



Data on birds recorded in Republic of Moldova in 2013 and 2014 Podaci o pticama zabeleženim u Moldaviji 2013. i 2014.

Škorpíková, V., Bělka, T., Štěpánek, P. & Horal, D.

U ovom članku predstavljani su izabrani podaci o posmatranjima ptica u Moldaviji koje je realizovano tokom dve ekspedicije: 6. i 7. 8. 2013, i od 30. 5. do 4. 6. 2014. Tokom 2013. zabeleženo je 70 vrsta ptica na posećenim lokalitetima uzduž doline reke Prut, dok su 2014. zabeleženo 133 vrste u južnom delu zemlje, a najzanimljiviji podaci o posmatranju 28 vrsta ptica predstavljani su u ovom članku.

INTRODUCTION

Moldova belongs to the least known European countries from an ornithological point of view. The only summarizing works on birds of this country (Averin & Ganya, 1970; Averin et al., 1971) used data from the 1960s. The breeding bird atlas (Munteanu et al., 2010a) is almost inaccessible in central Europe, more articles have appeared in recent years (Munteanu et al., 2010b; Ajder et al., 2014; Zubcov et al., 2014). This attracted our attention. At the same time we wanted to contribute to the European Breeding Birds Atlas in accordance with „How to contribute by field data collected during birdwatching trips abroad. Brief guidelines“ (<http://www.ebcc.info/index.php?ID=545>).

In this article, some records, which can change views on the distribution and population size of several bird species in Moldova and improve knowledge on several rare species are presented. Some interesting findings regarded to common birds were also added.

STUDY AREA DESCRIPTION

The Republic of Moldova (in this article: Moldova) is a landlocked country in Eastern Europe located between Romania to its west and Ukraine to its north, east and south. Its largest part lies between the Dniester and the Prut rivers. While most of the country is hilly, elevations never exceed 430 m a. s. l. Around 4 millions people live in the territory of about 33.800 km². Moldova is not rich in any mineral resources; agriculture forms crucial part of its economy.

METHODS

For the first time we visited Moldova on 6 and 7 August 2013 (T. Bělka, P. Berka, D. Horal and V. Škorpíková) to have a brief look at the landscape and the nature. As this short trip was very exciting, we came back in 2014 (T. Bělka, V. Škorpíková and P. Štěpánek) with an aim to collect data on all bird species and their breeding status.

In 2013, we entered Moldova in its southernmost point, namely at the village of Giurgiulești on 6 August and travelled along the valley of Prut river (which forms the border with Romania) to the north. After staying overnight in Ungheni we continued our trip on 7 August till 11:05, when we left Moldova in Costești.

In 2014, we came to Moldova (Ungheni) on 30 May in the evening and first decided to visit the Codri forest. However, we mainly wanted to concentrate on the southern part of the country, so we proceeded toward Nisporeni, Leova, Cantemir and Cahul districts on 1-4 June. Then, we headed for Basarabasca reaching the southeasternmost point of our trip in Chiriet-Lunga on 6 June. Through Comrat, Hincești and Ungheni we returned to the Romanian border and left Moldova in Costești on 7 June 12:45.

Unfortunately, we could only superficially explore the Prut river and the very interesting belt of landscape along it, because of the strictly guarded and restricted frontier zone. Nevertheless, we discovered many birds and several bird colonies, when we observed this inaccessible area from hills or slopes above the Prut valley.

During both trips (in 2013 and 2014) we travelled by car and stopped every time we observed something interesting. Our attention was especially attracted to larger or unexpected bird species but also to various habitats (wetlands, forests with old trees and natural vegetation, grassy slopes with dry meadows or suslik colonies), where we then spent longer time. We recorded all found bird species with relevant breeding category according to the methodology found at <http://www.ebcc.info/new-atlas.html>.

RESULTS, DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

In 2013, we recorded 70 species, in 2014, 133 species were observed (138 species in total). In the following overview we only present those which were unexpected or surprising from any point of view, together with a conclusive discussion.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

One pair flying to the south through a small valley was recorded south of Javgur on 6 June 2014. The Ruddy Shelduck is a rare species in Moldova with an estimated population size of 0-3 pairs, all probable and confirmed breedings are concentrated into the southernmost grid squares (Munteanu et al., 2010a). This situation has not changed since the records of Averin et al. (1971), according to whom, Ruddy Shelducks were only occasional breeders in Moldova. Our record extends the probable distribution area of this species to the north.

