

**Madártani adatok Csorvásról.** Az 1956. évi júliusi nagy felhőszakadások folytán évtizedek óta nem tapasztalt mennyiségben összegyűlt az esővíz a száraz mezőgazdasági táblákon. A búzatarlók, kukoricaföldek tócsáira július végén és augusztus elején 200—250 db pajzsos cankó (*Philomachus pugnax*), ugyanannyi réti cankó (*Tringa glareola*), 6—8 db erdei cankó (*Tringa ochropus*), 2 db piros lábú cankó (*Tringa totanus*), 40—50 db billegető cankó (*Actitis hypoleucos*), 8—10 db havasi partfutó (*Calidris alpina*), 15—20 db szürke cankó (*Tringa nebularia*) gyűlt össze, közöttük egy alkalommal 1 db tavi cankót (*Tringa stagnatilis*) és 1 db középsárszalonkát (*Gallinago gallinago*) figyeltem meg. Fenti fajok 30—50 db-ból álló laza csapatokban mozogtak, sokszor pár lépésnyire szedegetve az aratóktól vagy a működésben levő kombájntól. 30—40 bibe (*Vanellus vanellus*), tőkés- és csörgőrécék (*Anas platyrhynchos* et *A. crecca*) vegyesen 3 db 10—15-ös csapatban, és egy-egy kormos szerkő (*Chlidonias nigra*) is átvonult a terület felett, melynek kb. 1000 kat. holdja állt víz alatt.

A vadászok tavasszal üstökösgémet (*Ardeola ralloides*), március—április hónapokban erdei szalonkát (*Scolopax rusticola*), darázsölyvet (*Pernis apivorus*) és egy kiszínezett öreg him kékes rétihéját (*Circus cyaneus*) lőttek. VIII. 8-án fiatal, 1—2 napja kirepült bakcsót (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) ejtett el ANDREJ PÁL, ami csorvási fészkelését teszi valószínűvé. Fehér gólya (*Ciconia ciconia*) háromszor (VII. 22-én 2 db; VIII. 4-én 22 db; VIII. 5-én 3 db) vonult át a falu felett. A Telekgerendás v. á. melletti 1 holdas homokosgödör vizében többek között kisvöcsök (*Podiceps ruficollis*) és 1 pár guvat (*Rallus aquaticus*) fészkel. A csorvási „lapos”-ban összegyűlt esővíz vékony nádszegélyében énekes nádiposzáta (*Acrocephalus palustris*), csikosfejű nádiposzáta (*Acrocephalus paludicola*) és 1 pár búbos vöcsök (*Podiceps cristatus*) tartózkodott az ott máskor is előforduló vízimadarakon kívül, a Pernecky-csárdánál pedig 2 db gyurgyalagot (*Merops apiaster*) láttam a búzakereszteken ülni. (VIII. 6-án.) A nagymajori (Petőfi-pusztá) erdőben 1 pár kékvércse (*Falco vespertinus*) és 3 pár vörösvércse (*Falco tinnunculus*) költött.

Tavaszi vonuláskor az erdő fenyőfái között (!) egy átrepülő vízityúkot (*Gallinula chloropus*) lőttek, VIII. hó elején pedig az erdőt határoló gabonatarló esővíz pocsolójában PADOS PÁL 1 db füstös cankót (*Tringa erythropus*) lőtt. A tűzokállományt (*Otis tarda*) az utolsó igen erős tél megtizedelte, annak ellenére a nagymajori földeken 2 db 25—30 tagból álló csapat tartózkodott.

*Festetics Antal*

### Egy régi és egy újabb vadászlőjegyzék madártani adatai

KOVÁSSY FERENC hajdani tiszafüredi és debrecenebesi földbirtokos 1867-ben véglegesen felhagyott a Bach-korszakban fellendült agarászattal, hogy annál inkább élvezhesse az akkor már engedélyezett lőfegyverrel való és kopászattal egybekötött társasvadászatok gyönyöreit. Fia, KÁLMÁN erdőigazgató nemcsak mai napig megőrizte szenvedélyes és kitűnő vadászatjának 1865-től 1909-ig előbb csak hézagosan, 1872-től azonban részletes pontossággal vezetett lőjegyzékét és vadászati feljegyzéseit, hanem 1883-tól kezdve 60 éven át ilyet maga is készített. E naplónak is nevezhető kéziratokból — melyeknek vadászati vonatkozásai egyformán becsesek, sőt a madártaniaknál terjedelmesebbek — szedtük ki az alábbi ornithológiai vonatkozású adatokat, átdolgozva a mai szakirodalmi elnevezésekre. KOVÁSSY FERENC 1865 húsvét táján (hó és nap?) az ebesi vasútállomás melletti tanyájának határárkából lőtt egy magános darut (*Grus grus g.*), melynek „röptere 7 láb és tollai közül hat rendkívül szép” volt. — 1875. VII. 15-én a tiszafüredi Kócs-pusztán lőtt szintén egy darut, mely a tüzelésre egyet ugorva nyomban kimúlt. Hossza „talpától a koponyájáig 4 láb 3 hüvely” volt. Ez a daru mintegy 100 gólya társaságában tartózkodott. — Fel-

derítésre vár, hogy az 1873. III. 15- és 20-án a füredi Kócs-pusztán elejtett 1—1 „vihar hojszán” mit kell értenünk? A vihar sirályt-e (*Larus canus*) vagy talán a magyar ornisba besorozott hojsza félék egyikét? A Fertő vidékén a nagy pólingot nevezik hojszának. — Nagykócsagot (*Egretta alba*) 1874. VIII. 29-én a hortobágyi Fekete-réten 1880-ban (hó nap?) a füredi határon és 1883. VII. 11-én a füredi Fokon lőtt. Ez utóbbi holt-tisza-meder, melyet akkortájt sűrű nádasok borítottak. — Kiskócsag (*Egretta garzetta*) esett 1882. VI. 4-én a füredi réten 2 db és 1882. VI. 24-én Tiszaigaron 2 db. Utóbbi község határában id. Széchy Péter birtokán akkoron hatalmas gémtelep volt, melyben a kiskócsag különösen pedig az üstökösgém (*Ardeola ralloides*) és a bakesó (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) töméntelen mennyiségben tenyésztett s így a lőjegyzékben gyakran szerepelnek, valamint az ott kékgémnek nevezett szürkegém (*Ardea cinera*) és két ízben a nagy kárókatona (*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*) és pedig 1865-ben Debrecen és 1871-ben Tiszafüred határából hó és nap megnevezése nélkül. Füred és Igar Heves megyei községek környékén a kiskócsagot gyalogkócsagnak, a nagyot — amint ezt Chernel is ismeri — lovaskócsagnak nevezték. — 1869. VII. hónapban a füredi Villogón zabtáblában túzokokat (*Otis tarda*) — 1874. XII. 13-án Füred határában repce táblán rezneket (*Otis tetrax*) lőtt. Megemlítem a lőjegyzékből a nálunk akkor még nagy számmal költő és az átvonuló vadlúd fajok hatalmas tömegeit, úgyszintén a sok közül egy „2 fontos” nagy pólingot (*Numenius arquatus*), melyet akkor köznyelven „töcsmadárnak” hívtak. 1874. VI. 13-án a füredi Varjason fekete golyát (*Ciconia nigra*) lőtt, 1884. IV. 3-án az egyeki határon lappantyút (*Caprimulgus europaeus*). Említ a lőjegyzék egy 1885. X. 18-án Füreden ejtett diótörő hollót, ami bizonyára a fenyőszajkó (*Nucifraga caryocatactes*) lesz és egy szürke sólymot (1886. II. 9. Ebes), amely elnevezés alatt öreg vándorsólymot (*Falco peregrinus*) gyaníthatunk. Egy helyen fehér sólyom szerepel 1874. XI. 25. Füred, amely — ha nem a kékes réti héja öreg hímje volt — talán albinó vándorsólyom lehetett. — Néhányszor bizonyos „quodlibet snepf” (?) van a lőjegyzékben említve. — Az akkori viszonyokra jellemző, hogy a derék füredi vadász fáciánt (*Phasianus colchicus*) először életében 1868. X. 3-án látott és lőtt, és pedig azt is Csepelszigeten, mint SZILÁGYI LAJOS vendége. A lőjegyzékben többször említett szalakótát (*Coracias garrulus*) „Karicsa szalakata” —, sőt „szala kata kóta” névvel illetik. — Egy héjáról, mely vadászunk egyik sebzett foglyára lecsapott és lelőtte, így ír: „meggebedt a szemtelen, a foglyát még ki sem gombolta”. — 1892. II. 26-án Ebesen, egy akácсор fájáról királlyast lőtt, miután azt 60 lépésre beolopta. Amint írja, ilyet eddig ott sohasem látott és szárnyainak terjedelmét 210 cm-nek jegyezte fel s ezért minden valószínűség szerint a szirti sas (*Aquila chrysaetos*) lehetett. A lőjegyzékben egy esetben „arany sas” fordul elő. Mint ismeretes, HERMAN OTTÓ, LAKATOS KÁROLY az igen vándorúldó vagy szirti sast értették alatta, bizonyára ez is az volt. De a mi feladatunk eldönteni azt is, hogy az 1873. V. 29-én, a füredi Császlódon elejtett 2 db „fütyülő lile” megnevezést a 40 tagból álló lilefélék családjának melyikére vonatkoztassuk?! Én a *Charadrius hiaticula*-t sejttem alatta. KOVÁSSY FERENC naplójának igen érdekes részei azok, melyekben leírja két fakó keselyű (*Gyps fulvus*) és két barát keselyű (*Aegypius monachus*) elejtését és tapasztalatait. Az első fakó keselyűt 1868. VIII. 17-én a Hortobágyon kettő közül lőtte, amikor Debrecenből kocsin Füredre utazott. Tollazatán jól hallotta a serétek puffanását. A keselyűk felrepültek, de az egyik egyre feljebb és feljebb szállott és egyszer csak a magasságból, tőle kb. 300 lépésre „mint egy ledobott barna pokróc, élettelenül lezuhant”. Két szem serét a fején ment keresztül, kitolva az agyvelőt és a tüdeje meg a szíve is tele volt seréttel. Kiterjesztett szárnya „8 láb 1 hüvely volt bécsi mérték szerint”. — 1869. V. 2-án a hortobágyi Medgyes-csárda közelében két fakó keselyű kocsiját 50—60 lépésre bevárta. Az éppen felrepülni készülő keselyűk neki háttal álló egyikére postával rátűzött, mire az kiterjesztett szárnyaival egy darabig mozdulatlan maradt, majd elkezdett szaladni. Újabb lövésre elterült a gypen. A kocsin ülő 14 éves SELLYEI LAJOS — KOVÁSSY többszörös tiltó figyelmeztetése ellenére — a keselyűhöz futott s mikor annak a látszólag élettelen nagy kopasz fejét kezével felemelte, felugrott és tárt szárnyakkal, feltátott csőrrel, neki rontott. A fiatal ember rémülten menekült üldözője előtt, miközben ez futtában darab húsokat köpködött ki. KOVÁSSY, mivel löni nem lehetett, segítségére rohant a szorongatott fiúnak. Közben nehéz, 10-es kaliberű fegyverének dupla csövét lecsatolta s azzal vágott végig a keselyűn, mire ez neki fordult. Akkor két kézre fogta a puskacsövet és súlyos

9 ütessel ártalmatlanná tette. Kiterjesztett szárnyai 8 bécsi láb hosszúak voltak. Az első barátkeselyűt — Kovássynál barna keselyű — 1870. VII. 3-án lőtte a hortobágyi Ökörkút közelében, hol más ragadozók társaságában marhadögön lakmározott. A többi közül, nagyságra nézve feltűnően kimagaslott. Közeledtére társai lőtávolon kívül felszállottak, de ez a legnagyobb 40 lépésre beárta. A lövés szárnyatövéen érte s ezért nem tudott elszállani, de mikor közeledni kezdett feléje, felborzolt tollal, tátott torokkal, egyenesen neki rontott. Kovássy 4 lépésre beárva apró söréttel fejbe lőtte. „Tollazata igen sötét, veresbejátszó fekete volt, lábai hófehérek, kiterjesztett két szárnya 8 láb 2 hüvely bécsi mérték (!) szerint”; — a 2-ik barátkeselyűt szintén a Hortobágyon lőtte 1875. VI. 10-én. Puskája egyik csövét ültében, a másikat röptében sütötte rá kb. 70, illetve 90 lépésről, postával töltött 10-es kaliberű lankaszterből. A keselyű, mintegy 200 lépésre elrepült s akkor hanyattvágódva zuhant alá a földre. A két lövés tüdejét és szívét egészen összeroncolta. Szinte hihetetlen az a rendkívül szívós életerő, mely ezekben a keselyűkben lakozik, hogy a legsúlyosabb fej-, szív- és tüdőlövés után még egy darabig egyáltalában repülni képesek. A Kovássy KÁLMÁN nyug. erdőigazgató lőjegyzékének és feljegyzéseinek, melyeket atyja példájára 1883-tól 1944-ig vezetett, túlnyomóan vadászati vonatkozásai becsesek. Itt csak megemlítem, hogy neki Máramaros megyében siket- és nyírfajdokban, császármadarban, erdei szalonkában bőven volt része. Mint diákember vagy később, mint szabadságát Debrecenben töltő fiatal erdész Tiszafüred és Debrecen környékén is sokat vadászott. Említésre érdemesnek tartom, hogy 1894. IX. 30-án a debreceni Guthon „makonc”-ot lőtt. A megkérdezett elejtő szerint ez a szokatlan megnevezés a pusztai talpas tyúk (*Syrhaptis paradoxus*) népies neve volna. Ezt a szót különben sem a Magyar Nyelv Szótára, sem a Táj-, sem a Nyelvtörténeti Szótár nem ismeri, a SZILY-féle Nyelv-újítási Szótárunk is csak „magonc”-ot említ, ami viszont nem madárnév. Tatár-Török-ürge vagy hörceöglábú tyúk madarunk közismert népies nevei, ámbár lehet, hogy a makonc-nevet a szakirodalom is rejti valahol. — 1902. XII. 11-én Ebesen törpe sólymot (*Falco columbarius*) lőtt, melyet herjókának nevez; 1906. X. 28-án Terebesfejérpatakon (Máramaros m) pedig törpe-kuvikot (*Glaucidium passerinum*). — 1926. VII. 21-én egy törpe sas (*Hieraaetus pennatus*) és 1943. IX. 11-én egy fekete golya (*Ciconia nigra*) szerepelnek lőjegyzékében. Mindkettőt a debreceni Guthon ejtette. Megemlítszem tartom érdemesnek, hogy Kovássy FERENC lőjegyzékének első 10 évről (1865—1874) összesítő statisztikai kimutatást készített, melynek végösszege 1286 db vad. Ebből 684 db emlősállat, 602 db madár. Ez utóbbi számban a vadkacsa vezet 241 darabbal. Azután a gémfélék 79, a szalonkák 69, a vágómadarak s egyéb kártékonyak 39 darabbal következnek. Vadludat mindössze a tíz év alatt 9 darabot lőtt. — Kovássy KÁLMÁN 61 év alatt (1883—1944) összesen 11 400 db vadat ejtett el. Ebből a végösszegeből kb. 3000 db az emlősállat (szarvas, dämvad, medve, farkas, vaddisznó, őz, nyúl, menyétfélék stb.), 6000 db a hasznos szárnyas vad, a többi 2400 db a vadállományra káros vágómadarak (varjak, szarkák) s egyéb közömbös szárnyasok. A hasznos szárnyasvadak számában a fácán vezet kb. 2300 darabszámmal, azután sorrendben a fogoly (1300 db), a vadlúd (870 db), a vadkacsa (860 db), az erdei szalonka (270 db), a fürj (110 db) és a császármadár (52 db) stb. következnek. Ilyen kimutatásokból látszik, hogy a szabadban élő állatvilág is milyen súlyos adót fizet az embernek!

Dr. Sőregi János

**Hortobágyi jegyzetek.** 1956. VI. 9-én a hortobágyi halastavakon jártam. Az időjárás forró, gyakori heves záporokkal. Az ég erősen felhős, a tavak tükre sötétszürkévé változott és a viharos nyugati szél fehér tajtékos hullámokat túrt rajta. A tavak középső töltésén mentem végig. A következő fajok mutatkoztak: nagykócsag (*Egretta alba*) a leghátsó, legnagyobb, legalább háromnegyed részben sással borított tavon. Egy pár biztosan volt, esetleg további kettő, mert a nagy távolság miatt az utóbbiak meghatározásában nem voltam biztos. Vörösgém (*Ardea purpurea*) összesen 10—12, a hátsó tóban 5—6 példány. Szürkegém (*Ardea cinerea*) 15—20

állandó mozgásban. Bakesó (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) 7—10 a hátsó tavaknál. Bölömbika (*Botaurus stellaris*) 3—5 buffog a nádban, de kettő fel is szállt. Pocgém (*Ixobrychus minutus*) 1 pár. Dankasirály (*Larus ridibundus*) 6 db. Kormos szerkő (*Chlidonias nigra*) egyetlen példány. Búbos vöcsök (*Podiceps cristatus*) 2—5, a rossz idő miatt kevés jött ki a vízre. Szárcsa (*Fulica atra*) 100—150, néha 40—50 főnyi csapata is. Tőkés réce (*Anas platyrhynchos*) biztosan csak 10—15, de száznál több olyan récét láttam, melyben ezt a fajt véltem felismerni. Kanalas réce (*Spatula clypeata*) 10—12. Cigányréce (*Aythya nyroca*) 1 biztosan, de valószínűleg a többi meg nem határozható récék között is akadt belőle. Böjti réce (*Anas querquedula*) 8—10, esetleg több is. Nagy goda (*Limosa limosa*). Barna rétihéja (*Circus aeruginosus*) 8—10. Kékes rétihéja (*Circus cyaneus*) 10—14, közülük csak a leghátsó tó felett 5—8 csavargott, köztük több öreg hím (!). Hamvas rétihéja (*Circus pygargus*) egy barna rétihéjával civódott a levegőben. Barna kánya (*Milvus migrans*) 1. Dolmányos varjú (*Corvus cornix*) 6—8 és egy fűz alatt jól fejlett embrióval egy összetört tojással. Szarka (*Pica pica*) 1—2. Függő cinke (*Remiz pendulinus*) 10—15, sokfelől hallik magányos példányok sípolása. 3 fészket is találtam, egyet teljesen készen. A fészkek anyaga részben a gyékény hajából állott. Két fészeknek kettős nyílás-járata volt. Barkós cinege (*Panurus biarmicus*) 2 pár a leghátsó tónál. Nádirigó (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*) mindenfelé szól, kb. 10—15. Cserregő nádiposzáta (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*) mindenfelé szól, kb. 8—10. Énekes nádiposzáta (*Acrocephalus palustris*) 1+1. Gerle (*Streptopelia turtur*) 3 pár. Kis őrgébics (*Lanius minor*) 2, valószínűleg fészkel. Füsti fecske (*Hirundo rustica*) a hátsó gépház és haletető körül 30—40. Mezei veréb (*Passer montanus*) 6—8. Kakukk (*Cuculus canorus*) egy szól a fűzesben. 1956. VII. 10-én újra a halastavaknál voltam. Az időjárás kedvezett és így igen szép madárvilágot figyeltem meg. Rendkívüli madárgazdagságot találtam a Halastavak legvégéhez közel eső, hajdani Kondás Fenék nevű vízállásnál létesített új halastavon. Megfigyelt fajok a következők voltak: Nagykovács 4 példány, az új halastó egyik nádfoltja előtt halászgattak az arasznyinál nem mélyebb vízben, melyet gazdagon borít a vízi növényzet. Kiskócsag 7 db ugyanebben a tóban, de a parthoz sokkal közelebb. Kanalas gém ugyanebben a tóban 8 példány egy csapatban. Bakesó 5 db. Bölömbika 5—6 szól. Szürkegém 50—55 db. Vörösgém 12—15 db, csak a Halastavak nyugati, Ohat felé eső részén. Pocgém 3—5 db. Fekete gólya 7 db a vasútvonaltól délre teljesen sík legelő közepén. Dankasirály 60—70, túlnyomó részben a Kondás Fenéken. Ezüstsirály 1 db a legutolsó nyugati tóban a halastó egyik cölöpén. Kűszvágócsér 1 db. Kormos szerkő 6—10. Búbos vöcsök 2—5. Szárcsa 100—150. Nyárilúd 3—4 a nyugati nagy tóban. Tőkés réce 30—40, jórészt a Kondás Fenéken. Kanalas réce 20—25 a Kondás Fenéken. Böjti réce 200—300 a Kondás Fenéken. Cigányréce 10—15 ugyanott. Nagypóling 25—30 db a fekete gólyáktól nem messze egy vizenyős réten. Erdei cankó 10—12, főleg a Kondás Fenéken. Piroslábú cankó 60—80 két nagyobb csapatban, egyik a halastavaktól nyugatra eső részen, másik a Kondás Fenéken. Réti cankó 50—70 a Kondás Fenéken egy csapatban. Széki lile 2 db a

fenti réten. Bibic 1500—2000 fele részben a fenti réten, másik fele a Kondás Fenéken, de elszórtan másfelé is akadtak. Szirti sas (*Aquila chrysaetus*) magasan kering, 3 kánya szemtelenkedett körülötte. Rétisas a kondásfenéki halastó töltésén üldögélt. A kiskócsagok egész közel halászgattak hozzá. Fehérfarkú ölyv (*Buteo rufinus*): a halastavak első nyugati tava melletti legelőn néhány szénaboglya állott s ezek egyikéről emelkedett fel. Alacsonyan, egészen közel hozzám körözött sokáig. Sötétbarna tollazatával élénk ellentétben állott egész világos, vörös farka. Héja 1 db a tavak felett. Barna rétihéja 1—2 db. Kékes rétihéja 2—3, köztük egy szép hím példány is. Fakó rétihéja (*Circus macrourus*) 1—2, közülük egyik hím. Barna kánya 5—10. A nap folyamán még több helyen is mutatkoztak. Függő cinege 10—15 példányát láttam és 4 elhagyott fészket találtam. Barkós cinege 12—16, a halastavak legelhagyatottabb, legvadabb részein. Nádirigó 30—40, még elég sok karicsál közülük, de még több a kószáló fiatal, melyek kiszállnak a nádból és még a vasútvonal menti vezetékre is feltelepültek. Cserregő nádiposzáta: 8—10. Énekes nádiposzáta 1 db. Nádi tücsökmadár (*Locustella luscinioides*) 1 db. Sárgabillegető 1 db. Barázdabillegető: 3—5, köztük több kirepült fiatal. Sordély 1 db. Mezei pacsirta 5—8. Hantmadár: a leghátulsó tó töltése belül fűzfonadékkal van megerősítve, ebben több pár fészkel. 10—12 db-ot láttam itten. Nádisármány 4—6 a nádasokban. Kis őrgébics: 2—3 a szélső töltésen. Gerle 2—5 a fűzekben. Füsti fecske: 30—40 az épületek, a töltés gépháza és a kilátó körül. Molnárfecske: 15—20 az igazgatósági épületnél.

Dr. Sóvágó Mihály

**A csengeri járás — Szabolcs-Szatmár m. — területén, községeiben előforduló gólyák, valamint egyéb vízimadarak számszerű adatainak ismertetése az 1956. évről.** Járásunk hazánk É-keleti csücskében terül el. É részén a fehérgyarmati járás a szeszélyes kis Tur folyóval, K részén a szatmári járással, délről a nagykarolyi járással, Ny-ról pedig a mátészalkai járással határos. Közepét a Szamos folyó szeli át, mely K irányból jön és É-nyugati irányban halad rajta keresztül. Délről É-nyugati irányban a keleti Kraszna csatorna szeli át, míg délnyugati csücskét a Lápi csatorna szeli át. A nyugatra eső mintegy  $\frac{1}{3}$ -ad részén a híres Ecsedi-láp egy része terült el, amit azonban kb. 1898-ban már lecsapoltak. Így ma már csak a nevében él e csodálatos madárvilággal rendelkező hatalmas láp, amely Szatmár vm alföldi részének a közepe táján terült el, mintegy százezer kat. holdas területen. A fejlődő civilizáció, amely folytonosan alkot, épít, gazdaságilag kultúr területté tette e tájat is. S habár a fejlődés nyomán egyszerismind tömérdek a pusztulás is: így a régieknek az elmúlása, amik közül bár igaz, igen sokért nem kár, de van közöttük olyan érték is, amit ma már akárhányan visszasírnak, s emiatt mégcsak maradiaknak sem lehet őket tartani. Még a szívem is nagyobbat dobbant, amikor e csodálatos madártündérvilágról olvastam vagy hallottam öreg vadászoktól. Eldorádója volt ez az ecsedi, börvelyi, tyukodi, domahidi, nagymajtényi stb. pákásznak, halásznak, csikásznak, vadásznak. Tömérdek volt a szárnyas-vad, amit a börvelyi lápkörnyéki ember „vizifiregnek” nevezett.

Az ornithológiának oly bőséges gazdagsága talán más helyen nem is volt hazánkban, mint éppen ebben az ingovánnyal, nádassal, zsombékossal váltakozó csodavilágú nagy „Ecsedi-Láp”-ban. Benne élt, költött a sokfajta úszó és gázló madár, melyekből egy-egy soha nem látott példány került a lesben álló vadász elé. Így a temérdek és különféle színű és fajtájú vadréce. De rendes lakója volt a nyári-lúd. A lecsapolás után a televényen, mely a növényzet évszázados lerakódásából keletkezett, most másfélöles tengeri-erdő nő s valósággal eltéved benne az ember. Mintha az őspáfrányok ideje tért volna vissza, oly erős és nagy e föld termőereje, hogy e talajt trágyázni még igen sokáig nem kell. Még ma is csak egy eldobott cigarettavég kell a száraz nyár végi napon s máris meggyullad e kotus föld, nagy területeken ég a kotu benne. A csengeri járás 26 községében végeztem felmérést. A Lápon ma visszamaradt tavakat, tocsogókat

#### 4. táblázat

	Község (Village)	Szürke gém Ardea cinerea	Vörös gém Ardea purpurea	Poc gém Ixobry- chus m.	Bakcsó Nycti- corax	Bibic Vanellus	Nádi rigó A. arundi- naceus	Piroslábu cankó Tr. tota- nus
1.	Császló .....	2	1	12	—	8	15	—
2.	Csenger .....	1	—	1	—	—	1	4
3.	Csengersima .....	4	1	20	1	15	20	3
4.	Csengerújfalu .....	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
5.	Csegöld .....	1	—	—	—	4	2	—
6.	Gacsály .....	—	—	—	—	3	1	—
7.	Garbold .....	3	1	2	—	6	9	2
8.	Hermánszeg .....	2	1	4	2	10	20	4
9.	Kálmánmajor .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Komlódtótfalu .....	1	1	2	—	5	3	2
11.	Kishódos .....	—	1	—	1	4	4	—
12.	Méhtelek .....	1	—	1	—	3	1	—
13.	Nagyic .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14.	Nagyhódos .....	—	—	2	—	2	4	—
15.	Pátyod .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Porcsalma .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Rozsály .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Szamosangyalos .....	1	—	2	—	2	1	2
19.	Szamosbecs .....	2	—	1	—	3	4	4
20.	Szamosályi .....	5	3	25	3	10	30	2
21.	Szamostatárfalva .....	1	—	2	—	4	3	3
22.	Tisztaberek .....	5	—	3	—	2	4	—
23.	Tyukod .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Újbörvely .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25.	Ura .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26.	Zajta .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		29	9	77	7	83	122	16

5. táblázat

	Község (Village)	Bölm- bika Botaurus	Vízityúk Gallinula	Küszv- göcsér Sterna- hirundo	Tökésréce A. platy- rhyncha	Cigány- réce A. nyroca	Bübos vöcsök Podiceps criatotus	Szárcsa Fulica
1.	Császló .....	—	6	—	12	6	—	5
2.	Csenger .....	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
3.	Csengersima .....	—	10	—	10	7	—	6
4.	Csengerújfalu .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Csegöld .....	—	2	2	6	4	—	2
6.	Gacsály .....	—	1	—	4	2	—	1
7.	Garbolc .....	—	5	—	12	10	—	6
8.	Hermánszeg .....	—	4	—	10	4	—	5
9.	Kálmánmajor .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Komlódtótfalu .....	—	2	2	3	2	—	2
11.	Kishódos .....	—	1	—	2	1	—	1
12.	Méhtelek .....	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
13.	Nagygie .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14.	Nagyhódos .....	—	1	—	2	1	—	2
15.	Pátyod .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Porcsalma .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Rozsály .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Szamosangyalos .....	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
19.	Szamosbecs .....	—	3	1	4	2	1	2
20.	Szamoshályi .....	1	20	2	20	10	3	10
21.	Szamosatárfalva .....	—	—	—	3	—	1	—
22.	Tisztaberek .....	—	15	—	12	9	2	2
23.	Tyukod .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Újbörvely .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25.	Úra .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26.	Zajta .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		1	70	12	104	58	7	44

találni nem lehet. Két csatornájában, a Keleti Kraszna és a Lápi csatornában szárazabb nyarak idején még vizet se lehet találni. Így csak tavasszal vagy ősszel nagyobb esőzések idején rendelkezik kisebb-nagyobb vízmennyiséggel. És csupán ilyenkor fordulnak meg párnapos pihenőre benne a vonuló kacsák kisebb csapatai. A fentebbi 26 községben végzett felmérési eredményeimet egy idecsatolt pontos számadatokat tartalmazó kimutatáson feltüntettem. A gólyaállomány megállapításánál minden esetben pár idősebb emberrel is beszélgettem, akik 30—40 évvel ezelőtti időkre visszaemlékezve elmondották, hogy sokkal több volt abban az időben a gólya a falvakban. A számuk csökkenésének okát a magam által is megállapított tényekkel igazolták, mondván, hogy a nádas és zsuppedeles házak eltűnése hozta és hozza magával az állandó számcsökkenésüket, mert a cserép- és palatető házakra nem rak fészket a gólya. Már

6. táblázat

	Község (Village)	Jégmadár Alcedo	Cankó Tringa sp.	Sár- szalonka Gallinago g.	Gyurgya- lag Merops	Parti- fecske Riparia
1.	Császló .....	—	1	4	—	—
2.	Csenger .....	3	—	2	20	10
3.	Csengersima .....	—	3	7	—	—
4.	Csengerújfalu .....	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Csegöld .....	2	1	3	10	15
6.	Gacsály .....	—	—	2	—	—
7.	Garbole .....	2	4	5	—	—
8.	Hermánszeg .....	3	2	10	—	—
9.	Kálmánmajor .....	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Komlódtótfalu .....	1	4	2	4	5
11.	Kishódos .....	1	1	2	3	4
12.	Méhtelek .....	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Nagyic .....	—	—	—	—	—
14.	Nagyhódos .....	—	1	2	—	—
15.	Pátyod .....	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Porcsalma .....	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Rozsály .....	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Szamosangyalos .....	1	3	2	10	15
19.	Szamosbecs .....	1	4	4	30	50
20.	Szamossályi .....	4	5	10	20	30
21.	Szamostatárfalu .....	2	3	1	40	35
22.	Tisztaberek .....	—	—	5	6	10
23.	Tyukod .....	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Újbörvely .....	—	—	—	—	—
25.	Ura .....	—	—	—	—	—
26.	Zajta .....	—	—	—	—	—
		20	32	61	143	174

azért sem, mert nincsen széles teteje, de főleg azért, mert a nyári meleg nap tüzeiben az átforrósodott cserép melegét nem bírná ki az anyamadár, de a fiókái sem. Viszont fákon csak két helyen találtam fészket, míg a többi fészkek mind szalma-, zsup- és nádfedeles házakon volt.

