

The Redpoll *Carduelis flammea* has been breeding in the lowland part of Slovenia

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The Redpoll *Carduelis flammea* has a holarctic distribution in Europe, above all in northern Europe, in Britain and in the mountains of Central Europe (e. g. CRAMP & PERRINS 1994). The Redpoll has been breeding in Slovenia only in the Alps until now (GEISTER 1995). In this paper I probably describe the first known breeding of the Redpoll in the lowland in Central Europe.

The Redpoll has been breeding in the City Park (280 m above s.l.) of Maribor in north-eastern Slovenia in 1997. With a population of 108 000 Maribor is Slovenia's second largest city. The area of the park is approximately 15 ha. About 98 species of trees, mainly anaautochthonous, are planted in the park (SAVNIK 1980). The main trees are: *Picea abies*, *Acer sp.*, *Betula sp.*, *Ulmus sp.*, *Cedrus sp.*, *Pinus sp.*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Larix decidua*, *Sequoiadendron sp.*, *Robinia sp.*, *Taxus baccata*, ... Shrubs and lawn only partially cover the park.

During my visits to the City Park in February and March 1997 I often observed a singing male of the Redpoll in breeding plumage. According to HARRIS et al. (1990), STODDART (1991) the male was a member of the subspecies *C. f. cabaret*. On April 30th I was again in the City Park. This day I observed the whole family (male, female and three fledglings). At this opportunity I observed intensive feeding of the young by both parents.

The nearest breeding locality of the Redpoll is Mt. Pohorje (pers. obs.), about 10 km away, however since about 70 years the Redpoll has not been breeding on Mt. Pohorje (REISER 1925). Breeding data of the Redpoll from Central European cities are scarce. The only available data is from Austria where the Redpoll has been breeding in Salzburg (420 m a.s.l.) and in Innsbruck (574 m a.s.l.) (NIEDERWOLFSGRUBER 1985, DVORAK et al. 1993).

The population of Redpoll is increasing in Central Europe (e.g. ERNST 1988, CRAMP & PERRINS 1994) which may be the reason for breeding in the lowland. The second reason could be the stable weather and high temperature. CRAMP & PERRINS (1994) point out that the Redpoll is an edge species, evidently responsive to certain climatic influences and adaptations in habitat. The temperatures at this time of the year were very high in Maribor. The mean monthly temperature for March was 6,2°C (CEGNAR 1997a) and for April 8,4°C (CEGNAR 1997b).

The spread of breeding range from mountains into lowlands was also observed in Germany (ERNST 1988) and in Austria (DVORAK et al, 1993)

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