

Project Update: January 2007

After we had seven days of ringing during September, we repeated ringing session in October as well. During four days, four team members cached and ringed birds on Gružansko Jezero Lake. This time we had just 4 mist-nets of which one was positioned in emerged marsh vegetation-cattail and two were in bushes. We had nice and sunny weather. Catch was not so successful like last time, because most part of fall migration had passed but we had some interesting species. In total we had 69 birds, and 7 new species, that we didn't ring in first session (*P. collybita*; *T. troglodytes*; *P. caeruleus*; *A. caudatus*; *P. domestos*; *T. philomelos*) Most of all we had *Emberiza schoeniculus* (19) and *Erithacus rubecula* (10). This is very interesting: we cached one *A. schoenobaenus*, whose alligns we had in greatest number in September. The bird had inured leg and likely this was a reason for its delay, otherwise the bird was in good condition and health.

During these two ringing sessions, by mist-nets, we recorded 28 bird species.

In November and December, on the Lake we had just monitoring sessions. Considering that winter weather is mild, there is no snow, nor ice on its surface; we recorded 2540 examples of *Anas platyrhynchos*. It was quite interesting and different experience from ringing because we had opportunity to see some really rear species, which normally we can not see for they do not breed in Serbia. Among them we noted *Mergus albellus* (20) and *M. merganser* (2); *Gavia stellata* (3); *Tadorna tadorna* (5); *Bucephala clangula* (21); *Numenius arquata* (1). Also, we were very happy to count 671 *Phalacrocorax carbo* and 10 *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*. Interesting data would be also a number of 85 *Podiceps cristatus*, which usually breed on this locality, but in less number.

These great numbers of examples as well as different long distant migrating waterfowl species show us that Gružansko Jezero Lake is important wintering site for them like we predicted before we started this project. According to these results, we inlay great effort in order to adduce importance of the Lake to policy maker in order for its better protection and sustain of hunting.