Egyúttal beterveztem az 1956-ban végzett gyűrűzési adatokat tartalmazó kimutatást, valamint a ritkaságszámba menő megfigyelést, jelentést. 1. Az 1955. június 29-én a 40 244-es számú gyűrűvel begyűrűzött fiatal — 3—5 nappal a kirepülés előtt álló — *Jynx torquilla*-t, 1956. május 28-án az ő szülőodúját képező öreg fűzfában megfogtam, 3 tojásán ült, tehát költés alatt. Későbbben mind a 7 fiát begyűrűztem. Ez a madaram most először vonult délre, s biztosan visszatért szülőodújába. 2. 1956. március 2-án a 45 829-es számú gyűrűvel begyűrűztem egy kertemben befogott *Parus major*-t. E madaramat ez év májusában 14-én már a dió-

fámon levő odúmban találtam s 7 fiókáját szintén begyűrűztem. És ez év július 2-án már a 9-es számú és a szilvafámon levő odúban találtam, hol 9 fiókáját gyűrűztem be. 3. 1956. június 7-én MUDRY JÁNOS a császlói földművesszövetkezeti italbolt kezelője egy *Scolopax rusticola*-t hozott be hozzám, hogy gyűrűzzem be. De nagy volt a meglepetésem, amikor elmondotta a madár megszerzésének alábbi történetét. A fenti nap de. 1/2 10 órakor, a nyitott italbolt ajtaján, gyors irammal bevágódott a szalonka az üzlet helyiségébe. Az ajtót azonnal bezáratta és egy ügyes mozdulattal — az ablaknak tartó madarat — sértetlenül megfogta. Ezt a csodás madárfogási esetet csak úgy tudom elképzelni, hogy vagy sólyom, vagy más ragadozómadár támadása elől menekülve választotta a szalonkám ezt a rövidebb, de egyedüli biztos utat, hogy üldözője elől végérvényesen megmenekülhessen. Madaramat 4/1956 „Hungary” jelzésű gyűrűvel láttam el Madártani gyűrű hiánya miatt.

4. Az 1955. január 23-án begyűrűzött *Parus major*-omat 1956. február 24-én ismét befogtam.

Baboss Jenő

**Adatok a Bodrogek madárvilágához.** Tiszabercel Szabolcs megyei község északi határának egy része szabályozási átvágás folytán a Tisza jobb partjára, azaz a Bodrogekra került. Egy ilyen határrésznek az ártérben Babócsa a neve. 1953 óta ezen a környéken nyaranta gyurgyalag (*Merops apiaster*) hangját lehet hallani, amint a tiszai füzesek felett bogarászva rajban vonulnak. Költőhelyüket még nem kutattam fel. Számuk évről évre gyarapodik. Eljárnak a kaszálók és lucernások felé is, hol a felmerülő szöcskéket és bogarakat fogdossák. Az ártéri Babócsát két oldalról is határoló Holt-Tisza meder sulyommal takart gyékénnyel, náddal szegett vizein az utóbbi években vízityúk (*Gallinula chloropus*), pocgém (*Ixobrychus minutus*) és tőkésréce (*Anas platyrhynchos*) költött, sőt még szárcsa (*Fulica atra*) is. 1955 nyarán már hírmondó sem volt belőlük. Eltűnésüket a pézsmapocok (*Fiber zibethicus*) elszaporodásának lehet tulajdonítani. 1953. szept. 28-án ugyanazon holtmeder parti bokrán egy magányos jégmadarat (*Alcedo atthis*) figyeltem meg. 1954. febr. végén és március elején Babócsa ártéri almáskertjében két csapatban, összesen kb. 25 db erdei fülesbagoly (*Asio otus*) tartózkodott. Egész nap a terebélyes gyümölcsfák ágbogai között elhúzódva üldögéltek. Március közepe felé eltűntek. 1955 február havában ugyancsak a Babócsa gyümölcsösében 2 db szibériai fenyőszajkó (*Nucifraga caryocatactes macrorhynchos* Brehm) időzött jóformán az egész hónapban át. Egyidejűleg, de még március hó elején is egy őrgébics (*Lanius excubitor*) volt még az almáskert említésre érdemes, cserregő vendége. 1955 nyarán Tiszakarád környékén a szokottnál nagyobb számban fészkelte a barázdabillegető (*Motacilla alba*). 1955/56 telén 2—3 pár ökörsem (*Troglodytes tr.*) telelt Babócsán. Ugyanott 1956. január 23-án egy csapat csonttollú madár (*Bombycilla garrulus*) jelent meg. Tiszabercel és Tiszakarád lakosai az ottan gyakori széncinege (*Parus major*) tavaszeli szólását „kinpics, kinpics” szavakkal adják vissza. Gyümölcsösökben a verebeket, mint igen hasznos rovarirtókat megbecsülik, ellenben a golyákkal szemben a magyar nép maga-

tartása teljesen megváltozott. Ugyanis a gólyák újabban annyira pusztítják az apró baromfit, hogy a türelmüket vesztett házigazdák fészkeket leverik, fiókáikat elpusztítják. Különben Tiszakarádon és a határában levő tanyákon 1955 nyarán összesen 15 gólyapár költött. Ebből 9 pár a faluban és 6 pár a tanyákon. A falusiak közül 3 fészek kéményen, 3 fészek boglyán és 3 fészek fán volt, a tanyaiak közül 3 fészek háztetőre, 1 fészek kéményre és 2 fészek fára volt építve. Korábban többen voltak, de számbavétel nem történt.

Dr. Sőregi János

**Kivonat Markov Vuja preparátori naplójából.** Évek óta fiókomban őrzöm MARKOV VUJA barátomnak (Bácsföldvár = Backo Gradisto) naplóját s amint lapozgatom, mind jobban arra a belátásra jutottam, hogy ezt a rengeteg értékes madártani adatot nem szabad elveszni hagyni. Egy jó részét lefordítom magyarra és a Madártani Intézetnek rendelkezésére bocsátom azon meggyőződésben, hogy szívesen fogadják MARKOVNAK faunisztikai adatait, annál is inkább, mert egyik-másik fajnak felsorolásánál megemlítem a madarak méreteit is, azonkívül gyomortartalmukat is ismertetem.

**1932.** — *Asio flammeus* XI. 24. — *Buteo lagopus* XII. 2. — *Tyto alba* XII. 26. — *Circus macrourus* XII. 30. — *Buteo lagopus* I. 14. — *Asio flammeus* I. 14. — *Tyto alba* I. 17. — 2 db. *Asio otus* I. 20. — *Buteo lagopus* I. 20. — *Asio flammeus* I. 20. 2 db. — *Falco aesalon* II. 16. — *Buteo lagopus* II. 28. — *Buteo lagopus* III. 1. — *Falco tinnunculus* III. 18. — *Falco tinnunculus* III. 27. — *Buteo lagopus* IV. 4. — fiatal nyúlnek szőrözete és húsa gyomrában. — *Ardea cinerea* hím: IV. 18. — *Upupa* IV. 23. — *Coracias garrulus* IV. 27. — *Falco tinnunculus* V. 3. — *Pastor roseus* VI. 30. — *Buteo* XII. 9. — **1934-ben preparálva:** — *Accipiter nisus* I. 15. — *Circus aeruginosus* II. 8. — *Asio otus* II. 12. — *Dendrocopos major* II. 17. — *Coracias garrulus* III. 26. legkorábbi érkezési adat a Bácskában. — *Podiceps ruficollis* IV. 3. — *Ardeola ralloides* V. 8. — *Ixobrychus minutus* V. 10. — *Ardeola ralloides* V. 12. — *Ardea purpurea* VI. 30. — *Accipiter nisus* XII. 24. — *Falco aesalon* XII. 30. — *Accipiter nisus* XII. 30. — **1935-ben preparálva:** — *Corvus corax* 2 db. I. 1. — *Picus viridis* I. 1. — *Falco peregrinus* fiatal hím, 600 gramm. szárny hossza 32 cm, a második evezőtoll a leg-hosszabb. Az első toll 14 mm-rel rövidebb, a harmadik 9 mm, a IV. 32 mm, az V. 53 mm. — *Accipiter nisus* hím I. 10. — *Falco aesalon* tojó I. 12. — *Accipiter nisus* I. 20. — *Buteo lagopus* II. 12. — *B. lagopus* II. 20. — *Falco aesalon* II. 20, öreg hím. — *Accipiter nisus* II. 27. — *B. lagopus* III. 10. — *Accipiter nisus* III. 25. öreg tojó. — *Falco aesalon* öreg tojó. III. 27. — *Falco tinnunculus* IV. 5. — *Falco vespertinus* hím IV. 22. — *Falco vespertinus* IV. 22. tojó. — *Cuculus* V. 4. — *Coracias garrulus* V. 16. — *Larus argentatus* X. 17. — *Circus aeruginosus* X. 10. — *Milvus milvus* XI. 20. — *Accipiter nisus* XII. 16. — *Falco aesalon* 1. hím és 2 tojó. XII. 22. — *Buteo lagopus* XII. 28. 4 db! — **1936-ban preparálva:** — *Circus aeruginosus* I. 26. — *Accipiter nisus* II. 18. — *Turdus merula* IV. 9. — *Caprimulgus* V. 10. — *Circus aeruginosus* VIII. 28. — *Accipiter nisus* XII. 12. — *Falco aesalon* tojó XII. 15. — *Buteo lagopus* XII. 16. — *Accipiter nisus* tojó XII. 20. — *Buteo lagopus* XII. 24. — **1937-ben preparálva:** — *Falco aesalon* I. 26. gyomrában *Passer montanus* lábai és tollai. — *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus* I. 20. a szárcsák között. — *Turdus viscivorus* II. 3. — *Accipiter nisus* II. 6.: gyomrában fogolytollak és *Alauda arvensis* lábai. — *Circus macrourus* öreg tojó, gyomrában fogolyhús és tollak, azonkívül *Serinus* maradványai. Ez II. 8-án volt. — *Accipiter nisus* II. 14. gyomrában *Galerida cristata* maradványok. — *Accipiter nisus* II. 17. gyomrában fehér házigalamb húsa és tollazata. — *Mergus albellus* II. 14. — *Mergus albellus* II. 24. — *Podiceps cristatus* 3 db IV. 4. — *Accipiter nisus* öreg tojó IX. 12. gyomrában *Passer domesticus*. — *Falco aesalon* fiatal hím V. 2-án elejtve, beküldve a Budapesti Intézetnek. — *Falco aesalon* V. 2. nekem elküldve a késői előfordulási dátum bizonyítása

végett. — *Pastor roseus* VI. 20., mint egyetlen példány a többi seregélyek közt elvegyült. — *Pastor roseus* V. 20. Zentán elejtve, mikor nálam vendég volt. — *Egretta garzetta* fiatal hím IX. 5. — *Accipiter brevipes* IX. 5. — *Larus ridibundus* IX. 5. cseh gyűrűs példány volt. — *Egretta garzetta* 3 db juv. IX. 11. — *Egretta garzetta* 3. juv. IX. 12. — *Tringa nebularia* IX. 19. — *Tringa erythropus* IX. 26, 5 db elejtve, 18-as csapatból. — *Gallinago gallinago* IX. 26. — *Falco subbuteo* IX. 30. gyomrában sok fekete sáska és egyéb rovar. — *Buteo buteo* X. 20. gyomrában mezei egér és ürge maradványok. — *Buteo buteo* X. 27. gyomrában mezei egér. — *Accipiter gentilis* fiatal tojó. Éjjel fán ülve a zseblámpával megvilágítva, majd lelőve. — *Accipiter* tojó XI. 30. gyomrában 2 *Alauda arvensis* csőr és tollazat. — *Falco peregrinus* fiatal tojó, 900 gramm, gyomrában sok fogoly- és galambhús. Szárnyhossza 35 cm. A II-ik evező a leghosszabb. Az első rövidebb 3 mm-rel, a harmadik 13 mm-rel, a negyedik 30 mm-rel, az ötödik 50 mm-rel. — *Falco aesalon* öreg hím XII. 16. gyomrában 3 *Passer montanus* láb és 2 fej, azonkívül néhány toll a *Parus caeruleus*tól. — *Falco tinnunculus* XII. 17. gyomrában egérmaradványok. — *Buteo* éjjel elejtve! XII. 17. gyomrában fogolyhús és tollak, valamennyi egérszőr. — *Falco tinnunculus* szintén éjjel elejtve XII. 19.-én, gyomrában egérszőrök. — *Falco peregrinus* fiatal hím, XII. 23-án. Gyomrában sok galambhús és tollak, súlya 800 gramm. — *Buteo lagopus* XII. 24. gyomrában néhány egérfej. — *Falco aesalon* öreg hím XII. 26. gyomrában háziveréb maradványai. — *Falco aesalon* öreg tojó XII. 27. gyomrában *Galerida cristata* maradványok. — *Anser albifrons* XII. 29. — *Alcedo* XII. 29. — *Athene noctua* XII. 29. — **1938-ban preparálva:** — *Lanius excubitor* I. 1. gyomrában mezei egérmaradványok. — *Circus macrourus* tojó I. 1. gyomrában *Serinus* tollak és lábak. — *Athene noctua* I. 2. ez a példány beküldve a Madártani Intézetnek. Gyomrában dr. Vasvári M. 2 egérfejet és *Passer domesticus* maradványait találta. — *Falco peregrinus* öreg tojó, I. 13. rendkívül fejlett példány. Súlya 1350 gramm volt. Gyomrában fogolytollak és hús volt. Szárnyméretei: 360 mm. Az első evező 10 mm-el rövidebb volt a II-nál, a III-ik 12 mm, a IV. 40 mm, az V. 60 mm-el rövidebb. Kocsiról repülés közben elejtve. — *Accipiter nisus* hím I. 23. gyomrában háziveréb maradványok. — *Anas crecca* I. 19. — *Accipiter* öreg tojó I. 24. Gyomrában *Turdus viscivorus* tollak. — *Accipiter nisus* öreg tojó II. 1. fehér házigalamb tollak és háziveréb tollak a gyomrában. — *Circus cyaneus* tojó II. 2. gyomrában fogoly maradványok. — *Circus macrourus* II. 2. — *Buteo buteo* II. 3. éjjel elejtve. Gyomrában elhullott sertéstől szőrözet és egérszőrök. — *Buteo lagopus* II. 6. gyomrában 2 mezei egér és házigalamb tollak. — *Buteo lagopus* II. 7. Gyomrában egérszőrözet és házigalamb hús. — *Lanius excubitor* II. 20. sok mezei egér, csontok és szőrözet. — *Anser albifrons* II. 12. — *Coccothraustes* II. 18. — *Falco cherrug* II. 23. 950 gramm. Gyomrában fogolytollak és hús. Szárnymérete: 370 mm. A II. evező a leghosszabb. Az I. 25 mm-el, a III. 9 mm-el, a IV. 30 mm-el, az V. 51 mm-el. — *Lanius excubitor* III. 4. gyomrában mezei egérfej és -szőrözet. — *Buteo lagopus* III. 7. Gyomrában földi békát talált, mely narancssárgában tarkázott volt, azonkívül mezei egérszőrözet. — *Fringilla montifringilla* III. 10. — *Buteo lagopus* III. 31. Gyomrában nyúlszőrök (fiatal nyúttól). — *Tringa ochropus* III. 27. — *Buteo lagopus* III. 31. éjjel elejtve fáról. — *Circus aeruginosus* V. 18. fészkelés közben elejtve. — *Podiceps cristatus* IV. 7. — *Podiceps griseigena* IV. 7. — *Podiceps caspicus* IV. 7. — *Falco tinnunculus* IV. 16. Gyomrában mezei egérszőrök. — *Tringa minuta* IV. 7. — *Turdus iliacus* IV. 24. — *Falco tinnunculus* VIII. folyamán 11 db elejtve. Gyomrukban minden esetben mezei egér maradványok voltak. — *Falco naumanni* IX. 4. Gyomrában szöcské és fekete bogarak. — *Circus cyaneus* IX. 8. Gyomrában fiatal esibetollak. — *Accipiter nisus* IX. 20. Gyomrában *Emberiza schoeniclus* maradványok. — *Buteo buteo* IX. 22. Gyomrában förtelmesen bűzös hús volt, valószínűleg elhullott sertéstől. — *Falco aesalon* tojó XII. 6. Gyomrában *Passer domesticus* maradványok. — *Falco aesalon* XII. 18. öreg tojó. Gyomrában *Alauda arvensis* maradványok. — *Falco tinnunculus* XII. Gyomrában egérszőrök. — *Accipiter nisus* XII. 22. öreg tojó. Gyomrában háziveréb tollak. — *Falco aesalon* öreg tojó XII. 24. Gyomrában *Galerida cristata* és *Passer domesticus* maradványai. — **1939-ben preparálva:** — *Accipiter nisus* öreg tojó I. 9. gyomrában háziveréb tollak. — *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus* I. 4. — *Botaurus stellaris* I. 8. — *Accipiter nisus* öreg hím I. 9. Gyomrában *Galerida cristata*. — *Circus macrourus* I. 9. Gyomrában fogolytollak. — *Accipiter nisus* I. 13. öreg hím. Gyomrában veréb maradványok. — *Buteo lagopus* I. 15. Gyomrában egérszőrök és galambhús. — *Buteo buteo* I. 16. Gyomrában házityúk tollai. — *Falco aesalon* I. 23. fiatal hím. Gyomrában *Passer domesticus*

maradványok. — *Aythya ferina* I. 25. — *Falco cherrug* I. 27. öreg hím, 900 gramm. Gyomrában fogoly maradványok. — *Circus macrourus* II. 5. öreg tojó. Gyomrában *Serinus* lábai és tollai. — *Falco peregrinus* II. 5. fiatal hím. 850 gramm. Gyomrában házigalamb maradványok. — *Buteo lagopus* II. 11. Gyomrában 3 mezei egér. — *Circus macrourus* II. 18. öreg tojó. Gyomrában fogolytollak és -hús. — *Falco cherrug* öreg tojó II. 20. Gyomrában fogolyhús és -tollak. — *Buteo buteo* II. 23. Rácsapott a kihe-lyezett galambra. Gyomrában egérszörök. — *Falco aesalon* II. 23. fiatal hím. Gyomrában háziveréb tollak. — *Buteo lagopus* III. 2. Gyomrában 2 egér. — *Accipiter nisus* III. 31. Gyomrában *Passer domesticus*. — *Spatula clypeata* III. 6. — *Anas crecca* III. 13. — *Accipiter nisus* III. 31. öreg hím. Gyomrában verébtollak. — *Turdus ericetorum* III. 31. — *Accipiter nisus* IV. 3. öreg tojó. Gyomrában *Emberiza schoeniclus* csőre és tollazata. — *Regulus ignicapillus* IV. 10. — *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus* IX. 27. — *Larus fuscus*. — *Gavia arctica* XI. 2. 2300 gramm. — *Gavia arctica* XI. 10. 2350 gramm. — *Gavia septentrionalis* XI. 19. 1750 gramm. — *Gavia arctica* XI. 19. — *Gavia septentrionalis* XI. 23. 1400 gramm. — *Gavia arctica* XI. 26. 2400 gramm. — *Gavia arctica* XI. 28. 1400 gramm. — *Gavia septentrionalis* XI. 29. 1700 gramm. — *Gavia arctica* XII. 1. 2200 gramm. — *Gavia arctica* 1900 gramm. — *Gavia arctica* 2450 gramm. XII. 18-án. — *Gavia arctica* XII. 18. 2800 gramm. — *Buteo lagopus* XII. 22. Gyomrában nyúl-szörök. — *Buteo lagopus* XII. 22. Gyomrában galambhús és mezei egér. — *Bucephala clangula* XII. 27. 2 db — *Buteo lagopus* XII. 27. egérszörök és fogoly maradványok. — *Bucephala clangula* XII. 27. gyomra tele volt kagylókkal. — *Buteo lagopus* XII. 29. gyomrában mezei egér. — *Lanius excubitor* XII. 30. madártollak és mezei egér maradványok. — *Gallinula chloropus* 2 db, egy hím és egy tojó XII. 29. — *Sturnus vulgaris* XII. 30. — *Rallus aquaticus* XII. 30. tojó és egy hím. — **1940-ben preparált madarak:** — I. 6. *Circus macrourus* tojó. Gyomrában házigalamb maradványok. — *Falco tinnunculus* I. 11., gyomrában háziveréb lába és tollai. — *Lanius excubitor* I. 11., beküldve az Intézetnek Budapestre. — *Coccothraustes* I. 20. — *Botaurus* I. 20. — *Circus macrourus* tojó. Gyomrában fogoly és házigalamb tollak. — *Falco tinn.* I. 24. gyomrában háziveréb lábai és egérszörök. — *Falco tinnunculus* I. 24., gyomrában *Passer montanus* maradványok. — *Accipiter nisus* I. 26. gyomrában frissen fogott házigalamb tollai és húsa. — *Accipiter nisus* I. 27. gyomrában *Passer montanus* maradványok. — *Lanius excubitor* I. 28. gyomrában *Parus caeruleus* tollai. — *Accipiter nisus* tojó II. 3. *Passer montanus* volt a gyomrában. — *Accipiter nisus* II. 5. öreg hím. Teljesen vöröses színű, gyomrában háziveréb maradványok. — *Asio otus* II. 5. gyomrában sok egérször. — *Circus cyaneus* tojó II. 8. ismeretlen hús maradványok. — *Asio otus* II. 8. gyomrában egér. — *Athene noctua* II. 8. beküldve a Madártani Intézetnek. — *Asio flammeus* gyomrában egér. — *Circus cyaneus* tojó II. 9. Gyomrában *Emberiza calandra* és fogoly maradványok. — *Buteo lagopus* 2 db. II. 9. (egér). — *Buteo buteo* II. 10. gyomrában hús és szalonna kutyaszörökkel. Azonkívül egérszörök. — *Mergus merganser* tojó II. 25. Gyomrában 10 cm-es halak. — *Falco aesalon* fiatal hím II. 14. beküldve a Madártani Intézetnek. — *Falco aesalon* fiatal hím. II. 20. beküldve a Madártani Intézetnek. — *Mergus merganser* 1180 gramm II. 25. — *Mergus albellus* tojó II. 25. — *Turdus pilaris* II. 25. — *Anser albifrons* II. 28. — *Buteo lagopus* III. 1. házigalamb feje. — *Circus cyaneus* tojó III. 1. Gyomrában fogolyhús. — *Buteo lagopus* III. 2. Gyomrában galambhús és -tollak, azonkívül egérszörök. — *Buteo lagopus* III. 3. Gyomrában szintén házigalambhús és -tollak egérszörökkel. — *Buteo lagopus* III. 3. Gyomrában detto. — *Circus cyaneus* tojó III. 9. gyomrában fogolyhús és -tollak. — *Sturnus vulgaris* III. 4. — *Buteo lagopus* III. 9. Gyomrában fogolyhús és egérszörök. — *Coccothraustes* III. 10. Gyomrában mandulamagvak, meggy- és cseresznyemagvak. — *Dendrocopos maior* III. 10, 2 db mindkettő beküldve a Madártani Intézetnek. — *Bucephala clangula* hím III. 18. — *Mergus albellus* hím, III. 18. Gyomrában 13 cm hosszú halat talált. — *Tringa totanus* III. 21. — *Accipiter nisus* hím, Bácsföldváron elejtve: 111 303 számú budapesti gyűrűvel. Gyomrában *Serinus* tollak és csontok. — *Fiber zibethicus* IV. 4. Súly 13 000 g, hossza: 60 cm, farokkal. — *Anas querquedula* hím III. 24. — *Anas crecca* III. 24. — *Porzana parva* III. 26. — *Circus macrourus* tojó IV. 11. Gyomrában fiatal csirkelábak és -tollak, azonkívül egérszörök. — *Circus macrourus* hím. IV. 15. egérszörök, azonkívül ismeretlen madárnak tollai és csirke-tollak. — *Jynx torquilla* IV. 17. hím, gyomrában sok mezeihangya. — *Falco tinnunculus* hím IV. 16, gyomrában igen sok szöcske és különböző fekete rovarok. — *Milvus migrans* IV. 24. 885 gramm, hossza 58,5 m, szárnyhossza 46,5 cm. — *Streptopelia*

turtur IV.?. 2 db — *Buteo buteo* IX. 15. gyomorban mezeiegek. — *Buteo buteo* X. 8. gyomorban 6 db tücsök és sok különféle rovar. — *Buteo buteo* X. 9. gyomorban narancsszínű béka és több békaláb. — *Charadrius hiaticula* IX. 15. — *Platalea* IX. 15. — *Falco peregrinus* öreg tojó XII. 27. Súlya: 1010 gramm, hossza: 47,5 cm, szárnyhossza: 37 cm, közép ujjának hossza 52 mm. Gyomorban fogoly és házigalamb húsa. — *Strix aluco* XII. 27. gyomorban igen sok egérhús és szőrözlet. — *Accipiter gentilis* fiatal hím XII. 28. gyomorban mezei egereknek apró csontjai, ismeretlen madárnak tollai és *Galerida cristata* lábai. — *Accipiter nisus* XII. 28. öreg hím, gyomorban háziverékek tollai, és *Galerida cristata*nak 3 lába. — *Coccothraustes* XII. 28., gyomra tele volt meggy- és cseresznyemagvakkal. — *Buteo buteo* XII. 31. gyomorban házigalambnak teljes feje és sok galambhús, azonkívül két mezei egérnek a feje. — **1941-ben preparált madarak:** — *Coccothraustes* I. 5. — *Falco tinnunculus* I. 5. gyomorban háziveréb és egérszörök. — *Circus macrourus* tojó I. 11, mezei egérszörök és 2 háziverébnek csőre. — *Falco cherrug* I. 17. gyomorban házigalamb tollai és húsa. Súlya 900 g, szárnyhossza 36 cm, középújjának hossza 46 mm. — *Pyrhula* I. 30. — *Falco aesalon* I. 30., öreg hím, gyomorban 2 *Passer montanus*nak csőre és tollai. — *Falco aesalon* I. 30. fiatal hím, 1200 g, hossza 28,5 cm, szárnyhossza: 20,5 cm, gyomorban 5 háziverébnek lábai és 2 feje. — *Asio otus* I. 31. gyomorban 7 egérfej. — *Turdus merula* hím I. 31. — *Buteo buteo* I. 31. gyomorban mezei egérszörök. — *Circus macrourus* I. 31. gyomra tele volt mezei egérszörrel és *Passer domesticus*nak csőre. — *Circus cyaneus* II. 5. gyomorban *Emberiza citrinella* feje és 3 *Passer domesticus*nak feje. — *Circus cyaneus* II. 7. gyomorban házigalambnak tollai és -húsa, azonkívül sok mezei egérször. — *Circus cyaneus* II. 8. gyomorban *Passer domesticus*nak feje, *Emberiza citrinella*nak 2 lába és sok mezei egérnek szőre. — *Buteo lagopus* II. 21., éjjel elejtve! gyomorban 7 egérfej. — *Emberiza calandra* II. 9. — *Aythya fuligula* II. 16. — *Picus viridis* III. 13. gyomorban 492 erdei hangya! frissen felszedve, míg körülbelül 300 hangya félig már meg volt emésztve. Összesen tehát mintegy 800 db hangya volt. — *Turdus merula* hím, III. 17. gyomorban japán akácnak magvai. — *Erithacus rubecula* III. 18. holtan találva az udvarban. — *Ardea cinerea* III. 19. gyomorban 3 db 14 cm hal. — *Vanellus* III. 22. gyomorban giliszták és rovarok. — *Turdus, viscivorus* III. 22. Gyomorban fűmagvak. — *Turdus ericetorum* III. 22. Gyomorban fekete rovarok. — *Turdus ericetorum* III. 25. — *Oenanthe oenanthe* III. 30. — **1942-ben elejtett és preparált madarak:** — *Otis tarda* I. 16. — *Falco cherrug* hím, I. 18. — *Mergus merganser* fiatal hím, I. 20. — *Mergus albellus* öreg hím, I. 20. — *Anas penelope* hím II. 20. — *Anas crecca* II. 23. — *Numenius arquatus* III. 12. — *Anthus trivialis* III. 15. — *Philomachus pugnax* III. 18. — *Pica pica* III. 20. — *Parus maior* III. 20. — *Phoenicurus ochruros* III. 25. — *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* IV. 26. — *Saxicola rubetra* IV. 28. — *Muscicapa albicollis* IV. 30. — *Muscicapa hypoleuca* IV. 30. — *Sylvia atricapilla* V. 1. — *Lanius collurio* V. 3. — *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* V. 14. — *Dendrocopos syriacus balcanicus* V. 20. — *Anas penelope* tojó X. 26. — *Dendrocopos syriacus* hím, XI. 21. — *Anas acuta* hím XII. 16. — *Anas crecca* XII. 24. 2 db. — *Numenius arquatus* XII. 26. — *Spatula clypeata* XII. 28. — *Botaurus* XII. 31. — **1943-ban elejtett és preparált madarak:** — *Anser erythropus* hím, II. 28. — *Anas penelope* hím, III. 14. 2 db. — *Tringa nebularia* IV. 24. — *Philomachus pugnax* IV. 26. — *Nycticorax* IV. 26. — *Ardeola ralloides* IV. 27. — *Chlidonias nigra* IV. 27. 2 db. — *Chlidonias leucoptera* IV. 27. — *Larus minutus* IV. 27. — *Podiceps griseigena* IV. 30. — *Podiceps ruficollis* IV. 30. — *Plegadis falcinellus* V. 9. 2 db — *Plegadis* V. 11. — *Egretta garzetta* V. 11. 2 db. — *Merops apiaster* V. 18. 3 db. — *Chlidonias hybrida* V. 19. — *Larus ridibundus* VI. 30. — *Tringa erythropus* VII. 1. — *Limosa aegocephala* VII. 4. — *Tringa stagnatilis* VIII. 21. — *Gavia septentrionalis* hím, XII. 7. — *Melanitta fusca* tojó XII. 17. gyomorban 8 ráköllő és apró kagylók. Súlya 1350 gramm, hossza 52 cm, szárnyhossz 27 cm. Középső ujj hossza 76 mm, csőr 47 mm, lábhossza 24 mm. — *Anser albifrons* tojó, XII. 23. — **1944-ben elejtett és preparált madarak:** — *Anser albifrons* II. 17. öreg tojó. — *Fringilla montifringilla* II. 24. 3 db. — *Columba oenas* III. 8. — *Bombycilla*, hím III. 25. — *Bombycilla* tojó III. 25. — *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* V. 9. — *Lanius collurio* V. 14. — *Sylvia nisoria* V. 15. — *Somateria mollissima* XI. 13. Gyomorban sok apró kagyló. — **1945-ben élve elfogott és preparált madarak névsora:** — *Falco peregrinus* tojó I. 3-án. Gyomortartalom: galambhús és -tollak. Súlya: 1100 gramm. — *Buteo lagopus* tojó I. 6. Gyomortartalom: 4 mezei egér. — *Remiz pendulinus* I. 11-én szintén élve elfogva. — *Emberiza schoeniclus* 2 db I. 12. — *Remiz pendulinus*, egy másik példány I. 16. — *Buteo*

