



PPNEA



3rd Birds Without Borders Camp: Bird Ringing & Monitoring Camp in Montenegro

10th to 14th September 2018



-Report-

Center for Protection and Research of birds

Autumn 2018

This project is supported by





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1. Summary

Third „Birds Without Borders" camp was organized from 10th until 14th October 2018 in Montenegro. The event was organized by Center for Protection and Research of birds together with Ornitological society „Nase ptice" from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonian Ecological Society (MES) and Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania.

At the event participated 11 persons who conducted the monitoring of bird migration on the Niksicko polje, Krnovo, Ulcinj salina and canyon of river Cijevna. During the fieldwork, for only five days, more than 2060 individuals from 35 bird species were registered which shows the richness of ornithofauna of Montenegro.

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2. Information about the project

“Birds Without Borders” (BWB) project is enabled thanks to the support of the Western Balkans Fund (WBF) and it is implemented by four environmental NGOs from four different Balkan countries such as Albania (Center for the Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania – PPNEA), Bosnia and Herzegovina (Ornithological Society Nase Ptice), Macedonia (Macedonian Ecological Society) and Montenegro (Center for Protection and Research on Birds – CZIP). This project expresses not-tied-country borders nature of the bird species migration and need for joint interventions in order to contribute to the preservation of birdlife diversity in the Adriatic Flyway migration route. This project aims to empower and strengthen cross-border cooperation of environmental civil society organization in the Western Balkans.

The activities of the project consisted in organizing four joint camps, one in each of the above mentioned countries for the involvement of young people, especially biology students and the aim is to strengthen the capacities of participants related to the protection and monitoring of bird species through research and monitoring camps and ringing activities. Therefore, project partners invite biology students and NGO members to participate at the camps.

For more information about the project, please visit the link bellow and/or contact the coordinating beneficiary: <http://www.birdwatchingmn.org/en/>.

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3. Introduction

The third “Birds Without Borders” Camp was organized by the Center for Protection and Research of Birds (CZIP) from Montenegro in cooperation with Ornithological Society “Naše ptice” from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA) and Macedonian Ecological Society (MES). Eleven (11) people participated at the camp: researchers, volunteers and biology students from Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro and Serbia.

4. Methodology

4.1. Period of the study

The camp was conducted five days, from 10th to 14th of September 2018, in Montenegro on Nikšićko Karst Polje, Krnovo Ulcinj salina and the canyon of the Cijevna river.

4.2. Locations

During the field work 7 locations were visited, which are presented in the map below (Figure 1).

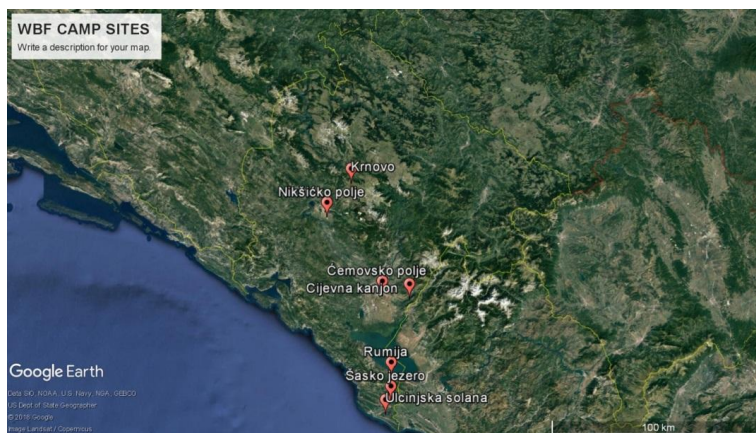


Figure 1.. Map of all sites visited during the camp: Nikšić Karst Polje, Krnovo plateau, Ulcinj salina, Šasko lake, Rumija, Čemovsko field and Cijevna river kanyon.

The first site on which the monitoring of birds was done was Nikšić Karst Polje, largest Karst Polje in Montenegro, which is located in the central part of the country. Within the field, two artificial lakes, Krupac and Slano are located, and present the important resting and wintering

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area for many aquatic birds species. This habitat is very important during late summer and early autumn, since birds are already arriving from the north of Europe to spend the winter here, or to rest and then proceeded to their wintering grounds in Africa.