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

At least 10 pairs were observed at flooded pastures along the Ialpuș river near the village of Svetlii on 6 June 2014. According to local people, the species breeds there. Another 4 ad. birds were confirmed in a flat valley of the Lunguța river between the villages of Baurci and Ceadîr-Lunga on the same day. The species did not breed in Moldova before 1970 (Averin et al., 1971). More recent estimate suggests that 0-3 pairs breed along a lower reach of the Prut river (Munteanu et al., 2010a). Our records indicate that more pairs can be overlooked along lowland rivers in southeastern part of the country.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

We recorded 8 individuals at a lake near the Brînza village on 6 August 2013 and one pair and one male at a water reservoir near Sărata-Răzeși village on 2 June 2014. Before 1970, this species was common and was often hunted mainly along the lower Prut, but the population had a decreasing tendency (Averin et al., 1971). Accord-

ding to Munteanu et al. (2010a), 30-50 pairs breed in Moldova, almost exclusively in its southern part. Our observation from 2014 shows that more occupied sites can be scattered along the Prut river. Due to an unfavourable conservation status of this species which underwent a major decline (thus evaluated as vulnerable in Europe by BirdLife International 2004), each breeding site is important.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

One adult bird was observed at a water reservoir near the Sărata-Răzeși village on 2 June 2014. This species is considered to be a rare breeder in Moldova (Averin & Ganya, 1970) with the population of 0-10 pairs along the lower Prut (Munteanu et al., 2010a). Our record could draw attention to other localities near the border with Romania.

Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

On 2 June 2014, a calling male was heard from the vegetation at a water reservoir near the Sărata-Răzeși village, a locality not mentioned by Munteanu et al. (2010a), who estimated its population size in Moldova to be 30-70 pairs.

Great White Egret *Casmerodius albus*

Apart from the birds observed at 5 localities along the Prut river and its tributary the Delia river, we also recorded Great Egrets at four localities along the Ialpuș river (single birds, sometimes repeatedly) on 5-6 June 2014. Munteanu et al. (2010a) estimate the population size of this species in Moldova at 20-50 pairs. All known breeding sites are connected to the Prut river. Our observations could confirm the documented expansion of the Great Egret in Europe (Ławicki, 2014).

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

An adult bird was observed between the Ciuciuleni village and the Codri forest on 31 May, another one at a water reservoir near the Sărata-Răzeși village on 2 June, and a concentration of eight birds was recorded at a small wetland area near Roșu on 3 June 2014. With regard to a very small population of the Black Stork in Moldova (only 3-6 breeding pairs according to Munteanu et al., 2010a), these observations can help to find new breeding sites.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Apart from a bird found at a water reservoir near the Sărata-Răzeși village on 2 June, we recorded another Spoonbills in the Ialpuș river valley – 1 individual near Aluatu on 5 June and 35 individuals near Svetlii on 6 June 2014. All these localities are outside of the only known grid square (at the lower Prut) where this species is known to breed. The population was estimated to be 10-20 pairs in Moldova (Munteanu et al., 2010a).

European Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

On 6 August 2013, 1 individual was recorded soaring near the Brînza village. One bird was soaring above the Sipoteni village on 31 May, another one hunted near Micleușeni and a pair soared near Dolna on 1 June 2014. Based on these observations, we can support the upper limit of the estimated population size (1-10 p.) for Moldova (Munteanu et al., 2010a).

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

An adult bird was recorded soaring and gradually heading to the east between the villages of Voinescu and Cărpineni on 3 June, 1 imm. individual (4th calendar year) was observed south of Javgur

on 6 June 2014. According to Ajder et al. (2014), 4 breeding pairs of White-tailed Eagle were known in Moldova in 2012-13, all in the Prut valley. The adult bird recorded on 3 June could hardly belong to any of them, as the nearest breeding site (south of Cantemir) is approximately 60 km far. It is probable that another pair of White-tailed Eagle breeds somewhere in the area southwest of Hîncești. Similarly, the immature eagle observed near Javgur was old enough to breed, but the nearest known breeding sites are more than 60 km far.

Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

We recorded this species only once – east of the road Slobozia Mare – Văleni on 6 August 2013. This observation corresponds with the data of Zubcov et al. (2014), according to whom the breeding of Short-toed Snake Eagle has not recently been known in Moldova, but there have been records of this species in the forests along the Dniestr, in the Codri forest and around the lower reaches of the Prut (as in our case).

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*

One individual was observed between Pîrlița and Hristoforovca on 31 May 2014, 1 individual was soaring near the forest between Vladimirovca and Vadul lui Isac and 1 ad. bird perched on a small hill near a road about 5 km east of Colibași on 4 June 2014. One bird perched on a pylon in the fields east of Slobozia Mare in the morning and another one was observed south of Vinogradovca on 5 June 2014. The last Long-legged Buzzard overflowed the Costești-Stânca dam on 7 June 2014 – it was an adult bird with a prey in talons flying from Romania to Moldova. These birds could belong to up to six breeding pairs. The Long-legged Buzzard is a relatively new breeding species in Moldova, according to Baltag & Ajder (2011), who recorded breeding pairs at ten localities in the historical region of Moldova (it is not indicated how many pairs were found in Romania and how many in the Republic of Moldova) during the last five years. They occupy small forests and river valleys surrounded by large fields and pastures. This situation corresponds with a positive population trend of Long-legged Buzzards in most Balkan countries and Ukraine as well (BirdLife International, 2004).

Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*

On 7 August 2013, we recorded at least 5 Lesser Spotted Eagles, one of them with a prey (probably feeding the young in or near a nest) during a short monitoring of the Prut valley from a small hill situated between Cobani and Braniște. Based on their behaviour, we assumed three breeding pairs in the gallery forests along the river. In 2014, we met Lesser Spotted Eagle more times. Three birds were observed north of Voinescu on 3 June – one of them was an immature bird, the other flew with a Suslik *Spermophilus citellus* away to the east. The last one was soaring far in eastern direction, maybe a partner of the hunting bird. On 6 June, we recorded two pairs and another Lesser Spotted Eagle in a wide valley with pastures and meadows with scattered forests in the surroundings south of Javgur. During our journey along the Prut valley to the border crossing in Costești on 7 June, we observed 1 ad. Lesser Spotted Eagle between the village of Drujineni and the Prut river at 10:25, 1 ad. and 2 other individuals south of Cobani at 11:25 and 1 ad. south of Păscăuți at 12:00. According to these results, we can assume 5-7 breeding pairs in the Prut valley between Pruteni and Costești, 1-2 pair(s) near Voinescu and 2-3 pairs at Javgur. That is 8-12 breeding pairs. Zubcov et al. (2014) believe Lesser Spotted Eagle to be a very rare species of Moldova and they estimate the

size of the population to be 2-5 pairs. Based on our results, the situation seems to be much better.

Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*

On 3 June 2014, around 10:00, 1 imm. Imperial Eagle was recorded between Voinescu and Cărpineni. It was flying across a small valley low above the ground, then started soaring, subsequently another bird joined it. It was too far from us to determine its age. Both eagles disappeared to the northeast. According to Zubcov et al. (2014), the Imperial Eagle has not recently bred in Moldova, any records from the breeding season have ceased. The last active nest was found in the Cabac forest in the Nisporeni region in 1975. Our observation brings hope for the Imperial Eagle population in Moldova.

Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus*

We recorded this species on more occasions in both years. One pale individual was soaring near Cioara on 6 August 2013. On 7 August 2013, one dark Booted Eagle flew out of the gallery forest along the Prut river between the villages of Chetriș and Moara Domnească. Two pale ad. birds with one dark bird were observed on the same day during the monitoring of the Prut valley from a small hill between Cobani and Braniște. Records from 2014: one dark individual harassed by a Grey Great Shrike *Lanius excubitor* near Hristoforovca and one pale individual with one dark individual near Cornești on 31 May, one pale individual above the Codri forest on 1 June, two pale and two dark individuals hunted for Susliks north of Voinescu on 3 June, one pale individual observed from the road stretching between Cahul and Lebedenco on 4 June, one pale individual near Congaz on 6 June, one dark individual above the Prut valley near Taxobeni and two dark individuals near Cobani on 7 June. We can assume that the observed birds belonged up to 12 breeding pairs. Zubcov et al. (2014) say that 15-25 pairs of Booted Eagle breed in Moldova, mainly along the Dniestr and the Prut rivers and in the Codri forest. Our results are indicative of higher numbers and draw attention to another localities.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

