristale nekoliko dlje. Na vodi so številčno prevladovali čopasti ponirki *Podiceps cristatus* in liske *Fulica atra*. Med temi pa so plavale posamezne race – reglja *Anas querquedula*, sivka *Aythya ferina*, konopnica *Anas*

strepera in žličarica *A. chpeata*. Iz skoraj popolnoma suhe krajine je priletel veliki škurh *Numenius arquata*.

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ČEBELAR *Merops apiaster*

European Bee-eater – 12 ind. on 25 Apr 2003 near Bobovišče on the west side of Brač island (UTM XJ10, central Dalmatia), and 2 ind. on 27 Apr 2003 near Sutivan (UTM XJ10)

Na biološkem taboru na Braču se je skupina za ptice 25.4.2003 mudila pred mestom Bobovišče na zahodni strani otoka. Tja smo prikolesarili in ob majhnem slanjem močvirju počivali. Pred odhodom smo na majhni razdalji opazili samca grilčka *Serinus serinus* in ko smo si ga ogledovali, sem zaslišal neko znano oglašanje. Takoj sem z daljnogledom sledil oglašanju in hitro preštel dvanajst čebelarjev. Dne 27.4. sem opazoval še dva osebka pri Sutivanu.

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RDEČA LASTOVKA *Hirundo daurica*

Red-rumped Swallow – between 13 and 20 Sep 2003 four Swallow species observed on their migration across the Sea of Karin near Zadar (UTM WJ18, N Dalmatia): House Martins *Delichon urbica* (which were prevalent in flocks with more than 300 individuals), Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* (seen in smaller flocks or individually), Red-rumped Swallows (mixed flocks with House Martins, especially juveniles, but also in flocks of adults with up to 100 individuals), and a single Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*. Additionally, a larger group of Crag Martins *Hirundo rupestris* was observed in the nearby Paklenica (UTM WK30).

Med 13.9. in 20.9.2003 sem dopustoval ob Karinskem morju vzhodno od Zadra. Tam so me že od samega začetka spremljale zelo številne mestne lastovke *Delichon urbica*, venomer v jatah s po več kot 300 osebki. Med njimi so bile tudi kmečke lastovke *Hirundo rustica*, a so bile precej redkejšje in v manjših jatah. Največkrat sem jih videval posamič, redko pa v jatah s po več deset osebki. Tretja vrsta lastovke je bila rdeča lastovka. Sprva sem videl samo posamezne osebke, kasneje se je izkazalo, da so med mestnimi tudi mnogi mladostni osebki rdečih lastovk. Naslednje dni sem videl več odraslih tudi v jatah, ki so štele tudi do 100 osebkov. To kaže na dokaj močne populacije te vrste na Hrvaškem, katere širitev je bila zaznana šele v zadnjih 50 letih [KRALJ, J. (1997): Ornitofauna Hrvatske tijekom posljednjih dvjesto godina. – *Larus* 46: 1–112]. Prav na koncu sem opazil še breguljko *Riparia riparia* v mešani jati mestnih, kmečkih in

rdečih lastovk. Naj zaključim še s kar precejšno skupino skalnih lastovk *Hirundo rupestris*, ki sem jo videl v bližnji Paklenici. Tako sem kljub kasnejšemu datumu v enem samem tednu videl vse evropske lastovke.

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MENIŠČEK *Parus ater*

Coal Tit – 1 ind. observed on 22 Apr 2003 on the slope of Podgažul on the island Brač (UTM XH39, central Dalmatia)

Na dalmatinskem biološkem taboru Brač 2003 smo Ana Vidmar, Jernej Polajnar in pisec dne 22.4.2003 obiskali golo območje, ostanek požara, na hribu Podgažul. Na vrhu smo videli žametno *Sylvia melanocephala* in rjavo penico *S. communis* in svatbeni let taščične penice *S. cantillans*, hribskega škranca *Lullula arborea* ter prvo postavljanje kupčarja *Oenanthe oenanthe*. Med vsemi me je najbolj presenetila majhna ptica, ki je priletela na bližnji grm. Bil je menišek. Rucner [RUCNER, D. (1998): Ptice hrvatske obale Jadrana. – Hrvatski prirodoslovni muzej, Ministarstvo razvitka i obnove, Zagreb] meniška v gnezditvenem obdobju na Braču ni našel, omenja pa, da čez zimo zaseda tudi borove gozdove na otokih.

