

Table 2: Egg-characteristics (n=number of eggs). – Ei-Markmale (n= Eizahl).

		n
\bar{x} per nest	4.76	1286
min number in a nest	2	1286
max number in a nest	6	1286
\bar{x} length and \bar{x} width (mm)	19.28–14.24	1286
min length – max length (mm)	17.33–22.96	1286
min width – max width (mm)	13.86–15.88	1286
\bar{x} egg mass (g)	2.03	90
\bar{x} egg shell mass (g)	0.13	50
\bar{x} egg volume (mm ³)	2139.16	1286
\bar{x} egg index	1.34	1286

On average I found 4.8 (2 to 6) eggs per nest. The average length of an egg was 19.28 mm, the average width 14.24 mm (max. and min. values in table 2). The average mass of a fresh laid egg was 2.03 grams, of the egg shell 0.13 grams, the calculated egg volume was 2139.16 mm³, and the egg index 1.34 mm. When comparing these characteristics with the data given by NIETHAMMER (1937), VERHEYEN (1967) and WALTHER (1987) there aren't any considerable differences.

Zusammenfassung

Neststruktur und Ei-Charakteristika Kroatischer Mönchsgrasmücken (*Sylvia atricapilla*). – Die Zusammenstellung enthält erste Angaben aus Kroatien über die Neststruktur (Tab. 1) und Ei-Charakteristika (Tab. 2) der Mönchsgrasmücke.

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Dartford Warbler, *Sylvia undata*, ringed in Italy and recovered in Tunisia*

The Dartford Warbler, *Sylvia undata*, is a partially migratory species, many birds wintering also at the northernmost limits of the breeding range (Cramp 1992, Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer 1991). It is regularly observed, however, outside the breeding range; such records are usually referred to juveniles (Bibby 1979, Bergmann 1978). Many birds, for instance, spend the winter in the northwest-African countries (Etchecopar & Hue 1964, Hollom *et al.* 1988), which they partly seem to reach through Gibraltar (Bergmann 1978, Finlayson 1991). The regular presence on Mediterranean islands

where breeding has not been recorded (Malta: Sultana & Gauci 1982; Balearic, before the colonization of Menorca: Bergmann 1978) indicates that longer sea crossings are performed too. The origin of Dartford Warblers wintering in Africa is not precisely known, as apparently no recoveries of birds ringed in Europe are available.

On Capraia Island (Tuscan Archipelago, NW Italy; coordinates 43.02N-9.48E), a female with a fully developed brood-patch was ringed on 4 May 1992, during field-work for 'Progetto Piccole Isole' (cf. Montemaggioli *et al.* 1993). This bird was then recovered in Tunisia (Capserate: 37.03N-9.14E) most probably a few days before 2 January 1993 (date of the finder's letter), after it had moved 665 km in a southerly direction (184°).

There are some interesting aspects of this recovery: 1) it links for the first time African wintering grounds to a known breeding population. 2) it refers to a bird definitely born before 1992 and not to a juvenile. It proves, therefore, that adult birds can migrate relatively long distances, too. This fact is confirmed by data from the Maltese islands, where at least one wintering bird has been ringed and controlled one year later (Sultana & Gauci 1982). 3) it indicates that, whatever the followed route had been, the bird had to be programmed for crossing long sea stretches. The period of migratory activity of captive Dartford Warblers is one of the shortest among *Sylvia* species (Berthold 1973). 4) Capraia Island, as the rest of the Tuscan Archipelago, is not only an important breeding ground for this species, but also hosts a large number of birds during the winter, with no obvious increase during migratory seasons (pers. obs.); these facts may give the (wrong) impression of a sedentary population.

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