The Common Kestrel belongs to the common species in Moldova (Munteanu et al., 2010a), we recorded single birds or pairs more times. Colonial nesting of at least 6 pairs found near the village of Bozieni on 6th June 2014 was interesting. We found at least six nests (built probably by Crows and/or Ravens) on neighbouring electrical pylons occupied by Common Kestrels. The colonial nesting of the Common Kestrel is a known phenomenon (Glutz von Blotzheim et al., 1989), but it is not very common.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

Ten birds (especially females) were recorded in a colony of Rooks in Cucoara on 3 June 2014 – these were the only Red-footed Falcons found in the region along the Prut river. In total 5-8 pairs occupied nests in a Rook colony between Pelinei and Vladimirovca on 4 June. A male was recorded above Vulcanesti and another one near Aluatu, a pair hunted west of Taraclia and 3 pairs and 1 male were observed around the Taraclia lake on 5 June 2014. The last male occurred in the flat Lunguța river valley between the villages of Baurci and Ceadîr-Lunga on 6 June 2014. According to Munteanu et al. (2010a), 70-90 pairs of Red-footed Falcon breed in Moldova, so all grid squares (25 x 25 km) in south parts of the country should be occupied. We only found this species in three out of 11 visited squares (50 x 50 km) and they numbered around 25 pairs.

Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug*

The species was observed only once: 1 ad. female perched on an electrical pylon between the villages of Burlăceni and Vinogradovca on 5 June 2014. This observation corresponds with the results of Munteanu et al. (2010) from 2005-2009, who identified 2-3 territories of Sakers in that area (locality 4 – near Greceni village), even without the breeding pairs in 2007-2009. These authors documented a decline of the Saker population in Moldova, which we can confirm, because the observed female was the only Saker Falcon recorded during our trips.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

Apart from single pairs or small colonies, we found a colony of at least 26 pairs at a water reservoir by the Sărata-Răzeși village on 2 June 2014. Birds were building nests or incubating eggs. This breeding site is not involved in the breeding birds atlas by Munteanu et al. (2010a), according to whom the estimated population size of the Whiskered Tern in Moldova is around 150-200 pairs.

Common Swift *Apus apus*

In 2013, voices of more individuals were heard in Ungheni on 6 August in the evening. But in 2014, we did not record any birds there. We generally observed few Common Swifts: 12 individuals high above Zirnești on 3 June, 1 and 2 individuals in Cahul on 4 June and 1 individual between Vulcanesti and the border of Ukraine on 5 June. According to Munteanu et al. (2010a), 800-1200 pairs should breed in Moldova and the breeding was also confirmed in more southern grid squares.

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*

We did not find any Calandra Larks during our two trips in Moldova. It is surprising, because Averin & Ganya (1970) write, it is a common species with a year-around occurrence and more numerous in the southern part of the country. But Munteanu et al. (2010a) did not include the Calandra Lark among the breeding birds of Moldova, so the situation must have changed dramatically during the last thirty years. This would deserve more attention, because the European population is estimated to be in decline (BirdLife International, 2014).

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

We recorded Greater Short-toed Larks at two localities, where we stayed overnight - 2 singing males in the fields east of Slobozia Mare on 4-5 June and 1 individual at a pasture near Svetlii on 5-6 June 2014. While Averin & Ganya (1970) describe this species as resident, but rare, Munteanu et al. (2010a) do not include it among the breeding birds of Moldova at all. It can be easily overlooked at least in the southern parts of the country, where the possible population is augmented by its occurrence in neighbouring Ukraine (Фесенко & Бокотей, 2002) and Romania (Munteanu, 1998).

Wood Lark *Lullula arborea*

Munteanu et al. (2010a) believe that Wood Larks inhabit only central and northern parts of Moldova (population size 1600-2400 pairs). However, we recorded singing males in southern grid squares as well, for example south of Cioara on 2 June and south of Voinescu on 3 June or between Cahul and Lebedenco on 4 June 2014.

