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SCOPS OWL *Otus scops*

Veliki skovik – med 21. in 30.5.2008 je bilo na otoku Šolti (UTM WJ90, XJ00) prešteti 13 klicočih osebkov

The Scops Owl is a regular nesting species in the coastal areas of Croatia, but during the second half of the 20th century its populations declined considerably (KRALJ 1997). Not being a shy bird, it moves to parks and to the surroundings of human dwellings in the breeding season. Its presence is best noticed during the dusk and night hours when it emits its characteristic calls (RUCNER 1998). It is considered to be the most common owl species on the island of Šolta (Dalmatia, W Croatia; SUŠIĆ *et al.* 1990). There are no data available about the size of the population nesting on the island, thus we made an attempt to count them based on the counting of calling individuals, between 21 and 30 May 2008. The surveys were made in 8 settlements, between 21.00–23.00h each night. In total, 13 birds were heard calling at the following localities: 1 individual at Maslinica (UTM WJ90), 1 individual in the wood near the road 2 km west of Donje Selo (XJ00), 3 individuals at Donje Selo (XJ00), 3 individuals at Srednje Selo (XJ00), 1 individual at Grohote (XJ00), 3 individuals at Rogač (XJ00) and 1 individual at Gornje Selo (XJ00). We did not hear any calls in the villages around Stomorska (XJ00) and Nečujam (XJ00) in the south of the island. The survey focused mostly on the areas populated by humans and on the roads interconnecting them. Despite the fact that the call of the owls can be heard from quite a distance, it is not certain that all the birds present there did call at that time. Consequently it is likely that the number of birds is somewhat higher than actually counted.

References

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