

АВИФАУНИСТИЧЕСКИЕ ЗАМЕТКИ/FAUNISTIC NOTES

*Notes on the avifauna of Malkachan area, the Sea of Okhotsk coast, Magadan Region**Заметки к авифауне Малкачанской тундры (побережье Охотского моря, Магаданская область)*

The recently published paper by Andreev and Kondratiev (2001) devoted to the avifauna of the Kony-Pyagin and Malkachan areas fills a big gap in knowledge of bird distribution in the North-East of Russia. It is based mostly on data collected by the authors between 1993 and 1997, but also includes some of our observations in the Malkachan area between 1997 and 1999. Unfortunately, in some cases our observations are given not very correctly there. Moreover, the paper includes only a small portion of our data, as a result species status list in Andreev and Kondratiev (2001) does not fully reflect the present-day knowledge. Therefore there is a need to correct some of the published information. We also add further interesting findings on the bird fauna of the Malkachan area collected in 1998 (study period from 23/V–6/IX) and 1999 (22/V–15/VIII). Altogether, we present data on 16 species not observed by Andreev and Kondratiev, including ten species entirely new for the area, namely Grey Phalarope, Pectoral Sandpiper, Ross's Gull, Shore Lark, Pechora Pipit, Great Grey Shrike, Chiffchaff, Two-barred Crossbill, Pine and Yellow-browed Buntings. For other 34 species, we provide new information on their status, phenology or breeding biology. Those species for which we correct erroneous information are marked with an asterisk (*).

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)*. One individual was seen flying northward together with two **White-fronted Geese** (*Anser albifrons*) on 11/VI 1998 (not in «late May» as stated in Andreev & Kondratiev, 2001).

Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)*. Two males (not two pairs) were observed on 28/V 1998 on temporary spring lakes near the sea-shore.

Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*). One fledgling with a female close to a nest was recorded on 3/VIII 1998 in deciduous riverine forest near the Iretskiy Stream.

Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*). Singles were observed repeatedly in the region 24–31/VIII 1998 and 24–29/V 1999.

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). One bird passed the Malkachan Delta on 7/VI 1998. The following year an adult bird stayed in the area on 3–5/VII 1999.

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*). Singles were seen repeatedly on spring migration (22–28/V in both years), and even a displaying male was then recorded in the floodplain forest. A bird was seen on 13/VIII 1998.

Nordmann's Greenshank (*Tringa guttifer*)*. Up to eight adults were displaying on 28/V 1998, and up to seven on 3/VI 1999. However, contrary to the statement of Andreev & Kondratiev (2001), no certain proof for nesting could be obtained, although it seems likely that some of the birds attempted to breed in both years.

Grey Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*). A single bird was seen on a boat trip near Yamsk Islands on 6/IX 1998.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*). At the Malkachan River mouth two adults were recorded on 8/VI 1998 and two single birds on 20/VIII and 30/VIII 1998.

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*). A female was seen on mudflats of the Malkachan Bay on 24/V 1999.

Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*). Common spring and autumn migrant on the sea-shore and mudflats. We collected three rings from birds shot by hunters in the mouth of the Yama River (30 km south of Malkachan) in spring 1999. All birds were ringed in Australia: in Northern Territory on 14/IX 1995, in Queensland on 1/IX 1996, and in Western Australia on 5/X 1998. Moreover, Great Knots were observed repeatedly on the top of Iretskaya Mountain (900 m a. s. l.) during mid summer (e. g. on 4/VII 1998 and 6/VII 1999).

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*). Less common migrant than Great Knot in spring and autumn. We collected rings from three birds shot by hunters in the mouth of the Yama River. All three were ringed on the wintering grounds in New Zealand. It is interesting that two birds shot together in spring 1999 had were also ringed together at Miranda, North Island, on 6/I 1999. The third bird was ringed at Miranda on 3/XI 1990, but it is not known when it was shot.

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*). Common on both spring (22–27/V) and autumn (from 6/VIII to 1/IX) migrations. It is approximately 3–4 times more abundant than Pintail Snipe. It is almost certainly that the species breeds in the area because there are large numbers of males displaying for extended periods of time in spring and early summer.

Pintail Snipe (*Gallinago stenura*). Regularly seen on spring (23–26/V) and autumn (from 29/VII to 19/VIII) migrations. Maximum five individuals were seen on 16/VIII 1998 in the Malkachan River floodplain. A displaying bird was observed on 23/V 1998 in the floodplain forest, but the species probably is not breeding there.