*buteo*: hím, házigalambnak húsa és tollai, valamint 3 mezei egér. — *Anas platyrhynchos* hím: I. 19-én visszatért s a szállás udvarában élt, mint szelidített vadkacsa. Ott evett a többi házikacsákkal és csirkékkel. Ezt a példányt még 1940-ben elfogta, több hónapon át a kukoricagörében tartotta és táplálta a többi, mintegy 80 db különböző fajú vadkacsákkal. Majd gyűrűzve elengedte. MARKOVNAK több ilyen szelidített vadkacsája volt a tanyáján és amikor egy alkalommal meglátogattam, majdnem ráléptem az egyikre, mitsem sejtve azt, hogy a mellettem ülő s szundikáló kacsa — vadkacsa! — *Buteo lagopus* I. 20. Gyomortartalom 2 mezei egér. — *Circus cyaneus* hím juv. I. 22. Gyomortartalom: *Galerida cristata* tollak és ennek feje, azonkívül egérszőrök. — *Circus cyaneus* öreg tojó I. 22. Gyomortartalom: háziverébnek feje és tollai. — *Circus cyaneus* öreg hím I. 23. Gyomortartalom: *Emberiza schoeniclus*nak feje és tollai a két lábbal, azonkívül egérszőrök. — *Circus cyaneus* öreg hím I. 23. Gyomortartalom: *Passer domesticus*nak feje, lábai és tollai. — *Circus cyaneus* öreg tojó I. 23. Gyomortartalom: két *Passer domesticus*nak feje, tollai és egérszőrök. — *Circus cyaneus* juv. hím. I. 24. két *Passer domesticus*nak feje, három lába és tollai. — *Circus cyaneus* öreg tojó I. 24. Gyomortartalom: 2 mezei egérnek csontjai sok szőrrel és egy háziverébnek két lába tollakkal. *Circus cyaneus* öreg hím I. 24. Gyomortartalom: *Serinus* tollak és hús, azonkívül *Passer domesticus*nak lábai és tollai. — *Circus cyaneus* fiatal hím I. 24. Gyomortartalom: búzaszem és 6 db muharmag. — *Circus cyaneus* fiatal hím I. 24. (aznap 5 darabot fogott). Gyomortartalom: két mezei egérnek csontváza. — *Circus cyaneus* öreg hím I. 25. Gyomortartalom: *Passer domesticus*nak, *Galeriada cristatanak* és *Turdus pilaris*nak tollai, hússal és csontokkal. — *Circus cyaneus* öreg tojó I. 25. Gyomortartalom: *Passer domesticus*nak tollai hússal. — *Circus cyaneus* fiatal hím I. 25. Gyomortartalom: *Passer domesticus*nak tollai és húsa. — *Circus cyaneus* fiatal hím I. 25. Gyomortartalom: *Passer montanus*nak tollai és csontjai. — *Strix flam.* I. 27. Gyomortartalom: *Passer domesticus*nak két feje és tollai, azonkívül 3 mezei egérnek csontváza szőrrel. — *Circus cyaneus* hím juv. I. 27. Gyomortartalom: egy házi- és egy mezei verébnek tollai és csontjai hússal. — *Pica* öreg hím I. 27. Gyomortartalom: tele volt napraforgómagvakkal. — *Circus cyaneus* öreg hím II. 10. Gyomortartalom: 7 egérnek csontváza, igen sok szőrrel. — *Accipiter nisus* öreg tojó II. 16. Gyomortartalom: *Passer domesticus*nak csontváza, sok verébtollal. — *Falco aesalon* fiatal hím. Gyomortartalom: *Alauda arvensis*nek feje csőrrel és *Passer domesticus*nak két lába, ez II. 23-án volt. — *Accipiter nisus* öreg hím, II. 28. Gyomortartalom: 2 *Remiz pendulinus*nak feje a csőrrel és tollazattal, három lábbal és hússal. — *Accipiter* öreg tojó III. 11. Gyomortartalom: *Galeriada cristatanak* csontváza tollakkal. — *Buteo lagopus* III. 12. Gyomortartalom: négy mezei egér. — *Falco peregrinus* öreg tojó III. 13. 1100 gramm. Gyomortartalom: 6 búzaszem és három muharmag, azonkívül sok fehér toll, pehelyszerű tollazat. — *Haliaeetus albicilla* tojó. Ezt egyik ismerőse ejtette el III. 29-én a Bácsföldvári Tisza menti nádasok felett. Gyomortartalma: *Fulica atra* tollai és lábai, azonkívül háziyúknak friss húsa fehér tollakkal. — *Accipiter nisus* öreg tojó III. 29. Gyomortartalom: *Passer domesticus*nak lába hússal és tollakkal. — *Pastor roseus* hím VI. 4. — *Pastor roseus* VI. 9. tojó. — *Pastor roseus* 2 tojó VI. 14. (teljesen kifejlett nemiszervekkel). — *Phalacrocorax carbo* VI. 19. öreg tojó, 20 cm hosszú ponty volt a gyomrában. — *Falco subbuteo* öreg hím VIII. 25. Gyomortartalom: *rusticanak* két szárnya és *Passer domesticus*nak húsa tollakkal — *Pandion haliaetus* IX. 7, hím juv. Gyomortartalom: mintegy félkiló mennyiségű hal. — *Pandion haliaetus* öreg hím. X. 18. Gyomortartalom: szintén tele volt apróbb halakkal. — *Clangula hyemalis* öreg tojó XII. 27-én ejtette el Antal László a bácsföldvári Tiszán. — **1946-ban élve elfogott és preparált madarak:** — *Cardulis cannabina* hím II. 27. (7 db). — *Mergus albellus* hím III. 11. — *Corvus cornix* hím III. 18. — *Columba palumbus* 2 db IV. 2. — *Otus scops* V. 4. — **1947-ben élve elfogott és preparált madarak:** — *Circus cyaneus* öreg I., hím I. 26. Gyomortartalom: egérszőrök. — *Circus cyaneus* hím, I. 26. Gyomortartalom: *Passer domesticus*nak feje és lábai, valamint *Emberiza citrinellana*nak tollai, lába és húsa. — *Circus cyaneus* öreg tojó II. 1. Gyomortartalom: *Perdix perdix*nek teljes feje, sok hússal és fogolytollakkal, azonkívül *Passer domesticus*nak feje és toll. *Buteo lagopus* II. 3. Gyomortartalom: tele volt hússal. — *Circus cyaneus* hím II. 3. Gyomortartalom: *Passer domesticus*nak két feje és lábai. — *Buteo lagopus* hím, II. 6. Gyomortartalom: *Perdix perdix* húsa és tollai. — *Buteo lagopus* hím II. 12. Gyomortartalom: házigalambnak tollai hússal és mezei egérnek csontjai

és szőrzete. — *Buteo lagopus* öreg tojó II. 16. Gyomortartalom: tele volt hússal és hosszú szőrszálakkal. — *Circus cyaneus* öreg tojó III. 4. Gyomortartalom: házi galambnak húsa tollakkal, azonkívül *Perdix cinerea* tollak és hús és kisebb madárnak húsa, toll nélkül és így nem lehetett megállapítani milyen fajú? — *Falco tinnunculus*, III. 19. hím. Gyomortartalom: *Passer domesticus*nak három lába és egy feje, azonkívül sok egérszőr és apróbb egéresontok. Gyomrának felső részénél galambnagyságú tumor volt. — *Mergus albellus*, hím, elejtve III. vége felé.

MARKOVNAK akkor ért véget madártani működése. Ha továbbra is helyén maradt volna, továbbra is bámulatba ejtett volna mindnyájunkat. Eleinte ő tanítványom volt s tőlem tanulta meg a madarakat szeretni, azokat gyűrűzni és meghatározni. Az én ösztökélésemre küldte be azt a sok-sok madarat a Madártani Intézetnek. Idővel aztán beteg lettem, már nem mehettem vele ki a mezőkre. Ment ő egyedül és saját találékony-sága folytán olyan magas fokra fejlesztette a madárfogás művészetét, hogy párját ritkította. Minden rendű és rangú madarat tetszés szerinti mennyiségben élve megfogott. Rövid ideig tündöklő üstökösként ragyogott a madártan egén s az ő távozásakor beszüntette madártani működését: DIMITRIJEVICS BOSKÓ is, LITTAHORSZKY ANTAL is, SCHENK HENRIK is és én is. Méltán lehetne az említettek működését a bácskai madártan fénykorának tekinteni!

Csornai Richárd

**Adatok Vojvodina madártani vonatkozású védhelyeiről.** Jugoszlávia egész területén, Népköztársaságonként, „Természetvédő Intézetek” működnek. Vajdaság, Szerbia Népköztársaság Természetvédő Intézetének hatáskörébe tartozik. Madárvilágáról közismert Vajdaság területén a közelmúltban több madárhelyet létesítettek. Korai lenne beszámolni az eredményekről, még nagyon sokat kell tenni, hogy hiba nélkül menjen minden. Most csak általános tájékoztatást akarok adni, hogy mely területeket nyilvánították védhellyé és miért. 1. *Obedska Bara*, mint az összes vízimadarak védhelye, de különösen mint a szürkegém, vörösgém, bölömbika, kanalasgém, kiskócsag, bakcsó és üstökösgém költőterülete. Az idetartozó 4000 hektáros erdő is védelem alatt áll, tehát a benne fészkelő énekesek és ragadozók is védve vannak. 2. A *bácsmonostori erdő*, mint a fekete gólya és a rétisas költőterülete. 3. *Carska Bara*, mint a kiskócsag, bakcsó, üstökösgém, kiskárókatona és szerkók (kormos, fattyú) költőterülete. 4. A *Ludasí-tó*, mint a nádasok lakóinak védhelye, különösen pedig mint a vöcsök költőterülete. Lehetséges egy madártani kommunikáció létrejövetele a szegedi Fehértó madárvilágával. 5. Deliblati erdőségek, mint az erdei madarak védhelye és mint a közelben fekvő óriási méhészmadar telep védhelye. 6. Fruska-Góra egyes részei, mint a sasok, ölyv és sólymok védhelye. Az intézetnek megvannak a maga szabályai, mely szerint az összes védhelyeken tilos a fiókák és tojások gyűjtése, az öreg madarak kilövése. Engedély nélkül tilos e területekre lépni, bármilyen szempontból is.

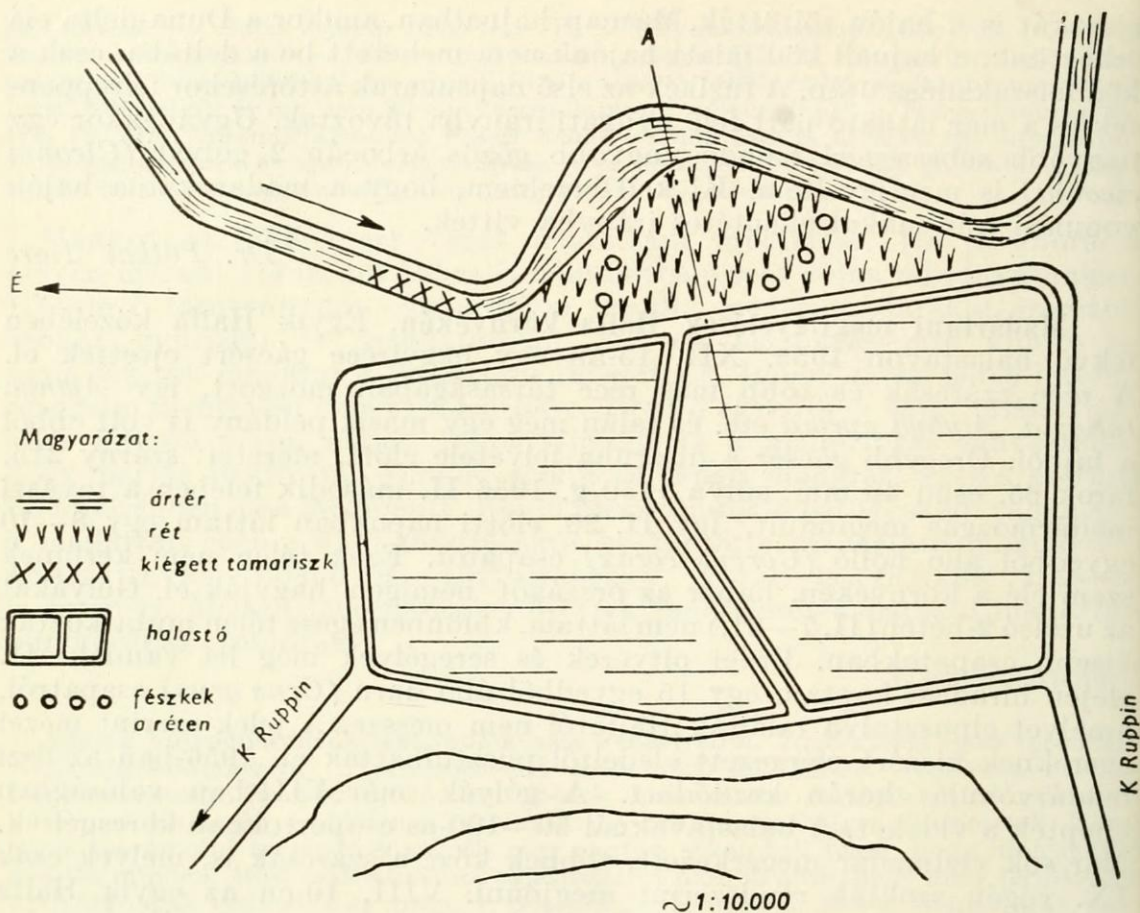
Szlivka László — Gunaros

**Madarak tengeri hajókon.** A legutóbbi irodalomban időszerű kérdéssé vált, hogy a nyílt tengeren tengerjáró hajókon, hol és mikor mutatkoztak madarak. Saját megfigyelésemet a Fekete-tengeren végeztem. 1937. VIII. 11-én hajónk Istambulból jövet a hajnali szürkületben már a nyílt tengeren haladt, de még mintegy 20 km távolságból látszottak a kisázsiai partok. Az első madarak, melyeket megpillantottam, 2 *Phylloscopus (trochilus?)* volt. Ezek valószínűleg még az éjszaka folyamán, amikor Boszporusban haladtunk, szálltak meg hajónkon. A két madár egész nap a hajónk kötélzetén tanyázott és láthatóan apró repülő rovarokat fogott. Az

éjszakát is a hajón töltötték. Másnap hajnalban, amikor a Duna-delta elé érkeztünk, a hajnali köd miatt hajónk nem mehetett be a deltába, csak a köd felszakadása után. A füzikék az első napsugarak áttörésekor felreppentek és a már látható part felé nyugati irányba távoztak. Ugyanekkor egy nagyobb sebességgel haladó nagyobb gőzös árboacán 2 gólyát (*Ciconia ciconia*) is megfigyeltem. Ki kell emelnem, hogy a madarakat a hajók vonulási irányukkal ellentétes irányba vitték.

Dr. Pátkai Imre

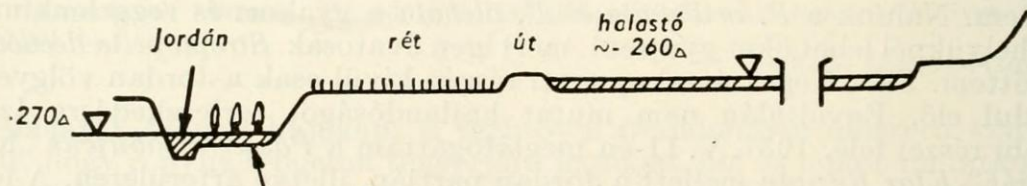
**Madártani megfigyelések Haifa környékén.** Egyik Haifa közelében fekvő halastavon 1955. XII. 13-án egy hegyiréce gácsért ejtettek el. A réce száresák és több más réce társaságában mozgott, így *Aythya fuligula*, *Aythya nyroca* etc. és talán még egy másik példány is volt ebből a fajból. Öregebb gácsér a díszruha felvétele előtt, méretei: szárny 215, farok 65, csüd 40 mm, súlya 1150 g. 1956 II. második felében a tavaszi madármozgás megindult. Így II. 20. előtti napokban láttam egy 8—10 egyedből álló holló (*Corvus corax*) csapatot. Ezek télen nem kerülnek szem elé a környéken, habár az országot nemigen hagyják el. Gólyákat az utolsó 2-hétet (II. 7—21.) nem láttam, különben egész télen mutatkoztak kisebb csapatokban. Erdei pityerek és seregélyek még itt vannak. II. elején híradást kaptam egy 15 egyedből álló daru (*Grus grus*) csapatról, amelyet elpusztulva találtak Haifától nem messze. A jelek szerint mezei egereknek kiszórt mérgezett eledeltől pusztulhattak el. 1956-ban az őszi madárvonulás korán kezdődött. A gólyák már VIII-ban valóságban ellepték a vidéket. A halastavaknál 50—100-as csoportokban keresgéltek. Már sok vízimadár megérkezett, többek közt a száresák is, melyek csak IX. végén szoktak rendszerint megjönni. VIII. 10-én az egyik Haifa melletti halastavon a következő fajokat figyeltem meg: *Himantopus himantopus* (50—60 db), *Recurvirostra avosetta* (6), *Numenius arquatus* (1), *Ciconia ciconia* (80), *Anas querquedula* (50), *Anas acuta* (5), *Fulica atra* (12), *Plegadis falcinellus* (1), *Platalea leucorodia* (25), *Ardea purpurea*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Tringa totanus*, *Tringa erythropus*, *Tringa glareola*, *Tringa ochropus*, *Actitis hypoleucos*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Calidris minuta*, *Calidris alpina*, *Calidris temminckii*, *Charadrius hiaticula*, *Glareola pratincola*, *Gallinago gallinago* (1). A *Ceryle rudis* és *Halcyon smyrnensis* is költ itt. VIII. közepe táján a Negevben jártam, ahol *Pterocles*-t gyűjtöttem. Nálunk a *P. orientalis* és *P. alchata* a gyakori és reggelenként az ivóhelyüknél lehet őket gyűjteni, mert igen óvatosak. *Streptopelia decaocto*-t is lőttem. Ez a Negev északnyugati részén kívül csak a Jordan völgyében fordul elő. Egyáltalán nem mutat hajlandóságot terjeszkedésre Izrael többi részei felé. 1957. V. 11-én meglátogattam a *Passer moabiticus* „habitatját” *Kfar Ruppin* mellett a Jordan partján, illetve árterületén. A folyó itt 270 m-rel fekszik a tenger színe alatt és szeszélyes kanyarulatokat ír le. A verebeket több helyen fészkelve találtam, a parton és az árterületen növényes tamariszk fákön és cserjéken kívül a partmenti réten is találtam 4 fészket, ezekből hármát tojásokkal. A rét jóval magasabban fekszik a folyónál s ehhez képest teljesen száraz. Az elütő növényzet is bizonyítja a két hely elütő voltát. Az eddigi kutatások csak az előbbi habitatot



ártér = inundation area, rét = meadow, kiégett tamariszkusok = burnt tamarisk-trees, halastó = Fishery-pond, Passer moabiticus fészkek-helyek a réten = Nesting-places of Passer moabiticus in the meadow

32. ábra. Kfar Ruppin mellett vizsgált terület térképvázlata  
Fig. 32. Sketch of the observed territory at Kfar Ruppin

H. Hovel

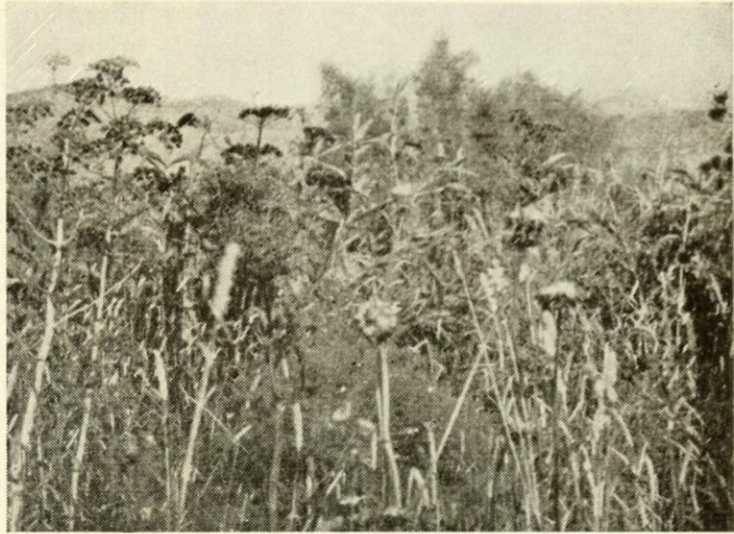


ártér tamariszk fák fő fészkelőhely = inundation area + tamarisk-trees Principal places of nesting, rét = meadow, út = road, Jordan ártér + tamariszk-fák fő fészkelő hely = inundation area + tamarisk-trees Principal places of nesting, halastó = Fishery-pond

33. ábra. A vizsgált terület metszete  
Fig. 33. Cross-section of the observed territory

H. Hovel

említik, az utóbbit nem, mint jellegzetes fészkelő helyet. Míg tamariszka cserjéken a fészkek anyaga is tamariszka, a réten a fészkek anyaga az ott bőven előforduló tüskés cserje (*Liziphus*). Az árterületen a fészkek kb. 3—4 m magasan épülnek, a réten a négy fészkek bogánckórón volt kb. 1,50 m magasan. A verebek száma egy helyen nem túl nagy. Ha nagy fészkek el nem árulná őket, nem is tűnnének fel. A nagy és helyenként áthatolhatatlan sűrűség miatt a fészkek számát megállapítani nehéz. Néhol



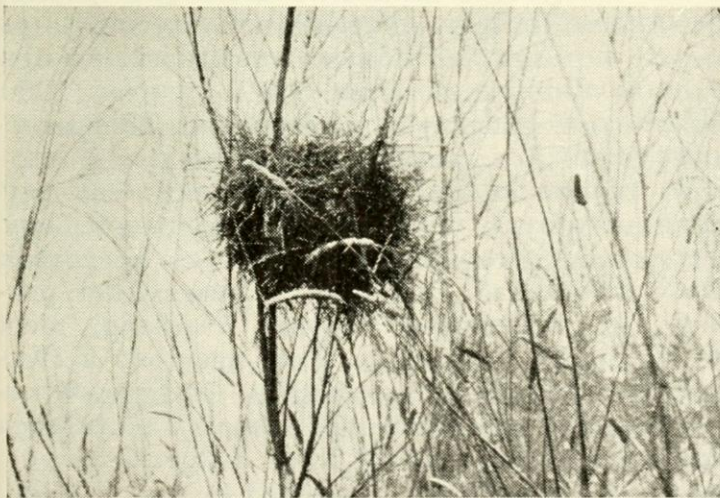
34. ábra *Passer moabiticus* fészkek-helye a réteken  
 Fig. 34. Place of the Nest of *Passer moabiticus* in the meadows

Kfar Ruppin, 11. Mai 1957.

Photo H. Hovel

a tamariszka sűrűség kiégett és csak a csupasz ágak maradtak. Több esetben ilyen fán is találtam építés alatt álló vagy már beboltzott fészket. A hímeket általában a fészkek mellett látni, az ágon ülve, énekelni. Hangja

sokkal finomabb és dallamosabb a háziveréb hangjánál. A talált fészkeknek kb. a fele elhagyott lehetett, főleg a leégett fákon. Egy kb. 150×25 m-es leégett sávon 12 fészket számoltam meg. A költési idő elején érkezhettem ide, mert az összes tojások vagy frissek, vagy 1—2 naposak lehettek. 12 átvizsgált fészkek közül 7-ben voltak tojások: egyben 2, egyben 3, kettőben 4, kettőben 5 és egyben 6 tojás. — (Vide: H. Mendelson, Salit II. 1, 1955. p. 27.) — Mint érdekességet említhetem még

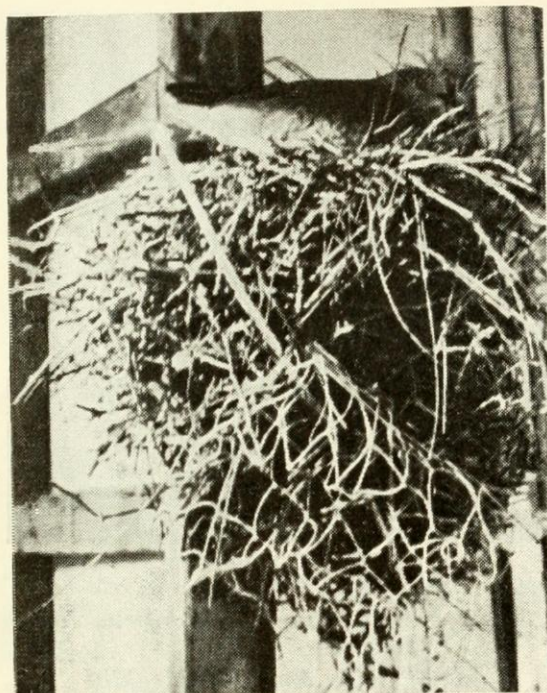


35. ábra. *Passer moabiticus* fészkek az ártéren kiégett tamariszka között

Fig. 35. The Nest of *Passer moabiticus* in burnt Tamarisk in the inundation-area.

Kfar Ruppin, 11 Mai 1957.

Photo H. Hovel



36. ábra. A hazavitt *Passer moabiticus* fészkeire ráfészkelő *Streptopelia senegalensis*  
 Fig. 36. The Breeding *Streptopelia senegalensis* on the brought Nest of *Passer moabiticus*

Haija, Mai 1957.

Photo H. Hovel

kisebb. A régebbi 100-as csoportokkal szemben 1957 nyarán 1000 számra jelentek meg a pelikánok a Huletavon és környéki halastavakon, ami komoly veszedelemet jelent az izraeli halgazdaságokra. A csoportok naponta érkeznek és távoznak úgy, hogy egyszerre csak egy csoport tartózkodik a tavakon. Alkonyat előtt érkeznek és reggel, egy jó termál-áramlatot kifogva, sikló repüléssel távoznak, a gólyák vonulásához hasonlóan. Most különböző elijesztési módszerekkel próbálkozik ellenük védekezni az izraeli Természetvédelmi Társaság, mert a halászok legszívesebben kiirtanák. A pelikánokkal szemben a *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus* megfogyatkozott. 1957-ben csak kb. 70 egyed érkezett. Régebben VIII-ban már százával volt látható. Ellenben 15 *Anhinga* érkezett az 1956. évi 8 darabbal szemben (1957. VIII. 13).

Haim Hovel

**Madártani megfigyelések Izraelből.** A balkáni fakopáncs (*Dendrocopos syriacus*) elég gyakori Izraelben (vide Hovel, *Aquila*, 1952—55, p. 420 & 467), főleg a kultúr lakott telepen, ahol többnyire olajfák vagy fügefák vannak a közelben. Így nálunk is Yassourban, ahol nagy olajfa sorok

vannak. 1955 őszén nagy *Sylvia* invázió volt, szokatlanul tömegesen jelent meg a *Sylvia atricapilla* XI. első felében. Nagy számban érkeztek a *Sturnus vulgaris*-ok is, elég későn: XI. 20-án, — míg 1954-ben már XI. 7-én megjöttek. Úgy látszik, hogy délebbre vonultak a *Corvus frugilegus*-ok és a *Coloeus monedula*-k, melyek igen nagy számban jöttek XI. elején és 1956. I. végén alig látni, pedig csak II. végén szokták elhagyni ezt a vidéket. Az *Ammoperdix heyi*, ami a Holt-tenger vidékén elég gyakori, szintén megcsappant számban. *Falco naumanni*, ami pedig előfordul a téli hónapokban is, nem látható egyáltalán. A *Hieraaëtus fasciatus*, melynek fészkei már XI. vége felé készen szoktak lenni Galileában és a Carmel-hegységnek bozotos sziklái közt, most 1956. I. végén semmi jelét sem mutatja a költés megkezdésének. Úgy látszik a hideg és bő csapadékos hetek nagy hatással vannak a madarakra és ezzel magyarázható a megszokott dátumok eltolódása.

*Meir Zeira (Yassour)*

**Mezeiveréb és gyurgyalag megfigyelések Cegléd környékén.** 1955-ben Cegléd—Kecsképusztán levő kertimag-termelő állami gazdaságban 6 fészekalj gyurgyalag költött egy elhagyott homokbánya falában. Ugyancsak a fent jelzett gazdaságban figyeltem meg, hogy milyen kitartó buzgalommal pusztítja a salátamolyt (*Semasia conterminana*) a mezeiveréb. Az egyik molyfertőzte maghozó-salátatábla szélén, kétéves erdősáv fácskáin már kora hajnalban összegyűltek a mezeiverebek és fecskemódra kapkodták a rajzó molyokat. Később, nappalodás után, amikor a molyok rajzása alábbhagyott, rászálltak a virágzó salátaszárakra és a természeteményben kutattak az ott rejtőző kártevők után. Az inváziószerű molyfertőzéssel mondhatni egy időben jelentek meg a verébesapatok is, de attól kezdve, hogy a salátatáblát nap-nap után nagy mennyiségű DDT-val porozni kezdtük, a madarak akciója már túlnyomó részben csak a hajnalban még repkedő molyok elkapkodására szorítkozott. A vastagon lemérgezett salátavirágokban a kártevőket már nem kutatták tovább. A verebeken kívül még *Lanius minort*, *Lanius collurio*-t és *Muscicapa striata*-t figyeltem meg, mint a salátamoly pusztítót. Utóbbi három faj azonban csak alkalomszerűen fogyasztotta az útjukba eső molyokat.

