Carpathians). — Acta Zoolog. Cracov. **34**: 535–551.
Sokolowski M. 1928: O gornej granici lasu w Tatrach. — Krakow.
Somora J. 1969: Die theoretische problematik der Waldgrenze. — Zborník prác o Tatranskom národnom parku **11**:139–176.
Somora J. 1976: O zvyšovaní hornej hranice lesa a kosodreviny zalesňovaním v tatranskom národnom parku. — Zborník prác o Tatranskom národnom parku **18**: 5–27.
Somora J. 1977: O zvyšovaní hornej hranice lesa a kosodreviny zalesňovaním v tatranskom národnom parku II. časť. — Zborník prác o Tatranskom národnom parku **19**: 5–74.
Somora J. 1979: O zvyšovaní hornej hranice lesa a kosodreviny zalesňovaním v tatranskom národnom parku III. časť. — Zborník prác o Tatranskom národnom parku **21**: 5–29.
Svoboda P. 1939: Lesy Liptovských Tater. — Opera botanica Cechica **1**: 1–164.
Štollmann A. & Kocian A. 1965: Avifauna československého úseku Babej hory. — Vlastivedný zborník Považia **7**: 230–245.
Tomialojć E. L. 1980: The combined version of the mapping method. — Pp.: 92–106. In: Oelke H. (ed): Bird census work and nature conservation. Proceedings of VI International Conference Bird Census Work and Nature Conservation. Dachverband Deutscher Avifaunisten, Göttingen.
Topercer J. 1989: Ornitocenózy Štátnej prírodnej rezervácie Skalná Alpa. — Ochrana prírody **10**: 271–287.
Watson J. E. M., Whittaker R. J. & Freudenberger D. 2005: Bird community responses to habitat fragmentation: how consistent are they across landscapes? — J. Biogeogr. **32**: 1353–1370.
Winding N., Werner S., Stadles S. & Slotta-Bachmayr L. 1993: Die Struktur von Vogelgemeinschaften am alpinen Höhengradienten: Quantitative Brutvogel-Bestandsaufnahmen in den Hohen Tauern (Österreichische Zentralalpen). — Wissenschaftliche Mitteilungen aus dem Nationalpark Hohe Tauern Bd. **1**: 106–124.

Došlo: 17. 6. 2008
Prijaté: 30. 9. 2008

A mimic responding to the mimicked species from playback (*Acrocephalus palustris* versus *Sylvia nisoria*)

*Imitácia spevu imitovaného druhu z playbacku (*Acrocephalus palustris *verzus* Sylvia nisoria*)*

Michael Blair & Sue Fleming

7 Bryony Court, Holt, Norfolk, NR25 6AF, United Kingdom; blair@dialstart.net

Although heterospecific vocal imitation is well documented in passerines, the evolutionary correlates of this phenomenon and geographic variability are poorly known (Garamszegi et al. 2007). It is known that Barred Warbler has shown some ability to adopt sounds and phrases from other species, such as Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* (Snow & Perrins 1998) and Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* (own notes, Schwedt an der Oder and Fergitz, Oberückersee, Brandenburg, May 2004). Here, we give an example of heterospecific vocal mimicry in species *Acrocephalus palustris* versus *Sylvia nisoria.*

We recorded bird calls and songs and used playback to obtain responses where we needed to confirm identity and possible breeding behaviour east of the village Pribylina (49º06´ N, 19º48´ E). A Personal Digital Assistant (PDA), a Hewlett-Packard iPAQ Pocket PC was used. The study area lies on a plain just below the foothills of the western High Tatras (N Slovakia). We intended searching for the suitable habitat combination that Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* occupies (11 males/ 0.6 ha) – typically along or near streams with open woodland and grassy meadows studded with bushes (Risberg & Stjernberg 1997). At a site just south of where the road bridge crosses the River Belá in June 14, 2007, we heard a sharp and loud challenge that appeared to come from a bush amid a carpet of umbellifers. Having encountered Barred Warbler *S. nisoria* quite often earlier in the month, the call was diagnostic in content and power. However, rather unexpectedly the bird remained out of sight and we could not even detect movement of twigs or foliage. In its voluble diatribe, it also uttered a few phrases we had not heard before.

We played the Barred Warbler recording (Mullarney et al. 2006) and the response was instant, each time, that of a Barred Warbler. After four plays, we detected movement, but in the umbellifers in front of the bush. We ceased playing the calls. The bird then flew into the bush and eventually appeared on top, calling all the time, but also introducing much more variety. It was only then that we discovered the calling bird had been a Marsh Warbler (*A. palustris*), the most accomplished mimic in the Western Palearctic, with over 200 species in its repertoire (Snow & Perrins 1998). It had maintained its Barred Warbler mimicry for about two minutes, but then had increased its the variety of song and call until it was much more representative of Marsh Warbler. The bird then disappeared into the bush and became silent. We left it alone, but noted that we had not had any kind of response from any species, let alone Barred Warbler, elsewhere on this grassland, when we had played the Barred Warbler recording. Elsewhere, we had succeeded in obtaining responses from Barred Warbler, but rarely had to do so because it would usually come into view after singing or uttering its alarm call.

Súhrn

Pri obci Pribylina na severnom Slovensku (úpätie Západných Tatier) sa robil v júni 2008 monitoring vtáctva. Študované boli hlavne brehové porasty riečky Belá, kde bola vysoká početnosť druhu *Carpodacus erythrinus* (11 samcov/ 0,6 ha). Viaceré druhy boli provokované z pomocou nahrávok z PDA. Týmto spôsobom sa tam atrahoval aj druh *Sylvia nisoria* (14. 6. 2007). Odpoveď bola zakaždým okamžitá. Avšak volajúci vták bol *Acrocephalus palustris*, najzdatnejší imitátor v západnom Palearkte, ktorý má vo svojom repertoári viac ako 200 druhov. Penicu jarabú napodobňoval ešte asi dve minúty, potom ale varíroval svoj spev i volanie do tej miery, až kým nereprezentoval viac svoj vlastný spev. Nakoniec sa stratil v kroví a stíchol. Pri prehrávaní záznamu penice jarabej z iného miesta v danom biotope nijakým spôsobom neodpovedal iný druh.

References

Garamszegi L. Z., Eens M., Pavlova D. Z., Aviles J. & Moller A. P. 2007: A comparative study of the function of heterospecific vocal mimicry in European passerines. — Behav. Ecol. **18**: 1001–1009.

Mullarney K., Svensson L., Zetterström D. & Grant P. J. 2006: The Collins bird e-guide. — PDA Solutions, Johannesburg.

Risberg L. & Stjernberg T. 1997: Scarlet Rosefinch. — Pp.: 732–333. In: Hagemeijer W. J. M. & Blair M. J. (eds.): The EBCC Atlas of European Breeding Birds. T & A D Poyser, London.

Snow D. W. & Perrins C. M. 1998: The Birds of the Western Palearctic, Concise Edition. — Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Received: August 7, 2007
Accepted: November 2, 2008