Pomarine Skua (*Stercorarius pomarinus*). Three birds passed northward over the Malkachan Bay on 10/VI 1998. Singles were seen at the Malkachan Delta on 16/VI 1998, 11 and 15/VI 1999. Three lonely birds were observed near Kony Peninsula during a boat trip from Yamsk to Magadan on 5–6/IX 1998. Four migrants passed southward at Brokhovo on 15/VIII and five on 16/VIII 1999.

Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*). One resting adult was recorded on mudflats of the Malkachan River delta on 21/VI 1998.

Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*). A one-year old bird stayed in the area of the Malkachan Delta from 1–3/VI 1999.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*). In both years, we saw the species in the Malkachan region in several occasions during early and mid-June.

Whiskered Auklet (*Aethia pygmaea*). Two birds were observed on 3/VII 1998 at Iretskiy Cape, one also on 16/VIII 1999 at Brokhovo.

Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*). Two were seen together at Iretskiy Cape on 29/VI 1998 and three near Kony Peninsula during a boat trip from Yamsk to Magadan on 5/IX 1998. Approximately 60 individuals were seen migrating southward at Brokhovo on 16/VIII 1999.

Eurasian Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*). An independent juvenile was observed on 27/VII 1999 in the floodplain area of the Malkachan River.

Oriental Cuckoo (*Cuculus saturatus*)*. Eggs of Oriental Cuckoos were present in 8 nests out of 40 belonging to **Dusky Warbler** (*Phylloscopus fuscatus*) found before the start of egg-laying. Four of them were deserted by the Warbler parents. The eggs were white with red-brown spots, mimicking eggs of **Arctic Warbler** (*Phylloscopus borealis*), but not of Dusky Warbler, which has pure white eggs. Two cuckoo chicks were raised successfully by Dusky Warblers. One more fledgling was observed being fed by a pair of **Pallas's Warblers** (*Phylloscopus proregulus*) on 4/VIII 1999.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*). The species did not breed in Malkachan area in 1997 and was seen only on spring migration. In 1998 one pair successfully raised 4 young. In the following year two pairs bred successfully (complete clutches consisted of 7 and 10 eggs). This fits observations on abundance of rodents: almost no rodents in 1997, but they provided a fairly good food supply for owls in the following two years.

Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*). One bird was recorded on 22/V 1999 at Malkachan campsite (forest edge).

Black Woodpecker (*Dryocopus martius*). One individual was repeatedly seen between 22–25/V 1999 near the Malkachan campsite.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*). It was found as a breeding species of Malkachan floodplain forest some 15 km upstream from the river mouth. Three nest holes with young were found on 12/VII 1998 in poplar trees with agitated parents close by. Singles were observed near the forest edge at the Malkachan River delta on 7/VIII 1998 and 1/IX 1998.

Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*). One female was seen in taiga 6 km upstream from the Malkachan River mouth on 17/VI 1998, and two birds in larch taiga 30 km upstream on 10/VII 1998. One more bird was recorded near the Malkachan campsite on 30/VIII 1998.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*). Two singles were observed flying over Malkachan area on 7/VI 1998 and 25/VI 1999, one individual also on 4/VII 1999 at Iretskiy Cape.

Shore Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*). One bird was seen and heard in flight south-westward over the tundra south of Malkachan area on 30/V 1998.

Pechora Pipit (*Anthus gustavi*). Lonely migrating birds were observed in Malkachan area from 30/VIII – 2/IX 1998. Others were seen on spring passage on 25/V and 1/VI 1999.

Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*)*. The species was frequently observed on spring and autumn migrations, but not recorded in Malkachan area during breeding season (the latest spring record of migrant on 25/VI 1999). Thus, the species is almost certainly not breeding in tussock tundra around Malkachan, as stated in Andreev and Kondratiev (2001).

Siberian Jay (*Perisoreus infaustus*). On five occasions (four in 1998 and one in 1999), birds were recorded as singles near the campsite between 3/VII and 27/VIII. Two individuals on 10 and three on 11/VII 1998 were seen in taiga 30 km upstream from the Malkachan River mouth.

Great Grey Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*). One bird was recorded in Malkachan floodplain on 31/V 1998.

Siberian Accentor (*Prunella montanella*). Common migrant in spring (late May to early June) and autumn (late August) in Malkachan area. The latest songs near the Malkachan camp were heard on 8/VI 1998, at the end of spring migration. However, the species can possibly breed on bushy slopes of Iretskaya Mountain, where one singing male was noted on 1/VII 1998.

Two-barred Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides plumbeitarsus*). Four singing males were recorded as maximum along a 10 km river stretch in Malkachan floodplain area on 20/VI 1998. The latest singing male was observed on 11/VII 1998, thus it is very likely that the species breeds in the area.

Siberian Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita tristis*). An independent juvenile was mist-netted in the Malkachan River mouth area on 25/VIII 1998.