*Sterbetz István*

**Megeszik-e a madarak a kikapart földalatti gombákat?** A kaparó madarak — viszonylatunkban a császármadár, a fogoly, és a fácán, — továbbá egyes harkályok, a rigók és a szajkók étlapján valószínűleg szerepelnek a földalatti gombák is. Földfeletti gombákat a madarak (tudtommal) nem esznek, de szétvagdalják azokat a gombákban levő nyúvek miatt. Így nekik is bajt okozhat a mérges gomba, s egy erdész mondotta is, hogy egy ízben e módon egy fácántyúk hullott el összes esibéivel együtt. Pamuk-i (Somogy m.) kertemben 3 mogyoróbokor alatt egy apró szarvasgombaféleség (*Hymenogaster muticus*) rendszeresen terem. Észrevettem azt, hogy a tyúkok előszeretettel kapargálnak éppen

ott. Elannyira, hogy a helyeket tüskés ághalmazattal kellett ellenük befedni. Svájcban is megfigyelték azt, hogy tyúkok földalatti gombákat kapartak ki. De sem ott nem adtak hírt arról, sem magam nem tudtam megfigyelni azt, hogy esznek-e a tyúkok a kikapart gombákból? A házi-tyúkok a nekik felkínált apróbb szarvasgombákat (*Hymenogaster muticus*, *Tuber puberulum*) általában nem ették meg, de a lágyabb *H. muticus*-ból némelyik tyúk 1—1 darabot mégis megevett. Az említett mogyoróbokor alatti tyúk-kaparások helyén egy ízben találtam kikapart, de otthagytott földalatti gombát. Ez a negatívum azonban nem bizonyítja még azt, hogy a szajkók, harkályok és a rigók se fogyasztanak el azokat a földalatti gombákat, amelyeket mogyoró, giliszta, esiga vagy rovarok kutatása közben meg kell hogy találjanak. Mert a legtöbb földalatti gomba a lombtakaróban van, illetve közvetlenül alatta. Egy füzes csalitban igen sok *Tuber puberulum* termett pár évvel ezelőtt. Miért kellett a feketerigóknak éppen ott turkálniok? S én a következő években ugyanott egy darabot sem tudtam találni. Szóval egyelőre még csak a gyanúsításnál tartok. Több szem többet lát, ezért hát felhívom kinek-kinek a figyelmét a madaraknak esetleges gomba-fogyasztására. Az avart felforgató, s ott elejtett madarak gyomortartalmából mikroszkóp segítségével ki tudnók mutatni azt, hogy azok ettek-e földalatti gombát. (A spóra emésztetlen marad!) Akiknek van módjuk arra, hogy télen vagy kora tavasszal lombforgatáson tettenért szajkót, zöld- vagy szürkeharkályt elejtsenek, azokat a Madártani Intézet nevében is arra kérem, hogy a kérdéses madarak gyomortartalmát küldenek fel az Intézetbe.

Szemere László

**Klórtartalmú rovarölő idegmérgek hatása a madarakra.** Mezőgazdaságunkban évről évre mind nagyobb mennyiségben és mindinkább fokozódó töménységben kerülnek forgalomba a különböző DDT hatóanyagú permetező és porozószeresek. E készítmények, mint bőrmérgek, melegvérű állatokra hatástalanok. A Gezarol, Hungária-Matador, Agritox és Nikerol néven forgalombahozott növényvédőszeresek azonban állati, növényi megásványi eredetű zsírokban és olajokban — így többek közt az általuk elpusztított rovarok bomló testében is több-kevesebb idő múltával oldódnak — silyen állapotban a melegvérű állatok rovartáplálékával a gyomorba jutva, már azokra is mérgezők. DDT hatóanyagú növényvédőszeresekkel végzett rovarirtásaim során két esetben tapasztaltam, hogy a porozás, illetve permetezés madarakat is megmérgezett. 1953 nyarán a Sasérezervátum közelében 10%-os DDT-vel a Tisza árterében szúnyogtanyákat mérgeztünk. A sekély vizű pocsolyákban elkábult, vagy már elhullott „fehérhal” és vízirovar nagyszámú bakesót és szürkegémét csábított a vizekre. A szúnyogirtási munkák után másfél nappal nem messze a víztől egy fiatal bakesót találtam szabályos ideggörcs-tünetek között. A madárra 10—15 percenként jöttek a görcsök és 5—6 percig tartottak. A görcsök szünetében a bakesó ernyedten, bódultan feküdt, majd két félig emésztett békát, meg három, ugyancsak bomlóban levő apró halat kiöklendett és megtalálásától számított 3 óra múltával elpusztult. 1954-ben a Pusztaszabolcsi állami gazdaságban ugyancsak

10%-os DDT-vel lucernatáblát poroztam. E területről betegesen fogott s másnapra rángásos tünetek közt kimúló fácánkakast kaptam, amelyről az utólagos vizsgálat kiderítette, hogy a nagy mennyiségben fogyasztott, leporozott rovarok okozták a pusztulását.

Sterbetz István

**Albinisztikus madarak.** *Galerida cristata* fehérfoltos példányát láttam Budapesten 1945. X. 15-én a Rhédey-utcában két rendes színezetű búbos pacsirta társaságában. Bóbitája előtt és után, vagyis a homlokon és fejtető hátsó részén jól kivehetően fehér foltos volt; úgyszintén farka is, kivéve annak végét, ahol a tollak csúcsa szürkésbarna színt mutatott. *Passer montanus* fiatal példánya mutatkozott Náraiban 1955. X. 10-én és 23-án. Mindkét szárnya végén a tollak fehér foltosak voltak. *Alauda arvensis* fiatal albino példányra került kézre 1944 nyarán Csákánydoroszlóban.

Csaba József

**Érdekes oológiai esetek.** A rétszilasi sirálytelepen (1957-ben kizárólag az örsi 1-es tavon volt telepük) szerezessirály keresése közben bukkantunk rá egy 3-as „dankasirály” fészekaljra. A tojások teljesen folttalanok, fehéreskékek, leginkább a bakesó tojásának színéhez hasonlók, de árnyalatnyi szürkébb voltukkal és némi fényükkel térnek el attól az alak- és nagyságbeli különbözőségektől. A tojások méretei:  $49 \times 35$ ,  $48 \times 37$ ,  $49 \times 37$  mm. Ugyanakkor néhány „színes” ottani dankasirály-tojás méretei:  $55 \times 38$ ,  $50 \times 37$ ,  $50 \times 35$ ,  $57 \times 35$ ,  $52 \times 36$ ,  $51 \times 35$ . Tehát a színes tojásoktól elsősorban rövidebb voltukkal térnek el. Míg a színes tojások mindegyike eléri hossz tengelyében az 50 mm-t, a „kék” tojások közül egy sem. A Velencei-tavon, helyesebben ennek madártanilag legértékesebb részén, a dinnyés-pákozdai sarokban, 1957-ben is fészkeltek a kormos szerkők bár a múltéhoz képest csekélyebb számban. Amikor V. 19-én rátaláltam egyik, 13 fészekből álló telepükre, a legtöbb fészekben 1, esetleg 2 tojás volt. Közben nagy viharok dúltak a tavon s V. 25-én az említett telepet teljesen megsemmisültnek találtam. Ugyanazon alkalommal egy másik telepen, mely eléggé szét-szórtan kb. 18 fészket tartalmazott, találtam egy olyan fészekaljat, melynek egyik tojása a többinél lényegesen ki-



37. ábra. *Bibic* ötös fészekalja

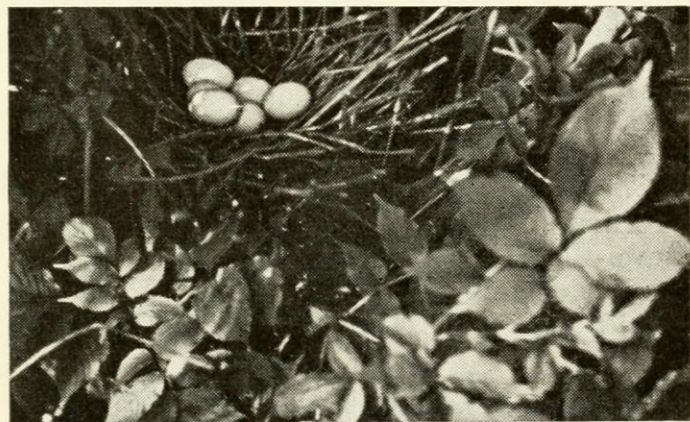
Fig. 37. A Clutch of Lapwing with 5 Eggs

Dinnyés, 22. April 1957.

Photo J. Radetzky



38. ábra. A kisvöcsök kilences fészekalja  
 Fig. 38. A Clutch of Little-Grebe with 9 Eggs  
 Sárszentágota, 16. Jun. 1956.  
 Photo J. Radetzky



39. ábra. Pocgém fészek bodza-bokorban  
 Fig. 39. Nest of the Little-Bittern in an Elder-Shrub  
 Rétszilás, 16. Mai 1957.  
 Photo J. Radetzky

cinegék viszonylag szép számmal fészkeltek, ellentétben a fülemile sitkékkel, melyek a korábbi viszonyokhoz képest megdöbbentő apadást mutatnak. A sok megtalált barkós cinegefészek közül az egyikben 9 egyivású tojás volt (1957. IV. 15). Ez is erős szám. MÁTÉ LÁSZLÓ említette a helyszínen, hogy egy ízben 14-es fészekaljat talált, de azt feltétlenül összetojásnak minősíti. A szárcsánál igen ritka a 10-es fészekalj. Rétszilason, az örsi 3-as tó nádasában találtam 1957. V. 16-án egy 10-es fészekaljat. Ugyancsak Rétszilason, a „Miklósi tó” teljesen száraz, erősen elbokrosodott szigetén egy közönséges bodza bokrában találtam rá a pocgém fészkeire, mely a földtől 80 cm magasan volt az ágak közé elhelyezve. Rétszilason, az örsi 1-es tóban hosszan elnyúló gátat fűz-

sebb volt. Méretei:  $26 \times 21$ , míg a fészekalj másik két tojásáé:  $35 \times 25$  és  $33 \times 26$  mm, tehát normális. Színelileg is eltérő a fészekalj többi tojásától, mert a „kicsi” tompa tojásvége sötétbarnán, erősen összefolyóan koszorús, míg a másik két tojás tompa végén a sötétbarna foltok csak „gyülekeznek”. A dinnyés-agárdi vasútvonal és a műút közötti rétségen IV. 22-én egy 5-ös bibic fészekaljat találtam. A tojások színezete és alakja tipikus. A tojások méretei  $45 \times 32$ ,  $45 \times 33$ ,  $46 \times 32$ ,  $45 \times 33$ ,  $47 \times 33$  mm. Sárszentágótán, a községhez közel eső déli tóval kapcsolatos mintegy 4—5 holdnyi, gyér vegetációjú, kis nádfoltokkal tarkított mocsár a kis vöcsök eldorádójának bizonyult. Közel 20 fészket találtam itt, közöttük egy 9-es fészekaljat (1957. VI. 16.), ami igen ritka fészekalj-erősség. Összetojásról szerintem nem lehet szó. A tojások mindegyike normális méretű. Dinnyésen 1957-ben a keleti barkós

fák kísérik. Ezek egyikén egy vörös vérese 2 tojást tartalmazó fészket lel-  
tük, míg ugyanazon a fán egy másik ágon az örvös galamb 1 tojást tar-  
talmazó fészke volt elhelyezve (1957. IV. 28.).

*Radetzky Jenő*

**Madarak szokatlan fészkelése.** Az alábbi szokatlan madárfészkelé-  
seket Csákánydoroszlóban észleltem: *Passer montanus* költött 1924.  
VII. 21-én anyanevelő méhkaptárban. *Parus major* ugyancsak anyanevelő  
kaptárban fészkel 1927. IV. 7-én. Később: 1932. V. 7-én két család fészkel  
országos méretű méhkaptárban, míg 1950-ben egy másik pár Boconádi-  
féle kaptárban költött. Utóbbi üres méh lakás költőterének 1/3-ad részét  
megtöltötték fészkekanyaggal s csak azután rakta le a széncinege tojásait.  
*Hirundo rustica* különös fészke akadtam 1938. VII. 17-én a falutól  
távol eső téглаégetőhely istállójában, ahol sárfészek építése nélkül egyik  
gerenda mélyedésében költötte ki 5 fiókáját. A fészkekanyag mindössze  
néhány fűszálból állott. Érdekes, hogy az istálló közvetlen közelében van  
egy kis tavaeska, melyből a víz sose szárad ki, így sárfészek építése  
módjukban állott volna a fecskéknek. *Picus viridis* nyírfán levő odvában  
két tojása mellett egy *Dendrocopos major* tojását is találtam 1932. V. 5-én a  
várkertben.

*Csaba József*

**Madárjárványok észlelt esetei.** 1956 tavaszán 8—900 pár dankasirály  
fészkel a szegedi Fehértó halastavának ún. Korom-szigetén. Július ele-  
jén erős elhullás lépett fel, mely úgyszólván csak a már tollasodott és  
részben repülő fiatal madarakat pusztította. Ezer jelzőgyűrűvel ellátott  
fiatal madárból több mint 100 pusztult a költőterületen és annak köz-  
vetlen környékén. A Szeged környéki vizekről és Kiskunhalasról is el-  
pusztult meggyűrűzött madarakat jelentettek. A járvány más madár-  
fajokra nem terjedt rá és öreg dankasirályok sem pusztultak. A betegség bél-  
fertőzés képét mutatta, a végbélnyílás környéke zöldessárga híg vála-  
dék volt szennyezett. Ez esetben a kórokozó mikroorganizmus fel-  
derítésére vizsgálat nem történt. A madárjárványok általában július-  
ban lépnek fel és általában a nyári hőségben kulminálnak. Annál feltű-  
nőbb az a járvány, mely 1957 telén pusztított a tőkés récék között. Január  
elején tízezernyi tőkés réce lepte el a fehértói halastavak vízfoltjait.  
Érkezésük után nem sokkal hirtelen nagymértékű pusztító járvány tize-  
delte számukat. A hőmérséklet állandóan fagypont alatt volt. 2 hét  
alatt a szépen kiszínezett récéknek több mint fele elpusztult. Az el-  
hullott récék kövérek, zsírréteggel borítottak voltak. A környék lakos-  
sága zsákokba gyűjtötte a beteg és csonttá fagyott récéket és 12—15  
forintos áron hozták forgalomba. Egyesek több ezer forintot árultak  
a récehullásból. A víz naponta százával sodorta a jégszélre a dögöket.  
Eltakarításukra megjelentek a dögevő madarak: dolmányos varjak  
serege, szarkák, 3 rétisas, néhány kékes réti héja és a vetési varjaknak  
sok ezres tömege. Csíkokban feketélt a varjútömeg a dögök sodrás-  
vonalában. A különben varjúszegény tájon sűrű rajokban jöttek-mentek  
a varjak. A fátlan vidéken még éjszakára sem távoztak a varjútömegek.

Este zavart helyeken is, környéki tanyaudvarok fáit rogyásig lepték el. Éjszakánként rókák, kutyák jártak rá a dögökre. A rezervátum lekaszált sásos mocsara is tele volt beteg és elhullott récékkel. A beteg récék a héják elől sem menekültek, a felettük elhúzó héják felé nyitott csőrrel kapkodtak. A betegségnek jellemző tünetei voltak: bőséges híg, bűzös zöld széklet, a madarak lustákká váltak, ember elől közvetlen közlelől szárnyaltak el. Későbbiekben nem tudtak lábra állani, szárnyukkal verdesve magukat, csúszkáltak a jégen, ahol embernek, ragadozóknak így prédájává lettek. A dögökből lakmározó emlősöknél, embernél, madaraknál megbetegedés vagy pusztulás nem volt észlelhető. Figyelemre méltó, hogy a Fehértó közelében levő Szatymaz községben és a távolabbi (7—8 km) Tápé községben ez időben baromfivész miatt zárlat volt; a járványt baromfipestisnek állapították meg. A Szegedi Egyetem Mikrobiológiai Intézetében beteg és elhullott madarak kerültek vizsgálatra. Sem a béltractusból, sem a szív véréből és lépkaparékból pathogen bacteriumokat kitenyésztetni, kimutatni nem sikerült. A járványos megbetegedés vírusos eredetű volt.

Dr. Beretzk Péter

**Mogyorós pele az egerészölyv fészében.** Csákánydoroszlói Felsőerdőn 1952. év nyarán a gyerekek *Buteo buteo* fiókákat szedtek le, amikor is az általuk leszórt fészekanyagból egy élő mogyorós pele (*Muscardinus avellanarius* L.) került elő.

Csaba József

## Short notes

**First Hungarian Proving Specimen of the Pied Wheatear.** — On September 2nd 1956 DR. I. VÉGH called my attention to an unusual bird, which he had observed on the Kálvária hill near Budaörs. Following this communication we went on September 3rd together to the mentioned place where, after having waited for a while, the bird in question actually appeared. It was rather shy and did not let us approach nearer than to about 80—100 meters and, if possible, always rested on the most protruding point of the surroundings. It was never alone, but always in company of 10—15 Black Redstarts and 2—3 Wheatears. We watched it through our field glasses and already noticed the large white dots on its rump and tailfeathers from a good distance. It was still more conspicuous, that it moved on the ground in a pretty clumsy way; while the Redstarts moved cleverly on the dry turf, running about and hunting there: it scarcely moved; if it hunted, it made short jumps into the air, but falling back to the ground it tripped like a Swallow. When after a few hours we succeeded in collecting it, the reason of its clumsiness became clear at once: both its tarsi were missing. On this place, immediately, below the joint metatarsalis, two cicatrized stumps flattened somewhat like soles were to be seen. From the state of the cicatrices and from the thickness of the strongly keratinized proliferation of epidermis, covering the soles we concluded that this disfiguration must have happened at least 5—6 months ago. Concluding from the equal length of the stumps, the bird must have got either into a trap, or, which seems more probable, got a low side-shot from an air-rifle which cut off both its tarsi. Otherwise the bird was completely sane and after having moulted, had winter-plumage. On the morning after having collected it, I handed it over to the collection of the Ornithological Institute. Though after having shot it I thought the bird to be an ad. male *Oenanthe hispanica* in winter plumage, after the strict determina-

tion (PÁTKAI and WARGA) it proved to be a ♂ Pied Wheatear (*Oenanthe p. pleschanka* LEP.). To complete this, we have to remark, that K. KÖFFÁN, on May 15th—24th 1955, also in Budaörs, observed another ad. ♂ Pied Wheatear in breeding plumage, though he did not succeed in collecting it. Thus by the present specimen a new Pontomediterranean element can be taken into the Hungarian Check-List.

T. Farkas

**Ruddy Shelduck and other ornithological observations in Apaj-puszta.** — On the evening of March 31st 1957 I remarked, flying above the sodaic steppe, a Wild Goose with a reddish underside, as it passed above the wet meadow nearby. I could distinctly see the reddish neck and abdominal part, the white speculum and the black primaries through my fieldglasses, so it was doubtlessly a *Casercia ferruginea* PALL.

Here I want to report the further migration data, worth mentioning, from the surroundings of Apaj:

On September 23rd 1956 a lonely, fully coloured, reddish, white-tailed Long-legged Buzzard, (*Buteo rufinus*) was flying above the steppe, near me. On the same day I saw a number of Marsh Sandpipers (*Tringa stagnatilis*) on the shores of the fish-ponds. I counted three or four flocks of them, each of 30—40 specimens. During the autumnal migration 1956, there were many Sandpipers (especially *Tringa totanus*, *T. glareola*, *T. nebularia*), Plovers (*Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Ch. dubius*, *Ch. hiaticula*), Curlew (*Numenius arquatus*) and Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*); less duck; a few Garganey, Mallard, Teal and Porchard; from Charadriidae I met only the Dunlin, (*Calidris alpina*).

I observed 3 Bustards (*Otis tarda*) on February 12th 1957. According to the local population, these are rather frequent, they also breed here. It was on this same day that I met the first Lapwings. On February 25th I found, on the shores of the subsoil water ponds a flock of 30 Shore Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*). They were not shy at all. I could observe them from quite near. During their movement in early spring, they could be seen in far greater numbers, than in autumn. Frequent were Garganey, Mallard, Teal, Wigeon, Tufted Duck and Goldeneye. I counted in hundreds, sometimes thousands of wild geese: Bean Goose, White-fronted Goose, Lesser-White-fronted Goose; less Greylag Geese. On March 22nd 1957 the number of Redshanks exceeded ten thousand. This year the Corncrake (*Crex crex*) appeared early: on March 22nd 1957 and was seen and heard on the surrounding fields.

The raptorial birds are very numerous on this area. At the end of February and at the beginning of March I almost always met the Hen Harrier and the Pallid Harrier, less frequently the Marsh Harrier. Common are the Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Kestrel, Common Buzzard and Rough-legged Buzzard, then the Black Kite; the Lesser Spotted Eagle and the White-tailed Eagle also visited the area. Already on April 14th 1957 a Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) was sitting on an island in one of the fish-ponds; on April 23rd I saw a pair of them fishing above the ponds.

L. Schäfer

**Horned Grebe West of the Danube.** — On May 3rd 1956, on the canal near Jánosháza, a male Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) was shot. We succeeded to secure this bird for the collection of the Ornithological Institute.

J. Györy

**Late occurrence of the Black-Throated Diver on the Danube.** — On May 17th 1956 in the vicinity of Tahitótfalu (22 miles North of Budapest) near the Danube-island Kecskesziget a Black-throated Diver (*Gavia arctica*) in winter plumage was swimming on the Danube arranging its plumage.

J. Dandl

**Nesting of the Red-necked Grebe** — It is interesting that of the four species of Grebes breeding in Hungary, we have relatively few certain data about the breeding of the Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps griseigena*). The reason is, that the occurrence of this bird is rather irregular and as it leads a very hidden life, it only rarely comes to the sight of the observer. During the many years of my activity as a collector I relatively rarely found Red-necked Grebes breeding; years passed without even seeing it, and

in fact, it seems to me that the number of the pairs breeding here steadily decreases. In the county of Fejér I found it breeding on three places: 1. Near Székesfehérvár on the pond called „Sóstó”, where in 1930 one pair and in 1937 three pairs bred; since that time it did not breed here. 2. On the moor of Dinnyés, where yearly one or two pairs remain, but even here it does not breed every year. An exception was the year 1937, when we could speak of almost an invasion of Red-necked Grebes, as in the spring of this year not less than 12—15 pairs bred here and its mating call resembling to the neighing of horses, could be heard everywhere. I even collected several clutches, one of them I sent to the Ornithological Institute, as it did not have an authentic clutch from Hungary yet. (At the burning of the Institute this was also destroyed). It is peculiar, that on the Lake of Velence itself I never saw a Red-necked Grebe, thus its breeding there may be considered as excluded. This species of Grebes does not like the extended lakes with deep water. 3. On the fish-ponds of Rétszilás I found, since the end of the War, breeding Red-necked Grebes for three times. It is true, that the direction of the fishponds does not like the presence of Grebes here, they destroy them, which might also be one of the reasons of its rare occurrence. On May 28th 1950 I found its nest with 3 fresh eggs in the pond Nr. 3 of Fánecs, in the Colony of Common Terns. In 1952 during the breeding period I heard its mating call in the pond Nr. 2 of Fánecs, and on June 3rd 1956, in the pond Nr. 1 of Őrs I found one pair of them breeding on the edge of the Gull colony; the clutch of four eggs are kept in my collection.

L. Máté

**Stock of the characteristic birds of Lake Kisbalaton in the Years 1952—1957.** —  
— List see in Hungarian text: p. 273.

G. Steffel

**Data from the Reserve Sasér near Hódmezővásárhely from 1956.** — Already on January 8th a nest of the White-Tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) was ready — built in the bifurcation of a poplar of about 18 meters, in the wood where the Heronry is. This extraordinary nest-building of the pair of Eagles seemed to be aimless, as in this year they did not breed in Sasér. During this year I twice saw White-Tailed Eagles above the Egret-colony: On July 8th 1 adult specimen and on August 8th a pair of adult birds. On April 1st 1 Great White Heron (*Egretta alba*) was to be seen in the colony. Through the whole winter, flocks of thousands of Jackdaws (*Coloeus monedula*) and Rooks (*Corvus frugilegus*) came to pass the nights in the wood of Sasér and then (April) began to scatter in smaller groups (of 15—20 specimens). On the inundated maize-fields (Eastern bank of River Tisza) 60—70 specimens of Bean Gees (*Anser fabalis*) were swimming about. About 30 pairs of Grey Herons (*Ardea cinerea*) were building their nests. On April 1st in the colony of Egrets I. MURVAY saw a Raven (*Corvus corax*) on the poplars of Sasér. It was on this day that a group of about 150 Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) arrived to the inundation area.

On July 8th I saw 1 specimen of the Little Flycatcher (*Muscicapa parva*), but this year we did not succeed in proving its breeding here. At this date the young of the Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) were just a few days before fledging. The number of the breeding pairs — compared to 1955 had somewhat increased. 200—250 pairs of Little Egrets, 250—300 pairs of Grey Herons, about 500 pairs of Night Herons, 5—6 pairs of Squacco Herons (*Ardeola ralloides*) 3 pairs of Black Kites (*Milvus migrans*) and 1 pair of Hobbies bred in the mixed willow and poplar-woods. This is especially interesting because this year there were scarcely a few acres of rice fields in the surrounding territories (Ludvár, Vajhát) and so their accustomed morning and evening-flights were strongly reduced, but extended to larger territories. The colony was built in a new place, on the eastern part of the wood, the nests on the outside being built on the last trees on the edge of the wood. Quite a new phenomenon was the Night Heron colony of 25—30 nests built on the young, 5—6 meters high poplars in the north-eastern part. I. TAKÁCS found nests of Night Herons in Körtevényes too, on the eastern shore of River Tisza. Here good many Little Egrets passed the night too. This is why we could not see, on the evenings, so many Little Egrets coming in, as in the previous year. Breeding took place at the usual time (May-June). Young Night Herons were sitting in large numbers (700—700) among the willow-bushes of the dead arm of the

River Tisza. Young Night Herons were to be found in the nests until August 15th, and young Little Egrets until August 24th. In the bank of the small pool beside the dyke around the wood of Sasér 1 pair of Kingfishers (*Alcedo atthis*) were breeding. On August 19th 2 specimens of Black Storks (*Ciconia nigra*) circled above the wood and a Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*) was singing between the willow-stumps standing scattered on the meadow. From August 20th to 25th only about 8—10 Little Egrets could be counted simultaneously on the rice-fields between Hódmezővásárhely—Mártély—Szegvár—Csongrád. On August 26th 32 Bee-eaters (*Merops apiaster*) arrived to Sasér. Two pairs of this species bred in 1956 in the Sasér-section of the River Tisza, on the eastern shore. On August 26th I saw 2 specimens of the Syrian Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos syriacus*) in the wood of the heronry. New is the colony of about 250 pairs of Sand Martins (*Riparia riparia*) on the eastern side at the ferry of Atka (opposite Sasér). From the song-birds of Sasér there were — compared to 1955 — strikingly more families of Spotted Flycatchers (*Muscicapa striata*) and Redstarts (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*).

Of the rarer birds of prey I observed besides the White-tailed Eagle the following species: on August 12th a ♂ Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*); on August 13th an Osprey (*Pandion haliaëtus*); August 20th 2 specimens of the Booted Eagle (*Hieraaëtus pennatus*); August 25th (Mártély-Tiszaut) 2 specimens of the Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*); August 26th 1 Booted Eagle. These latter birds circled in both cases about 30 meters above the heronry and were pursued by Black Kites.

A. Festetics

**The Little Bittern breeding in a Colony.** — On a broader part of the reed-belt of the swamp of Obornyatcha the reed, from 1947 to 1954, has not been cut. Otherwise the reed-covered part of the swamp is very narrow and *Little Bitterns* only rarely breed there. In a circle of about 10—15 kilometers there is no other place where these birds could settle. When I visited the swamp, the movement of the Little Bitterns and their flighting to the mentioned place was conspicuous. When I waded into the broadened reed, I found 68 nests on a narrow place, close to each other. From 1954 on the reed is regularly cut and since then only 8—10 pairs of Little Bitterns settle to breed on this place.

A. Szlivka

**Observations on the White Stork.** — In the cold, windy spring of 1955 several Storks (*Ciconia ciconia*) flew against the electric wires. Twice I succeeded in securing the dead birds and I found the following in the stomachcontents: 1 small Carp, 5 Newts, 7 Frogs, 1 small Snake, 1 small Tortoise, 3 green Lizzards, 3 Field Mice, 1 Mole, 4 carabid Beetles, 2 Dung-beetles, 7 Mole-crickets and some undefinable material. The young Storks only rarely try to break-up their food, they swallow it as a whole. In August 1937 they tried to chop-up a Pike, but it fell out of the nest. According to my experience, the pairs of Storks arrive to our village simultaneously; it is only if a new mate joins the lonely owner of the nest, that it happens, that the new mate arrives to the nest several days later. When building the new nest, both male and female carry the material. While incubating the male's task is to repair the nest. The sexual act is carried out on the nest, but on chimneys and roofs too. Fighting between the owner of the nest and other Storks, for the ownership of the nest, may be carried so far, as to throw the eggs out of the nest. I have observed such cases for eight times, out of which twice it was the stranger who threw the eggs out of the nest, and in the other six the male himself threw the eggs out in his excitement. In one of the nests observed the clutches became smashed during the fights in 1955, 1956 and 1957. The Storks laid eggs for a second time and reared 2—2 young, though late. According to my experiences the parents guard their offspring for about 30 days, to protect them against eventually appearing stranger Storks. During the night it is always the female who incubates, while the male is on guard. According to my observations it is on the 65th day that the young leave the nest for the first time and still remain in the nest for 14—16 days after fledging. In very rainy years the above dates vary; in 1940 2 young Storks were fledged on July 15th, but remained in the nest until August 11th, while in 1945 they remained only for 10 days in the nest and then left it altogether. Between July 10th and 28th 1941 the female of one

nest disappeared and for these 18 days it was the male alone who had to look after the 4 young. On July 28th the female came unexpectedly back, but the young did not let her return to the nest. In the evenings she stood, together with her mate, on the chimney of the neighbouring house. With another nest it was the male who did not return between July 10th and August 5th 1945 and it was the female alone who fed the 3 young. After August 5th the young accepted to be fed by the male, but the female did not allow her mate to remain with her. May be a lesion was the reason of this absence. I was not able to control the identity of the pairs by ringing. On July 15th 1946, above the village Ócsa (County of Pest), where I observed the birds, 24 Storks circled and on this day they were feeding the young only once. In the noon and afternoon hours of hot summer-days both Storks regularly give water to their young. They do not even begin the retching of the food, before this has not been done. At 30° C, between 2 and 4 p. m. especially the female returns for several times, and only gives water. In its flight the Stork not only rattles, but I also saw some birds arrange their plumage and scratching with their feet. Then it does not flap the wings, but only sails. On moon-lit nights the Storks do not always rest, but even search food, fight for their nests and if a Stork flies above their nest, they rattle. At the end of April 1944 I observed two fighting females at night, which, in the excitement of their fight, fell to the ground and I even caught one of them, setting it free a few days later. This stranger Stork did not come back any more. I knew a male, which spent the night on the fields and by day-time fed their young. During the night it was only the female who kept guard over the nest. In 1954 I regularly watched the evening-return of a female to the nest. Every evening it came exactly at 20.45 p. m., only once being one minute early and once one minute late. In Ócsa the number of Storks varied according to the table in the Hungarian text see p.:

At times of dry springs (1948—49) there were only 2 young. The cold spring of 1955 had also a disadvantageous influence on breeding. In 1949 the first Stork appeared as late as April 18th in Ócsa, the mate of which arrived on April 21st. They did not breed that year. A few days later another pair arrived, and only these bred. On May 21st new pairs arrived to the village, but did not breed either. I heard from aged people in Ócsa, that a pair of Storks built its nest on the southern tip of the church party-wall, in about a height of 25 meters. While restoring the church in 1893—96 the nest has been knocked down. Since then, many pairs tried to build their nests there, but none succeeded in doing so. In 1957 another pair tried it again, but the branches slipped down. In 1952 the Storks reared 4 young at the end of a straw-stack in the state-farm of Babád. The stack was not touched until autumn.