The second day of the camp participant spent on the one of the most important stop on the migration route of migratory birds – Ulcinj salina (Figure 2). Besides being an important station for migratory species, the Salina is also important habitat for nesting and wintering birds. Each year thousand of migrant birds replenish their energy reserves here for their long journeys, and many breeding birds make their home in the Salina. A total of more than 250 species of birds have been recorded here, and for many of them, this is the only place in Montenegro where they occur.



Figure 2: Ulcinj salina (left) (Photo: Marija Šoškić) and group photo of participants of the camp at the same location (right) (Photo: Marija Šoškić)

The Camp participants also visited Ćemovsko polje, and canyon of Cijevna river (Figure 3), which offers some spectacular views of very dramatic landscape. Canyon presents one of the most important habitats for birds of prey and important nest location for many rare and protected bird species.



Figure 3. Cijevna river kanyon (Photo: Marija Šoškić)

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4.3. Equipment

Observations were made using binoculars (min 8x and 10x) and telescopes (min 20x). All the participants were involved in scanning the sky for birds and all took active part in their identification by using the Collins Bird identification guide.

The data were noted using the “observation.org” application for Android.

5. Results and discussion

The common species that spend winter on Niksic lakes is the Coot (*Fulica atra*). During the field work, approximately 500 individuals of this species were registered, as well as 100 individuals of duck species, Pochard (*Aythya ferina*). On the Krupac and Slano lakes, 50 Great Crested Grebes (*Podiceps cristatus*) and 5 of Black-necked Grebes (*Podiceps nigricollis*) were registered. From the gulls species, 500 individuals of Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*) and 200 individuals of Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) were registered.

Lakes and marsh parts of the Niksicko field (Figure 3.1) are very important feeding site for herons and cormorants. The field is extremely important for birds of prey, so during the field work: 5 individuals of Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*), Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), 2 Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) and 2 Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) were registered. After Nikšić Karst Field, nearby plateau of Krnovo was monitored (Figure 3.2) due the fact that wind turbines, which have negative impact on birdlife, were installed there few years ago. During the monitoring, 7 individuals of Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) and 3 Common Kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*) were observed. In total, 1251 individuals were registered (Table 1).

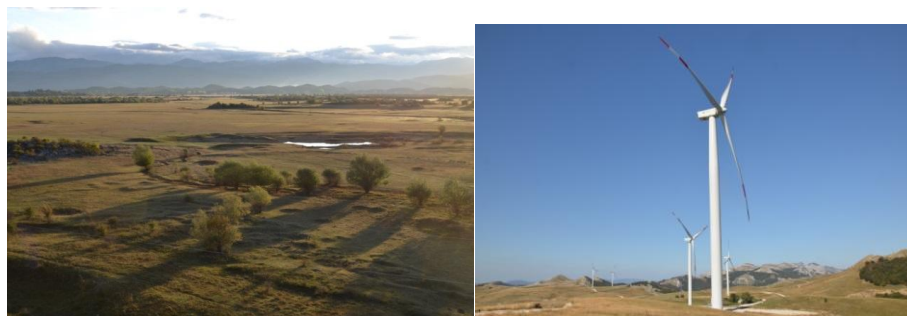


Figure 3.1 (left): Nikšićko Karst Field (Photo: Bojan Zeković); Figure 3.2 (right): Wind turbines at Krnovo plateau (Photo: Bojan Zeković)

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Table 1. List and IUCN status of the birds registered on Niksic polje and lakes

Species (EN)	Species (scientific)	Global conservation status	Count method	Number
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	VU	Estimated	100
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	LC	Estimated	500
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	LC	Real count	5
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	LC	Real count	50
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	LC	Real count	20
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	LC	Real count	5
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	LC	Real count	5
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	LC	Real count	9
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	LC	Real count	2
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	LC	Real count	5
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	LC	Estimated	200
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	LC	Estimated	350
TOTAL NUMBER OF OBSERVED INDIVIDUALS				1251

On Ulcinj salina, during second day of field work, participant had the privilege to observe the most important inhabitants of this habitat:

80 individuals of Dalmatian Pelicans (*Pelecanus crispus*), 6 individuals of Greater flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*), approximately 100 individuals of Pygmy Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*) (Figure 4.1), 21 individuals of Spoonbills (*Platalea leucorodia*), 1 Oystercatcher (*Haemantopus ostralegus*), 10 Greenshanks (*Tringa nebularia*), 7 Black-winged Stilts (*Himantopus himantopus*), 2 Ringed Plovers (*Charadrius hiaticula*), 10 Kentish Plovers (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) (Figure 4.2), 3 Little Ringed Plovers (*Charadrius dubius*), 20 Grey Plovers (*Pluvialis squatarola*), 5 Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis apricaria*), 5 Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*), 1 Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), 2 Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*), 2 Caspian Terns (*Hydropogone caspia*), approximately 100 individuals of Black-headed Gulls (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*), and 200 individuals of Yellow-legged Gulls (*Larus michahellis*).

