

NEW HABITATS OF SOME SPECIES OF SOUTHERN ORIGIN IN BULGARIA

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During the past ten years some birds species of southern origin widened their areas to the northern parts of Bulgaria (DONCEV, 1963, 1965, 1966, 1970), while others, who had not been found in the country before, reached it and entered suitable biotopes (DONTCHEV, 1964). It is not easy to prove the causes of the widening of the areas to the north of the birds of southern origin. Nevertheless the changes of the climatic and trophic conditions which took place during the past decades are important for these birds with a view to occupying similar, but situated a little bit more to the north biotopes. The most favourable conditions in this respect are those of the Bulgarian Black Sea coast, as well as the southwestern and the southeastern parts of the country. The typical submediterranean vegetation is met there and it is a good reason some birds species of southern origin to settle at these new territories. In their distribution to the north some of them are moving slower and populate densely the newly occupied biotopes, others are met separately at several places, still others go comparatively far to the north and usually do not reproduce as a result of which we can not say that they have consolidated the widening of their area.

Petronia petronia L. — the Rock Sparrow. By 9.30 o'clock on June 29, 1973, on some rheolite tufts near new plantation of Scotch pine and separate wild plums and hawthorn near the town of Kardzali (fig. 2), I observed four rock sparrows. One of them flew over a crack of the tufts (fig. 3) where its nest was and from time to time I could hear its voice. This bird was a male one and I shot it down together with a female one, which appeared as soon as I fired the first shot. Both rock sparrows had well developed brooding spots — the male with activated testicles (9 by 5 mm) and the female with blood-stained ovaries — a positive mark that it had laid its eggs, which were probably brooding at that time.

The size of the specimen were (in mm):

♂ ad. L — 154	♀ ad. — 155
A — 92	— 93
C — 53	— 56
T — 18	— 19
R — 14	— 14
P — 31 g	— 32.5 g

I found some undefined chitinous remains of Chrysomelidae in the stomach of the male, as well as gastrolites (11 small lime stones), while in the stomach

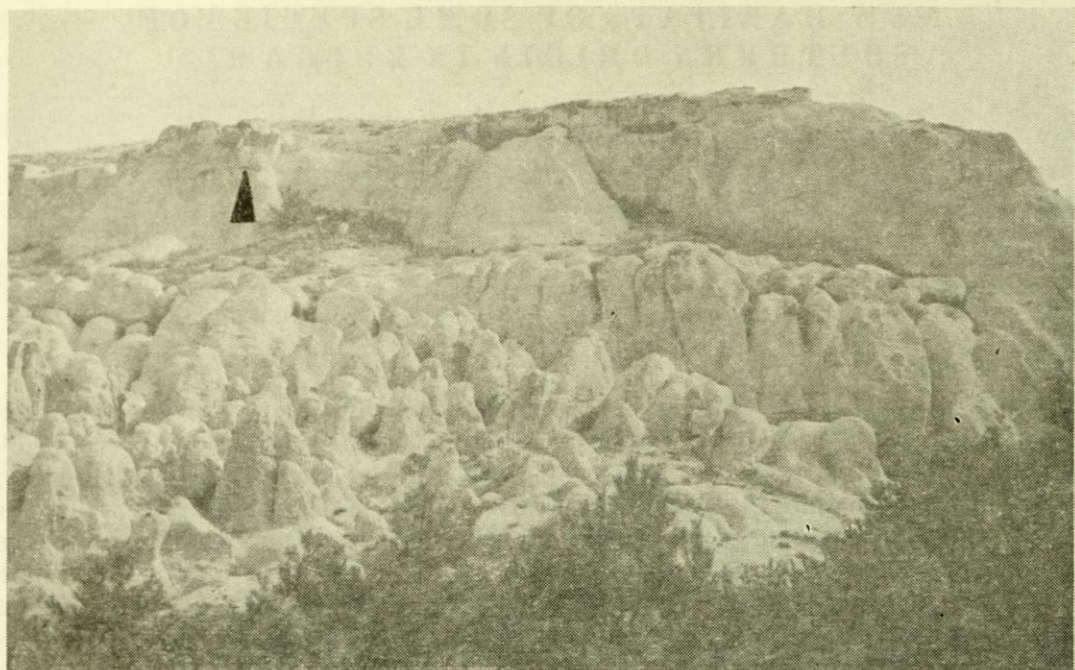


Figure 2. Characteristic biotope for *Petronia* a 29. 6. 1973. near the town of Kardzali
2. ábra. *Petronia petronia* jellegzetes biotópja Kardzali környékén, 1973. 6. 29-én. (Fotó:
S. Doncev)

