

## NEW AND THE SOUTHERNMOST DATA ON THE OCCURRENCE OF GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO *Clamator glandarius* IN CROATIA

*Nova, najjužnija opažanja afričke kukavice Clamator glandarius u  
Hrvatskoj*

**LUKA JURINVIĆ**

Croatian Veterinary Institute, Poultry Centre, Heinzelova 55,  
HR-10000 Zagreb, Croatia

The Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* is a brood parasite species that extends throughout Southern Europe and Africa. It is distributed through east Africa to Somalia, Sudan and Senegal, Mediterranean Africa, Asia Minor and parts of Mediterranean Europe (CRAMP & SIMMONS 1983).

The Great Spotted Cuckoo was considered accidental in Croatia, with first record in Nin in 1889. In 1988, an egg with a fully developed embryo of the Great Spotted Cuckoo was found in a nest of Carrion Crow, *Corvus corone cornix*, in the city of Trogir (KRALJ 1997). Since then, the species has been seen for at least 12 times, including the feeding of young birds performed by Carrion Crows, and photographed in 2013 in the city of Nin (STIPČEVIĆ 1991, STIPČEVIĆ 1992, unpublished data from Croatian Rarities Committee).

During my ornithological survey on the island of Mljet, I recorded one juvenile Great Spotted Cuckoo. It was on 5 August 2014 in a small open field just beyond the village of Polače. It is the southernmost record of Great Spotted Cuckoo in Croatia. The researched area has dense population of Carrion Crows, the common host of this species; it is thus possible that the species breeds there, but further research is necessary to confirm it.

### References

- CRAMP, S., SIMMONS, K. E. L. (ed.) (1983): The birds of the western Palearctic. Vol. III. Oxford University Press, New York.
- KRALJ, J. (1997): Ornitofauna Hrvatske tijekom posljednjih dvjesto godina. *Larus* 46: 1-112.
- STIPČEVIĆ, M. (1991): Šesto opažovanje afričke kukavice *Clamator glandarius* na Hrvatskem. *Acrocephalus* 48: 80-82.
- STIPČEVIĆ, M. (1992): Iz ornitološke beležnice. Čopasta kukavica *Clamator glandarius*. *Acrocephalus* 55: 189.

**SAŽETAK**

Afrička kukavica je rijetka gnjezdarica Hrvatske. Mlada afrička kukavica *Clamator glandarius* promatrana je 5. kolovoza 2014. kod mjesta Polače na otoku Mljetu. Radi se o najjužnijem promatranju ove vrste u Hrvatskoj. Daljnja istraživanja potrebna su radi potvrđivanja mogućeg gniježđenja na tom području.