J. Darázsi

**Increase of Storks in 1956 in the surroundings of Régen (Transsylvania).** — This year I saw Storks (*Ciconia ciconia*) for the first time on April 3rd. I had the opportunity to examine the stock of the Storks in further four villages compared to last year (Beresztelke, Abafája, Petele and Sárpaták), so the number of the examined stork-nests amounted to 34. The average productivity per nest is 2.23, i. e. somewhat less than last year's.

The data of the examined nests are the following:

On May 12th 1957 a ♂ Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) was shot in Kabátfalva, near Székelykeresztúr, at the creek Nyikó. It was a single specimen. This specimen came into the Museum of Székelykeresztúr. According to H. HÖHR another specimen was shot in the first half of April, near Fehéregyháza, situated not far away from the first mentioned locality.

I. Kohl

**White Storks as victims of bees.** — On June 28th 1956 in Batchkovo Petrovo Selo, I witnessed an unusual event, while ringing Storks. In a Stork's nest on a straw-stack I found five, well developed young. The young already writhed, scarcely alive. The soft pellets around the nest were swarming with bees, which gathered stuff from the pellets and flew away with it. With adequate protection I could easily pick the half-dead young from the nest and stated that hundreds of bees flew out from under the feathers, and found many dead bees stuck between the feathers.

7. táblázat

Nr.	Name of place	Number of occupied nests	Nests without increase	Number of eggs	Young thrown or fallen out	Number of reared young	Remark
1.	Sáromberke .....	15	3	35	2	33	
2.	Beresztelke .....	10	2	21	1	20	
3.	Gernyószeg .....	3	1	7	—	7	
4.	Abafája .....	2	j—	8	—	7	I egg thrown out
5.	Régen .....	1	—	4	—	4	
6.	Görgényszentimre ..	1	—	3	—	3	
7.	Petele .....	1	—	2	—	2	
8.	Sárpatak .....	1	1	—	—	—	
Total:		34	7	80	3	76	

Average increase per nest: 2,23

I decided to continue my observation. Soon one of the old Storks appeared. It already knew of the bees' attack, because it did not settle on the nest, but on the top of the barn. Somewhat later it decided to settle on the nest. As soon as it settled on the stack, a whole swarm of bees attacked it, so the old Stork fled too. The young, because of the many stings, died about 10 minutes later. Some time after this I heard that another old Stork has been found dead near the ferry of the River Tisza, bearing the same marks (stings, dead bees stuck between the feathers) and I think it very probable, that it was just the same old Stork which I had observed. My first impression was, that swarming bees attacked the Stork's nest, but as soon as I stepped on the stack, I observed that the bees are carrying to the bee-hives of the neighbouring house. The bees dissolved the pellets into a soft mash and carried it to the hives.

L. Szlivka

**Shelduck in the County of Zala.** — On December 9th 1956 a Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) was shot on the fish ponds of Móríchelypuszta, near Miklósfa.

G. Barthos

**White-Headed Duck at Kunfehértó.** — On May 18th 1956 I observed 1 White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) on the fish pond of Kunfehértó, County of Pest.

J. Győry

**Summer-Occurrence of the Common Scoter in the County of Zala.** — On July 31st 1957 a Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra* L.) was shot on the fish pond of Móríchelypuszta (Miklósfa, County of Zala).

G. Barthos

**A Teal which died in the air.** — On February 14th 1956 a flock of 11 Teals (*Anas crecca*) passed above the village Gunaros in NE direction. During the time I watched them, one of the birds suddenly began to drop and fell into a garden. When skinning it I found that on its body it had no trace of any lesion (by shot), only its right leg had, at the tarsus, an interior fracture, which could have presumably happened when it fell from the height.

L. Szlivka

**A few Ornithological Notes about Raptorial-Birds from Western Slovakia.** — Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug danubialis* Kleinschmidt) bred in 1956 in the hills of Inovec in the surroundings of Prasicz (Prasice) near Nagytapolcsány (Topolčany). I found its nest on May 6th with the help of my collaborator O. SINDÁR in an Oak-forest about 50 years old, at 3 kilometers distance from the brim of the forest. The four eggs were laid into a nest which was originally a Goshawk's, at a height of about 15 meters. Measurements of the eggs: 56,5 × 39,3 mm, 54,9 × 39,9 mm, 52,7 × 38,1 mm and 55,4 × 39,3 mm. We succeeded in hatching 3 of the eggs in an artificial brooder and we reared the young. All four eggs were fertilized. Up till now we did not know that the Saker Falcon — which is considered a great rarity in Slovakia — breeds in the hills of Inovec. A Saker Falcon has been shot on March 25th 1955 in the surroundings of Stefanovicová, near Nyitra, which bore the ring 24 032 of the Ornithological Institute of Budapest. The bird had been ringed on May 28th 1954 in the hills of Börzsöny (45 miles N of Budapest) near Királyrét, so the bird, about one year old, has been shot at about 90 kilometers NW of its birth-place. I succeeded to get informations about a few Eagles shot in 1956: an Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) had been shot in May near Nyitra, a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) in the surroundings of Mužla near Párkány (Sturovo) and an Osprey (*Pandion haliaëtus*) near Zseliz (Zeliezovce) on the banks of the River Garam.

P. Hell

**Preliminary Communication about the Occurrence of the Bearded Vulture in Slovakia.** — For the last century we have no data about the occurrence of the Bearded Vulture in Slovakia. Our only one and not quite authentic record is from Lőcse, of 1830 (?). I succeeded in getting a specimen for the Regional Museum (Krajské Muzeum) of Trnava (Nagyszombat) in August 1957. I got in touch with Mr. Bartovic, who shot the bird and he told me the following: In November 1942 he went Goose-shooting to the surroundings of the village Vysoká pri Morave (Hegyeshely) near the river Morva. At twilight he noticed a large bird which he immediately shot. This bird, which was thought to be an „Eagle” he had prepared with spread wings and hung it to the ceiling of the diningroom of his inn. Here this Bearded Vulture was hanging for almost 15 years, and now I could secure it for the zoological collection of our Museum, as a striking and only proving specimen, which on the whole territory of Czechoslovakia is unique. I give a more detailed report in the periodical Acta Rer. Nat. Mus. Slov. about the occurrence of the Bearded Vulture in Slovakia.

B. Matoušek  
Krajské Muzeum, Trnava

**Data about the Preying of the Peregrin Falcon and the Kite on Night Herons resp. Little Egrets.** — Towards the beginning of July 17th 1956, every day at about 5 p. m. 1 young Peregrin Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) ♀ and two young Goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*) ♂ + ♀ appeared at the heronry of Sasér. These raptorial birds remained there until twilight and hunted young Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) and Little Egrets (*Egretta garzetta*). The Goshawks carried out their attacks every 5—10 minutes from their lurking place (the base of a branch) and from there struck among the young Night Herons sitting around their nests; the latter flushed and the Goshawks attacked single specimens with repeated strikes. The Night Herons mostly fell wounded into the undergrowth of blackberries, half-a-meter high, where they found protection. If the attacked bird suddenly flew up to a lower branch, the Goshawk usually circled around it for several times and striking at it, tried to make it get up. On July 17th the male Goshawk pursued with repeated attacks an adult Night Heron above the wood in Sasér. In the afternoon of August 20th both Goshawks were hunting together and tried to get 2 young Grey Herons (*Ardea cinerea*), 2 young Night Herons and 1 Little Egret, but their „beat” was not successful. This day the male attacked 5-times and the female 11-times; in the evening hours the latter drove a young Night Heron flying above the meadow of Sasér across the River Tisza (to the eastern shore) and there it succeeded in catching it in flight.

On the evening of August 18th the Peregrine Falcon began to pursue a Little Egret, while it was flying up to its roosting tree and pursued most unusually among the

trees, where, in about a height of 2 meters, it knocked it down. The Egret got the knock under the hind-part of its wing, which was shown by a small wound on its skin; I succeeded in catching the bird in the first moment of its fright. (3 days later I set it free, completely healed.) The Falcon arrived every afternoon from the direction of Körtvélyes and sitting on a high poplar it awaited the Little Egrets flighting to the heronry to roost. When they arrived above the middle of the meadow of Sasér, the Falcon made a frontal attack on them. If its first attack was unsuccessful, it finished its hunting at the heronry for that day.

A. Festetics

**Gathering of White-Tailed Eagles above Pécs (S. Hungary).** — On March 28th 1956 at about 11 a. m. in bright sunshine more than 30 White-tailed Eagles circled above the town Pécs. These large „circling birds” caused a great sensation on the market-place. A. STANDEISKY watched this bird-gathering in the mentioned time from the courtyard of the central building of the University. It was the call of the White-tailed Eagles, circling at about 300 meters, which attracted his attention. Maybe it was the flood-catastrophe on the Danube-island of Mohács which attracted these Eagles from greater distance to these surroundings.

G. Geréby

**Wintering Moorhen amongst Poultry.** — During the past winter a *Gallinula chloropus* stayed on the creek Vöröspatak which flows through the inner part of the village Csákánydoroszló, from where it regularly visited the poultry in the courtyards of the houses nearby. It felt quite homely amongst the hen and ducks and fled back to the creek only when people came near.

J. Csaba

**Last Breeding of the Little Bustard in the Surroundings of Gunáros.** — The Little Bustard (*Otis tetrax*) can be sighted only very rarely in this region. Some time ago it was regularly breeding on the steppes of the surroundings of Gunáros. The latest agrotechnical innovations have greatly altered the general aspect of the surroundings and the biotope of this bird vanished completely. I have no data whatever about its recent breeding here. 1937 was the last year, when its successful breeding could be recorded. Then it bred in 3—4 pairs on the meadow called Csikrét. It was from this year that one male, two females and an infertile egg got into the collection of a local hunter, who, since then, not even saw a Little Bustard.

L. Szlivka

**Regular Breeding of the Mediterranean Black-Headed Gull on the Reserve Fehértó near Szeged.** — It was in summer 1953 that the first young Mediterranean Black-headed Gulls were found and thus breeding of this species was proved. I was able to observe in 1954 the breeding of 2 pairs, in 1955 of again 2 pairs and in 1956 of one pair. In 1957 I could make only sporadical observations and did not succeed to prove their presence, as I was not able to inspect all the Gull-colonies. We may suppose, that the Mediterranean Black-headed Gulls return every year in one or two pairs and, mixed with masses of Black-headed Gulls, breed here. From their breeding observed during four successive years we may conclude their regular breeding.

Dr. P. Beretzk

**Turnstone on the shores of Lake Balaton.** — Every day between September 5th and 8th 1956 two Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*) searched for food on the dyke of the molo in Révfülöp. On September 9th they were not seen any more.

G. Sebestyén

**Great Snipe in the Surroundings of Hódmezővásárhely. (Great Plain).** — On April 6th 1957 I could collect, in the surroundings of Hódmezővásárhely, a Great Snipe (*Gallinago media*) which I gave to the Ornithological Institute.

P. Péczely

**Woodcock in Town-Gardens.** — Between March 25th and 27th 1956 I saw a Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*) in the gardens of Nyíregyháza, which lie in the inner part of the town. The soil was not frozen any more and the ground was damp. The garden-ground, worked as hot-beds, prepared for winter-salad and early onions, were a good ground for worms. People did not move in the gardens yet, but in the street, being a main line of communication, there was a great traffic of motor-cars, which did not disturb the Woodcock in the least. Every day I saw one Woodcock flying, at a distance of about 20—25 meters and I saw the peculiar imprints of its bill on the ground of our garden too.

M. Bokor

**Strange Guests at Lake Balaton in the Years 1956—57.** — The Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) — according to G. GAÁL — was still breeding, in the last century, in the bordering „marshland” of the southern shore of Lake Balaton, but we did not succeed in finding it since. On April 19th 1956, I noticed, with L. SZIJJ one pair in the surroundings of Fonyód, on the meadow filled with subsoil water east of the fish-pond. In the mentioned years I succeeded in stating the second occurrence of two species in the Balaton-region. On April 20th 1956, between Keszthely and Hévíz, on the high trees of the lower border of the so-called „Game-park”, 3 male Ring Ouzels (*Turdus torquatus*) were resting; on May 21st 1957, on the shore between Keszthely and Alsógyenes, 2 Temminck's Stints (*Calidris temminckii*) moved in the company of 2 Wood Sandpipers (*Tringa glareola*). In the spring of 1956 the Black-throated Diver (*Gavia arctica*) remained here for exceptionally long, so I saw one on April 25th 1956 in front of the molo of Keszthely and on May 21st 1956 one on the water near Fenékpusztá. We also observed, on April 19th 1956, near the fishponds of Fonyód, 1 old and 2 young Little Gulls (*Larus minutus*). I met the Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspica*) again for several times: on September 23rd 1956 on the shore at Balatonszentgyörgy, 2 specimens and near Balatonberény 1; on September 24th 1956 one was flying above Fenékpusztá; on April 12th 1957 one specimen moved above the fish-ponds at Fonyód and several times even dropped into the fairly narrow canal, grown-over with rushes and persistantly remained on these parts for a rather long time.

Dr. A. Keve

**Ornithological notes from Sárszentágota, 1957.** — We have a fairly complete picture about the bird-life of the not very extended sodaic moor of Sárszentágota (County of Fejér, SW of Budapest), thanks to the observations of P. BOROSS and L. MÁTÉ (Aquila 1943, p. 344, resp. 1952—55, p. 412). L. NAGY also contributed several data to the knowledge of the movements of birds in this region. Virtually there are two sodaic ponds, with their borders and immediate surroundings, which constitute here the playground of the life of water-fowl. The northern pond is in the vicinity of Abasárkeresztúr and stretches in the direction N-S, turning somewhat eastwards on its southern end. Its western shore is a pig-pasture, so that only some parts of the eastern shore-line may thus be taken into consideration. Except Avocets, no other birds breed here. It is here that we, with L. MÁTHÉ and L. SZABÓ, found them on May 5th 1957, two pairs altogether. (At the same time we also observed two Stilts, but these we did not find again later on.) The eggs of one of the Avocet-clutches were already picked, the hatching of the young was immediately to happen; the other clutch was also strongly incubated. On May 9th I went out again, as I was curious what happened with the nests after the heavy rains which fell in the meantime. Near one of the nests a young, still alive bird was lying on the water, the parents flying and wailing above my head; the bird was sitting firmly on the other nest, but the deeper part of the nest was very wet already; Touching the eggs they were warm on the top and cold below. I do not know whether this brood was successful or not, because I only returned much later (June 16th) to this pond. Then I observed three young Avocets, already fledged, probably from the more or less successful broods. At the same time I saw 4 Kentish Plovers too, though we did not sight them before. I do not think it probable, that they bred here this year.

It is the southern pond which is in the immediate vicinity of Sárszentágota. A distance of about 2 kilometers separates the two ponds, between them a sloping hillock. It is the southern pond and its swampy surroundings which virtually constitute

the home of the water-fowl of Szentágota. Unfortunately it is also greatly exposed to swinepasture. One pair of Avocets bred here too, but the pigs destroyed their eggs. My son found later (June 5th) the new nest of this „southern” pair, with 1 egg, but still later (June 11th) not even the trace of this nest did we find, it was also destroyed by the pigs. The surface and vegetation of the southern pond and its surroundings are well dispersed. Here broader sodaic elevations (with rich sodaic vegetation) alternating with grassy, respectively swampy (bulrush, sedge and spots of reed) parts. The latter is a swampy part of about 4—5 acres, with the so-called Milán-depression in its center, which proved to be a real eldorado of the Little Grebe. On these parts about 20 pairs of Little Grebes settled. I found almost all their nests (June 16th), as they built them exclusively on small, island-like reed-spots, protruding from the vegetation of the moor. The nests are built of greenish brown debris of plants. Their part above the water is round, lentil-shaped, with a diameter of 35—40 centimeters; the convexity towards the center has a height from all directions of about 10 centimeters. The nest, lentil-shaped above the surface, ramifies under the water like a Medusa, sticking with its ends to the stems of reed. Thus the nest somewhat floats, it has some swinging, but it is not spilt away. The depth of the water around the nests is 60—80 centimeters.

In spite of the 20 nests found, the birds themselves were not sighted for a single time. This circumstance, as well as the fact, that the nests showed an exceedingly fine, regular, well finished convexity, so that we could only discover the clutch after having peeled it out, gave me the idea that the Little Grebe — at least in the first period — does not incubate its eggs. As the approach of the nest causes a splashing noise, so that the bird can hear this from far away and leave the nest a good deal before, but the eggs showed such a careful covering, that the bird could not have had time enough to perform this. Consequently my opinion is, that the heat necessary for the development of the eggs, in the first period (only which I had the opportunity to observe) comes exclusively from the chemical-biological oxidation, which we know for a long time.

Otherwise there is trouble with the Grebes, as well on the Lake of Velence, as in Rétszilás: their number decreased exceedingly, within the range of the general decrease reported by ornithologists. Even the Crested Grebe scarcely came before my eyes, not to mention the Black-necked and the Red-necked Grebe. I saw in Rétszilás, that people shoot the Grebes, wherever they see them. But in Sárszentágota there are no Crested Grebes any more, Black-necked Grebes still less, though the quoted article by BOROSS mentions them as a breeding species. The GADWALL, PINTAIL and SHOVELER do breed no longer either, only the Porchards and White-eyed Ducks are breeding. Not even the call of the Bittern was heard this year. Of the Little Ring Plover, found by L. MÁTÉ (1951) there are no traces any more. In 1957 we did not find the nest of the Kentish Plover either, though we saw a few birds. From the Terns only the Black Tern may be seen, but does not breed. On the other hand, the Coots increased, though, as I heard, the Gipsies come out here to pick up eggs and they evidently take everything they find.

On the meadows a few Lapwings and Redshanks are breeding, and in the reeds of the southern pond one pair of Marsh-Harriers and a few Little Bitterns, with some more Great Reed-Warblers, which are regular breeders.

A valuable part of the surroundings of Sárszentágota is that area of sedge and reed, which is bordered by the most western and northern houses of the village. Here Savi's Warbler Blue Throat, Water Rail, Mallard, White-eyed Pochard, Common Pochard, Reed Bunting, Great Reed Warbler with Cuckoo, Lesser Reed Warbler, Marsh Warbler and Moorhen are breeding in more or less pairs. The surroundings of Sárszentágota have a serious significance during migration. Already towards the end of June numerous Lapwings, Redshanks and other Sandpipers, Black-tailed Godwits, numbers of Curlews, Gulls, Ducks and large flocks of Rocks gather here.

J. Radetzky

**Experiment with the Indian Ring Dove.** — The Indian Ring Doves, (*Streptopelia decaocto*), which so extraordinarily increased during the last years, gave the possibility of close observation and experiments. This year 2 pairs bred in our vicinity, low, at

an easy place. I decided to exchange the eggs of the dove with those of the house-pigeon, to watch the behaviour of the young in this new milieu. The experiment began in April 1956. While I exchanged the eggs, I put false eggs into the nest, to avoid that the parents should eventually desert it. During the period of incubation I did not notice any unusual behaviour with either of the pair of parents. Under the house-pigeons the young doves were hatched on May 3rd at 11 a. m. and on May 4th in the evening hours. The housepigeons under the doves were hatched on May 5th in the early morning hours. Both pair of parents regularly began the feeding; I did not notice any sign of suspicion from the part of the old birds. As for the behaviour of the young, I observed the following:

The decaoctos used to sit in a regular nest (on a tree) in a way, that the head of one of them is at the tail of the other. So it was on the garret too, but only until they were 3 days old. As the nest was in the corner of the roof's eaves, the house pigeons could not get all round the nest and feeding was difficult. On the 4th day the heads of both young were near each other. The young lay flat in the nest, not trying to expand and sat in the nest until they were able to fly. On May 20th, when I came to them, they flew out of the nest. One of them settled on the cock-stand, the other on the brim of a case. On May 22nd I found one of the young doves peeping out of the garret-window, but frightened it flew back into the garret. On May 24th I ringed them and on the 27th they flew out of the garret. From 10 a. m. to 3 p. m. they sat on the roof of the school, then they flew to a garden and the observation was finished, as I did not see them again.

The house-pigeons were sitting uneasily in the nest of the decaocto. While still downy, they already tried to crawl. It happened once, that one of the young fell out of the nest and then the old decaocto was feeding on the ground. They were fledged on May 23rd. First they settled on a building near the tree, from there they flew to the border of the church and after having looked round for a few hours, they mingled with the pigeons of the neighbouring houses and vanished at last.

My next experiment ended with the same result, but this time the house-pigeons which were brooded by decaoctos, got, when 4 days old, a strong green diarrhoea, thinned-down and died. For three years a local preparator is making experiments with the aim of crossing Decaocto and Turtur. In a large cage they matched for several times and the females lay eggs. In two cases they even incubated, but not once did they succeed in producing young — not even fertile eggs could be found.

L. Szlivka

**My observations on the occurrence of the Indian Ring Dove and the Syrian Woodpecker in South-Eastern Pannonia and North-Eastern Hungary.** — I heard the call of the Indian Ring Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) on August 22nd 1955 in the village Hosszúhetény; on June 1st 1956 I heard it in Várdomb (County of Tolna, Pannonia); on July 5th in Mártonfa and Pereked, on October 17th in Nagykozár and between May 20th and June 14th 1957 in the thermal spa near the village Harkány; On May 26th, June 2nd and 9th un Máriagyüd; on June 4th in Siklós (County Baranya, S. Hungary). In Szerencs (N. E. Hungary) on May 21st I heard its call on two places; on July 30th 1957 I heard it in Sárospatak around the castle and on other places too; on July 29th in Tolesva (County of Abaúj—Borsod—Zemplén, N. E. Hungary). I first saw the Syrian Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos syriacus*) in spring 1950 in Pécsvárad (S. Hungary). I noticed it in orchards near the houses. I heard its call in Szerencs on July 21st and on 22nd in the Rákóczi-castle and in the garden of the public school Bocskey.

E. Agárdi

**Breeding Scops Owl in the Southern Part of County Zala (Pannonia) and its breeding habits.** — On the course of my observations during 50 years I did not succeed in getting any data about the Scops Owl (*Otus scops*) in Southern Zala. It was only lately, in September 1954 that I was able to observe the first specimen. First supposed, that it came to our region in the course of its wanderings, but as it was a juvenile specimen, we might also consider it as a native. In spring 1955 I at last succeeded in finding its

nest too. In the immediate vicinity of the town Nagykanizsa, in the vineyards and orchards of Szentgyörgyvár it lay its four eggs in a natural hollow of an apple-tree. We went to see the nest with G. BREUER, who died unexpectedly since; we took a photograph of the tree (in the legacy of BREUER). Later on the clutch was destroyed by rough hands; on a later (August 16th) inspection I found the hollow already empty; the fresh signs of digestion found under the tree pointed to the fact, that the Owl continued to use the hollow as a lodging. This was also shown by the fact, that there were no cobwebs on the entrance of the hollow, while the other hollows of the tree were covered with them. In the following (1956) spring I again visited this orchard. The hollow on the apple-tree was left uninhabited, it got spoilt by rain and the rotting of the tree's inside. It was then that it became evident, that the Scops Owl, after having had its eggs picked, found another apple-tree with a hole, in the same year. This was again on a low apple-tree, in man's height, at a distance of about 350 meters from its first breeding place. Student-boys undertook to watch the place; according to their information, vagrant lads found the nest and picked it together with the owl itself. Meanwhile the bird and its eggs got lost. So both hollows and dwelling sites were destroyed. My observation of May 27th 1956 was somewhat more successful. The same student-boys succeeded in finding the third breeding place of the pair of Scops Owls. At about 800 meters from the mentioned two breeding places, in a hollow of an apple-tree on the neighbouring hill ridge (Romlottvár) they found, on May 20th, 1 egg; a week later 3 eggs were in the nest; these I saw myself. At my inspection the Owl itself was not visible as it flew away when the boys approached the nest and did not return until I arrived. The 3 eggs unfortunately did not seem to be in security this time either. The round hollow, with a broad entrance, was still more conspicuous than with the former two trees. The hollow is scarcely 1 meter above ground, on the south-eastern part of the low, damaged apple-tree; anyone who comes near the tree, must be aware of the light-coloured eggs. Two weeks later I unfortunately found this hollow empty too; it was picked again. I still suspect, that the Scops Owl is for a longer time a breeding bird of several other orchards of Southern Zala (Observations of H. WILL from the surroundings of Gelse.)

*G. Barthos*

**The Scops Owl in Csömör.** — On November 14th 1950 at 7 a. m., in clear, quiet weather (+5,3° C) I saw, in Csömör (near Budapest) a bird of about the size of a Black Bird, seeming to have quite a dark colour, sitting on the edge of a thick lilac-bush, on a protruding dry branch. The bird was so much covered by the dry leaves and crop of the bush, that I was not able to observe its shape and lines well. It suddenly rose and disappeared in the inner of the bush, while it looked, from behind, somewhat like a Sparrow Hawk, but of smaller size and having slimmer wings and a shorter tail. Field-Sparrows were on the bush. I could not observe, whether it caught any of them. I think it probable, that it was a passing Scops Owl, that remained here because of the mild weather. I made this observation from my window, while washing, and by the time I could get out into the garden, I did not see the bird any more.

On June 29th 1957 I saw, in a quarry near Csömör, somewhat dimly because of the unfavourable light and just for a moment, a bird, that was somewhat larger than the Crested Lark, and had longer wings and a different colour. It vanished from my eyes in some hole of the rocky wall of the ridge. It could have been only a Scops Owl and probably bred there or quite near in some rocky fissure or hollow. Walking there again on June 30th I did not see it again, but this might be also because I could not stay in the quarry for a sufficient time and late enough. After this I could not get there for some time and on July 21st I did not see any trace of the Owl. But meanwhile people again began to exploit the quarry, carrying the gravel in carts, which were mowing just on the spot beneath the wall of the quarry, where I had seen the little Owl. Maybe this disturbance drove it entirely away.

GLOGER (Vollständiges Handbuch der Naturgeschichte der Vögel Europas, etc.) writes already in 1834 that this bird breeds in tree-hollows and rock-fissures, and according to NIETHAMMER (Handbuch etc. Volume III. p. 553) it seeks, in Austria, tree-hollows and rock-fissures. I believe that the Scops Owl caught some time ago in summer on one of the garrets of a house near the Danube-bank in Budapest, and which had repeatedly been seen to fly across the Danube from the Gellért-hill (See

VASVÁRI: „Occurrence of the Scops Owl in Budapest”, *Aquila*, Vol. 22—23, 1925—26, p. 251) might have bred in one of the hollows of the Gellért-hill.

Dr. H. Dorning

**Breeding of a Scops Owl in a Nest-box.** — On June 23rd I found in the surroundings of Bátorkeszi (Vojnica), in an Oak-wood about 25 years old, in a wooden nestbox of 10×20 centimeters, placed about 6 meters above the ground, and the entrance of which had been widened by Woodpeckers to 6,7×5,6 centimeters, a Scops Owl (*Otus scops*) incubating its 3 eggs. The bird almost totally filled out the hollow. The lining of the nest was the nest of a family of Great Tits fledged a month before.

A. Stollmann

**Data to the Winter Food of the Short-Eared Owl.** — Many Short-eared Owls (*Asio flammeus*) settled during the winter of 1953—54 in the surroundings of Gunaros, on the maize-stem stacks. I collected many owl-pellets on these stacks and the subsequent examination proved that besides the considerable amount of rodent-remainders in 7 cases, out of 50 pellets, remainders of birds were found, according their species the following:

*Turdus pilaris*, 4 cases.  
*Fringilla montifringilla*, 11 cases.  
*Carduelis carduelis*, 2 cases.  
*Perdix perdix*, 1 case.  
*Passer montanus*, 6 cases.  
*Passer domesticus*, 1 case.  
*Troglodytes troglodytes*, 2 cases.  
*Erithacus rubecula*, 1 case.  
*Galerida cristata*, 9 cases.  
*Fringilla coelebs*, 1 case.

I want to mention yet, that I saw them twice, stooping at house-pigeons, about noon, and once an Owl pursued a *Streptopelia decaoctos*. This Owl I collected; its crop was quite empty. The caught owls eagerly attacked cats and did not fear even dogs. Three owls, held in captivity, have eaten each other; the winner had lost one of its eyes. When after 5 weeks of captivity I let it free, it flew, quite unusually, straight up into the air, so high, that it seemed to be only as small as a Swallow.

L. Szlivka

**Breeding of the Bee-Eater in the Clay-Walls on the Shores of the Rivers Tisza and Maros.** — In June 1956 I had the opportunity to examine all the length (45 km) of the shore-section between Szeged and Mindszent. I found on five places, in the proximity of colonies of Sand Martins, smaller colonies of Bee-eaters, consisting of a few pairs. In June 1957 between Szeged and Sasér (24 km) I found no breeders, as the high water-level of the Tisza made their breeding impossible. On June 22nd 1957 I watched the banksections between Makó and Szeged, I found, in the steep bankwalls of Ferencszállás and Klárafalva a breeding colony of a few pairs. According to my informations, in case of favourable water- and bank-conditions, the Bee-eaters have bred, both on the Tisza and on the Maros, for several years.