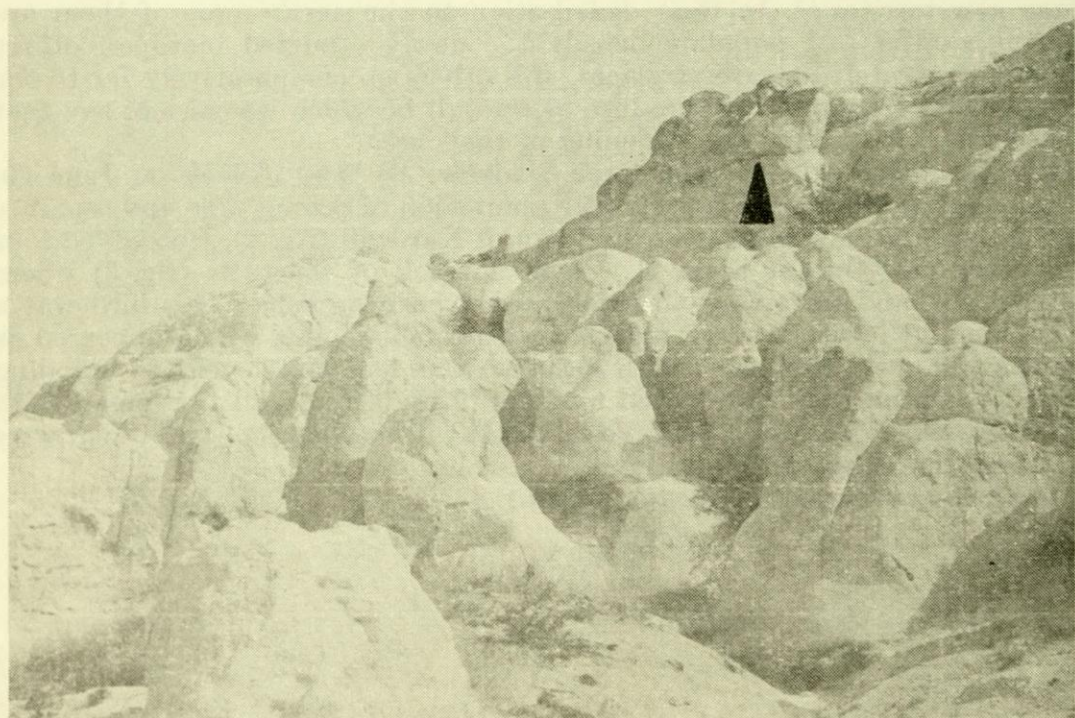


Figure 3. Nest of *Petronia petronia* in a crack of rheolite tudt 29. 6. 1973 near the town
of Kardzali
3. ábra. *Petronia petronia* fészkelőhelye 1973. 6. 29-én Kardzali környékén
(Fotó: S. Doncev)

of the female there were half-digested and thus undigested seeds and gastrolites (14 small lime stones).

Sitta neumayer Michahelles — the Rock Nuthatch. On June 26, 1973 on the rocks near the railway station of Krupnic, the district of Blagoevgrad I was watching a couple of rock nuthatches. They have obviously settled themselves in the most northern part of the Kresnagorge.

Sylvia hortensis Gmelin — the Orphean Warbler. By 8.30 o'clock on June 27, 1973 in the low growing forest of oak, wild pear, Scotch pine juniper near the village of Vlahi, Blagoevgrad district I found a couple of orphean warblers. The male, which I shot down, was carrying in its beak food, probably for its small birds. Its size was: L — 162 mm, A — 78 mm, C — 68 mm, T — 23 mm and R — 13 mm. There were undigested chitinous remains of Coleoptera in its stomach.

Monticola solitarius L. — the Blue Rock Thrush. On June 26, 1973 on the rocks near the railway station on Krupnic, Blagoevgrad district I saw a male rock thrush, carrying some food in its beak, probably for its offspring. The above-mentioned habitat is the most northern one in Bulgaria for the time being.

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Egyes délebbi madárfajok új előfordulási pontjai Bulgáriában

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Az utóbbi 10 évben több madárfaj megjelent északabbra is az eddigi költőterületétől Bulgáriában, amire elfogadható magyarázatot nem találunk. Ezek a fajok a következők: kővi veréb (*Petronia petronia*), kővi csuszka (*Sitta neumayer*), dalos poszáta (*Sylvia hortensis*), kék kövirigó (*Monticola solitarius*). A begyűjtött példányok méretének és súlyának adatait is megadja, továbbá a gyomortartalom-elemzésüket.