

Note on the presence of the black stork *Ciconia nigra* (Linnaeus 1758) from Măgura Codrului area, Maramureș county, Roumania

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Abstract. In 2007, *Ciconia nigra* was observed on two occasions (April and August) at Maramures district level in Măgura Codrului. The Black Stork was found in the woodland area of a hummock nearby a stream, as well as in Ariniș nearby the ponds along the river Salaj.

Keywords: *Ciconia nigra*, geography currency, Măgura Codrului

The presence of *Ciconia nigra* in a habitat is considered an indicator of habitat quality (Kalocsa & Tamás 2002). Thus, it has a distinguished value in terms of biodiversity preservation, especially at the present time, when, compared to other European countries, in Romania information referring to biodiversity is lacking (Hartel et al. 2008). In Romania the Black Stork is a rare and vulnerable species (Munteanu 2005). *Ciconia nigra* is not only rare, but also generally in decline across Europe, where just a limited number of pairs are known (Munteanu 2005). This fact is relevant when we consider the dispersion of this species across the vast trans-paleartic area (Munteanu 2005), as it indicates the existence of a reduced number of populations. The rarity of the species is probably a consequence of the Black Stork's preferences, which is attached by large woods unaffected by man (Munteanu 2005), types of

habitats which are increasingly rarer. In Romania, the latest data indicates that *Ciconia nigra* is found only in some areas of the country, like the Western Plain, southern Oltenia or the Oriental Carpathians (Munteanu 2005, Ridiche 2005, 2008).

This presenting note has the aim to reveal the presence of *C. nigra* in an area in Romania where, according to the scientific literature, the presence of the black stork has never been mentioned before. Thus, we witnessed the presence of the Black Stork in northwest Romania, on the eastern slope of Măgura Codrului Mountains. In terms of territorial administration, this sector of Măgura Codrului is situated in Maramureș County, in the southwest, nearby the limit between Satu Mare and Sălaj Counties. The observations were made in 2007, the species being seen on two occasions, on the 25th of April (IV) and on the 30th of August (VIII) (Fig. 1).

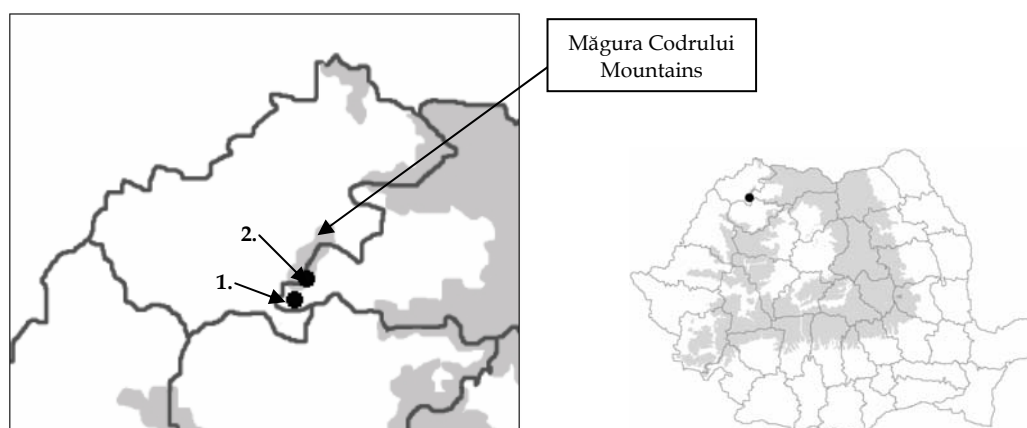


Figure 1. The locality records (1.- Odești, 2.- Ariniș) of the black stork in the Măgura Codrului Mountains area.

In April we observed an individual of *Ciconia nigra* uphill of Odești (UTM 10x10km: FT56) locality. The area is surrounded by wide woods of oak and beech, being positioned near the highest segment of Măgura Codrului. The stork was seen near a small stream with rocky bed formed on the hummock, probably feeding in these surroundings. The second encounter was in a lower area, clear of trees, situated approximately 20 km away from the previous spot. Thus, at the end of August we observed 2 individuals of *Ciconia nigra* near the fish pounds from Ariniș (UTM 10x10km: FT66), which are situated on a mainstream, the river Sălaj, being represented by a succession of several pounds with banks covered in typical vegetation.

The present results do not allow us to confirm that the species nests in the east zone of Măgura Codrului. However, certainly the Black Stork finds the necessary ecological conditions in this region. Thus, the pounds from Ariniș area provide sufficient food, this species being identified in other sectors with fish pounds (Munteanu & Munteanu 2005). Besides, at Ariniș there are numerous individuals of white storks or other birds associated with such ecological conditions. At the same time, the wooded surfaces, still wide and relatively unaffected by humans, in Măgura Codrului can offer conditions for nesting, the species nests in old trees found in wide woods (Ridiche 2005). These wooded areas are crossed by many streams and their water flows in a wet zone that can also offer a secondary feeding ground.

Thus, this is a mere study that is limited to indicating the presence of the Black Stork by observational means. On two occasions in the same year, the species was observed in an area in Romania where, previously, there was no sign of the species. In the future it is imperative to do some studies that can establish the statute for the species in the region,

considering a distinct necessity for protection (Orzață 2004).

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