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From the ornithological notebook (Croatia)

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons*

Mala čigra – dne 3.6.2007 je bilo najdeno novo verjetno gnezdišče na Hrvaškem, na otoku Silba (UTM VK71, S Dalmacija) v zalivu Sv. Ante; opažen je bil par pri hranjenju treh mladičev

The total breeding population of Little Terns in Croatia is estimated at about 60–75 pairs [RADOVIĆ, D., KRALJ, J., TUTIŠ, V. & ČIKOVIĆ, D. (2003): Crvena knjiga ugroženih ptica Hrvatske. – Ministarstvo zaštite okoliša i prostornog uređenja, Zagreb], therefore any new data indicating the breeding of this species can be significant for the survival and conservation of the population. On 3 Jun 2007, a pair of Little Terns was observed feeding their three fledged chicks in the western corner of the bay of Sveti Ante harbour, on the island of Silba (UTM VK71). It was possible to approach the chicks to a distance of about 10 metres before they took wing. As soon as we were a few metres away, the birds landed again on the rocks emerging above the sea, and the parents continued to feed them. In addition to the Little Terns, there were also one Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* and five Yellow-legged Gulls *Larus cachinnans* in the bay. Outside the bay, about 100–200 metres from the Little Terns, about 50 Shags *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* were swimming in the sea, close to each other. It is most likely that the Little Terns hatched their clutch on the pebbly beach.

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