

## THE FIRST BREEDING OF THE COMMON GULL, *Larus canus*, IN CROATIA

*Prvo gniježđenje burnog galeba, Larus canus, u Hrvatskoj*

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The Common Gull *Larus canus* is a common breeding species throughout the northern part of Europe and Asia. Out of the three described subspecies, the nominal is the most common breeder in Europe, while the ssp. *heinei* is more numerous in Europe in winter, and the ssp. *kamtschatschensis* breeds and winters in Eastern Asia (OLSEN & LARSSON 2004). In Croatia, it is found regularly in small numbers during migration and winter (JURINOVIĆ 2013). The most abundant subspecies is *canus*, although ssp. *heinei* also winters in Croatia (personal unpublished data). Its closest breeding populations to Croatia are found in Hungary and Austria, where it irregularly breeds in low numbers (up to 5 pairs) (BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL 2004).

While monitoring a Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* colony in the vicinity of the Drava river, we noticed two adult Common Gulls, with what looked like two of their chicks, on a small artificial islet on the Šoderica gravel pit (46°14' N 16°55' E) on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020. We came back one week later (on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020) with organized transportation to the islet, where we located the Common Gulls' nest. It was situated on the ground, on the very edge of the islet and the Common Tern colony. While we were on the islet, the adult Common Gulls waited on a buoy floating on the lake. We found and ringed one Common Gull chick some 20 meters from the nest (Fig 1). This is the first proof of this species breeding in Croatia. Birds breeding on Šoderica belong to the nominal subspecies.

We recommend that any further monitoring of Common Terns on the islet, as well as on other sites on or near the Drava river, also include checking for signs of nesting Common Gulls.



**Figure 1.** Common Gull *Larus canus* chick ringed on the Šoderica gravel pit on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020. (Photo: M. Martinović)

**Slika 1.** Mladunac burnog galeba *Larus canus* prstenovan na Šoderici 1. srpnja 2020. (Fotografija: M. Martinović)

## References

- BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL (2004): Birds in Europe: population estimates, trends and conservation status. BirdLife Conservation Series No. 12, Cambridge, UK.
- JURINOVIĆ, L. (2013): Burni galeb *Larus canus*. In: Kralj, J., Barišić, S., Ćiković, D., Tutiš, V. (2013): Croatian Bird Migration Atlas. Croatian Academy of Science and Arts, Zagreb, Croatia.
- OLSEN, K., M., LARSSON, H. (2004): Gulls of North America, Europe and Asia. Princeton University Press. Princeton and Oxford.

## SAŽETAK

Tijekom monitoringa kolonija crvenokljunih čigri *Sterna hirundo* u okolici rijeke Drave 23. lipnja 2020. utvrdili smo gniježđenje jednog para burnih galebova *Larus canus*. U blizini gnijezda, smještenog na tlu na samom rubu kolonije crvenokljunih čigri na jezeru Šoderica kraj Koprivnice 1. srpnja 2020. prstenovali smo jednog mladunca. Ovo je prvo potvrđeno gniježđenje burnog galeba u Hrvatskoj. Ptice koje su se gnijezdile na Šoderici pripadaju nominalnoj podvrsti. U budućnosti preporučamo provjeravanje prisutnosti i gniježđenja burnih galebova prilikom obilazaka kolonija čigri uz Dravu.