



From a research notebook

**RECORD OF LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor*, J. F. Gmelin 1788  
(AVES, LANIIDAE) ON DRAGALJ FIELD, MONTENEGRO**

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The family of Gray Shrike (*Lanius minor*) in Dragalj field (42° 36' 31" N; 18° 41' 46" E) was recorded on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

Dragalj field is an integral part of the Kotor municipality and is situated at an altitude of 640 meters. The field is karst type, and is located northwest of the mountain Orijen. Dominant habitat is mosaic, open meadows with occasional trees that grouped into dense forest, which suite this species for breeding, hunting and hiding from predators (fig. 2).

Observed four individuals were a couple with two juveniles and they were on a power line during the period from 19:40h to 20:30h. Female, after feeding its offspring, left them and flew into the woods. These two juveniles stayed with the male, which was photo-documented (fig. 1). This species correspond a drier and sunnier conditions than most European Shrikes and preferred habitat are lowlands and semi mountain up to altitude of 700 meters, and rarely up to 1,200 m a.s.l. in the Balkans (Nikolov, 2010).

*Lanius minor* (Gmelin, 1788) is a widespread species. It overwinters in South Africa, and its nesting area extending from south-western Europe to Central Asia (Cramp & Perrins, 1993). In Europe the breeding population is estimated to 620000-1500000 breeding pairs (BirdLife International, 2004). Although in the period from 1990 to 2000 the population of Gray Shrike was stable, after that period decline was recorded in most of the European range, so it got the declining status (BirdLife International, 2004). The species is protected according to the Birds Directive – Annex I, directive which, with Habitat directive, forms the core of the European Union environmental legislation. In Montenegro, during the period from 1995 to 2002 year, the number of breeding population was estimated at 20 to 50 pairs, and this trend is good, but has a tendency to decrease (Puzović et al., 2003). Therefore, any information about the nesting of this species is considered to be valuable.

## REFERENCES

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**NALAZ PORODICE SIVOG SVRAČKA *Lanius minor*, J. F. Gmelin 1788  
(AVES, LANIIDAE) NA DRAGALJSKOM POLJU (CRNA GORA)**

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Dana 17.07.2012. godine evidentirana je porodica sivog svračka (*Lanius minor*) na Dragaljskom polju (42° 36' 31" N; 18° 41' 46" E).

Dragaljsko polje je sastavni dio opštine Kotor i nalazi se na nadmorskoj visini od 640 m. Polje je smješteno sjeverozapadno od planine Orijen i kraškog je tipa (sl. 2). Na njemu dominiraju mozaična staništa, otvorene livade sa mjestimično grupisanim drvećem koje prelaze u gustu šumu, što i pogoduje ovoj vrsti za gniježđenje, lov i sklonište od predatora.

Zabilježene četiri jedinke su par sa dva mladunca i boravile su na dalekovodu u periodu od 19:40h do 20:30h. Ženka, nahranivši prethodno mladunca, za kratko vrijeme ih je napustila i odletjela u šumu, a dva mladunca su ostala sa mužjakom, što je i fotodokumentovano (sl. 1). Ovoj vrsti inače odgovaraju sušniji i sunčaniji uslovi od većine evropskih svračaka, te preferira nizijska i polubrdiska staništa do 700 m n.m., a rijetko do 1.200 m na Balkanu (Nikolov, 2010).

Sivi svračak je vrsta širokog rasprostranjenja. Gnijezdeći areal se proteže od jugozapadne Europe do srednje Azije dok zimu provodi u Južnoj Africi (Cramp & Perrins, 1993). U Evropi veličina gnijezdeće populacije se kreće od 620,000 do 1,500,000 parova (BirdLife International, 2004). Iako je u periodu od 1990. do 2000. godine populacija sivog svračka bila stabilna, zabilježen je pad brojnosti u većem dijelu evropskog areala, pa je dobio opadajući status (BirdLife International, 2004). Nalazi se na Aneksu I Ptičije direktive, koja sa Habitat direktivom čini glavninu zakonodavstva Evropske unije u oblasti zaštite prirode. U Crnoj Gori, u periodu od 1995. do 2002. godine, procijenjena je brojnost gnijezdilišne populacije na 20 do 50 parova, pa je taj trend dobar, ali ima tendenciju opadanja (Puzović et al., 2003). Zato se svaki podatak o gniježđenju ove vrste smatra vrijednim.



**Figure 1: Three specimens of *Lanius minor*, on the wire in Dragaljsko polje, Montenegro.**

**Slika 1: Tri jedinke sivog svračka i stanište na kom su evidentirane sve četiri jedinke**



**Figure 2: Dragaljsko polje, Crna Gora.**

**Slika 2: Dragaljsko polje, Montenegro.**

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