

## SUMMARY OF FERRUGINOUS DUCK BREEDING IN SLOVENIA

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At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Ferruginous Duck was considered a migratory species in Slovenia (Reiser, 1925). The first reliable breeding record in Slovenia was in 1973 when two males, one female and a brood were observed on Turnovi Ribniki Fishponds near Maribor in north-east Slovenia (Gregori, 1989). In 1981, a nest with eggs was found in an oxbow of the Mura River (B. & M. Palanscal, in Geister, 1995). The next breeding record was in 1990 at Cerknisko Lake in central Slovenia (Zgavec, 1990). Since then, there have been no further confirmed breeding records despite several observations of the species during the breeding season at this site.

In 2002, Ferruginous Ducks were present in north-east Slovenia throughout the breeding season on three sites: Podvinci Fishpond (one pair), Medvedce Fishpond (one pair) and a waste water reservoir near Ormoz (one pair). This reservoir now supports a colony of Black-headed Gulls *Larus ridibundus* and Common Terns

*Sterna hirundo*. After the colony formed, the number of breeding ducks (Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Teal *A. crecca*, Garganey *A. querquedula*, Pochard *Aythya ferina* and Tufted Duck *A. fuligula*) increased and some new species also started to breed (Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*, Gadwall *A. strepera* and Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*). As Ferruginous Ducks are known to breed within gull and tern colonies (see e.g. Wieloch, *this issue*; Zhmud, *this issue*), it is possible that this site may become increasingly important for Ferruginous Ducks.

The Ferruginous Duck is a rare breeding bird in Slovenia. In the last two years, the species has started to colonize water bodies in north-east Slovenia. Threats include the clearance of aquatic vegetation from river and pond banks by fishermen in order to prevent their hooks becoming tangled, and human disturbance (e.g. from sport fishing, dog walking, and jogging) which occurs on most fishponds.

### References

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