



***Carduelis flammea* (Linnaeus, 1758) FIRST DISCOVERY OF THIS BIRD IN MONTENEGRO**

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Carduelis flammea L. (Redpoll) is a small finch with grey and brown tones. It ranges from 12 to 13 cm in size. It has a short and pointed straw-coloured bill, small black bib and red patch on forehead. Variable in plumage, not infrequently lacks red on forehead in 1st winter plumage. Male often has beautiful pink tinge to breast and sides, with forehead and breast deep carmine-red in summer plumage (Jonsson, 1991).

In Europe, there are three sub-species: Phenoscandinavian (*flammea*), Western European (*cabaret*) and Greenland one (*rostrata*). (Mullarney et al., 1998). In Western Europe breeds mainly in upland birch forest but also in coniferous belt, as well as on bare mountain above tree line. Birch seeds are staple food over much of year; seeds from various plants and, in breeding season, insects and caterpillars are also included in diet. It is a winter visitor in annually fluctuating numbers from N Europe, arriving mainly Oct-Nov and leaving Mar-May. (Jonsson, 1991)



Figure 1: *Carduelis flammea* photographed in Martinići area (Danilovgrad community), Montenegro, 16. November 2007.

Photo: B. Rašović

On 16. November 2007, I was watching the birds in the meadows around Spuž community (10 km north of Podgorica). In the goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) flock that consisted of approximately 30-40 birds, I noted 2-4 *Carduelis flammea* birds. I managed to take a photo of one of them (Fig. 1). Just a day earlier, I noted at the same location several *Carduelis flammea* birds. On 4. December 2008, I was watching birds in the Martinići area (20 km north from Podgorica) in the period from 9 am to 1 pm, and that day I noted several *Carduelis flammea* birds in the goldfinch flock.

REFERENCE:

- Jonsson L., 1991. *Birds of Europe with North and the Middle East*, Christopher Helm, A&C Black London: page 514 – 515.
- Mullarney K., Svensson, L., Zatterstrom, D., et al. 1998. *Guia de aves*, OMEGA: page 348 – 349.

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