

## From the ornithological notebook (Slovenia)

### RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Cecropis daurica*

**Rdeča lastovka** – en osebek opazovan trikrat dne 9. 5. 2014 vzdolž skalne stene pod Velim Badinom pri Sočergi (UTM VL13, JZ Slovenija, 359 m n. v.). Ta stena je prvo znano in obenem tudi najbolj stalno gnezdišče te vrste v Sloveniji.

On 9 May 2014 I took part in the botanical excursion with participants of the 14th European Vegetation Survey conference held in Ljubljana. We started walking from the village of Sočerga (UTM VL13) uphill through a pine forest to the cemetery by the church of St. Quirinus to the east of the village. On the way I observed Cuckoos *Cuculus canorus*, Great Tits *Parus major*, Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris*, Blackcaps *Sylvia atricapilla*, Blackbirds *Turdus merula*, House Sparrows *Passer domesticus*, Chaffinches *Fringilla coelebs* and Goldfinches *Carduelis carduelis*. We then continued through the Karst plateau covered with stony dry abandoned pastures in different stages of overgrowth. Among the birds observed, Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandrawas* frequent, and the call of the Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* was heard. From the church we walked 3.5 km towards the south-east along the top of the Karst Edge. The path descended slowly through the forest and led us to an interesting stone arch (natural bridge) and rock shelters of Veli Badin, a great natural sight of Slovenia. In the forest I observed Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*, Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* and Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*. On the shrub at the edge of the stone wall, one Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* was singing. Near the stone wall two Swifts *Apus apus* circled and one Raven *Corvus corax* flew by. From the rocky wall I noticed one Red-rumped Swallow, which flew in the valley below in a south-western direction. During the next half hour I saw one individual of this species three times. Veli Badin is the site where breeding of the species was confirmed for the first time in Slovenia in 2000 (MIHELIČ 2000). One active nest and four individuals were observed here in 2011 (NOVAK et al. 2011). The behaviour of the birds I observed suggests that they still breed in the area.

Jenő J. Purger, University of Pécs, Institute of Biology, Department of Ecology, Ifjúság útja 6, HU–7624 Pécs, Hungary, e-mail: purger@gamma.ttk.pte.hu

### References

- MIHELIČ T. (2000): Prva potrjena gnezditev rdeče lastovke *Hirundo daurica* v Sloveniji (Kraški rob, JZ Slovenija). – *Acrocephalus* 21 (102/103): 261–263.
- NOVAK J., GAMSER M., PLOJ A., BASLE T. (2011): Rdeča lastovka *Cecropis daurica*. – *Acrocephalus* 32 (148/149): 100.