

ALPINE CHOUGH *Pyrrhocorax graculus*

Planinska kavka – jata 375 osebkov opažena dne 29.10.2006 nad Malo Čvrnico (UTM YJ12, SZ od Mostarja)

During our speleological explorations implemented in the last few years we have been intensively noting down all information on the occurrence and nesting of Alpine Cough on the mountains of Bosnia and Herzegovina. These are mostly smaller flocks nesting in certain pits and caves. The excursion to the valley of Drežnica (north-west of Mostar) on 29 Oct 2006 and the ascent along the old shepherd road towards Mala Čvrnica led us to the “bench” at Borovi rat. From one side, an unforgettable view of the Čvrnica valley and Mt Čabulja opens up, while from the other side the peaks of Krst and Srednji rat (UTM YJ12) of Mala Čvrnica are to be seen. Exactly above this second peak, a flock of Alpine Choughs appeared at the end of the day. Thanks to the photograph, I was able to count 375 birds. Besides me, Ilhan Dervović and Salko Lalić, a local man from Gornja Drežnica, were there to see the unusual sight.

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ALPINE CHOUGH *Pyrrhocorax graculus*

Planinska kavka – leta 2006 najdeno novo gnezdišče
na Bjelašnici (UTM BP73, osrednja Bosna)

During the last speleological camp on Mt Bjelašnica, some new pits and caves with nesting Alpine Choughs were explored. In one of the pits, not previously known as a nesting site (Jama u Jasenu, UTM BP73, C Bosnia, near the Zelene njive summer house on the south side of Bjelašnica), the temperature at the bottom of the pit, i.e. the place of nesting, was measured for the first time, at 1°C. This year, two pairs nested in the pit. The pit was explored on the 22 Jul 2006 by Italian speleologists from Gruppo Grotte CAI Novara and our member Simone Milanolo. There was a significant amount of snow at the bottom of the pit.

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