

New observations of the Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* Linnaeus, 1758 in Southeastern Serbia

Short Communication

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Abstract:

During the period from 2013 to 2018 three observations of the Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator* Linnaeus, 1758) were made. One pair and two single males were observed in the Southeastern Serbia on three localities. Localities of the three records were marked on the UTM map of Serbia and UTM codes were given.

Key words:

Lanius senator, Woodchat Shirke, birds of Serbia

Apstrakt:

Nova opažanja crvenoglavog svračka *Lanius senator* Linnaeus, 1758 u jugoistočnoj Srbiji

U periodu od 2013. do 2018. godine zabeležena su tri zapažanja crvenoglavog svračka (*Lanius senator* Linnaeus, 1758). Jedan par i dva samca su primećeni u jugoistočnoj Srbiji na tri lokaliteta. Lokaliteti ovih zapisa označeni su na UTM mapi Srbije i date su UTM šifre.

Ključne reči:

Lanius senator, crvenoglavi svračak, ptice Srbije

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* Linnaeus, 1758 is a rare breeding species recorded in several regions of Serbia (Puzović et al., 2015, Šćiban et al., 2015). This species occurs in open areas with shrubs, usually on the hills (Šćiban et al., 2015). In Serbia the size of population is estimated at 580-790 nesting pairs, out of which in Serbia without Kosovo i Metohija 280-390 nesting pairs respectively. It is estimated that its population is increasing (Puzović et al., 2015). Woodchat Shrike breeds in west Palearctic in middle and lower middle latitudes mainly in Mediterranean climatic zone (Snow & Perrins, 1998). The most northern distribution is in Northern Poland, in Gdansk Pomerania (Neubauer, 2013).

In this short note we report three new observations of this species in Southeastern Serbia, from 2013 to 2018. Observations were made using Leica 10x50 binoculars, while birdwatching in Serbia.

During this period, *L. senator* individuals were spotted on the following localities (Fig 1):

1. One pair observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season. 17.07.2013. Milovanci, near Vlasina lake, Southeastern Serbia. UTM grid code: FN12 (42°40'50.54" N, 22°21'52.98" E) On the

map marked with black triangle (Fig 1). Obs. Danuta Pełowska-Marczak, Dawid Marczak.

2. One adult male observed in breeding season in possible nesting habitat. 26.07.2017. Čar near the border between Serbia and FYR Macedonia, Southeastern Serbia. UTM grid code: EM57 (42°15'43.27" N, 21°42'45.40" E) On the map marked with black square (Fig 1). Obs. Danuta Pełowska-Marczak, Dawid Marczak.

3. One adult male observed in breeding season in possible nesting habitat. 10.05. 2018. Ivanje, near Leskovac, Southeastern Serbia. UTM grid code: EN46 (43°00'11.54" N, 21°35'07.96" E). On the map marked with black circle (Fig 1). Obs. Danuta Pełowska-Marczak, Dawid Marczak, Saša Stanković.

Observed individuals occurred in the open area mostly dry meadows covered with individual low bushes. The presence of thorny shrubs, mainly from the family Rosaceae such as *Pyrus spp.*, *Crataegus monogyna* Jacq., *Prunus spinosa* L. and others was notable (Fig 2). The males in all cases showed territorial behaviors, with breeding status: possible breeder or probable breeding.



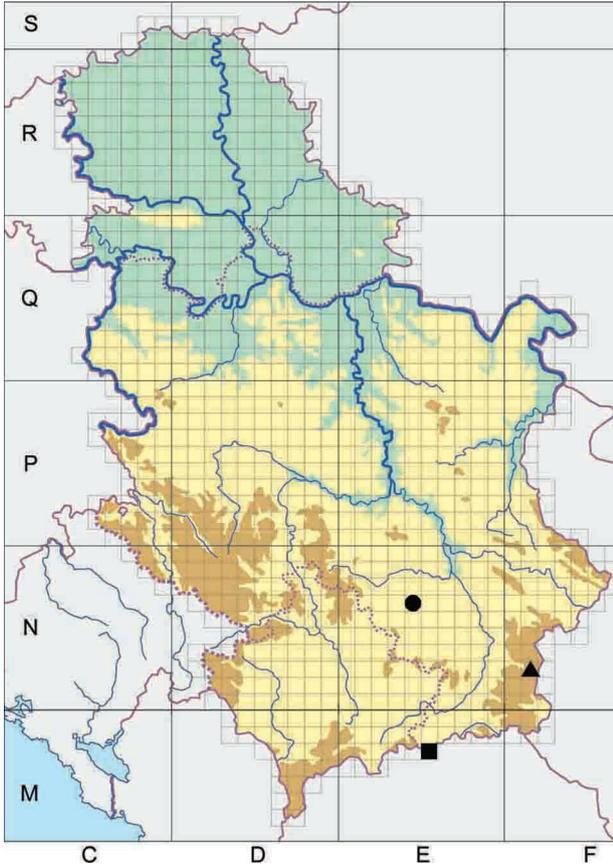


Fig 1. UTM map of Serbia with tree localities where Woodchat Shrike specimens were spotted. Locality 1: Milovanči, near Vlasina lake; black triangle. Locality 2: Čar, Serbia and FYR Macedonia border; black square. Locality 3: Ivanje, near Leskovac; black circle

These observations of *L. senator* represent a contribution to the distribution and population census of this species, and also the need of protection of its habitat.



Fig 2. Typical habitat of Woodchat Shrike. Ivanje, South-eastern Serbia. Photo S. Stanković

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