

Kurze Mitteilungen

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* a breeding species of Macedonia (former Yugoslavia)

Zusammenfassung

Im Mai (Brutzeit) und September 1989 gelang auf dem Konacke Plateau, 40 km SE Titov Veles, Mazedonien, die Beobachtung von Nonnensteinschmätzern.

Introduction

The ornithofauna of Macedonia has been rather poorly described (HAGEMEIJER & BLAIR 1997). To date, the most comprehensive description of the Macedonian avifauna stems from MATVEJEV & VASIC (1973). In addition, general information about the breeding avifauna of Macedonia has been provided by several authors (e.g. STRESEMANN 1920, MATVEJEV & VASIC 1973, DIJKSEN & DIJKSEN 1986, LIMBRUNNER 1988, MICEVSKI & DIMOVSKI 1988, MICEVSKI 1989, MICEVSKI 1990, MICEVSKI & STOJANOVSKI 1991 and references therein). However, there are still few papers about particular species (e.g. HÖLZINGER 1992).

The Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* is distributed in Europe mainly west from

the Black Sea, but in recent years the range is slowly spreading to south-eastern Europe (CLEMENT 1997). Here he breeds in Bulgaria, Romania (CLEMENT 1997), and more recently, in Greece (HÖLZINGER 1989). Data from former Yugoslavia are not available, however VOGRIN (1990) mentioned this species among other species which were observed in Macedonia. Observations from former Yugoslavia were also mentioned by SIEGNER (1982), however, the species was incorrectly identified and was in fact *Oenanthe hispanica* (Siegner in litt.).

The aim of this note is to present a short overview about breeding of the Pied Wheatear in Macedonia.

Observations

I observed a Pied Wheatear in Macedonia in 1989 in late May and in early September. In May I observed two males, whereas in September only one male was detected. On both occasions adult males in summer plumage were present. The observed birds were determined according to black mantle and black throat which was continued to the black wings. Unfortunately no other person was with me at that time. No fe-

male was observed, however, it is very similar to the female of the Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica* (e.g. CLEMENT 1987, ALSTRÖM & COLSTON 1991, SHIRIHAI & CHRISTIE 1996) and thus could have been overlooked. In the same area Black-eared Wheatear was also present and was much more common than the previous species and thus served for good comparison.

Habitat

Both observations come from Konacke planine (plateau) near Krivolak village, about 40 km to the south-east from the town Titov Veles.

Konacke is a plateau at about 900 m above sea level. The area where Pied Wheatear was present is stony with little vegetation. Short grass with scarce bushes, mainly *Juniperus* spp., was present. The whole area was used as a military training centre.

According to CRAMP (1988) Pied Wheatear starts with breeding in April and May. So the above mentioned observation in late May was during breeding time.

The nearest breeding areas known so far from Pied Wheatear were those in Greece and Bulgaria mentioned by HÖLZINGER (1989) and CLEMENT (1997). Data presented for northern Albania on the map by CLEMENT (1997) occur probably by mistake.

It is already well known that hybridisation occurs widely in the area where both species are syntopic (e.g. CRAMP 1988, CLEMENT 1997). Since the Pied Wheatear in Macedonia is located outside or at the periphery of its distribution area and occurs in low numbers, we could assume that hybridisation is also present in this area.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Dr. J. Hölzinger for sending me additional literature and to the editor T. Mischler, who checked the manuscript.

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Massenzug des Trauerschnäppers *Ficedula hypoleuca* bei Karlsruhe

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Summary

September 9th 1998, I performed a special count for migrating Pied Flycatchers *Ficedula hypoleuca* in the city of Karlsruhe (Baden-Württemberg). A minimum of 300 individuals was counted this day, a new maximum for this species for Baden-Württemberg. Most migrating birds were seen between residential areas, in orchards or in open park areas. It is assumed that extended rain showers preceding this sunny day were responsible for the high concentration of Pied Flycatchers in Karlsruhe.

Der Trauerschnäpper gehört zu den typischen Weistreckenziehern und überwintert bekanntlich in den Savannengebieten südlich der Sahara. Der stark ausgeprägte Schleifenzug führt im Herbst hauptsächlich entlang der Westküsten Frankreichs und Spaniens nach Afrika und im Frühjahr weiter östlich über die Sahara und das Mittelmeergebiet zurück in das europäische Brutgebiet (GLUTZ VON BLOTZHEIM 1991). Nach WINKLER (1999) kann es im Frühjahr und Herbst bei ungünstigen Wetterlagen zu Zugstaukonzentrationen entlang von Leitlinien wie Wasserläufen

oder Waldrändern kommen. Diese lockeren Ansammlungen können durchaus weit über 100 Vögel umfassen.

Obwohl der Trauerschnäpperzug sehr auffällig verläuft, gibt es bislang im Binnenland nur wenige gezielte Zählungen an starken Zugtagen. Größere Ansammlungen wurden beispielsweise am österreichischen Bodenseeufer mit über 100 Exemplaren am 30.8.1965 beobachtet (SCHUSTER et al. 1983). Aus dem deutschen Küstengebiet liegen vergleichsweise Beobachtungen großer Zugkonzentrationen vor allem von den vorgelagerten Inseln

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Jahr/Year: 2000

Band/Volume: [39 2-3](#)

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