

BLACK STORK *Ciconia nigra* ON THE ISLAND OF PAG (DALMATIA, CROATIA)

Črna štokrlja *Ciconia nigra* na otoku Pagu (Dalmacija, Hrvatska)

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The appearance of Black Stork on the island of Pag on 25 Aug 2006, noted by ŠERE (2006) made me think, and then conclude, the following: first – any data on observing birds in areas where they are not expected is important enough to be published, second – I should have published by now my own observations of the same species, but 13 years ago, on the same island. During research on biodiversity in and threats to the wetland habitats of the island of Pag (MUŽINIĆ 1998A & B), in part of the ornithological reserve named Blato Rogoza (the Mud of Rogoza), on 27 Aug 1993, a Black Stork suddenly landed about 80 m away in front of me. I photographed the bird without zooming,



Figure 1: Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* recorded on 27 Aug 1993 on island Pag (Dalmatia, Croatia)

Slika 1: Črna štokrlja *Ciconia nigra* opažena 27.8.1993 na otoku Pagu (Dalmacija, Hrvatska)

as I supposed there would be no time to adapt the camera. And so it was. The bird flew away in the next moment, and did not come back. All I have is a rather poor photo, showing a recognizable bird silhouette in karst environment (Figure 1). Kolansko blato (the Mud of Kolan) and Blato Rogoza (the Rogoza Mud) on the southern side of the island of Pag, near Kolan, is an ornithological reserve with an area of 525 ha, established on 10 Oct 1988 as the area important for birds' wintering and migration. Blato Rogoza is

a flood meadow in contact with the sea, constituting the eastern part of the reserve.

Black Stork is considered a migratory bird and a dispersive species. Wintering areas of European populations are in tropical Africa, in the southeastern part of Africa south of the Sahara (CRAMP & SIMMONS 1977). Autumn migration flyways leading to their wintering sites are less well known. Beside more frequent transit over Bospor, sites of a few observations have been reported in Italy, Greece, the Aegean Sea and Mediterranean islands.

There are a few reported sightings in other areas of the Adriatic coast at the time of autumn migration. Single birds were observed in the south Adriatic from 10 Aug to 29 Oct in 1953 in Metković (RUCNER 1998), Koločep and Lokrum islands (between 1953 and 1973), and in the wider surroundings of Dubrovnik, including Konavle (between 1962 and 1975) (TUTMAN 1980). One individual was registered in the north Adriatic high in flight above Pula on 30 Oct 1954 (RUCNER 1998), while two individuals of Black Stork from the central Adriatic are in the ornithological collection of the Institute for Ornithology at the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts: Smoković near Zadar 10 Sep 1920, and Poljica near Nin 25 Aug 1935. After Lokrum and Koločep, Pag is the third Adriatic island with registered autumn individuals of Black Stork.

Povzetek

Črna štokrlja je bila opazovana na otoku Pagu v ornitološkem rezervatu Blato Rogoza dne 27.8.1993. Vrsta je v času jesenske selitve zelo redko opazovana na jadranski obali.

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