

**FIRST BREEDING RECORD OF THE NORTHERN WHEATEAR  
*Oenanthe oenanthe* IN ZAGREB, NW CROATIA**

*Prvo zabilježeno gniježđenje sivkaste bjeloguze Oenanthe oenanthe u Zagrebu,  
sjeverozapadna Hrvatska*

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European breeding range of Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* extends from the Mediterranean islands, North to Faeroes, Svalbard and North Cape. It occupies a range of open-ground habitats from sea-level stony heaths to alpine meadows and montane boulder fields above the treeline (CLEMENT 1997).

In Croatia it breeds in the North Adriatic and in the mountain region (KRALJ 1997). On migration, during March, April, August, September and October, it is widespread throughout the Croatia but it is the most numerous in Mediterranean region (RADOVIĆ, pers. com.).

During the research of birds on Jakuševac, the Zagreb city rubbish dump, on the April 5<sup>th</sup> 2004 I found one singing male of Northern Wheatear. As the species is regular during the spring and autumn migration in the investigated area, I did not put much attention to that record. The bird was recorded on every one of the next 6 weekly counts and on May 21<sup>st</sup> I saw both male and female. On May 29<sup>th</sup> I watched female with the bill full of food on a small hill of pebbles. After few minutes she flew into a hole under one rock and few seconds later flew out with an empty bill. When I reached the place, the entrance had lot of feces around, but the hole was too small so I couldn't

reach the nest. All the time I was near the nest the male was trying to distract me away from it. Two weeks later, on June 12<sup>th</sup>, I found male and female feeding, already fledged young in the area around the nest. During the year 2005 Northern Wheatears were seen on Jakuševac both on spring and autumn migration, but without indication of breeding.

It is the northernmost recorded breeding of Northern Wheatear in Croatia. The nearest breeding sites in Croatia are situated in Gorski Kotar, about 150 km SW from Zagreb.

#### REFERENCES

- CLEMENT, P. (1997): *Oenanthe oenanthe*. p. 531 in HAGEMEIJER, E. J. M., BLAIR, M. J. (1997): The EBCC Atlas of European Breeding Birds: Their Distribution and Abundance. T & A D Poyser, London.
- KRALJ, J. (1997): Croatian Ornithofauna in the Last 200 Years. Larus 46: 1–112.

#### SAŽETAK

Tijekom istraživanja ptica 2004. godine na zagrebačkom smetlištu Jakuševac zabilježio sam gniježđenje sivkaste bjeloguze *Oenanthe oenanthe*. To je najsjevernije zabilježeno gniježđenje ove vrste u Hrvatskoj. Najbliže redovito gnjezdilište sivkaste bjeloguze u Hrvatskoj nalazi se u Gorskoj Hrvatskoj, približno 150 km jugozapadno od Zagreba.