Dr. P. Beretzk

**Data on the nutrition of the Roller.** — I had the opportunity to observe the diet of the Roller near Középhídvég (County of Tolna, Pannonia) on July 31st and August 1st 1957, on a very green pea-stubble. A female specimen accompanied the plough. One day it caught 43 green Grasshoppers, 2 large Locusts, striped grey-reddish, 1 Hornet and 3 Maybug larvae, resp. carried them to its young; next day 31 green Grasshoppers, 1 Maybug larvae and some big black beetle vanished in its beak. It was not a bit shy, always lurked right in front of the machine and flew always a bit forward, so that the beetles, starting up, should be at hand. Frogs and young mice did not interest it, neither did the numerous, dried Maybug larvae. Only if one of them was

right under its foot, did it take it. But neither did the tiny Grasshoppers interest it, though there were plenty of them. But it caught the large green Grasshoppers mostly in flight, like the Flycatchers do.

Dr. G. Bernáth

**Syrian Woodpecker taking Hazel-nut and Walnut.** — On one occasion, when I was in M. Idjos (Northern Yugoslavia) I have been informed, that the Syrian Woodpeckers (*Dendrocopos syriacus*) are stealing every year the hazel-nuts from the neighbourhood of my parents. Last year I had the opportunity to observe this. Indeed the Woodpeckers appeared every 3—5 minutes, picked an odd hazel-nut and flew away with it. I succeeded to find their nest in the courtyard of the distillery. It was in a hollow of an old plum-tree at 1,40 m. from the ground. I soon found their store too. From a hollow on the place of a broken branch I took 83 hazel-nuts, 7 walnuts, 11 cherry-stones and 3 peach-stones. According to the owner, every day there are great fights here, because several Woodpeckers found this store and persistently went to rob the food.

L. Szlivka

**Occurrence of the Syrian Woodpecker in Miskolc.** — On September 3rd 1956 I saw, in the public garden of Miskolc, a male and a female Syrian Woodpecker, as they sought food on the sides of old trees.

G. Bársony

**Breeding of the Woodlark in Csömör.** — On June 2nd 1957 I saw in Csömör (near Budapest) on the top of a hillock mostly around the quarry there, small-sized Larks, probably Woodlarks, (*Lullula arborea*) flying up from the ground and settling on the ground again. At this occasion I could not get near enough to be able to determine them. Still, on June 30th I stated, that several pairs of Wood Larks must breed here. Standing in the quarry I saw several Larks quite close flying fairly low to-and-fro and singing. I doubtlessly recognized the Wood Lark. It must be remarked, that some time ago an acacia-wood was here; it had been cut, but renewed and there are already shoots amongst the transitorily cultivated maize and potatoes, but there are also odd trees left. From the end of June to July 31st I could not get to the hillock and at this latter date I did not see a single Wood Lark there. In the meantime there were some very heavy cloudbursts and I am afraid that they destroyed a great part of the Wood Larks.

Dr. H. Dorning

**Ticks as parasites of Sand Martins.** — While ringing Sand Martins, (*Riparia riparia*) 22 specimens died and I found many more weakened young Sand Martins which had their neck-parts and the top of their head full of ticks. On the head of some of the birds there were as many as 10 ticks. On specimens, where there were only 2—3, the size of the ticks attained even that of a pea. The attacked young birds were lean and had I not interfered, they would have hardly survived. I have ringed Sand Martins here for three years, but up till now I never found ticks on them. This year almost every hollow was infected with this parasite.

L. Szlivka

**Unusual Nesting-Site of Swallows in Csorvás.** — In July 1956 one pair of Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) built their nest in the waiting-room of the railway station of Csorvás, on the opal-glass cover of a lamp hanging from the ceiling on a thin metal wire (see figure). In spite of the continual noise and light breeding was successful. While the doors of the waiting room were — because of painting — closed for two days, the pair of Swallows caught the flies which remained shut-up in the room for their young. It was interesting to watch the nest when the birds were feeding, as it was built on such a labile base; every time when the parent-birds alighted from the brim of the nest, the lamp began to rock slightly.

A. Festetics

**Raven in the Bükk-Mountains (N. Hungary).** — On May 15th I saw a Raven (*Corvus corax*) in the Bükk-mountains circling above Feketesár.

J. Györy

**Raven in the Bükk-Mountains.** — During my stay in the Bükk-mountains, between August 26th and November 1st 1957, I heard from the forester living in Feketesár that the Ravens (*Corvus corax*) mostly occur in the woods between Hollóskő and Leányvölgy. On one occasion he there saw 7 specimens of them.

L. Szemere

**Invasion of Jays along the River Körös.** — Along the Fekete Körös, in the corner of Bihar, in the Park of the Sanatorium Köröserdő—József Attila, many Jays (*Garrulus glandarius*) gathered in December 1956. They were living on the rich acorn-crop of the oak-trees, eagerly turning the leaves and picking the acorns. They remained here through all the winter. On January 1st 1957 at noon, going up to the Sanatorium, a group of 6 was seen on the slight snowcover, and watched during their work.

Prof. J. Györfly

**Migration of Jays.** — T. Barthos observed in Zamárdi (Lake Balaton) in the morning hours, about October 20th 1956, a group of 200—250 Jays (*Garrulus glandarius*) migrating — in a long, scattered group — along the park-woods on the southern shore of Lake Balaton. The direction was S. W. Up to the present date (February 20th 1957) I did not observe any spring arrivers, which otherwise is a normal phenomenon here (Stock Dove, Starling, Lapwing, Snipe, Sky Lark).

G. Barthos

**Das Füttern der Meisen mit gekochten Kartoffeln.** — Es ist eine weitverbreitete Befürchtung dass Meisen an ihrer Gesundheit Schaden leiden, wenn man sie mit gekochten Kartoffeln füttert. In den beiden letzten Wintern — 1954/55 und 1955/56 konnte ich jedoch in der nahe an Budapest liegenden Ortschaft Csömör die Beobachtung machen, dass eine solche Fütterung ganz gut möglich ist, wenn nur der Fütterspender nicht vergisst, dass ein derartiges Futter womöglich jeden dritten Tag mit frischem zu vertauschen ist und ohne Gefährdung der Vögel durch Regen oder Schnee nicht stark nass werden darf. Die gekochten Kartoffeln müssen gut zusammengedrückt und mit etwas, dem Menschen nicht mehr mundentem Fett oder Ölüberbleibsel untermengt werden. Wenn dieser Brel bei geringer Kälte gefriert, bleibt es für mehrere Tage brauchbar da sie von der gefrorenen Masse kleine Partikelchen ablösen und diese verzehren. Eine meiner Angehörigen, die diese Fütterung besorgt fand nie, dass die Kohlmeisen sowie die in geringerer Anzahl, doch regelmässig sich meldenden Blau-meisen, durch diese Fütterung irgendeinen Schaden genommen hätten. Dann und wann stellte sich auch ein Männchen und Weibchen des Haussperlings ein, und auch diese blieben gesund. Jedenfalls kann ich nur von diesen drei Arten sprechen da ich keine weitere Art vor dem Fenster, wo eine Blechdose mit dem Futter gefüllt war, dieses gebrauchen sah. Ich glaube, dass nur gute Speisesorten von Kartoffeln zu diesem Zwecke brauchbar sind. Warscheinlich auch das Innere von gebratenen Kartoffeln wäre geeignet, freilich auch dieses mit Zugabe von wenig ranzigem Fett oder Öl. Leider konnte die letztere Art der Fütterspendung hier nicht erprobt werden. Endlich sei noch hinzugefügt, dass wenn die Meisen — vielleicht weil es inen noch ganz unbekannt- das genannte Futter nicht gleich annehmen wollten, so kann man die Angewöhnung dadurch erreichen, dass man in den Kartoffelbrei schlechte Nusskerne oder ähnliches hineinsteckt. Indem die Meisen nach diesen greifen, picken sie stets auch Teilchen des Breies auf, dieser scheint ihnen gut zu schmecken, da sie später oft eben diesem Fütter den Vorzug geben.

Dr. Heinrich Dörning

**Breeding of the Coal Tit on the Area of Kolozsvár.** — I frequently heard the call of the Coal Tit (*Parus ater*) from the high, thick-leaved pine trees of the Botanical Garden. During the winter months, as well as in spring and late autumn I thought them to be vagrant Tits, seeking for food; but this summer and last summer too, the

calls of the Coal Tits made me look for their nests. Not far from the Botanical Garden (about 300 meters as the crow flies) in a part of an orchard containing also 4—5 pine-trees (*Picea excelsa*), scarcely 8—10 meters away from the pines, in a hollow of a relatively young apple-tree, I found, on May 4th 1956, a nest of the Coal Tit containing 9 eggs. I did not collect any of the parent-birds, because observing them from quite close I was quite sure of having well determined their species and there was no need for proving specimen. From the situation of the hollow, its depth and the size of the entrance I may conclude, that — just as the Blue Tits and Marsh Tits used to do — the Coal Tit also likes to occupy hollows with narrow entrance and not too deep, or already filled up. My supposition is supported by the fact, that though on the surrounding fruit trees there were several empty natural holes, though always much deeper and with a broader entrance, the Coal Tit had chosen just the least deep hollow, with a fairly narrow entrance for its breeding place. The parents, for feeding their offspring, do not go far from the nest and pick their food from a circle of 40—50 meters. They relatively quickly get accustomed to the presence of Man and go on with feeding quite undisturbed. While feeding, the female approaches the nest with a characteristic flapping of the wings, jumping from branch to branch. After fledging the young keep together with the parents for some time. I want to remark here, that during the breeding season of the past years we several times saw and heard Coal Tits in Gyula and on the pine-trees of the Park of Bonchida. They probably also breed there. Based on the observations just mentioned I think that we cannot consider the pine-woods of high regions as the only breeding places of the Coal Tit, but also the woods of the hilly parts, if they find there adequate breeding places.

S. Győrji

**Data to the Breeding of some Bird-Species.** — On January 23rd 1956 we observed, in one of the groups of Spruces at Váris, near Sopron (W. Hungary) a singing male Crossbill (*Loxia c. curvirostra*) and a female flying about excitedly. We observed the male, which was singing on an Oak-tree in about 5 meters height, standing immediately beneath it, for more than an hour. The bird was not disturbed at all by our presence. It mixed the low, gurgling sounds sometimes with sonorous sounds like „hip-gip”. Just because of this, its call seemed as if it would come from much further. There was also another pair on the same place, but these either chased each other, or sitting on dry branchstumps gave low „gip-gip” sounds, picking the buds of the Oak-tree or the cones of the pines or firs. From there they often flew down to a pond nearby. We discovered the nest on February 5th, but already at the first occasion we noticed, on a protruding side-branch of a pine-tree, at a height of about 15 meters, a dark clump. We observed the female, as flying onto an Oak-tree further away, it tore pieces of bark and lichens off, then it flew on the pine and crawling along the branch vanished in the nest. In such cases it did not appear again before 3—4 minutes. But the favourable weather having changed in the following days, the Crossbills also vanished from this place. About this time we observed singing males at least on 5—6 occasions. Since the last two years the *Loxia* regularly appear in the hills around Sopron. On April 15th 1956 they behaved in the same way near the place called Ikerárok, and on May 27th we collected there a female and a not yet fledged young, just while the old bird fed its offspring lined-up on the oak-branch. The bill of the downy young scarcely began to cross; the edges of the mandibles were bright yellow, the whole body greyish-brown shaft-striped with dark-brown pinions and dirty white lower wing-coverts. We found, in that fir-wood mixed with oak, several families with fledged young. In the spring of 1957 we could conclude from their behaviour, that they were breeding there.

On May 4th 1956 a pair of Coal Tits (*Parus ater ater*) bred in one of the artificial nest-boxes placed near the source Ferencforrás of the town Sopron. The clutch consisted of 9 clear eggs. The base of the nest was moss and the cup of hair; diameter of the cup 3—4 centimeters. On May 24th the young had left the nest.

On June 6th we found in one of our nest-boxes, with a burst front-board, also near the source Ferencforrás, a clutch of the Crested Tit (*Parus cristatus*). Besides the 1 infertile egg the 6 young in the nest were naked yet. On June 14th 1956 we found, in another nest-box 6 young of Coal and Crested Tits. There were 4 already strongly feathered Coal Tits and 2 downy Crested Tits. The probable explanation of this interesting phenomenon is, that the Coal Tits, wanting to breed earlier, were driven

away by Crested Tits, which completed the already found clutch of 4 eggs with 2 of their own. On May 18th the young Black Tits had already left the nest. The nest of the Crested Tit is very characteristic; the diameter of it is small (5—6 cm), bulging downwards like a jug, deep of 7—8 cm and usually lined with some wool-like wadding. The base of the nest mainly consist of moss, woven through with grass and hair.

From the highland species it is probably the Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*), the Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) and the Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*) which breed on this territory, as these may be seen fairly frequently during the breeding season. On May 21st we found a nest of Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*) in a mended old raptorial bird's nest on one of the oak-trees of the hillock Károlymagaslat in Sopron at a height of about 5 meters. The clutch consisted of 1 egg (41 × 52 mm), strongly freckled reddish-brown. The incubating bird settled again, a few trees further. On May 27th there were already two eggs in the nest. At the beginning of July the young were taken and were put back again only two days later, but the old birds continued feeding them. On July 14th the young have their feathers scarcely developed yet.

On May 15th 1956 we found, near Szilvásvár, in the valley of Szalajka, in the vicinity of the trout-pond, a nest of Dippers (*Cinclus cinclus*). The nest was built mainly of moss and contained 5 well developed young. An interesting feature if this nesting is, that the nest was built on the backward part of the hollow near the outlet-orifice of the cascade, immediately in the neighbourhood of the thick jet of water, on the place most difficult to approach.

In 1956 50 pairs and in 1957 22—23 pairs of Spoonbills (*Platalea leucorodia*) bred on Lake Fertő (W. Hungary) on the island near the end of the canal of Boz. The Great White Herons (about 15—20 pairs) bred on the island nearby, but already on Austrian territory.

J. Győry & G. Gárdonyi

**Breeding of Mountain—Bird—Species in Sopron.** — On May 18th 1957 we found, with B. ILLYÉS, near the Ferenc source, in a half-decayed pine-stump of about 20 cm height, a nest of Crested Tits (*Parus cristatus*). There was, on the intact bark, an opening of about 3 cm. In the hollow there were 5 young, in full plumage. The parents flew at almost an arm's distance and uttered very pugnacious calls. On the slope called Harasztlejtő I found, on May 19th, in a mixed fir- and oak-wood, in a hollow of a fir-tree of about 7 m, a nest of Crested Tits. The hollow, about 10 cm deep, went sideways under the carpet consisting of fallen firneedles. There were 6 young in it, in full plumage, which were fledged on May 23rd. The parents were restless while I stayed at the nest, but they did not fly quite near to me. The material of the nest was hair and some wool-like stuff; it was at about 10 m distance from a fairly frequented foot-path. Soon after this I found, at about 15 meters from this place, a nest of Goldcrests (*Regulus regulus*). I followed the bird which was hiding amongst the branches and vanished in a height of about 8—10 meters on a branch of a fir-tree of about 20 cm. thickness. Later-on I saw it several times flying to the same place. Climbing the tree I saw the nest built between the hanging thin branches of the main branch. The cup-shaped nest was broader towards its bottom, being probably widened by the growing young. Its opening was 5 centimeters, the thickness of the nest's wall about half a centimeter; the material of it was moss and felt-like woven stuff of a brownish wool-like stuff; with this did the bird tie the nest to the hanging branches. In the nest there were 8—10 hardly-feathered, uniformly coffee-brown young. I could not count them exactly, because the young lay flat in the nest and held crampedly to its wall. The parents picked the food from the neighbouring fir-trees, in a circle of about 20—30 meters. At a distance of 5 meters from the nest not once did I hear their call, except when I climbed up the tree, they flew quite near me and gave a sharp sit-sit sound. When feeding they always alighted on the end of the branch furthest away from the nest and went to it between the hanging branches. Within half an hour, they came 12 times to feed. After this I met, in a fir-wood nearby of about 60 years, fledged Goldcrests which were fed by their parents; I counted 6 of them; during the feeding they gave excited hissing sounds. Two hours later, at the foot of the hill Dallos, at about 600—700 meters from the former place, in a little group of pine-trees, at the foot of the trees, a Coal Tit (*Parus ater*) bred in a hollow. The nest might have been at about 10 cm. underground and a winding tunnel of about 25 cm led to it. In the nest were

7 fairly developed young; the nest was built of moss, hair and a wool-like stuff. The parents were quiet. On June 7th a Coal Tit flew into this same hole, carrying nest-material in its beak. It only flew out when I rustled the leaves above the nest; it flew on to the side of a pine-tree nearby and cheeped excitedly. It probably prepared a second brood. I did not open the nest. On May 30th 1957, on the plateau Bükk, part of Létrás, a flock of 8—10 Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*) passed. In the old fir-wood of Jávorkút I saw two Golderests (*Regulus regulus*) and one near the foresterhouse.

O. Zádor

**Ring Ouzel in Győr (W. Hungary).** — In the afternoon of April 19th 1956 I saw in the churchyard, under the cedar-bushes, a well-coloured Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus alpestris*). The locality of this occurrence being unusual I first thought it to be an *albinoid* Blackbird, but through my glasses I stated, from a distance of about 15 meters, that without any doubt I had the luck to meet a *Turdus torquatus*.

J. Tölgyesi

**Ring Ouzel in the Hills Gereese (W. Hungary).** — Towards the middle of January 1956, in the valley Annavölgy, 2 male Ring Ouzels (*Turdus torquatus*) were sitting near the water, together with a flock of about 30 Fieldfares (*Turdus pilaris*).

J. Lenner

**Migration of Ring Ouzels and Hedge-Sparrows in the Hortobágy (Great Plain).** — On March 26th 1957 I observed in the Hortobágy, on the dyke of the fish-ponds, 2 male Ring Ouzels (*Turdus torquatus*) of which I collected one for the Ornithological Institute. On the same day I observed an interesting phenomenon concerning the migration of the Hedge Sparrows (*Prunella modularis*). An aeroplane approaching, suddenly a group of about 50 Hedge Sparrows came falling down, from great altitude, to the dyke of the fish-pond.

Dr. I. Pátkai

**Pallas' Warbler in the surroundings of Gödöllő.** — The occurrence of the Pallas' Warbler (*Phylloscopus proregulus*) in the Hungarian fauna haunted already for several times, but had not been proved as yet. On April 28th 1957 I caught in the neighbourhood of Gödöllő (20 miles E. of Budapest) a small, short-tailed Warbler with barred wings which undoubtedly was a Pallas' Warbler. Unfortunately, because of a misunderstanding, I let the bird free after having ringed it, so as for the present it cannot be taken yet into the check-list of the Hungarian birds.

L. Csóka

**Little Flycatcher in the Hills of Vértes.** — On May 30th 1957 in a beech-wood of the surroundings of Csákberény, near the well-known breeding place of the Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) I found 3—4 pairs of the Little Flycatcher (*Muscicapa parva*).

Dr. I. Pátkai

**The Pied Flycatcher in Uzsá.** — On May 19th 1957 in the surroundings of the village Uzsá, forest of Kis-Bakony (W. Hungary) from a hornbeam wood enclaved in a reserve of neath, erica and birch, the song of a Flycatcher attracted my attention. I succeeded to approach the firmly singing bird and it proved to be Pied Flycatcher (*Muscicapa hypoleuca*). Though in spring 1957 the migration of the Pied Flycatcher was late in the whole country, it is still worth thinking that I found this species at such a late date in its breeding „habitat” and singing on such a territory which — from botanical point of view — is filled with western and alpine elements. Up till now it was CHERNEL near Kőszeg and G. BARTHOS in the surroundings of Iharosberény who found the Pied Flycatcher nesting in Western Hungary.

Dr. A. Keve

**Mountain-Birds as Winter-Guests in Pécs (S. Hungary).** — During the winter of 1955—56 less Fieldfares and Bramblings were seen than in the previous winter. Wall Creepers (*Tichodroma muraria*) I saw on three occasions: On December 2nd 1955 as it flew above the Széchenyi square; on January 3rd 1956 on the wall of the city-church and on April 15th 1956 on the wall of the church Pius, about 6 a. m. uttering its characteristic call, repeated many times. On March 4th 1956 on the ridge Misina the song of a bird attracted my attention. Then the bird, with a sudden movement and the celerity of a thrown stone, came down to a low roof. Then I saw that it was an Alpine Accentor (*Prunella collaris*). The bird was not scared by my coming nearer, it quietly went on catching the small insects flying around it. I collected the bird: wing 102, tail 66, bill 14, tarsus 26 mm.

M. Dely

**Late Occurrence of the Alpine Accentor.** — On the hill Csillaghegy (Budapest) I observed 2 Alpine Accentors (*Prunella collaris*) on April 9th 1956, in a quarry.

J. Lenner

**Red-Throated Pipit in the surroundings of Soltvadkert.** — On April 14th 1957 I observed 2 Red-throated Pipits (*Anthus cervinus*) on the bank of the pond Búdóstó in Soltvadkert.

Dr. I. Pátka

**Red-Throated Pipit near Békéscsaba.** — On April 22nd I observed 3 Red-throated Pipits (*Anthus cervinus*) near Békéscsaba on the pastures. When flushed, the birds flew away in W direction.

M. Hankó

**Ornithological Observations near Sopron.** — On May 27th 1957 I observed, on one of the Acacia-trees of the wood Dudleszerdő in Sopron, 1 male Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*), On March 26th 1957 a Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) was seen near Csapod.

J. Győry

**Great Grey Shrike and Woodchat Shrike in Gadna (Northern Hungary).** — On May 2nd 1956 I saw a pair of Great Grey Shrikes (*Lanius excubitor*). The two birds hunted from a large tree of Wild Pears which was standing at about 50 meters from the edge of the wood. On May 8th I saw them again. They sat on the highest tree of the above mentioned forest-edge. On May 18th at about 5 a. m. I saw the Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*) for the first time in a small valley sitting on a young Acacia-tree. On the two sides of the valley there is a fir-wood, which on one side is rather dense and covers a considerable part of the hill-side. From here to the forest of Inota, in about a circle of 1 kilometer, old Oak, Wild Pear and Wild Apple-trees are forming groves. This then goes on in a narrow band along the forest of Inota. In this band I saw, on May 4th the Lesser Grey Shrike (*Lanius minor*) for the first time. But I found the Woodchat Shrike exclusively in the grove, especially in the morning hours. On May 22nd at about 5 a. m. I witnessed the following scene in the grove: A Great Grey Shrike flew up from a tree. A few paces further amongs the upper branches of a big tree, there was a lively fight between a Lesser Grey Shrike and a Red-Backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*). The latter flew to the next tree, but within a few minutes the Woodchat Shrike flew to the „protected” branch and this time it was he who remained the winner. Now the Lesser Grey Shrike went on pursuing the Red-Backed Shrike and the Woodchat Shrike did not remain on the original branch either, but jumped one branch higher. The Lesser Grey Shrike immediately returned. Some time they got along peacefully on the two different levels, but, the pair of Red-Backed Shrikes having returned, the fight started anew. Not only did the Lesser Grey Shrike drive them away, but even pursued them a few trees further. During this time the Woodchat Shrike flew back to the original branch. But when the owner returned, the Woodchat Shrike could not stay there any longer; then it flew to the next tree and from there drove the reappeared Red-Backed Shrikes away. This fight lasted

for about an hour, but unfortunately I was not able to await the final result. Based on the above observation I take it for certain, that in their region three if not four species of Shrikes are breeding.

Nicolette Sámuel

**Contributions to the Nutrition of the Red-Backed Shrike and the Grey Flycatcher.** — On May 2nd 1956, I observed, on a meadow near Obornyatcha, a Red-Backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*) struggling on a wild olive-tree. Running there swiftly I flushed the bird and found a Crested Newt hung on the branch. At the same place, from the branch of a dry Willow-tree protruding over the water, a Grey Flycatcher (*Muscicapula striata*) picked Water-Skaters running about on the surface of the water. During my observation it flew 7 times above the water and once even dipped its abdomen into it, like Swallows do.

L. Szlivka

**Pine-Grosbeak in the Low-Tátra Mountains.** — In the dwarf pine and upper wooded region of the mountain Királyhegy I observed the *Pine-Grosbeak* (*Pinicola enucleator*) in smaller groups of 3—4 birds between the 3rd and 8th of February 1957.

A. Stollmann

**Occurrence of the Serin at the foot of the S. W. Carpathians.** — The Serin (*Serinus serinus*) was, at the beginning of the XIX-th century, considered a really rare species in the Ornis of Transylvania. The oldest data about its occurrence in Transylvania. The oldest data about its occurrence in Transylvania are from V. F. STETTER (13), who, about 1840, met this species in the surroundings of Cimpani (Topánfalva, valley of the Aranyos), not much later than this species was noticed in Hungary. About its further occurrence in Transylvania we find data in J. CSATÓ's work (3. pag. 447), who, on November 3rd 1859 collected a male and a female specimen in his garden in Cunta (County of Alsó-fehér). A. E. BIELZ in his work (1. p. 99) enumerates the data of STETTER (1840) and CSATÓ (1859, 1860) and mentions the specimens noticed by himself. So he saw a smaller group in January 1881 in the valley of the River Cibin, village of Turnisor (Kistorony, County of Szeben), and in the surroundings of Szeben he observed in 1886 several single specimens. He also mentions the specimen of Gyeke (County of Kolozs), observed by O. HERMAN in 1867. From Southern Transylvania we find further data in the work of J. FRIVALDSZKY (6. pag. 87) who mentions two specimens collected by E. CZYŃK in Fogaras, 1888 and 1889. The data of V. HAUSMANN (7) also refer to Southern Transylvania; he even found its nest in 1890 in this part of the country. J. SCHENK (14. pag. 106—121) says that the Serin is a very rare species in Transylvania and refers to the specimen noticed by O. HERMAN in Gyeke (April 6th 1867) and the 2 specimens noticed by CH. DANFORD in the place Rea (County of Hunyad) (October 29th 1874). In the ornithological works published towards the end of the XIX-th and the beginning of the XX-th century, the data concerning the Serin are not conform. So for instance GY. MADARÁSZ in his work (9. pag. 467) describes the Serin, as for Transylvania, to be a frequent and constant species. On the contrary, I. CHERNEL emphasizes in his book (2. pag. 611) that the Serin does not occur in the plains and is, in Transylvania, a very rare species. From the beginning of the XX-th century it is W. LEONHARDT (8) who mentions the Serin from Transylvania. He made his observations in the surroundings of Segesvár, where he observed specimens on three occasions (1901, 1902, 1903). Later data are from K. OSZTIÁN (12. pag. 104) who, on April 14th 1909, observed specimens of Serins in the surroundings of Naszód. From the 1920-s it is K. MAUKS (10. pag. 207) who gives data and mentions new places where the Serin occurs in Transylvania. Thus he noticed specimens on April 29th 1914 in the place called Zám in the valley of the River Maros and in the place Geoagiul de Sus, County of Hunyad, he observed (July 18th 1920) the presence of this species. About the further progress of the Serin in northern direction, data concerning more recent times are broken off. In the Roumanian ornithological literature, there are, as for Transylvania, no recent data. This, of course, does not mean that the Serin did not occur in Transylvania since, but only that the attention of the

ornithologists was not drawn to this bird. Transylvania, from the point of view of the range of the Serin, is a very interesting and exceedingly important territory, as it touches from North, West and South-West such territories, where the Serin is partly a breeding and partly a migrant bird. According to E. Mayr (11. pag. 571—671) the Serin extends its range more and more in Northern direction, frequently transgressing the limits of its area and suddenly and without continuity appears on new territories.

I should like to mention such a case in the following: On May 2nd 1957 I observed in the place Sebesvár (Bologa, between Bánfihunyad and Csucs), at an altitude of about 1000 meters above sea-level in the valley of the creek Sebes, a group of about 5 specimens of Serins. Ascending the valley and leaving the village I caught sight of a male singing on a walnut-tree in the garden of the last house. I did not succeed in collecting it, because it did not let me approach. Not much later, two further specimens (male and female) flew onto the rocky side opposite the garden and picked in the moss covering the rocks. Collecting did not succeed this time either. I followed the pair which flew off and settled on a branch of an ash-tree standing on the bank of the creek. In the meantime 2 further male specimens flew on the rocky side, of which I managed to collect one, as a proving specimen. In its stomach, beside tiny crystals of quartz, I did not find anything. Its measurements are the following: Length of body 115 mm; wing 75 mm; tail 50 mm; tarsus 17 mm; and middle central toe (without nail) 11 mm. The collected specimen does not show any deviation from the description given in literature. I found very developed testicles at the dissection. When, on May 7th (in pouring rain) I came down the valley again, I carefully watched the place, but saw Serins no more. In future stricter observations have to establish whether the noticed Serins also breed on these places, or whether I succeeded to observe just a passing group of them.

I. Korodi Gál

List of literature cited see in Hungarian text: p. 300—301.

**Recent Data about the Occurrence of the Serin in Roumania.** — Poiana Topului lies between Sinaya and Predeal, on the two banks of the River Prahova. The river is, on both sides, bordered by Aldertrees. Now and then we find a few deciduous trees (beach, birch, etc.) It is a virgin forest of pines all over this part of the country; even between the houses we often find fir-trees. Passing in front of one of the villas I heard a bird's song, which was somewhat like that of the Siskin, but simpler, with a shorter scale and twittering always the same sound; on a telephone-wire, scarcely 3—4 meters from a group of fir-trees, a Serin (*Serinus serinus*) sat and sang (June 26th 1956). I observed it several times on the same place. When disturbed, it never flew in the direction of the fir-trees, but always to the opposite side. Even in the air it mostly uttered its twittering call. At about 300 meters from the above-mentioned place I saw almost every day and under the same circumstances another male specimen, also singing. I guessed from their behaviour that they were breeding here.

S. Györfi

**Severely wounded Tree-Sparrow sticking to its nest.** — On June 10th 1956 I was inspecting artificial nest-boxes placed in our district of Csákánydoroszló, when in one of the boxes I found a Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) sitting on three eggs and two young, hatched a few hours before. On its chest, having an incubation spot, there was a somewhat cicatrized wound caused by an air-rifle shot. The projectile tore out pieces of the size of a small coin of the muscles of the chest and from the sternum, because of which wound the bird could have returned to its eggs only with difficulty, to incubate them; it even could not have left its nest for a longer time, because of its severe wound. I think it probable, that during the incubation the Sparrow was fed by its mate. Unfortunately I was not able to continue observations.

J. Csaba

**House-Cat and Male Sparrow.** — In 1954 a Housecat and a House-Sparrow lived at our place, not in the usual way, but quite to the contrary. The cat, while quite young, often climbed the tree in the neighbourhood of the hollow where the Sparrow's

nest was and lurked on the birds. The little House-Sparrow, protecting the nest and the young, uttered the usual alarming call and stooping at the cat from behind, it repeatedly pinched the cat on its back and nape. This changing of the roles made the little sparrow audacious and the cat coward. Whenever the cat appeared on our courtyard or in the garden, the little sparrow gave its alarming call and attacked it from behind with a stooping flight, and the cat fled and hid as it could, to the feet of people or under plants. I showed this quaint and amusing performance to several friends who were greatly amused by it. Since then, the cat has been stolen and the little sparrow vanished too.

