

(*Oxyura leucocephala*)

(*Oxyura leucocephala*)

.(Behrouzi-Rad 1994, Shahbazi 2001)

)

(

.(Evans 1994)



Short Communication

Breeding Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* in Siahkeshim Protected Area, Anzali, Southwest Caspian Sea

MOHAMMAD E. SEHHATISABET

Ornithology Unit, Wildlife & Aquatic Organisms Bureau, Environmental Research Centre, Iran Department of the Environment (DoE), Tehran – Email: m_sehhati@yahoo.com

Received 30 December 2005; accepted 15 April 2006

Breeding Pygmy Cormorants *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* were surveyed in Siahkeshim Protected Area (37°24'41"N, 49°23'60"E) from 2001 to 2003 inclusive, after I had counted 417 individuals there on 13 October 1999. There were more than 100 *P. pygmeus* nests on 13 April 2001; they were constructed on willow *Salix alba* trees and on tall *Phragmites australis* (over 5 m) reeds. I found a colony of 13 nests on a willow tree. There were also nests of *Ardea cinerea*, *Circus aeruginosus* and *Corvus corone* around this colony.

The first *P. pygmeus* eggs hatched on 11 May 2001. Average measurements from six nests and their eggs were; weight 20.33 g ($n=18$), and length and diameter 45.84 and 29.68 mm ($n=32$) respectively.

On 4 August 2002, 310 individuals were counted in the Anzali Wetland complex. On 13 June 2003, more than 80 nests and 120 *P. pygmeus* adults were observed along the Bahambar river, one of the most important in Siahkeshim, and 23 birds were ringed in the Siahkeshim Protected Area.



Figure 1. A nest of Pygmy Cormorant, Siahkeshim, Spring 2003.

(Phalacrocorax pygmeus)

(Phalacrocorax ()
pygmeus)

(Scott et al. 1975, Mansoori 2000)

(37°24'41"N, 49°23'60"E)

REFERENCES

Mansoori, J. 2001. *A field guide to the birds of Iran*. Zehn-aviz Publishing, Tehran. 490 pp. [In Persian]

Scott, D.A., Moravvej Hamedani, H. & Adhami Mirhosseyni, A. 1975. *The Birds of Iran*. Department of the Environment, Tehran. [In Persian with scientific names, English introduction]

