

Short Communication

Observation of White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* in the Abshineh Dam, Hamedan, Western Iran

AHMAD BARATI^{1*} & BEHNAM BALMAKI²

¹ Department of Environment, University of Malayer

² Department of Environment, Islamic Azad University, Arak Branch

* Corresponding author. Email: barati728@yahoo.com

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White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* is a globally threatened species (IUCN category EN). Its population declines have been attributed mainly to habitat loss and over-hunting. This species has occurred in some wetlands in NE and SE Iran.

During a bird survey, we observed a female White-headed Duck on 23 November 2005 in the Abshineh Dam, (c. 150 ha), 10 km south-east of Hamedan, Hamedan Province, Western Iran. This interesting record is the first report of this threatened species in Hamedan Province.

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Figure 1. The female White-headed Duck, Abshineh Dam, Hamedan, 23 November 2005 (Photo by A. Barati).

(*Oxyura leucocephala*)

(*Oxyura leucocephala*)

.(Behrouzi-Rad 1994, Shahbazi 2001)

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.(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

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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.