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

One singing male was observed in the Codri forest on 1 June 2014. The rarest Moldovan flycatcher (population size 100-200

pairs) should be mainly distributed in the north-eastern part of the country (Munteanu et al., 2010a), so our observation from central Moldova improves the knowledge of the species distribution.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

The breeding of Great Grey Shrike was confirmed by the observation of two fledged juveniles out of which one was still fed by an adult bird at Elizavetovca on 3 May 2014. Another adult was recorded at Novaia Nicolaevca, at Hristoforovca (the bird harassed a hunting Booted Eagle) and at two localities near Bahmut at the same day. Later, when we moved more to the south, no other birds were found. Averin & Ganya (1970) only classify the Great Grey Shrike as a common wintering species. Similarly, Munteanu et al. (2010a) do not include it among the breeding birds in Moldova. But already in 2012, this species was recorded during the breeding season at two localities in northern part of the country (at four localities in 2013) by V. Ajder (pers. obs).

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

In a colony in poplars along the road between Pelinei and Vladimirovca we noticed at least 5 nests, which, interestingly, were almost completely built of wires (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Nest of Rook *Corvus frugilegus* built of wires between Pelinei and Vladimirovca, Moldova. Photo: P. Štěpánek
Slika 1. Gnezdo gačca *Corvus frugilegus* napravljeno od žica, između Pelinei i Vladimirovca, Moldavija

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*

Already in August 2013, we observed two males feeding young in a White Stork nest in Roșu village. In 2014 we concentrated on this species and found small active colonies at more localities. All nests were built into the nests of other bird species. Nests of White Storks were used by 9 pairs of Spanish Sparrows in Cîșlița-Prut, by 3 pairs in Crihana Veche, by 1 pair in Colibași and by 15 and 35 pairs, respectively, in Roșu. In total 20-30 pairs of Spanish Sparrow built their nests into lower parts of the nests of Rooks in their colony along a road Pelinei – Vladimirovca. Similarly, at least 3 pairs used the nests of Rooks in Congaz, which is the northernmost breeding site for this species in Moldova now. The Spanish Sparrow is a new breeding species in Moldova, not included in the works of Averin & Ganya (1970) or Munteanu et al. (2010a).

It probably spread along the Prut river from Romania, where it sparsely breeds in its southern part, even if it was in a decline in the end of the 20th century (Munteanu 1998). In Ukraine, this species is only an occasional visitor (Фесенко & Бокотей 2002).

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*

One singing male was heard from a ruderal vegetation at an abandoned farm near Roșu in the morning on 4 June 2014, while another one was heard and seen in the evening of the same day and in the following morning. It was singing from more spots along a broad grassy road between cereal fields east of Slobozia Mare. The authors know this species very well from Balkan countries, especially Macedonia, so its song could hardly be overlooked. It is difficult to evaluate these observations. Neither Averin & Ganya (1970), nor Munteanu et al. (2010a) mention this species, and there are no other records of its occurrence in Moldova. It is a rare summer visitor in Romania (Munteanu 1998), in Ukraine it only breeds along its eastern border (Фесенко & Бокотей 2002). The nearest breeding population (about 250 km to south) can be found in Bulgaria, where the Black-headed Bunting is numerous especially in the southeastern part of the country and along the Black Sea coast, and the numbers as well as distribution of this species are increasing (Iankov, 2007). It will be necessary to collect more data mainly in the agricultural landscape of the southern part of Moldova before concluding, if we only recorded exceptional migrants or if the species started occupying new territories.

