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New breeding site of the Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* in Central Europe

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The Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* has a Holarctic distribution. It breeds mainly in Scandinavia, eastern Europe and in Siberia (Glutz von Blotzheim *et al.* 1977, Cramp 1983, Jarvinen & Vaisanen 1978). Sporadic or local breeding has also occurred to the west and south of these limits (*e.g.* Vaisanen 1997).

In Slovenia, it is a common spring migrant (pers. obs.) A few birds have also been recorded in June and July, particularly in recent years, but no breeding was recorded. (Sere 1985, Geister 1995, M. Vogrin pers.obs.). According to Geister (1990) the Wood Sandpiper was a potential breeder in Slovenia. In this paper I describe the first confirmed breeding record and therefore a new breeding site for this species in Central Europe.

An adult bird in summer plumage with two young was observed in Lovrenska jezera on Mount Pohorje on 11th July 1997. The birds were seen walking along the shore of one small lake, feeding on the ground near the edge of spruce forest *Pinus mugo*. When we approached, two fully fledged young immediately disppeared into the bushes, whereas the adult bird flew to the other small lake. Here, the adult was very nervous, standing at the lake edge and it was therefore possible to observe it very carefully. When we moved, it rapidly disappeared under neighbouring bushes.

Mount Pohorje is the only silicate mountain range in Slovenia and is situated in the northeastern part of the country. The most characteristic habitats on Mount Pohorje are forests and peat bogs. Most of the peat bogs are protected as forest reserves (Jencic 1995). Lovrenska jezera (approximately 46°29' N, 15°19' E is a peat bog 1,510m above sea level, with 20 small lakes, and is the biggest peat bog on Mount Pohorje (approximately 50 ha). The most characteristic plants are *Pinus mugo* and *Sphagnum* sp. Some solitary trees of *Picea abies* and *Sorbus aucuparia* are also present. Among forest phytocenosis, the most common are *Pino mugi-Sphagnetum russowii* and *Pino mugi-Sphagnetum girgensohnii*. The peat bog is surrounded with spruce forest. The area belongs to the alpine phytogeographical region (Marincek 1987).

Other species nesting on Lovrenska jezera peat bog are, for example Black grouse *Tetrao tetrix*, Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*, Dunnock *Prunella modularis*, Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*, Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*, Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*, Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*. Old nests from the last two species could probably serve as a nest for Wood Sandpiper (see Pulliainen & Saari 1991). According to our observations of two fully fledged young in mid July, the laying and hatching period are similar to those in Finnish Lapland (Pulliainen & Saari 1991).

Breeding data of Wood Sandpiper from other parts of Europe, except the north, are rather scarce (Glutz von Blotzheim et al. 1977, Kirchner 1978). For example, Dvorak et al. (1993) do not provide any data on breeding of Wood Sandpiper in Austria. Breeding data from Central Europe, until now, were available only from the Czech Republic (Vaisanen 1997). Nevertheless, Wood Sandpiper and Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* have already been observed at this locality in the breeding season, although breeding data were not obtained (Sere 1985).

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