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ČRNA GORA (SRBIJA IN ČRNA GORA) / MONTENEGRO (SERBIA & MONTENEGRO)

BELOGLAVI JASTREB *Gyps fulvus*

Griffon Vulture – 2 ind. on 22 Apr 2003 near Ulcinj flying at a height of 250 m (UTM CM54, SE Montenegro)

Dne 22.4.2003 sta vzdolž obale iz SZ smeri priletela dva beloglava jastreba in nad mestom Ulcinj (UTM CM54) ob 16.45 uri zavila proti solinam, nato pa nadaljevala let v smeri Vidikovca. Ptici sta na višini okoli 250 m dobesedno bežali pred pojenjajočo nevihto in jo v loku obšle. Čeprav sem na območju Ulcinja s koridorjem Bojane – Bune s kolegi popisoval ptice še maja, junija, novembra 2003 in januarja 2004, beloglavega jastreba nismo več zasledili. Reiser in Führer [REISER, O. & FÜHRER, L. (1896): Materialien zu einer Ornithologia Balcanica, IV. Montenegro. – Carl Gerold's Sohn, Wien] sta beloglavega jastreba našla v Črni gori vzdolž goratega dela obale in notranjosti države. Za Ulcinj pa ga ne navajata. Verjetno se vrsta v tem delu Črne gore pojavlja (zelo) poredkoma.

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ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Bodičasta govnačka – drugo opazovanje v Črni gori. Dne 21.6.2003 je bil osebek opazovan na Veliki plaži pri Ulcinju (UTM CM53, JV Črna gora), ko je preganjal mladostnega rumenonosega galeba *Larus michahellis*.

“Velika plaža” near Ulcinj is some 12 km long sand beach, which with its several kilometres wide hinterland of brackish marsh, sand deposits and mosaic-like cultural landscape of wet meadows, remains of alluvial poplar woodlands and extensively farmed pastures forms a truly unique ecosystem complex on the Adriatic coast. Around 6 p.m. on 21 Jun 2003, I and my colleagues Ivana Novčić from Belgrade and Darko Savelić from Podgorica began to survey the extreme coastal sandy part of the complex. In the place called »Copa Cabana«, I noticed an elegant silhouette of a fast bird about a kilometre from the coast. A quick look through my field glasses confirmed my presumption that I was dealing with a skua. I called my colleagues who were at that time searching for the breeding pairs of Little Ringed Plovers *Charadrius dubius*, Kentish Plovers *Ch. alexandrinus*, and Stone-curlews *Burhinus oedipicemus*. We watched the skua for a little less than a minute, displaying its great flying skills during the characteristic pursuit of its victim, in our case a immature Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*, whom it attempted to force, during its diving pursuit, to throw up the food from its stomach in order to catch it and swallow it in mid-air. This time, the skua was not successful. We had enough time to identify it, on the basis of its pointed tail as well as distribution of blackness and whiteness on its underparts, as Arctic Skua. After examining the available literature, I came to the conclusion that our observation was the second of this species in Montenegro. For the first time it had been observed in 1966 near Lake Skadar [MATVEJEV, S.D. & VASIĆ, V.F. (1973): Catalogus Faunae Jugoslaviae, IV/3, Aves. – Slovenska akademija znanosti in umetnosti, Ljubljana].

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ALPINE SWIFT *Tachymarptis melba*

Planinski hudournik – sedem opazovanj iz priobalnega in goratega dela Črne gore spomladi in poleti 2003; kolonija 25 – 30 parov ($N_{\max} = 57$ os.) gnezdi v starem mestnem jedru Ulcinja (UTM CM54, JV Črna gora)

Reiser and Führer [REISER, O. & FÜHRER, L. (1896): Materialien zu einer Ornithologia Balcanica, IV. Montenegro. – Carl Gerold's Sohn, Wien] stated that the Alpine Swift is a common breeder of Montenegro, except that it is seen more often on the coast than in the inland part of the country. They listed their nest-sites near Ulcinj, along the Cetinje–Rijeka–Podgorica road, near Komana, along the