

### **Project Update: October 2003**

The project of protection and popularization of Audouin's Gull in Adriatic is coming to its final phase. In May and June field researches were conducted and over 60 pairs of this magnificent seabird were counted in South Dalmatia. On our second trip in June young birds were found for the first time ever in Croatia! The breeding success of the main colony, which numbered 30 pairs this year, still remains a mystery as the bad weather conditions didn't allow us to reach the island where the colony is situated.

A poster for popularization of Audouin's Gull was printed and distributed to schools, county offices, tourist offices and protected areas all over South Dalmatia. The poster of this previously completely unknown species in Croatia represents Croatian Identification Card where gull presents itself as a full-right citizen of this country. The idea was very well accepted. At the same time a leaflet describing newly discovered distribution, numbers, ecology, breeding habits, conservation measures and needs was printed. It will be distributed to the pupils of 8th grade of primary schools and 1st grade of secondary schools all over South Dalmatia. The action of popularization of this globally threatened species was accompanied with a number of media events, including articles in major national and regional newspapers, a story on major national TV channel in prime time edition and a number of meetings with local authorities. Later in October a press conference will be organized where national and local authorities will be present.