M. Bokor

**Recent occurrence of the Rock-Bunting in Transsylvania.** — On April 21st 1952 I saw 3 Rock-Buntings (*Emberiza cia*) near the village Hidegszamos (Department Kolozs), a few kilometers from the village between the river Szamos and a wood that is stretching along the valley parallel to the river. The birds were together with several Yellow-Hammers. They settled on the shore of the small creek and were very shy indeed. I succeeded in collecting only a single male specimen.

S. Györfi

**Supplementary data to DR. A. KEVE'S Paper: „Data to the Ornis of the Middle-Danube.”** — Reading the above mentioned paper by DR. KEVE I decided to write this modest article. For several decades I am an enthusiastic explorer of the avifauna of the Danube-islands. Comparing my notes — supported by my oological collection — with DR. KEVE'S study, which may be regarded as a source, we find, especially in connection with the breeding species, some differences. One of the main reasons of the difference is, that DR. KEVE as it is also proved by his own words — did his conscientious exploring work principally in the surroundings of Gönyű, that is on the eastern section of the Middle-Danube, but it seems that he explored the western section probably less strictly, whereas my collecting territory is exclusively confined to this section. But the character of these two sections are not conform, which is also shown by their bird-life. This means that there is a difference in the occurrence, range and breeding of the various species. Therefore I am trying — with DR. KEVE'S authorization, or better on his encouragement — to complete his work with the communication of my data, collected with the greatest care. In this modest study I only give those of my data, which show more or less difference with those of the author's or which I think worth mentioning.

— Hungarian Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*). It is a sporadic breeder in the western section. A proving clutch (with a Cuckoo's egg) is in my collection. Locality: Danube-island Tejfalusziget, between Sikos and Vadkert, May 23rd 1954. — Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*). — A common breeder on the islands of the western section. My data on its breeding: Tejfalusziget, „Új-mérés”, June 6th 1949, Somorjasziget, „Csap-erdő”, May 18th 1954; Tejfalusziget, „Sziget-elő”; same place: May 16th 1955. — Short-toed Tree Creeper (*Certhia brachydactyla*). — In general, the Tree Creepers are regular breeders in our territory. But the breeding of the Tree Creeper (*Certhia familiaris*) is still an open question. On April 11th 1958 DR. T. SZLÁVY and I caught the female bird sitting on its nest in the woods of Rajka, so we were able to determine exactly that it was a Short-toed Tree Creeper. — Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*). — A very rare winter guest. Personally I only once observed it, January 8th 1944 in Kszor (Isle of Csallóköz). — Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*). — Regular breeder of the island-woods. I found it breeding. July 4th 1947, two clutches in the „Szigetelő” of the island Tejfalusziget; May 22nd 1949, in the „Ördögfüzes” of the island Somorjasziget, May 28th 1955, in the wood „Szárzerdő” of Tejfalusziget, July 2nd 1955 in the „Szigetelő” of Tejfalusziget. — Wood Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*). — A very rare breeder. Its only proving clutch I found in Rajka, May 4th 1952. — River Warbler (*Locustella fluviatilis*). — Regular breeder. I succeeded to find its well disguised nest only on a single occasion in the „Szigetelő” of Tejfalusziget, June 5th 1954. — Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*). I keep an exactly not yet determined clutch in my collection. Locality: Tejfalusziget, „Új-mérés”, June 18th 1955. — Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*). — As a breeder I observed it only at Rajka, June 7th 1950. I received a strongly incubated clutch

of 7 eggs. I my collection I keep a single egg, also from Rajka. Date of finding: April 21st 1951. — Thrush Nightingale (*Luscinia luscinia*). Together with the Nightingale it is a breeder of the island-woods of the western section. Its first clutch I found in Rajka, May 30th 1953. On May 16th I found again a clutch of 5 on the island Tejfalusziget. — Hedge Sparrow (*Prunella modularis*). — The following data of my notes prove what a common breeder of our island-woods it is; I found it breeding in „Szigetelő”, Tejfalusziget, June 15th 1947, Rajka, „Császár-liget”, May 31st 1948, — Rajka, „Danube-shores of Moson”, May 10th 1950, — Rajka, „Fáskert”, May 17th 1950, — Rajka, „Volt főhercegi erdő”, May 9th 1951, — Somorja island, „Diós”, May 9th 1951, — Tejfalusziget, „Öntés-füzes”, May 8th 1952, — Bezenye, „Border below the Ponton”, June 9th 1952, — Bezenye, „Border above the Ponton”, June 29th 1952, Rajka, „Volt főhercegi erdő”, June 30th 1952, — Tejfalusziget, „Szár az erdő”, May 5th 1954, Tejfalusziget, „Szigetelő”, May 7th 1954, Tejfalusziget, „Szigetelő”, May 8th 1954, — Tejfalusziget, „Felső osztály”, May 23rd 1954, — Tejfalusziget, „Border along the dyke”, June 4th 1954, — Tejfalusziget, „Öregfüzes”, June 7th 1954, — Tejfalusziget, „Szigetelő”, June 12th 1954, — Tejfalusziget, „Lénia”, June 18th 1954, — Tejfalusziget, „Szigetelő”, May 19th 1954, — Tejfalusziget, „Szár az erdő”, May 24th 1954.

Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*). — Breeds regularly in the western section; I found its nest in Rajka, June 23rd 1952, and in Tejfalusziget, June 11th 1954 and June 19th 1954. — Grey-Headed Woodpecker (*Picus canus*). — I found its clutch of 5 eggs in the „Közép-füzes” of Körtvélyessziget on May 4th 1947. I keep the eggs in my collection. — Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*). — Regular breeder in the western section. It steals its eggs mostly into the nest of the Great Reed-Warbler. But I found its eggs in nests of Red-backed Shrikes, Blackcaps and Reed Buntings too. — Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*). — Rare breeder of the western island-woods. For the first time it was on July 11th 1934 that I found its breeding-place in a deserted White-tailed Eagle's nest, on the part „Porcika” of Somorja, on the Csallóköz, left side of the Danube. Its nest contained 4, already well fledged young. In May 1936 I found it again, breeding in the part „Kis-Öregfüzes” of Tejfalusziget. The nesting site had been chosen in an old mended Hooded Crow's nest. I could secure its rare clutch of 5 eggs for my egg-collection. At one occasion I also showed it to N. HOMONNAY. Unfortunately the eggs were destroyed in 1945. — Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*). — Rare breeder of our woods. Its clutch of 2 eggs was found on June 4th 1953 in Cikolasziget, in a deserted nest of a Goshawk. — Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*). — I succeeded to shoot a ♀ specimen of this maritime goose-species on December 30th 1930 in the part called „Vesszős” of Tejfalusziget. I had it stuffed and gave it to the Museum of Csallóköz. — Gadwall (*Anas strepera*). — Regular breeder of the reed-bordered Danube branches. Its clutch of 9 eggs comes from the „Danube-border Moson” of Dunakiliti. Date of finding: May 15th 1950. — Golden Plover (*Charadrius apricarius*). A rare winter-guest. On November 18th 1928 I shot a ♀ specimen, on the island Csallóköz, on the field of Tejfalu. Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*). — Not only a regular migrant, but sporadically it even breeds in our island-woods. On April 12th 1930, in the wood-section called „Kompjárás” of Somorja, situated on the Csallóköz-side, a Woodcock with an incubation spot was shot. With the help of a pointer we also found the clutch of 4 eggs. The eggs were one of the greatest rarities of my collection. Unfortunately they got lost, with the eggs of the Saker Falcon and other rarities.

L. Csiba

**Recent Ornithological Data from the County of Vas.** — Wanting to complete my short description of the avifauna of Csákánydoroszló (W. Hungary) which appeared in the Vol. LIX—LXII. of „Aquila” (1952—1955, p. 201—203) I have to add the following data, also referring to some other parts of the County of Vas:

*Apus apus*. — I observed two specimens on June 19th 1939 in Körmen, one of which flew to a hollow under the spout of the castle and though I waited for a long time, it did not appear again. Its breeding here may be considered as certain. It breeds, in a few pairs, regularly in Kőszeg and Szombathely. During the summer it can often be seen in the western villages of the county in smaller or larger flocks, but these are birds and their young which breed in Németújvár, Léka and Városszalónak,

which is now Austrian territory. — *Mergus albellus*. — A ♂ specimen has been shot in Csákánydoroszló on the creek, February 1st 1949 and one in Vasszentmihály on the river Rába, February 20th 1950. — *Regulus ignicapillus*. I have observed a small flock of six on April 6th 1955 in the threshing yard of the State farm in Nárai. — *Numenius arquatus*. — I saw two specimens near a little pond, dry in summer, on the meadow „Tóheli rét” in Nárai; they still have been there on April 10th 1955. — *Anas a. acuta*. — On April 7th and 8th 1955, in the company of 6 *Anas crecca*, 4 ♂♂ and 3 ♀♀ stayed in the pond near „Tóheli rét”. — *Tringa glareola*. — In the spring of 1955 the pond near „Tóheli rét” in Nárai was full of water for some time and on the borders of it on April 25th and 26th about 30 Wood Sandpipers, on May 8th about 40 and on June 20th one specimen stayed there. — *Ciconia nigra*. — I saw, on September 1st 1954 in Csákánydoroszló, near the river Rába, a Black Stork, in company of a few *Ardea cinerea*. According to the kind communication of F. ERDŐHELYI, one specimen was seen in Sitkó too, on April 30th 1955. — *Nucifraga caryocatactes macrorhynchos* BREHM. One specimen was seen on November 5th 1954, in the village Nárai, where, in one of the poultryyards, it chased the hen. — *Nucifraga c. caryocatactes* L. — On the pine-trees of the so-called „Mocsolai” wood, belonging to the village Nárai, I saw, on February 13th 1955, one specimen. — *Charadrius apricarius*. — I observed six specimen on the meadow „Tóheli rét” of Nárai, on November 29th 1954. These Golden Plovers only left for their winter-quarters on December 1st. — *Tringa totanus*. — During their springmigration I saw a little flock of 6 specimens in the pond near „Tóheli rét” of Nárai, on April 25th 1955. — *Crex crex*. I received, on June 23rd 1954, a young Corncrake aged about two days, found on the meadow „Tóheli rét” of Nárai. During the breeding season I noticed the Corncrake here in other years too. On one occasion I observed that, when arriving in spring, the vegetation of the fields and meadows were not sufficiently developed yet and as they did not find adequate cover there, they took to the young oak-plantations nearby and staying there for longer time, it is from there that their characteristic call was heard. — *Serinus serinus*. — On February 8th 1946 I saw a wintering specimen in the center of the town Szombathely, along the creek Gyöngyös. — *Larus minutus*. — In Csákánydoroszló, above the creek Vöröspatak, I observed one specimen on May 4th 1953. — *Phalacrocorax carbo*. — On July 16th 1955 one specimen was shot on the section Csákánydoroszló of the river Rába. — *Anas penelope*. — In the so-called „Gödör” of Csákánydoroszló two specimens were seen on January 2nd 1938. — *Milvus migrans*. — On May 9th 1954 I found a dead specimen in the wood „Kukullói erdő” belonging to the town Szombathely. — *Ardea purpurea*. I saw one specimen in Csákánydoroszló, near the river Rába, on April 22nd 1956. This is my second evidence from the area of this village. — *Otis tarda*. — On February 27th 1940 a ♂ specimen has been shot on the hill „Daraboshegy”; in the same year, on March 1st, a ♀, weakened by starvation, was caught in Körmen. Both specimens came into the collection of the photographer K. TÓTH in Körmen. One pair stayed from February 23rd to March 7th 1956 in Szeleste; according to the kind communication of I. GERGYE, 5 specimens have been seen on April 20th 1956 near Egyházasköröc. — *Hippolais icterina*. — 1—1 specimen was seen in Csákánydoroszló on September 7th 1939 and in Nárai on May 2nd 1954; near the latter village on May 18th 1 more and on May 19th 4 specimens were seen. — *Merops apiaster*. — On May 28th 1956 four specimens flew above the village Nárai in W—E direction. Here I want to mention, that I. GERGYE saw, on June 5th 1955, 6—8 specimens in Egyházasköröc. — *Parus cristatus*. — In the pine-wood „Szirmai” near Olad I saw, on July 19th 1956, one specimen, which probably bred here. — *Locustella naevia*. — On the meadow „Tóheli” near Nárai, a specimen probably in migration was seen singing on May 6th 1956. — *Nycticorax nycticorax*. — One specimen was shot in May 1954 near Uraiújfalu. — *Scolopax rusticola*. — In 1955 it bred in the wood of Óriszentpéter. — *Egretta garzetta*. — Towards the beginning of summer 1953 one specimen was seen near the village Viszák on small artificial ponds on the border of woods. — *Otus scops*. — During springmigration I heard their call for several times in the villages of Csákánydoroszló and Kemenestáródfa. On May 29th 1939 it bred in Vasszentmihály; I got two eggs of this clutch. It is much more frequent in the orchards of Órség and in the first half of May 1926 towards evenings very many of them were heard. Same in Vendvidék — belonging to Yugoslavia — in the springs of 1942—44. In order to ascertain its

breeding here. I got two nest-boxes type „D” from DR. M. VASVÁRI in spring 1944, which I placed on the brim of a wood near my orchards in Sándorvölgy on an Ash, respectively Oak-tree, at a height of 7 meters. This year the first specimens arrived on April 19th and from May 1st they could be observed in the vicinity of the nest-boxes. On June 10th Scops Owl was sitting on eggs in one of the boxes and on July 1st I found it dead on its eggs, its carcase thinned and dried up. The eggs luckily could be blown. — *Loxia curvirostra*. — I observed it lately at the following places: Csákánydoroszló, September 7th 1939 one pair; in the cemetery of Kőszeg, near the tomb of I. Chernel, on a fir-tree 1 ♀, October 4th 1953; in Pornóapáti, May 12th 1954, 1 specimen; in Nárai on February 28th 1954, on the trees of the „Mocsolai” wood, a flock of them; at the same place, on April 3rd about 50 specimens, on November 20th 1955, one specimen; in Szombathely, July 17th 1955, a small group of 9 flew above the wood „Kukullói erdő” in NW direction. — *Bombycilla garrulus*. — In Csákánydoroszló on January 9th 1947, 30 specimens; in Körmenđ at the same date a large flock of about 200 picked the crop of the great Japanese Acacia tree standing in the courtyard of the hospital; on January 30th 20—30 specimens; in Nárai I observed on January 8th two, on January 19th 4 specimens. — *Streptopelia decaocto*. — In Muraşombat — belonging to Yougoslavia — I noticed the first specimen on September 25th 1944; at the same place, on September 27th, the female bird was feeding its two young. On April 23rd of the next year I saw here the Indian Ring Dove in a pair.

J. Csaba

**Ornithological Notes from the County of Somogy.** — In the coherent huge forests of Somogy the Raven (*Corvus corax*) sporadically still breeds. For years one pair of Ravens breeds in the communal forest near Szentá and another one in the forest of Ropoly, south of Kaposvár; the latter reared three young in 1956. — An albino Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*) was shot by E. Kovács on February 28th 1954 in Töröcske. The whole body of the bird is faded yellow. The last third of the remiges and pinions is white. It came into our collection (Museum Rippl Rónai, Kaposvár). The Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*) breeds in fair numbers in Somogy. Their number is increasing in the course of the last 3—4 years. In the vicinity of Kaposvár I know of the following breeding places: surroundings of the villages Magyaregres, Szentbalázs and Zselickislak. — Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) got into captivity in Kálmánca, in a peculiar way. The local forester saw, when it just knocked down a pigeon. Running to the bird which sat on its prey, he was astonished to see, that the bird does not fly away, but lets him catch it. Later on I established, that it was a bird trained for falconry. The Falcon came to a new owner who soon set it free again.

On October 22nd 1955 a hunter shot a White-Tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) at Balatonlelle, on the shore of Lake Balaton. It was a young female. Length of body 93 cm, wing 65 cm. — In spite of the drainings, there are still fairly many bushy, watery bogs and marshes in Somogy, which secure adequate feeding grounds for the Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*), though it is still a rare breeder here. Its breeding places: stated with certainty, in the course of the last three years, at the following places: Berzence and the wood of Kiskunovica. On the latter place the forester F. SZOLLÁR saw, on May 25th 1954, 11 birds together, picking their food. In the wood Feketesár near Szentá one pair bred on an Alder-tree and had three young (1954). The pair breeding in the Széchenyi-wood near Somogyzsitva also reared three young (1955). They also bred in the Gágyi wood near Csurgo (1955) and in the neighbourhood of Szeged (1956). Near Potony and in the wood of Lug they built their nest on an Ash-tree (1956). In the wood Mélyéger near Mesztesyő they bred on an Oak-tree and had two young (1956). This nest is inhabited since 1954. In the swamp of the Reserve-territory of the pond Baláta I also observed a pair of hunting Black Storks for several times, which are breeding on an Alder-tree nearby in the wood of Szentá since 8 years. Every year they rear 3—4 young. — About 10 kilometers NW from Berzence, in the shrubs of the wood of Lankóc near the canal of Dombó, there is a colony of Grey Herons (*Ardea cinerea*). I have examined the breeding colony on August 5th and 10th 1954 and found the following: among the trees of the thin Alder-grove there is a lot of bushy grass. The ground is covered with thick bulrush, sedge and reed, standing in half-a-meter of water. I counted 45 nests on the area of the Heronry of

the size of about 200 × 200 meters. The nests are built on Alder-trees, 2—5 nests on a tree, about 5—7 meters from the ground. As I could state with certainty, 14 of them were inhabited. It was only in two nests that I found young still (one and two). Only Grey Herons breed in this colony. On the border of the grove, about 20 meters away from the colony, there is a large, inhabited White Stork's (*Ciconia ciconia*) nest, also on an Alder-tree. The surrounding area is a very good biotope for our birds. Because of the proximity of the frontier it is hardly disturbed by people. All around this territory, for kilometers, the ground is, during a good part of the year, covered with water or damp meadow. On these areas there are so many frogs, that swarms of them jump before the walking man, just as Grasshoppers on a stubble. In the canal of Dombó there are plenty of fish. Under some nests, where the ground was not covered with water, I found pikes of a span's size, as a proof of the abundance of food.

The Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), because of the very mild January of 1956, arrived very soon, but found a severe winter in Somogy. On February 12th, in Kaposfüred, J. ANTAL caught a Bittern with his hands that was wading in the snow of half a meter. (It came into my collection). On February 27th in Zimány a local hunter shot a Bittern in the same cold weather (night temperature —15° C, day temperature —2° C below freezing point). On February 10th, near Tapsony, two Bustards (*Otis tarda*) were observed by J. MEJSZTERICS, of which he shot one. He saw, in autumn 1953, a flock of 6 Bustards in the neighbourhood of Tapsony. Even the rare Little Bustard (*Otis tetrax orientalis*) turned up in Somogy. In 1949 one specimen was shot in the vicinity of Csurgó, which is in the collection of our Museum. As far as I know, the number of the Little Bustards collected in Hungary after the second World War, rose to not more than three specimens.

M. Marián

#### **Ornithological Observations on the Area of the Thermal Baths of Harkány (S. Hungary).**

— From May 20th to June 14th 1957 I stayed in the Thermal Spa of Harkány and during this time I observed the following 30 species of birds.

(See list in Hungaria text.)

Beside these there are, in the village itself, two inhabited Stork's nests, both on house-chimneys. I was sorry to see the great decrease in the number of Stork's nests, as, about 20 years ago, their number was about 10 in this village. On the area of the Bathing Establishment, in the well kept park of the Rheumatic Hospital, there are nest-boxes of which 7 are hanging on trees and one on an iron pole. In one of them there were young Great Tits and in one there were eggs of the same species. I saw a House Sparrow fly into one of the boxes, out of another a Blue Tit, but I could not observe the clutch of these. The entrance of one of the hollows was made narrower with mud, but I did not see the Nuthatch and the box seemed uninhabited. The characteristic breeding bird of the Park is the Goldfinch; I found more of its nests. The Jackdaws are always there, but I knew only one inhabited nest of them. There were also two nests of Magpie, both on mapletrees, one at a height of about 20, the other of about 25 meters. Beside these I know the inhabited nest of a Spotted Flycatcher. I saw an interesting nesting of the Goldfinch in the Bathing Establishment belonging to the village Harkány. The nest was in the park, in a rose-grove of about 200 stems of roses, on a well blossoming stem of roses with yellow flowers, at a height of about one meter and a half. 5 eggs were in the nest and the Goldfinch was sitting on them. Unfortunately the nest soon became empty, the eggs being probably taken. I observed in the village Harkány, in the Bathing Establishment, on the walls of one of the balconies of the Rheumatic Hospital, that a pair of House Martins built their nest in 3 days and a half.

E. Agárdi

#### **Ornithological Observations from the Börzsöny Mountains (40 miles N of Budapest).**

— The observations are from the surroundings of the village Diósjenő and from the year 1957. From May 18th to 26th one specimen of Corncrake (*Crex crex*) in a narrow stripe covered with abundant grass and Alder-trees, near the foresters house. On June 29th I met one again on the meadow Kisvarsas, enclosed in woods. — An Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) began to build its nest towards the end of March, on a high

fir-tree. On May 10th, in spite of the disturbance caused by the exploitation of the wood, it firmly sat on its nest; on May 21st the twittering voice of the young was to be heard. On June 8th I succeeded to get to the nest, in which one young was scarcely feathered. Later on the nest has been robbed. — The Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) may be met along the creeks on every occasion. On July 19th I met in the part of the wood called „Özberek”, one male with 3 fledged young. On the territory I know the areals of 4 Black Woodpeckers (*Dryocopus martius*) on places, which are all suitable for breeding. — The Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) is constantly to be found in pairs, on the area of the forest district Kemence. Last year we knew of its nest too, but the tree has been cut in course of the exploitation of the forest. — Between August 4th and 8th I observed a female of the Rock Thrush (*Monticola saxatilis*) several times on a rocky place called Kőszirt. — Collared Flycatcher (*Muscicapa albicollis*) is common in the beechwoods, it is a regular breeder. I met birds feeding young several times. — I met the Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*) twice: on August 17th 5 of them on the meadow Nyírrét and on August 24 th on the neighbouring meadow called Lóégés 4 specimens.

Gy. G. Gárdonyi

**Ornithological Observations in the Zoo of Budapest.** — From August 1956 we had the possibility to keep regular notes about the birds occurring on the area of the Zoo. We concluded these observations on May 31st 1957 and were able to make the following statements:

(See in the Hungarian text.)

E. Schmidt and J. Sterbetz

**Ornithological Notes from the surroundings of Pécel.** — Since autumn of 1953 I am living in Pécel near Budapest and systematically observe the ornithology of the territory. From all the observed species the following are worth mentioning: *Aquila heliaca* I saw one specimen on July 17th 1955 circling above barren hill-sides, where it probably hunted for small rodents. On March 24th 1956 I again saw a large eagle high up in the air, but because of the hazy weather I could not determine it exactly. It may have been an *Aquila heliaca* or *pomarina* — *Falco peregrinus*? On three occasions I saw large falcons, but unfortunately from so far and by such bad sighting conditions, that I could not state with certainty whether the bird was a Saker Falcon or a Peregrine Falcon. — *Lymnocyptes minimus*. — On January 31st, February 2nd, February 8th and 10th 1954 I saw each time one bird, evidently the same. — *Merops apiaster*. It regularly breeds in small numbers (5—6 pairs). — *Coracias garrulus*. — One or two pairs are breeding. On May 29th 1955 I flushed one specimen out of a hole in the side of a fissure of the so-called „Csunya”. — *Picus canus*. — On August 21st 1954 I saw 1 male and on March 6th 1956 two specimens on the meadow. — *Cinclus cinclus*. On February 17th 1956 I noticed 1—1 specimen in the creek Rákos. — *Plectrophenax nivalis*. — On January 1st 1954 I saw one male specimen. It sang on the top of a small plumbtree standing on the ridge.

E. Schmidt

**Data from 1955—56—57 about the Avifauna of Hódmezővásárhely.** — In the years 1955—56 and 1957 I could, in contrast to the former years, visit the sodaic areas and flooded regions of the River Tisza only a few times, which, for long years, I had crossed day after day. Because of the short time I had only left for ornithological work, in none of these years could I exactly count the nests of the Little Egrets breeding in the reserve of Sasér; it was only on base of the system of evaluation, used for the previous six years, that I tried to state the number of the breeding pairs. Comparing my estimates with the data of the observers who had been staying for longer time on the area in question, it seems a very cautious guessing, if I take the stock of Little Egrets in Sasér, during the three good breeding seasons, in 1955 and 56 for 100 pairs and in 1957 for 80 pairs. Our most unconstant species of Herons, the Squacco Heron did not begin breeding yet when in 1955 I began the evaluation of the nests. On July 5th 1956 I counted, in the reserve of Sasér, 15 nests inhabited by *Ardeola*. The Squacco Heron stock of the year 1957 is 20 clutches.

It is to the breeding of the Rooks, which became regular since four years, that I attribute the fact that the Little Egrets and Squacco Herons by-and-by leave their old breeding colony-wood of poplars and settle on the eastern point of the island. The Night Herons more or less follow the Egrets, but the Grey Herons are staying on in their old colony, on the western part of the poplar-wood. Besides the coefficients caused by the weather, it is equally the Rook colony that might be the cause that the breeding-period of the Little Egrets and Squacco Herons is gradually lengthening. So for instance in 1957 the first Egrets began to breed on the last days of April, but even at the very end of July we could find a good number of these birds feeding their young or sitting on their eggs. The main feeding grounds of the Little Egrets remained the rice-fields. As soon as they get free of their Young, they are to be found there from early dawn to late in the evening, continuously, scattered from the breeding colony in every direction. On July 27th early in the morning between 5 and 6 I counted 528 Little Egrets, as they swarmed, in small groups of a few specimens, out to the rice-fields. It was in summer 1957 too, that I got information from DR. L. TARDY, dentist in Csongrád, that he found, on the island Labodár of the flooded area of the River Tisza, a very well populated colony of Night Herons and Little Egrets. On his visit on July 27th he counted there 64 Little Egrets, adult and young mixed. The only White-tailed Eagle's nest of the reserve was in March 1955 sawn off by unknown culprits from a poplar-tree and not much later the bird itself was shot and sent to the Museum of Vásárhely, but in such a state, that it could not be prepared any more. The male Whitetailed Eagle soon found a new mate and bred in the nest of *Peresora*, mentioned in my paper concerning the reserve of Sasér. I got no news about the result of its brood. In the course of the summer no Eagles built on the island. A. FESTETICS has been on the island towards the end of August and stated that there was no nests on the reserve. It is easy to understand my astonishment when, on November 28th I found a newly built *H. albicilla*-nest on the old, nesting-poplar and two White-tailed Eagles flushed out of it. The nest was built on the opposite side of the tree, between bifurcated branches, just as the former nest had been. The pair of Eagles used it again as an autumnal- and winter-settling tree, as they did years ago at the time of fishing the fishponds and goose-shooting at Lake Fehértó. In spring the Eagles went back again to their nest of *Peresora* and fledged a single young in summer 1956. In 1957 two young were reared in the Eagle's nest of the Reserve. One of the fledged young came into captivity, but we succeeded, after having ringed it, to let it free again. — In 1957 two new species augmented the list of breeders in Sasér. I found, on May 26th, the nests of a Redstart and of a Long-tailed Tit. — On the Fehértó of Hódmezővásárhely I could, in spring 1956, prove the breeding of only one pair of Avocets; I found another nest washed out on the shores of the pond. At the same time I noticed, on the sodaic areas, several specimens of *Recurvirostra*, and I think the statement of the shepherds possible, who informed me, that there were three nests. — Of Kentish Plovers there were less than in the previous years. The Cranes began to appear from the beginning of August onwards and since September they constantly use the sodaic waters of Vásárhelyi Fehértó as their roosting place. Their number culminated at the beginning of October. On October 6th a suddenly risen storm drove about half a thousand Cranes together to the stone-hard dry bottom of the large sodaic pond. The local shepherd, known as a good observer, related that in summer, when the Locusts swarmed on the dry meadow, he had observed two old Cranes, as they repeatedly fed a brownish-grey young with Locusts. On the same October 6th the shepherd's dog flushed a Little Bustard from the weedy borders of the pond, which flushed with loud flapping of the wings. When I approached the bird for the second time, it rose and flew away already from a great distance. Through my strong field-glasses I determined the bird as a ♀ specimen. The year of 1957 brought me quite a series of pleasant surprises on the Vásárhelyi Fehértó. On May 26th we stated on the barren sodaic spots, the breeding of 12 pairs of Avocets, about 40 pairs of Kentish Plovers and 1 pair of Stilts. The Avocets — with one exception — bred, as they are accustomed to do, on the barren sodaic ground, while a single pair laid its eggs in a thin wheat-culture on the border of a pond. Besides the breeding of the Stilt, it was for the first time in the course of my observations, that I succeeded in proving the breeding of the Black Tern in the surroundings of Vásárhely. About 40 pairs of them were breeding on the water

near Fehértó, covered with thin reed. In the same year we were able to ascertain the breeding of the Shorttoed Lark in Vásárhely. On the barren sodaic spots of the Fehértó I observed, on July 26th, a pair of *Calandrella cinerea* leading their well developed young, 5—6—7 birds. On the same day I further saw 1 specimen of the *Pratincole* and 1 Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) in half moult on the drying water-spots, and above the rice-fields of Vásárhely, amongst the Black Terns, two specimens of Whiskered Terns (*Chlidonias hybrida*). In 1957 3 pairs of Bee-eaters bred in the surroundings of Hódmezővásárhely in a sandpit of Kishomok.

I. Sterbetz

**Ornithological Data from Csorvás.** — Because of the great cloudbursts in July 1956, the rain-water accumulated on the dry agricultural fields in such quantities, which were unknown for the last decades. To the ponds on the wheat-stubbles and maize-fields, at the end of July and beginning of August, 200—250 specimens of Ruffs (*Philomachus pugnax*), about as many Wood Sandpipers (*Tringa glareola*), 8 Green Sandpipers (*Tringa ochropus*), 2 Redshanks (*Tringa totanus*), 40—50 Common Sandpipers (*Actitis hypoleucos*), 8—10 Dunlins (*Calidris alpina*) and 5—20 Greenshanks (*Tringa nebularia*) assembled. On one occasion I also observed 1 Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) and 1 Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*). The above species moved in loose flocks of 30—50, often feeding quite close to the harvesters or the combined harvesting machines in full function. 30—40 Lapwings (*Vanellus vanellus*), Mallard and Teal (*Anas platyrhynchos* et *A. crecca*) mixed up in 3 flocks of 10—15, as well as single Black Terns (*Chlidonias nigra*) also passed above this area, where about 1000 acres stood under water.

