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REPUBLIČKI ZAVOD ZA ZAŠTITU PRIRODE SR SRBIJE

POSEBNA IZDANJA
KNJ. 5

NEKI PROBLEMI ZAŠTITE PTICA

Dr Dušan B. Čolić
Dr Slobodan Stajić
Jelena Popović

BEOGRAD
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In Yugoslavia *Gyps Fulvus* Habl. is still observed on quite large number of localities, although bird is also rarity on them. Thus, problem of its population stage and also its protection is a big one.

The smallest number, of the bird is in Slovenia, and it can be considered as a very rare. In Croatia, as a whole, it is also rare, but along Adriatic coast was observed more frequently. Known localities of this bird are in the regions of Kvarner islands, particularly on Prvić and Krk, then St. Grgur, Goli otok and on the coast of the region Paklenica. In Bosnia and Hercegovina the *Gyps fulvus* is mostly confined to mountainous terrain, where inhabits rocky, narrow and deep, river canyons. On the similar localities could be found, here and there, also, in Montenegro and Macedonia.

This bird, is found much more often in Srbia, than in any other part of Yugoslavia. The nesting take place in very steep canyons in mountainous regions and is strictly confined to it. The most significant localities in Serbia are those in the region of Đerdap canyon on the river Danube; then in the vicinity of Zvornik and Krupanj in the region of river Drina; on the mountain Stara Planina, (Sićevo Canyon), Suva Planina, Kopaonik, Tara, Maljen Prokletije, Vidlič (Rugovo canyon) and in very narrow canyon of the river Uvac. It was also observed around the town of Pirot.

Since this bird is natural rarity and is menaced by different factors, in Yugoslavia was initiated program for continuous protection of *Gyps fulvus*. On this problem, within two last years, the Republic Institute for Protection of Nature in Belgrade took biggest part. With the above mentioned aim a research project was initiate for study of ecology and the stage of *Gyps fulvus* population, as prerequisite for determination of adequate measures needet for its maintenance and protection. So far in the frame if this study, all existing localities, of this bird, their features as biotop as well as general conditions of population on those places, were registered. Particularly intensive and continuous study were done on permanent sample area in the canyon of the river Uvac in Western Serbia, which was strictly designated as protected wildlife region. In this region, which represents distinctly good biotop of this bird, approximately 50 birds are nesting.

This study should point out to every moment which is considered, under present conditions, as a limiting factor in relationship to the bird. Today, however, it is clear, that main limiting factors are those know throughout Europe and practicaly can be detected everywhere. This complex is made up of many men activities. Deforestation; development of cuttle-breeding which is coming close to the most distant places; intensive tourist action; construction of tourist camp and outfits in wild areas; destruction of fauna on large areas with the problem of food supply; hunting without permit; actions against »undesired« bird — took lives of many *Gyps fulvus*; poisoning by feeding upon poisoned wolfs and other undesired wild animals, which are killed in kunting areas; and many others.

The research results of ecology and the stage of population on remaining localities, undoubtedly, will help in determination of the measures for succesful protection of this bird. In meantime, some protective actions must be taken. According to the obtained resulte it is evident that the most effective measure is to provide peace and quitness to their habitats. It is possible to be done, only, if such places are designated as protected wildlife regions sufficiently large to maintian basic conditions for survival, needed minimum of population, and with large enough transition or »buffer-zone«, which will help in improving and »push« direct negative influence of changed environment which is very unsuitable for *Gyps fulvus*. Wath designation of Uvac canyon for protected wildlife region first step was made in that direction. We are vorking now, to separate all localities, where this bird still exist in large numbers, and make those place to be protected wildlife reservations. On this way we will establish first necessary condition for the protection of the *Gyps fulvus*.