



OBSERVATIONS OF ALPINE SWIFT IN THE SPRING SEASONS OF 2005–2006 IN KARAJ, SOUTH OF THE ALBORZ MOUNTAINS

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Abstract. Swifts were observed since 27 March to 10 June (Table). Number varied from one to 30 birds.

Key words: Alpine Swift, *Tachymarptis melba*, Iran, migration, phenology.

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Наблюдения белобрюхого стрижа в весенние сезоны 2005–2006 гг. в Керидже, южная часть гор Эльбурс. - А. Халеджиаде. - Беркут. 16 (1). 2007. - Стрижи наблюдались с 27.03 по 10.06. Численность колебалась от 1 до 30 особей.

The Alpine Swift (*Tachymarptis melba*) is a breeding bird in the Middle East, in particular in Turkey and Iran. It is inhabitant of mountains regions and gorges, also towns and villages (Porter et al., 1996). In Iran it is wide-

spread except in central deserts (Mansoori, 2001) and also a common visitor from the nearby high Alborz during the summer months, 20 March to 30 October (Scott, 2007). There is not special work on swifts in Iran except for Common Swift (*Apus apus*) (Khaleghizadeh, 2005).

Localities, dates and numbers of Alpine Swifts in Karaj in spring 2005–2006

Встречи и численность белобрюхих стрижей в Керидже весной 2005–2006 гг.

Location	Date	Number
North of Chamran Park	27 Mar. 2006	1
Funfair, centre of Chamran Park	29 Apr. 2005	3
North of Chamran Park	01 May 2006	4
North of Chamran Park	22 May 2005	15
North of Chamran Park	25 May 2005	5
North of Chamran Park & Karaj city	26 May 2005	20
North of Chamran Park	26 May 2006	18
Over the city of Karaj	27 May 2006	30
North of Chamran Park	28 May 2005	15
North of Chamran Park	29 May 2006	7
North of Chamran Park	02 June 2006	1
North of Chamran Park	03 June 2005	30
North of Chamran Park	04 June 2006	25
North of Chamran Park	05 June 2006	5
North of Chamran Park	07 June 2006	2
Chamran Park to train station	10 June 2005	20

In the spring of 2005–2006 a daily survey was conducted (mostly in afternoons) to find out how many birds and on what dates they are being seen in Karaj, just south of the Alborz Mountains. Observations were made in the east of the city of Karaj and around Chamran Park (c. 36 ha), where the Chalous River is passing. Localities, dates and numbers of Alpine Swifts observed in this survey are presented in Table. However the species was not observed in other seasons in this area.

The Table shows that the number of Alpine Swifts varies from one to 30 birds. Earliest observation was on 27 March 2006 and latest on 10 June 2005. Maximum number was on both 26 April 2006 and 3 June 2005 with 30 individuals. However there was a record of 50 individuals on 30 August 1973 in the Latian Dam area, about 60 km away from here (Scott, 2007).

They were not assembled with other swallows and swifts, while



Bezzel (1988) observed 51.4 % of his observations of Alpine Swifts ($n = 35$) as one species assemblage. No calling was heard during this survey indicating the observer should look for at sky to observe the species.

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ROLE OF PROTEIN DIET IN THE REGULATION OF CLUTCH SIZE, INCUBATION PERIOD, AND EGG SIZE OF THE RED-WHISKERED BULBUL

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Abstract. When fed a protein rich diet, the Red-whiskered Bulbul showed a significant reduction in incubation period and egg size, however, the protein diet had no significant effect on its clutch size.

Key words: Red-whiskered Bulbul, *Pycnonotus jocosus*, India, physiology, breeding, diet.

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Роль протеиновой диеты в регуляции величины кладки, периода инкубации и размера яиц у краснощекого бьюльбюля. - А. Мазумдар, П. Кумар. - *Беркут*. 16 (1). 2007. - Две группы бьюльбюлей кормили зеленым горошком (24 % протеина) и рисом (10 % протеина). У птиц, получавших больше протеина, отмечено достоверное уменьшение периода инкубации и размера яиц. На величину кладки протеиновая диета влияния не оказывала.

The Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*) is omnivorous in its diet consuming grains, fruits and insects (Ali, 1992). All birds have definite clutch size, incubation period and egg size. Therefore, we set out to see the effect of a high protein diet on clutch size, incubation period and egg size of Red-whiskered Bulbul.

Method

40 Red-whiskered Bulbuls were taken for this experiment and divided into two groups; Group 1 (Gr 1) and Group 2 (Gr 2) of 20 birds each and each bird was kept in a separate cage. Gr 1 bulbuls was fed a protein rich diet daily comprising green gram (*Phaseolus aureus*)

(protein content 24 %) for four months from November 2005 to February 2006, before their breeding period. During the same period, Gr 2 bulbuls were fed on rice (*Oryza sativa*) (protein content 10 %). When the breeding period commenced from March 2006 to July 2006 the birds of Gr 1 were moved into a large enclosure and allowed to mate and nest. They were fed a daily diet of green gram during the breeding period. Similarly the birds of Gr 2 were moved into another large enclosure during the breeding period and allowed to mate and nest. To facilitate nesting used nests of Red-whiskered Bulbuls were collected and placed in both the enclosures where Gr1 and Gr2 bulbuls were kept. Many bulbuls used the old nests while a few constructed their own.