

Neretva canyon up to Jablanica (1979), and in the Bregava valley (1980) [OBRATIL (1976 & 1980) In: STIPČEVIČ, M. & G. LUKAČ (1991): Survey of spreading and breeding range changes of the Red-rumped Swallow (*Hirundo daurica*) in Yugoslav territory. *Larus* 43: 37-49]. In Herzegovina, I observed it for the first time on June 12th 2002. A pair was seen flying under and around the bridge on the Adriatic thoroughfare just before the centre of Neum. Here the pair clearly bred, for I observed, in the very same place, few more swallows – most probably a family with fledged young – a month later, i.e. on July 12th 2002. Pairs of Red-rumped Swallows were also seen along the Mostar-Sarajevo road running through the narrow Neretva canyon. I observed pairs and families deeper in the interior of the country as well, i.e. at the bridges crossing the river: 2 pairs near the Grabovica hydroelectric power plant in the vicinity of Jablanica, 1 family near Ostrožac, and 1 family near the bridge over the right tributary of the Neretva river some 3 km south of the village of Bradina near Konjic. The place of the last observation lies in the heart of Bosnia, where the impact of the Mediterranean climate along the Neretva valley is almost entirely lost.

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RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica*

Rdeča lastovka – več opazovanj gnezdečih parov v letu 2002 med obalnim in osrednjim delom Bosne in Hercegovine: en par v bližini mostu pri Neumu na jadranski obali (UTM YH15) 12.6. in 12.7.; dva para v bližini hidrocentrale Grabovica pri Jablanici (UTM YJ22); trije pari v bližini Ostrožca (UTM YJ24); in štirje pari ob Neretvi v vasi Bradina pri Konjicu (UTM YJ44)

The Red-rumped Swallow is Eumediterranean species breeding in dry and warm habitats, particularly in river valleys and canyons [CRAMP, S., ed. (1988): *The Birds of the Western Palearctic*, Vol. 5, Oxford]. Similar as the Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*, Syrian Woodpecker *Dendrocopos syriacus* and Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*, it spreads from Asia Minor along the Balkan Peninsula and the Adriatic coast towards the north and northwest (CRAMP 1988). As far as Croatia is concerned, the bird had been until 1980 known to occur only in Southern Dalmatia, while more recently it has also colonised central and northern Dalmatia, the Kvarner and Istra [STIPČEVIČ, M. (1988): *Daurska lastavica, Hirundo daurica rufula* Temminck 1835; novi podaci o gniježdenju u Hrvatskoj (Jugoslavija). *Ornitologija u Hrvatskoj*, JAZU, Zagreb] and as a breeder occurs even in Slovenia [MIHELIČ, T. (2000): *Prva potrjena gnezditev rdeče lastovke Hirundo daurica v Sloveniji (Kraški rob, JZ Slovenija)*. *Acrocephalus* 21 (102-103): 261-263]. In Herzegovina, it was for the first time recorded as late as in 1976 at Hutovo blato. Later on, its nest-sites were discovered at Popovo polje (1978), in the