We can further confirm data provided by Munteanu et al. 2010a (in brackets) on these rare species:

1. Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* (0-10 pairs breeding along the lower Prut) - we observed 3 individuals in the Prut valley near Giurgiulești on 4 June 2014 and 2 individuals at a lake near Brînza village on 6 August 2013.
2. Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* (very rare species with 2-4 breeding pairs) - we only observed this species once in Moldova: 1 juv. was hunting above fields near the villages Mirești-Chetroșeni (south of Nisporeni) on 6 August 2013.
3. Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (breeding population of 0-10 pairs) - we observed at least 20 individuals at flooded pastures near the village of Svetlii on 6th June 2014. So, there seem to be more suitable breeding sites along the Ialpuș river.
4. European Roller *Coracias garrulus* (population of 30-60 pairs in southern part of the country) - we recorded 12-18 pairs in 2014, mainly along the lower Prut.
5. European Serin *Serinus serinus* (population of 20-40 pairs concentrated in central Moldova) - we heard 1 singing male and saw 1 female near Lozova on 1st June 2014.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Finding information on Moldovan avifauna is not easy, so we are very grateful for all the information to Vitalije Ajder and especially Nikolay Zubcov, who sent us the Moldovan breeding birds atlas in very short time.

REFERENCES

- Ajder, V., Roșca, I., Bolboacă, L. E., Petrencu, L. & Baltag, E. Ș. (2014): White-tailed Eagle (Aves: Accipiteriformes) status in Republic of Moldova. European Scientific Journal May 2014 (special edition): 49-54.

- Averin, I. V. & Ganya, I. M. (1970): Birds of Moldova, Volume I. Știința. Chișinău.
- Averin, I. V., Ganya, I. M. & Uspenskij, G. A. (1971): Birds of Moldova, Volume II. Știința. Chișinău.
- Baltag, E. Ș. & Ajder V. (2011): Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*) expansion in the historical region of Moldavia. p: 84. In: Murariu, D., Costică, A., Chișamera, G., Iorgu E., Popa, L. O. & Popa, O. P. (eds): Annual Zoological Congress of „Grigore Antipa” Museum. 23-25 November 2011. Bucharest – Romania. Book of Abstracts.
- BirdLife International (2004): Birds in Europe: population estimates, trends and conservation status. BirdLife International, Cambridge.
- BirdLife International (2014): Species factsheet: *Melanocorypha calandra*. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 30. 8. 2014.
- Фесенко, Г. В. & Бокотей, А. А. (2002): Птахи фауни України. Київ.
- Glutz von Blotzheim, U. N., Bauer, K. M. & Bezzel, E. (1989): Handbuch der Vögel Mitteleuropas. Band 4: Falconiformes. AULA-Verlag GmbH, Wiesbaden.
- Iankov, P. (2007): Atlas of Breeding Birds of Bulgaria. BSPB, Sofia.
- Ławicki, Ł. (2014): The Great White Egret in Europe and range expansion since 1980. *British Birds* 107: 8-25.
- Munteanu, D. (1998): The status of birds in Romania. Romanian Ornithological Society, Cluj Napoca
- Munteanu, A., Zubcov, N., Gusan, G., Glavan, T., Buciuceanu, L., Jurminschi, S., Mantorov, O., Tibiliac, T., Știrbu, V., Cojan, C., Vasilașcu, N., Bogdea, L., Postolachi, V., Turcanu, I. & Sărodoev, G. (2010a): Atlasul păsărilor clocitoare din Republica Moldova. Chișinău.
- Munteanu, A., Cozari, T. & Zubcov, N. (2006): Lumea animală a Moldovei. Vol. 3: Păsări. Știința. Chișinău.
- Munteanu, A., Zubcov, N., Turcanu, V. & Ragyov, D. (2010b): On the monitoring of Saker Falcons nesting in the Republic of Moldova. *Buletinul Academiei de Științe a Moldovei: Științele vieții* 1 (310): 77-83.
- Zubcov, N., Munteanu, A., Crudu, V., Bogdea, L. & Sochircă, N. (2014): On the state of rare and endangered diurnal birds of prey in Moldova. *Buletinul Academiei de Științe a Moldovei: Științele vieții* 1 (322): 78-85.

Authors' addresses:

Vlasta Škorpíková
Lukov 44, 66902 Znojmo, the Czech Republic
vlasta_skorpikova@volny.cz

Tomáš Bělka
Masarykova 15, 517 50 Častolovice, the Czech Republic.
tomas.belka@tiscali.cz

Pavel Štěpánek
Valašská 5, 625 00 Brno, the Czech Republic
stepanek.nature@seznam.cz

David Horal
Hybešova 17, 602 00 Brno, the Czech Republic
david.horal@seznam.cz