

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

New data on Mallophaga of the pelicans nesting at the Hrecisca colony in Romania

On 17 August 2004, while ringing 39 White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) chicks, J. B. Kiss found chewing lice (Mallophaga) on each bird, and for identification purposes he collected the lice found from one individual. However, he did not find a single chewing louse on any of the 20 Dalmatian Pelicans (*P. crispus*) in the same colony. Our earlier studies also showed that Dalmatian Pelicans, mostly breeding in mixed colonies, were usually free of lice. The lice found on the one juvenile White Pelican were identified as 8 males, 16 females and 13 larvae of the species *Piagetiella titan* (Piaget, 1880). All the lice had been clinging in clusters to the pharynx and to the internal side of the throat pouch. If alarmed, both adult and juvenile pelicans regurgitate their food, which is later eaten again by the same or another individual. Thus, Mallophaga can get from the pharynx or the throat pouch of one bird into another. The infection can thus indirectly spread not only from parent to offspring. Our future studies will aim to explore the reason why Dalmatian Pelicans are not infected.

József Rékási & János Botond Kiss

Renewed breeding of Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) in Hungary

In 2004, a pair of Common Shelducks (*Tadorna tadorna*) bred again on the reservoir along Tóció-Kösely, in the vicinity of Mikepércs (County Hajdú-Bihar). In the present territory of Hungary, this was the fourth successful and confirmed breeding record of the species.

In contrast to the previous year (Pásti, 2003), breeding was much delayed in 2004, although Common Shelducks were occasionally present on the reservoir and on the neighbouring Városréti-legelő from 3 March onwards and continuously in May and June. Although sometimes up to six individuals were observed, only one pair remained from the end of May onwards, of which the male regularly stayed on the same pond, apparently holding a territory. The female showed up more rarely, always accompanying the male. From 20 June both birds disappeared and were not found despite several attempts to locate them. On 4 July 2004, Péter Sorosi spotted the female leading nine, at the most two-day-old chicks, while the male defended the territory by flying around it several times. The next day I visited the site with others (Dr Gábor Kovács, Anikó Szabó and István Fintha), and took photographs of the family, while Péter Sorosi made a video recording to document the event.

Perhaps due to the inexperience of the parent bird, or to the tempestuous weather (a series of very strong windstorms, thunderstorms and downpours were registered this month in the area), I only found six chicks on the reservoir on 11 July. It was also strange that on my