In total, 623 individuals were observed (results are shown in Table 2). The number of Dalmatian pelicans observed on Ulcinj salina is the biggest number of the individuals observed during wintering since 2002 (Saveljic, 2002).

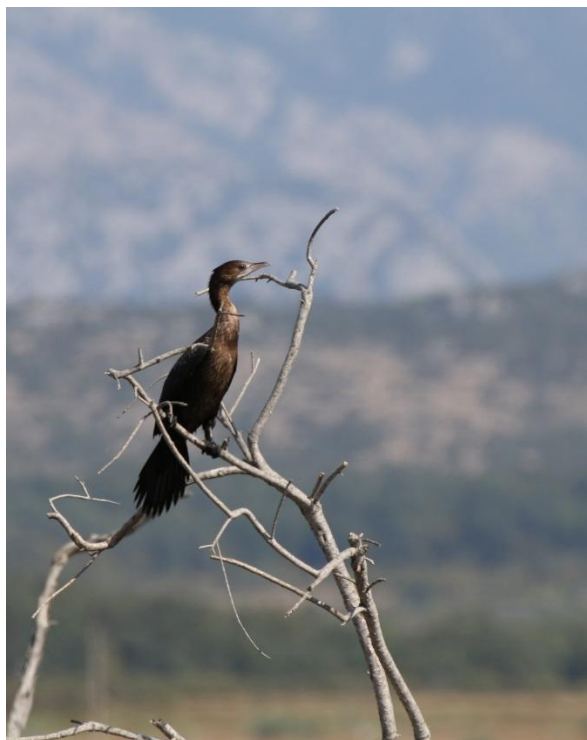


Figure 4.1 (left): Pygmy cormorant (Photo: Marija Šoškić) and (right): fig. 4.2 Kentish Plover at Ulcinj salina (Photo: Marija Šoškić)

Table 2. List of observed bird species on Ulcinj salina and their IUCN status

Species (EN)	Species (scientific)	Global conservation status	Count method	Number
Dalmatian pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	NT	Real count	80
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>	LC	Estimated	100
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	LC	Estimated	20
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	LC	Estimated	20



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Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	LC	Real count	6
Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	LC	Real count	21
Osprey	<i>Pandion heliaetus</i>	LC	Real count	5
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circaetus aeruginosus</i>	LC	Real count	1
Oystercatcher	<i>Haemantopus ostralegus</i>	NT	Real count	1
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	LC	Real count	7
Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	LC	Real count	4
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	LC	Real count	3
Ringed plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	LC	Real count	2
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	LC	Estimated	10
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	LC	Estimated	20
Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	LC	Real count	5
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	LC	Real count	3
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	LC	Real count	10
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	LC	Estimated	100
Yellow legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	LC	Estimated	200
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	LC	Real count	2
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	LC	Real count	1
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	LC	Real count	1
TOTAL NUMBER OF OBSERVED INDIVIDUALS				623

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After the survey at Ulcinj salina, the participants of the camp visited the Šasko lake located northeastern of Ulcinj. Also, the participants travelled back to Podgorica via Ostros that provided fantastic scenery of the Skadar lake, national park about which importance CZIP team introduced the participants.



Figure 6. (left): Juvenile Dalmatian Pelicans (*Pelecanus crispus*) in the canal of Ulcinj salina and mixed flock of Herons and Cormorants (Photo: Marija Šoškić)

In the canyon of Cijevna river, 5 Common Kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*) and along the river itself 2 Dipers (*Cinclus cinclus*) were registered. The results of the count are given in the Table 3.

Species (En)	Species (scientific)	Global conservation status	Count method	Number
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	LC	Real count	5
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	LC	Real count	2
TOTAL NUMBER OF OBSERVED INDIVIDUALS				7

During the fieldwork, more than 2060 individuals from 35 bird species were registered, which is 10% of the total number of bird species registered, which also shows the richness of the ornithofauna in Montenegro.



6. References

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