In spring the hunters shot a Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*), in March—April Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*), Honey Buzzards (*Pernis apivorus*) and one fully coloured old male Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). P. ANDREJ shot on August 8th a young Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) just fledged for 1—2 days, which makes its breeding in Csorvás probable. White Storks (*Ciconia ciconia*) passed three times above the village (July 22nd 2 specimens, August 4th 22 specimens and August 5th 3 specimens). In the water of the sand-pit near the railway-station Telekgerendás, of about 1 acre — amongst other water-fowl — Little Grebes (*Podiceps ruficollis*) and 1 pair of Water Rails (*Rallus aquaticus*) were breeding. In the thin reed-belt of the rain-water gathered in a depression near Csorvás there were, together with water-fowl commonly found there, Marsh Warblers (*Acrocephalus palustris*), Aquatic Warblers (*Acrocephalus paludicola*) and one pair of Crested Grebes (*Podiceps cristatus*) to be seen and near the Perneckzy-inn I saw 2 Bee-Eaters (*Merops apiaster*) sitting on wheat-stakes. 1 pair of Red-footed Falcons (*Falco vespertinus*) and 1 pair of Kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*) bred in the wood of Nagymajor (Petőfi-puszta).

During the spring-migration a Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) flying between the pinetrees of the wood, has been shot and at the beginning of August P. PADOS shot, in the rain-water pool of the wheat-stubble bordering the wood a Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*). The stock of Bustards (*Otis tarda*) has been decimated by the last, very severe winter; in spite of this, two flocks of 25—30 stayed on the fields of Nagymajor.

A. Festetics

**Ornithological Data from an old and from a more recent Shooting-diary.** — The shooting-diary of the late landowner of Tiszafüred and Debrecenebes, F. KOVÁSSY, which he wrote from 1865 to 1909, first just sporadically, but from 1872 systematically, contains many interesting data about the bird-life along the River Tisza, in the course of the last century. For details see Hungarian text.

Dr. J. Söregi

**Notes from the Hortobágy.** — On June 9th and July 10th 1956 I have been on the Hortobágy at the fish-ponds and in the course of these excursions I observed the birds mentioned in the Hungarian text.

Dr. M. Sívágó

**Numerical Data of the Storks and other Water-Fowl on the Territory of the District Csenger — County of Szabolcs-Szatmár in 1956.** — Our district is situated in the N. E. corner of Hungary. On its northern border lies the district of Fehérgyarmat, with the capricious small River Tur, to the E. it touches the District of Szatmár, to the S. the District of Nagykároly and to the W. the District of Mátészalka. The River Szamos is flowing through the center of the District, which comes from E. and crosses it in NW. direction. From S, in NW direction; it is crossed by the Eastern Kraszna canal, while its S. W. corner is crossed by the canal Ládi. On the western part occupying about 1/3 of the whole area, lies the great moor of Ecsed, which had been drained in about 1898. So this well-known moor, which used to have a wonderful bird-life, only exists in its name, covering about 100 000 acres of the flat-land of the County Szatmár. The progressing civilization, which constantly creates and builds, made this territory an economically cultured area, and this development means the destruction of many values. Amongst the losses there are such values too, which many people rightly deplore. Even my heart beats quicker, when I read about this wonderful bird-life or heard old hunters speaking about it. It was the Eldorado of the fishermen, wild-fowlers, loachers and hunters of Ecsed, Börvely, Tyukod, Domahíd, Nagymajtény, etc. There was an enormous amount of winged-game and Ornithology had nowhere in Hungary such a rich field as in this wonderful Moor of Ecsed, full of alternating bogs, sedge, reed, bulrush and peat. Here innumerable water-fowl lived and bred, of which now and then a never-yet-seen specimen came in front of the lurking hunter, for instance the innumerable duck of different species and colour. But its regular inhabitant was the Grey-leg Goose. On the mould left after drainage, which came from the deposition of vegetation for centuries and centuries, now maize of ten feet height grows, a whole forest, where one can lose one's way. Just as if the time of the prehistoric ferns would have returned, the growing strength of the soil is so immense, that for long times to come, manuring this soil is unnecessary. Even to-day, on dry days of late summer, a dropped burning cigarette-end is enough to light the peat-soil which will burn, on large areas, for a long time. I made counts in 26 villages of the district of Csenger. On the Great Moor we cannot find rests of ponds and swamps. In its two canals, that of Eastern Kraszna and that of Láp, it is even hard to find water when summers are dry; it is only in spring and in autumn, after greater rains, that there is more or less water in them. It is only then, that smaller or larger flocks of passing Duck settle there for resting for a few days. The result of my counts done in the mentioned 26 villages are shown in my detailed and exact report. While establishing the stock of Storks I had a talk with several older people, who, remembering times of 30—40 years ago, told me, that in those times many more Storks were in the villages. They have confirmed the reason of the decrease with facts that I have found myself; they said that it was the decrease of the numbers of houses covered with reed and straw which causes their continual decrease in number, because on the roofs of tile and slate the Storks do not build nests. Firstly because these houses have no broad roofs, and secondly because in the heat of the summer sun these roofs become so hot, that neither the mother-bird, nor the young would stand it. On trees I found nests only on two places, while the rest of the nests were all on houses covered with straw, thatch and reed.

The report of the breeding species in the various villages, see in the Hungarian text.

J. Baboss

**Contributions to the Ornis of Bodrogköz (N. E. Hungary).** — Parts of the territory of the village Tiszabercel, County of Szabolcs, fell as a result of a cut done while regulating the River Tisza, into the territory called Bodrogköz (N. E. Hungary). Since 1953 the Bee-eater's (*Merops apiaster*) call is heard, in summer, while they fly in swarms above the willows of the River Tisza, catching insects. Their number increases from year to year. I did not yet find their breeding colonies. They also fly to the meadows and lucerne-fields, where they catch Grasshoppers and beetles. On the waters of the bed of the Dead-Tisza, bordering the flooded area of Baboecs from two sides and covered with water-caltrop, sedge and reed, the Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*) and the Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

and even the Coot (*Fulica atra*) were breeding every year. In summer 1955 there was not a single one left of them. Their vanishing may be attributed to the multiplication of the Muskrat (*Fiber zibethicus*). On September 28th 1953 I saw a Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) on one of the bushes of the same dead-arm. At the end of February and beginning of March 1954, in the apple-orchard of the flooded area of Babócsa Long-eared Owls (*Asio otus*) stayed, in two flocks, altogether about 25 of them. They sat for the whole day hidden amongst the branches of the fruit-trees. They disappeared about the middle of March. In February 1955, also in the orchard of Babócsa, 2 Siberian Nuthatches (*Nucifraga caryocatactes macrorhynchos Brehm*) stayed nearly for the whole month.

Dr. J. Söregi

**Extract from the Ornithological Diary of the Preparator. VUJA MARKOV.** — I am keeping the diary of my friend VUJA MARKOV (Bácsföldvár = Batchko Gradishte) for several years in my drawer and while reading in it I came more and more to the conviction that we may not allow this huge amount of ornithological data to get lost. I have translated a good part of it into Hungarian and give it to the disposal of the Ornithological Institute, being certain, that they will gladly receive Markov's faunistic data, so much the more, that while listing the species, I also give the measurements of the birds and describe the crop contents too.

(See list in the Hungarian text.)

MARKOV's ornithological activity came to an end in March 1947. If he would have remained longer on his place, he would have continued to deserve our admiration. First he was my pupil and it was from me that he learned to love the birds, to ring them and determine them. It was to my instigation that he sent this great quantity of birds to the Ornithological Institute. Later on I became ill and could no more go out into the field with him. Now he went alone and by his own inventiveness developed the art of catching birds to an unparalleled level. He caught all sorts of birds, alive, and in any quantity. For a short time he shone like an aster on the sky of Ornithology and when he left, the ornithological activity of B. DIMITRIYEVITCH, A. LITTAHORSZKY and H. SCHENK came to an end, and mine too. The activity of the mentioned persons can duly be considered as the Golden Age of Ornithology in the Batchka!

R. Csornai

**Data on the Reserves of Ornithological Interest of the Voivodina.** — On the whole territory of Yugoslavia every Popular Republic has its „Institute for the Protection of Nature". The Voivodina belongs to the sphere of authority of the Popular Republic of Serbia. On the territory of the Voivodina, known for its avifauna, several reserves for Bird Protection have been lately organized. It would be too early to speak about results, as very much has to be done yet. For the moment I want to give just a general information, which territories have been appointed as Protecting Areas and what were the reasons for it.

1. *Obedska Bara*, — a Protection Area for all birds, but especially as breeding place of the Common Heron, Purple Heron, Bittern, Spoonbill, Little Egret, Night Heron and Squacco Heron. The 4000 hectares of forest belonging to it are also under protection, so the song-birds breeding there are protected too. — 2. *The Forest of Bácsmonostor*, as the breeding place of the Black Stork and the White-tailed Eagle. — 3. *Carska Bara*, as the breeding area of the Little Egret, Night Heron, Squacco Heron, Pigmy Cormorant and Terns (both Black Tern and Whiskered Tern.) — 4. *The Lake of Ludas*, as protecting area of the inhabitants of the reeds and especially as the breeding place of the Grebes. There is the possibility of establishing an ornithological communication with the avifauna of Szeged-Fehértó. — 5. *Forests of Deliblát*, as protecting area of the birds of the woods and of the enormous Bee-eater colony nearby. — 6. Several parts of the hills *Frushka Gora*, as protection areas of the Eagles, Buzzards and Falcons. The Institute has its regulations, according to which, on all the Protection Areas, taking of the young, collecting of eggs and shooting of the old birds is forbidden. It is forbidden to enter these areas without a special permission, be it from whatever reason or pretext.

L. Szlivka — Gunaros

**Birds on Sea-Boats.** — In recent literature the question often arises, when and where there were seen birds on boats voyaging on the sea. My own observations have been made on the Black Sea. On July 11th 1937 our boat, coming from Istanbul, proceeded at dawn already on the open sea, but from about 20 kilometers the shores of Asia Minor were visible yet. The first birds which I sighted were two *Phylloscopus (trochilus?)*. These have probably settled on our ship during the night, while we proceeded in the Bosphore. The two birds were all day on the rigging of our boat and visibly caught small insects flying about. They passed even the night on the boat. Next morning at dawn, when we arrived to the Danube-Delta, our boat, because of the early fog, could not enter it, only after the fog had lifted. The Warblers, as soon as the first sunrays broke through, flew away and left in western direction, towards the shore, which was already visible. At the same time I observed 2 Storks (*Ciconia ciconia*) on a mast of a larger steam-boat crossing in opposite direction. I have to emphasize, that the boats carried the birds in a direction which was opposite to their passage-direction.

Dr. I. Pátkai

**Ornithological Observations from the surroundings of Haifa.** — On one of the fish-ponds in the vicinity of Haifa, a Scaup-duck was shot on December 13th 1955. The Duck had been in the company of Coots and several other Duck, so it might have been that *Aythya fuligula*, *Aythya nyroca*, etc. and perhaps another specimen of this species was there too. It was an older drake, before completing its mating plumage. Measures: wing 215, tail 65, tarsus 40 mm, weight 1150 gr. — In the second half of February 1956 the spring movement of birds started. So in the days before February 20th I saw a group of 8—10 Ravens (*Corvus corax*). These are, during the winter, not to be seen in the surroundings, though they do not leave the country. Storks I did not see during the last two weeks (February 7th—21st) though they were to be seen, in smaller flocks all through the winter. Tree Pipits and Starlings are here yet. At the beginning of February I got news about a flock of 15 Cranes (*Grus grus*) which were found dead, not far from Haifa. According to some signs they might have died from consuming mice killed by poison, which had been put out for them. — In 1956 the autumnal migration of birds began early. The Storks virtually covered the surroundings already in August. They were feeding in groups of 50—100 at the fish-ponds. Much water-fowl had arrived too, so even the Coots, which usually arrive only at the end of September.

On August 10th I observed on the fish-pond near Haifa the following species: *Himantopus himantopus* (50—60 specimens), *Recurvirostra avosetta* (6), *Numenius arquatus* (1), *Ciconia ciconia* (80), *Anas querquedula* (50), *Anas acuta* (5), *Fulica atra* (12), *Plegadis falcinellus* (1), *Platalea leucorodia* (25), *Ardea purpurea*, *Ardea cinererea*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Tringa totanus*, *Tringa erythropus*, *Tringa glareola*, *Tringa ochropus*, *Actitis hypoleucos*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Calidris minuta*, *Calidris alpina*, *Calidris temminckii*, *Charadrius hiaticula*, *Glareola pratincola*, *Gallinago gallinago* (1). The *Ceryle rudis* and the *Halcyon smyrnensis* breed here too. — About middle of August I have been in the Negev, where I collected *Pterocles*. Here the *P. orientalis* and the *P. alchata* are frequent and can be collected in the morning at their drinking place, because they are very cautious. I shot a *Streptopelia decaocto* too. This bird, apart from the NW part of the Negev, only occurs in the valley of the Jordan. It does not show any tendency to spread to the other parts of Izrael. — On May 11th 1957 I visited the „habitat” of the *Passer moabiticus* near *Kfar Ruppin* on the shores of the Jordan, respectively on its flooded area. Here the river lies 270 meters below sea level and makes capricious loops. I found these Sparrows breeding in several places; on the river-banks and on Tamarisc trees and bushes growing on the flooded area. I also found 4 nests on the meadow along the river, three of these with eggs. The meadow lies a good deal higher than the river and is consequently quite dry. Even the different flora shows the different character of the two places. The observers up till now only mention the former habitat, and do not speak of the latter, as a characteristic one. While in the Tamarisc bushes the nest-material is also Tamarisc, the material of the nest on the meadow is of thorny shrub (*Liziphus*) very frequent there. On the flooded area the nests are built at a height of 3—4 meters; on the meadow the 4 nests were

built on thistle-stems, about 1,5 m from the ground. The number of the Sparrows on the various places is not too great. If their big nest would not betray them, we scarcely could notice them. To fix the number of the nests is, because of the impenetrable thicknesses difficult. On some places the Tamarisc thickness had burnt and only the bare branches were left. On several occasions even on such trees did I find nests being built or already covered up, finished. The males are usually seen near the nest, sitting on a branch and singing. Its voice is much finer and more melodious than that of the House Sparrow. About half of the nests found were deserted, especially on the burnt trees. On a burnt strip of about  $150 \times 25$  meters I counted 12 nests. I must have arrived here at the beginning of the breeding period, as all the eggs were fresh or barely 1—2 days old. In 7 of the 12 investigated nests were eggs: in one of them 2, in one 3, in two 4, in one 5 and in one nest 6 eggs. — (Vide: H. Mendelson, Salit II. 1, 1955. p. 27.) — I may mention as an interesting detail that I hung up one of the nests which I had brought back to Haifa, on my balcony. Already the next day a *Streptopelia senegalensis* began to incubate the clutch with great diligence. — In May 1957 a Marabou was shot on the Kineret — this is its second occurrence — and an *Ardea goliath* also appeared for the second time, in spring, the first time having been about 4 years ago. During winter 1956—57 many *Anser albifrons* stayed in our surroundings, which is rare. The *Streptopelia decaocto* begins recently to expand westwards from the valley of the Jordan. — The summer of 1957 was fairly normal, except some short rains, which are, in this season, a rare event here. The temperature remained relatively low, which is interesting, if we compare it with the wave of heat in Europe. — The number of the passing Pelecan increased, which may be connected with the Nature-Protection at the Delta of the Volga, where, up till now, the floods destroyed many nests. Recently they put out rafts and — according to our informations — the Pelecan breed on them and so the proportion of the destroyed young has decreased. Compared to the former groups of hundreds, in summer 1957 thousands of Pelecan appeared on Lake Hule and the surrounding fish-ponds, which means a serious danger to the fishery of Izrael. The groups arrive and leave daily, so that at the same time only one group is on the ponds. They arrive before twilight, and in the morning, taking advantage of a favourable thermal current, they leave with a sliding flight, similarly as the passing Storks. The Society for Protection of Nature of Izrael now tries various methods of protection, trying to scare them away, because fishermen would best like to destroy them. In contrary to the Pelecan the number of the *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus* decreased. In 1957 only about 70 specimens arrived, while in former times hundreds of them were to be seen in August. But 15 *Anhinga* arrived, compared to the 8 specimens of 1956.

Haim Hovel

**Ornithological Observations from Izrael.** — The Syrian Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos syriacus*) is fairly frequent in Izrael (vide Hovel, Aquila 1952—55, p. 420 & 467), especially on the cultivated, inhabited colonies, where mostly olive- and fig-trees are grown. So in Yassour too, where there are long rows of olive-trees. — In autumn 1955 there was a great invasion of *Sylvias*, the *Sylvia atricapilla* appeared in unusually great masses in the first half of November. The *Sturnus vulgaris* arrived in large numbers too, fairly late, on November 20th, while in 1954 they had arrived already on November 7th. — It seems, that the *Corvus frugilegus* and the *Coloeus monedula* passed on more southwards. They came in very large numbers at the beginning of November and they were scarcely to be seen at the end of January 1956, though usually they leave these parts only at the end of February. The *Ammoperdix heyi*, which is fairly frequent in the surroundings of the Dead Sea, also decreased in numbers. *Falco naumanni*, which also occurs in the wintermonths, is not to be seen at all. The *Hieraaëtus fasciatus*, the nests of which are usually ready about the end of November in Galilea and the bushy rocks of the Carmel-hills, show now, at the end of January 1956, no sign whatever to begin the breeding. It seems that the cold and very rainy weeks are of great influence on the birds and this may be the explanation of the shifting of the usual dates.

Meir Zeira (Yessour)

### Observations on the Tree Sparrow and the Bee-eater in the surroundings of Cegléd.

— In the year 1955, 6 pairs of Bee-eaters bred in the wall of a deserted sandpit, in the seed-growing State Farm of Cegléd—Kecskéspuszta (40 miles SE of Budapest). It was in this same farm that I observed with what a constant ardour the Sparrows destroy the Lettuce-moth (*Semasia conterminana*). On the border of a field of salad for seed, contaminated with mites, on the small trees of a stripe of a wood of two years, the Tree Sparrows gathered already at early dawn and, like Swallows do, caught the swarming mites. Later on, after daylight came, when the swarming of the mites stopped, they flew to the blossoming stems of salad and searched for the nuisible insects hidden in the developing crop. We may say that the groups of Sparrows appeared simultaneously with the invasion-like contamination by the mites, but from the time when day after day we sprinkled the field of salad with great quantities of DDT, the action of the birds was limited to the catching of mites still flying about in the mornings. Apart from the Sparrows I also observed the *Lanius minor*, the *Lanius collurio* and the *Muscicapa striata* as destroyers of the Lettuce moth. But the latter three species only occasionally consume the mites which happened to come into their way.

I. Sterbetz

**Do the Birds eat the Fungi scratched out from the soil?** — In the diet of the scratching birds — in our relation: the Hazel Hen, the Partridge and the Pheasant — as well as in the one of some Woodpeckers, Thrushes and Jays, the fungi in the soil probably play a role too. Fungi grown above the ground are — as far as I know — not consumed by birds, they cut them into pieces only to get to the worms being inside the fungi. In this way poisonous fungi may harm them too and a forester told me, that on one occasion a Pheasant-hen with all her chickens died in this way. In my garden in Pamuk (County of Somogy), under three hazelnutbushes some sort of small Champignons (*Hymenogaster muticus*) regularly grow. I have noticed, that the poultry like to scratch the ground there, so much, that I had to protect these places with thorny branches. In Switzerland it has also been observed, that poultry scratched out fungi from the soil. But I did not get any information from there, nor did I observe it myself, whether the poultry do eat from the deterred fungi or not. The poultry, as a rule, did not accept the small Champignons (*Hymenogaster muticus*, *Tuber puberulum*) put before them, but some hen still took an odd piece of the softer *H. muticus* and consumed it. Under the mentioned hazelnut-bush on the place of the poultry scratchings I found subsoil fungi deterred, but left untouched. But this negativum does not yet prove that Jays, Woodpeckers and Thrushes do not consume those subsoil fungi, which they are bound to find when searching for hazelnuts, worms, snails or insects, because most of the subsoil fungi are in the cover of dead foliage, respectively immediately under it. A few years ago very many *Tuber puberulum* grew in a willow grove. Why had the Blackbirds to search exactly there? And in the course of the following years I could not find a single one on that place. In one word, I am only suspecting these things. More eyes see more; this is why I call the attention of my fellow-observers to the question whether birds eventually consume fungi or not. From the crop-contents of birds searching dry leaves and shot there we might, with the help of a microscope, state, whether the birds had eaten subsoil fungi. (The spore remain indigested!) I ask, in the name of the Ornithological Institute as well, all those, who have the occasion of shooting — in winter or early spring — a Jay, a Green or Grey Woodpecker „caught red-handed” while turning up the old foliage, to send the crop-contents of the birds in question to the Ornithological Institute.

L. Szemere

**Effects of Chlorium-Containing Insecticide Contact poisons on birds.** — From year to year, DDT sprinkling and powdering materials with different effective substances circulate on the Hungarian market in increasing quantities and concentration. These preparata being contact poisons, have no effect on warm-blooded animals. But the chemicals for plant-protection, like Gezarol, Hungarian-Matador, Agrito and Nikerol are soluble in greases and oils of animal, vegetable and mineral origin,

— and thus are also sooner or later dissolved in the decaying bodies of the insects killed by them and in such a state get into the stomachs of warm-blooded animals and are poisonous to them. While destroying insects with plant-protecting chemicals containing DDT poisonous stuff, I have twice experienced, that the powdering, respectively sprinkling poisoned birds too. In summer 1953 we poisoned mosquito-colonies in the flooded area of the River Tisza, near the reserve area of Sasér, with DDT of 10%. The great quantities of stunned or already dead „white-fish” and aquatic insects on the surface of the shallow ponds attracted many Night Herons and Common Herons to these waters. A day and a half after our mosquito-destroying activity I found a young Night Heron in regular nervous cramps not far from the water. The cramps came every 10—15 minutes and lasted for 5—6 minutes. During these pauses the Night Heron lay weak and stunned, then retched two half-digested frogs and three small fish, also beginning to decompose; three hours after we have found it, the Night Heron died. In 1954 I powdered, in the State Farm of Pusztaszabolcs, a lucerne-field with DDT of 10%. I got a cock pheasant from this area caught sick, which next day died in cramps; subsequent examination showed that death was caused by powdered insects, consumed in great quantity.

I. Sterbetz

**Albinistic birds.** — I saw a white-spotted specimen of *Galerida cristata* in Budapest, on October 15th 1945, in the Rhédey-street, in company of two Crested Larks of ordinary colour. It had well distinguishable white spots in front of and behind its crest, i. e. on the fore-head and the back-part of the crown; the tail was white too, except the tip of it, where the feathers showed a greyish-brown colour. — A young specimen of *Passer montanus* was seen in Nárai (W. Hungary) on October 10th and 23rd 1955. The feathers on the end of both wings had white spots. — A young albino specimen of *Alauda arvensis* was caught in summer 1944 in Csákánydoroszló. (W. Hungary).

J. Csaba

**Interesting oological cases.** — While looking for Mediterranean Black-headed Gulls on the Gull-colony of Rétszilás — in 1957 they had a colony only on the pond Nr. 1. of Örs — we found a Black-headed Gull's clutch of 3 eggs. The eggs are quite without any spots, whitish-blue, mostly resembling in colour to the Night Heron's eggs, but are just a shade more grey and are somewhat more shiny, apart from the difference in size. The measurements of the eggs are:  $49 \times 35$ ,  $48 \times 37$ ,  $39 \times 37$  mm. At the same time the measurements of some „coloured” Black-headed Gull eggs found on the same place are:  $55 \times 38$ ,  $50 \times 37$ ,  $50 \times 35$ ,  $57 \times 35$ ,  $52 \times 36$ ,  $51 \times 35$  mm. So they differ from the coloured eggs mainly by the fact that they are shorter. While the length of all the coloured eggs reach in their longitudinal axis 50 mm, none of the „blue” eggs does. — On the Lake of Velence (35 miles SW of Budapest), more exactly on its ornithologically most valuable part, the section of Dinnyés—Pákozd, the Black Terns were breeding in 1957 too, though less of them than before. When, on May 19th I found one of their colonies, consisting of 13 nests, in most nests there were 1, in some 2 eggs. In the meantime great storms did serious damage on the lake and on May 25th I found the mentioned colony perfectly destroyed. On the same occasion I found on another colony, which consisted of 18, rather scattered nests, a clutch in which one of the eggs was considerably smaller than the others. Its measurements are:  $26 \times 21$ , while that of the two other eggs of this clutch:  $35 \times 25$  and  $35 \times 26$  mm, i. e. normal. It also differs in colour from the other eggs of the clutch, because the blunt end of the „small one” is dark brown, with a strongly confluent wreath, while on the blunt end of the two other eggs the brown spots only „gather”. — On the meadow between the railway-line Dinnyés—Agárd and the main-road I found, on April 22nd, a Lapwing's nest with a clutch of 5 eggs. The colour and shape of the eggs is typical. The measurements of the eggs are:  $45 \times 32$ ,  $45 \times 36$ ,  $46 \times 52$ ,  $45 \times 33$  and  $47 \times 33$  mm. — In Sárszentágota the moor of 4—5 acres, connected with the southern pond near the village, with shatter vegetation, freckled with small spots of reed, proved to be the Eldorado of the Little Grebe. Here I found nearly 20 nests, amongst them one with a clutch of 9 eggs (June 16th 1957) which is a

very rare size of a clutch. I do not believe that there could be any question of two birds having laid eggs together into the same nest. All the eggs have normal measurements. — In Dinnyés the Oriental Bearded Tits bred in 1957 in a relatively large number in contrast with the Moustached Warbler, which, compared to the former conditions, show an appalling decrease. Of the numerous Bearded Tit's nests, which we found, in one there were 9 eggs laid by the same female (April 15th 1957). This is a high figure too. L. MÁTÉ told us there, that once he found a clutch of 14 eggs, but he considers this as an absolutely certain case of interbreeding. — With the Coot a clutch of 10 is very rare. Rétszilás, in the reeds of the pond Nr. 3 of Örs, I found on May 16th 1957 a clutch of 10. Also in Rétszilás, on a bushy and quite dried-up island of the pond „Miklósi tó” I found, in a bush of ordinary elder, the nest of a Little Bittern, which was built about 80 cm. from the ground, between the branches. In the pond „Örsi” Nr. 1 of Rétszilás, the long central dyke is bordered by Willow-trees. On one of these we found the nest of a Kestrel with two eggs, while on another branch of the same tree there was a Wood-Pigeon's nest containing one egg (April 28th 1957).

J. Radetzky

**Unusual nesting-sites of birds.** — I found the following unusual nesting-sites of birds at Csákánydoroszló (W. Hungary): *Passer montanus* bred, on July 21st 1924, in a special-sized beehive. *Parus major* also bred in such a beehive on April 7th 1927. Later-on: on May 7th 1932 two families bred in a standard-sized beehive, while in 1950 another pair bred in a beehive of the type „Boconádi”. About 1/3 of the breeding-space of the latter empty beehive was filled-up with nesting material, and the Great Tit lay its eggs only on top it. I found an unusual nest of *Hirundo rustica* on July 17th 1938 in the stable of a brick-work far from the village where it hatched its 5 young, without building a nest of mud, in the hollow of one of the balks. The material barely consisted of a little grass. It is interesting, that in the immediate vicinity of the stable there is a small pond, the water of which never dries, so the Swallows might have built their nest of mud too. On May 5th 1932 I found in the Garden of the Royal Castle in Buda, in the hollow of a birch-tree two eggs of *Picus v. viridis* L., one egg of *Dendrocopos m. major*.

I. Csaba

**Observed Cases of Birds' Epidemics.** — In spring 1956, 8—900 pairs of Black-headed Gulls were breeding on the so-called Korom-island of the fish-pond of Szeged-Fehértó. At the beginning of July the young, already partly fledged birds began to die in masses. Of onethousand ringed young birds more than 100 died on the breeding area and its immediate surroundings. Reports came about ringed birds found dead on the waters around Szeged and Kiskunhalas. The epidemy did not touch other birds and old Black-headed Gulls did not die either. The disease showed the sign of an intestinal infection, the anus was soiled with a greenish-yellow thin excrement. No investigation was carried out for the microorganism having caused the disease. The epidemics of birds usually begin in July and culminate in the summer-heat. So much more unusual is the epidemy which ravaged amongst the Mallard in winter 1957. At the beginning of January about ten thousand Mallard settled on the water surfaces of the fish-ponds of Fehértó. In a short time after their arrival, suddenly a very destroying epidemy commenced, which greatly decimated them. The temperature was constantly below freezing point. Within two weeks more than half of the full coloured Mallard perished. Every day the water washed hundreds of dead duck to the brim of the ice. To clean them away, the carrion-eating birds appeared: masses of Hooded Crows, Magpies, 3 White-tailed Eagles a few Hen Harriers and many thousands of — Rooks. The mass of Rooks formed quite a black line on the line where the dead duck were carried by the current. To these parts, where Rooks are rare, they came now in dense flocks. Owing to the lack of trees, not even at night did the masses of Rooks leave. On places, where they were disturbed, they settled on the trees of the farms in the vicinity, in such masses, that the branches could scarcely support them. At night dogs and foxes went for the carrions. The mown sedgy moor of the Reserve was also full of sick and dead duck. The sick duck did not

flee from the kites, they picked with opened beaks, towards the kites passing above them. — The characteristic symptoms of the sickness were: copious, thin, bad-smelling excrements, the birds became clumsy, only rose in the last moment from approaching people. Later on they could not stand any more, but, beating with their wings, they slid along the ice, becoming an easy prey to people and animals of prey. No sickness or death followed the consuming of these dead birds, be the consumers people or birds. — It is worth mentioning, that in the village Szatymaz near Fehértó, as well as in the village Tápé, about 7—8 kilometers away, there was, because of poultry-pest, quarantine at that time; the epidemic was found to be poultry pest. In the Microbiological Institute of the University of Szeged sick and dead birds were examined. No culture of pathogen bacteria could be produced by trials made with the contents of the intestines, with the blood of the heart and the scrapings of the spleen. The origin of the epidemic was a virus.

Dr. P. Beretzka

**Dormouse in the nest of a Common Buzzard.** — In the wood Felsőerdő of Csákánydoroszló (W. Hungary), in summer 1952, boys climbed to a nest of the Common Buzzard to get the young; having thrown down the material of the nest, a living Dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius* L.) came out of it.

J. Csaba

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