

short communication / kratko priopćenje

THE SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER *CALIDRIS PUSILLA* – A NEW BIRD SPECIES FOR CROATIA

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A new bird species was recorded for the Croatian ornithofauna. The semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* was caught and marked at Donji Miholjac ponds on April 16th 2000. Its biometric data and description are given.

Key words: Semipalmated Sandpiper, *Calidris pusilla*, Donji Miholjac, Croatia, ornithofauna, new species

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U hrvatskoj ornitofauni zabilježena je nova vrsta ptice. Radi se o vrsti *Calidris pusilla*, čiji je primjerak uhvaćen i prstenovan 16.4.2000. na ribnjacima u Donjem Miholjcu. U radu se daju biometrijski podaci i opis prstenovanog primjerka.

Ključne riječi: žalar, *Calidris pusilla*, Donji Miholjac, Hrvatska, ornitofauna, nova vrsta

On April 16th 2000, during the activity of ringing birds at the Donji Miholjac ponds (UTM BR 3/87, 45°46' N, 18°10' E), one of the birds caught was found to be a wader which, however, could not be determined at that time. It was wading in the shoals of the emptied basins in a group of about 60 Temminck's Stints *Calidris temminckii* and other waders. The ring with which the bird was marked carries the inscription »Zagreb CA 5764«. The biometric data of the bird were as follows: wing 93.3 mm, tail 41.3 mm (1.1. = 4 mm longer than other feathers), bill 18.4 mm (measured from the feathers on its forehead), tarsus 20.5 mm, weight 25.7 g. Its iris was chocolate-brown. The bill was black, measuring 1.6 mm in the middle and 2.8 mm at the widened tip. The feet were black and webbed. The captured bird was photographed (Figs. 1 & 2) and the pictures were sent, together with the above biometric



Fig 1. Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*, April 16th 2000, Donji Miholjac, Croatia (photo: author).



Fig. 2. Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*, April 16th 2000, Donji Miholjac, Croatia (photo: author).

data, via the author's colleagues in Slovenia to the Dutch Rarities Committee – CDNA and the Slovenian Rarities Committee – KRED. On October 1st 2002, Mr. Bert de Bruin, the Committee's Secretary, issued the Committee's unanimous decision that the caught wader was a Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*. Species determination was additionally confirmed by the Slovenian Rarities Committee.

As this represents the first confirmed specimen of this species in Croatia (e.g. KRALJ, 1997; LUKAČ, 1998), it should be added that the Semipalmated Sandpiper is of North American origin and that it occurs in Europe only exceptionally (SVENSSON *et al.*, 1999). In the Old World it may be seen mostly in autumn, and by the 1990s it had been registered in the following countries: Great Britain (58 records, mainly from August to October with the peak in September), Iceland (1 record), Norway (1 record), France (3 records), Holland (1 record), West Germany (1 record), Austria (1 record), Portugal (1 record), and the Azores (about 10 records) (LEWINGTON *et al.*, 1991). The Semipalmated Sandpiper winters mainly in coastal South America, north to the West Indies and on the Pacific coast of Central America (LEWINGTON *et al.*, 1991).

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