WILD CANARY IS A NEW SPECIES IN AVIFAUNA OF CROATIA

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Abstract. The first observation of wild canary is reported at the Adriatic Sea, coasts of Croatia. An individual of the species was observed and photographed on inflatable research boat on 27.10.2009.

Key words: Wild Canary, *Serinus canaria*, Adriatic Sea, fauna, vagrant.

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Канарский канареечный вьюрок – новый вид в авифауне Хорватии. - Ф. Бенгил. - Беркут. 19 (1-2). 2010. - 27.10.2009 г. взрослый самец наблюдался на одном из кораблей у берегов Хорватии. Хотя птица и встречена недалеко от итальянского города Трентино, где есть свободноживущая популяция канареек, эта особь скорее всего сбежала из клетки, т.е. вид должен быть отнесен к категории AERC E.

The Wild Canary (*Serinus canaria*) is characterised as a species living exclusively on North Atlantic islands, mainly on the Azores, Madeira and Canary Islands (Dietzen et al., 2006). However, free-living populations are recorded from Carinthia (Austria), Trentino (Italy), Ticino (Switzerland), Provence and Gascony (France) after 16th century (Kinzelbach, 2004).

On 27 October 2009, an individual of Wild Canary was observed in Croatia (photo). Observation was occurred away about 2 miles land off Istria Peninsula in North Adriatic Sea on a 5.5-meter inflatable boat. The individual was flying on sea through Croatian land at first. After getting closer, the canary alighted on our boat. The bird was tired, it visited our boat for 10 minutes. This was an adult male, probably escaping from cage. After resting, it flied to Croatian land.

There are no data about observations of the species in the wild in Croatia and neighbouring countries (Bozic, 2001; avibase.bsc-eoc.org). Although observation point is geographically near to Trentino, where the species has free living population, the individual most probably escaped from cage and the species will belong to the AERC category E (escapes).

The canary photographed in Croatian water of the Adriatic Sea.
Канарейка, сфотографированная у берегов Хорватии.

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