

Iz ornitološke beležnice / From the ornithological notebook

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA/ BOSNA IN HERCEGOVINA

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

Čopasti ponirek – na treh četrtinah vodne površine Buškega jezera (UTM XY63, Hercegovina) je bilo dne 9.6.2002 prešteti 523 osebkov. Glede na enakomerno razporeditev ptic se je na jezeru tega dne verjetno zadrževalo okoli 700 osebkov. Glede na habitat zaradi velikega nihanja vodne gladine vrsta verjetno tu ne gnezdi.

While taking a quick look through field glasses at Buško jezero (Herzegovina) on June 9th 2002, I noticed a large number of Great Crested Grebes in display plumage swimming either in pairs or in small groups on the lake's surface. From the spot near the village of Miši, I eventually surveyed, with a telescope, about three quarters of the lake. I counted no less than 532 individuals. Considering the fairly regular distribution of the grebes on the surface, I presumed that some 700 individuals frequented the lake on that particular day. In spite of the fact that they were mostly adults and that many swam in pairs, they did not breed there, presumably due to the lack of suitable breeding sites. Namely, the lake's shore is bare, and in view of this as well as of some visible signs of rapidly changing water surfaces it could be presumed that the water-level was being regulated at the nearby dam at short intervals. Great Crested Grebe stay quite late at their nest-sites and appear on their wintering grounds only in October or November [Л'ІЧЕВ, V.D., ed. (1985): Handbuch der Vögel der Sowjetunion, Bd. 1. Gaviiformes, Podicipediformes, Procellariiformes, 1. Aufl. Wittenberg, Lutherstadt]. Considering this fact as well as my own observations at suitable places in Herzegovina (Svitavsko jezero, June 12th 2002, 110 pairs of Great Crested Grebes), it could be expected that the grebes would breed there at that time of the year. On Lake Constance in Germany, up to 2,500 pairs of Great Crested Grebes gather in summer flocks, but the breeding population still reaches 1,400 pairs on the very same lake [GÖNNER, C. (1999): Haubentacher – *Podiceps cristatus*. In: HEINE, G., H. JACOBY, H. LEUZINGER & H. STARK, (eds.): Die Vögel des Bodenseegebietes. Orn. Jh. Bad.-Württ. 14-15: 190-194]. The question of why such great number of sexually mature individuals gathered here - but did not breed on the lake owing to the unsuitable habitat as a result of the oscillating water-levels - thus remains unsolved.

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