

Iz ornitološke beležnice / From the ornithological notebook

**NORTHERN WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*
& BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR *Oe. hispanica***

Kupčar & sredozemski kupčar – skupna gnezdišča obeh vrst odkrita 9. 6. 2002 na lokacijah v Hercegovini: eno v bližini vasi Petrovići (Duvanjsko polje, UTM XY83; 860 m n.v.), kjer sta obe vrsti najbrž gnezдили v naselju samem, in dve v bližini vasi Prolog (Livanjsko polje, UTM XY45; 700 m n.v.), kjer sta bili vrsti, ki sta kazali gnezditveno vedenje, opaženi na kupu izkopanin.

breeding at the more or less neighbouring Duvanjsko polje (860 m a.s.l.) and Livanjsko polje (700 m a.s.l.) has been expected, especially owing to their somewhat higher altitude.

Borut Rubinič, Institute Ornis balcanica, Pražakova 11, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia, e-mail: rubinic@siol.net

The Black-eared Wheatear also inhabits places in the interior of the Balkans exposed to the Mediterranean climate. The species is thus no rarity in thermophilous and with rocks strewn dry grassland in Dalmatian hinterland and Herzegovina. At Duvanjsko polje near Tomislavgrad in Herzegovina, I observed two males; they were also common around the nearby Posušje, where I saw them even around houses in the very centre of this small town. I had a chance to see a male in the SW part of Livanjsko polje as well. Apart from Black-eared Wheatears, Northern Wheatears were also observed; both species displayed breeding behaviour, either with agitated warning calls or food in their bills, while the date of these observations, i.e. June 9th 2002, can only speak in favour of this fact. The first "pair" of males of both species was observed in dry, rocky meadows rising above Duvanjsko polje, in the hamlet of Petrovići on the extreme southern edge of Duvanjsko polje. The more or less untimorous wheatears, which were obviously used to human presence, bred virtually in the middle of somewhat desolate hamlet. More unusual seemed the nest-site of the other wheatear community at Livanjsko polje. Along the road near the village of Prolog I chanced upon a kind of a mine and caught sight, on some 10 metres high heap of dark excavated material, of an agitated Black-eared Wheatear male. As soon as I stopped, a Northern Wheatear male with food in its bill appeared on the ground near a large excavation hole. I also saw fledged young of the Black-eared Wheatear species. The observation spot neighbours on grassy and in some places rocky karst polje surrounded by thermophilous sub-Mediterranean forests of White Oak and Manna Ash. In the vicinity of Prolog, the Northern Wheatear had also been observed by Reiser [REISER, O. (1939): Materialien zu einer Ornis Balcanica, I. Bosnien und Herzegovina, Wien] where, however, he made no record of the Black-eared Wheatear, in contrast to a number of places in Herzegovina (in the vicinity of Orašac near Knjaževac and in different places around Trebinje), where he registered both species breeding side by side, the same as Rucner [RUCNER, D. (1998): Ptice hrvatske obale Jadrana. Hrvatski prirodoslovni muzej, Ministarstvo razvitka i obnove, Zagreb] who saw them breeding together near Tulove grede, on Biokovo Mts. and at Kamešnica in Dalmatia (all these nest-sites lie at altitudes between 400 and 1500 m a.s.l.). As he recorded breeding wheatears also at Sinjsko polje (300 m a.s.l.) and Vričko polje (360 m a.s.l.), we may say that the