Swinhoe's Nightingale (*Luscinia sibilans*). Up to five males were found singing simultaneously in the Malkachan River floodplain on 6–20/VI 1998 as well as on 6–12/VI 1999, probably indicating the period of spring migration. One bird was seen on 30/VIII 1998 during autumn passage.

Siberian Blue Robin (*Luscinia cyane*). This species was found to be the most abundant breeding passerine of Malkachan floodplain forests. Sixty singing males were counted along a 10 km river stretch during a boat trip on 21/VI 1999.

Eye-browed Thrush (*Turdus obscurus*). The species was regularly observed in small numbers during spring migration between 26/V and 13/VI.

Dusky Thrush (*Turdus eunomus*)*. In the light of the somewhat confusing taxonomy of thrushes, we would like to make clear that Dusky Thrush, not **Naumann's Thrush** (*Turdus naumanni*) as reported by Andreev and

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Kondratiev (2001), breeds regularly in Malkachan area. Several nests were found from 1997–1999. No Naumann's Thrush was observed.

Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*). It seems to be an irregular breeder of floodplain forest along the Malkachan River. We counted 6 families with broods along a 10 km river stretch on 20/VI 1998. One small flock was observed in taiga 30 km upstream from the Malkachan River mouth on 11/VII 1998. Two birds were observed in riverine forest along the Malkachan River on 24/VI 1999.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*). Common breeder of the Malkachan River valley, which reaches its highest density in the floodplain forest (three singing males along one km). A nest containing five eggs was found on 20/VI 1998 on a larch tree in the floodplain forest. Small flocks with juveniles were common in larch taiga of upper reaches of the Malkachan River on 10–11/VII 1998.

Arctic Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte arctoa brunneonucha*). Parents were feeding young at four rocky sites at Iretskiy Cape on 1/VII 1998. Males were still singing at that time.

Pallas's Rosefinch (*Carpodacus roseus*)*. One juvenile bird was caught inside a house in Brokhovo during autumn migration on 4/IX 1998 (not in August as stated in Andreev and Kondratiev, 2001). Two more birds heard there on the same day probably belonged to the this species. One spring migrant was heard while flying over the camp at Malkachan River mouth on 27/V 1999.

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*). Birds were regularly observed in flight in Malkachan area from 17/VII–23/VIII 1998.

Two-barred Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*). Several observations were done in summer 1998 near the campsite at the Malkachan River mouth: two males on 17/VII, two birds on a larch tree on 3/VIII, singles on 14 and 17/VIII.

Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*). Two birds were observed on 2/VI 1999, a flock of 13 was seen flying over Malkachan area on 5/VI 1999, and one more bird on the next day.

Pine Bunting (*Emberiza leucocephala*). A juvenile bird was recorded near Malkachan campsite on 1/IX 1998, and a singing male was observed on 3/VI 1999.

Yellow-browed Bunting (*Emberiza chrysophrys*). One male was seen singing on 24/VI 1999 in forest of the Malkachan River delta.

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Гнездование усатой синицы в Белгородской области

Breeding of Beardet Tit (Panurus biarmicus) in Belgorod Region, Russia

В настоящее время опубликовано крайне мало сведений о характере пребывания **усатой синицы** (*Panurus biarmicus*) на территории Белгородской области. По имеющимся данным (Будниченко, Козлов, 1980), усатая синица — залетный для области вид. В процессе уточнения видового состава авифауны области появились новые факты, дополняющие уже существующие, которые авторы излагают в предлагаемом сообщении.

Дважды, 11 и 16/І 2000 г., в окрестностях Белгорода на левом берегу р. Северский Донец, в районе села Дальние Пески, в прибрежных зарослях тростника была отмечена стая усатых синиц, состоящая из 15 птиц, которые кормились семенами тростника.

При обследовании одного из участков природного парка «Ровеньский», расположенного в 1 км юго-западнее села Нижняя Серебрянка (Ровеньский район), в прибрежных зарослях пойменных озер была обнаружена популяция усатых синиц. Этот участок мы посещали 3 раза за сезон, с мая по август.

При первом посещении 20/V 2001 г. возле оз. Лиман отмечены 6 птиц, пролетавших над прибрежными зарослями тростника, камыша и рогоза. Судя по доносившимся голосам, птиц было гораздо больше.

Следующее посещение участка состоялось 18/VII 2001 г. В тростниковых зарослях оз. Лиман визуально отмечено несколько взрослых и несколько молодых птиц, зарегистрировано кормление молодой птицы взрослыми. При обследовании расположенных рядом озер отмечено еще несколько птиц. Однако, учитывая обилие доносившихся из зарослей голосов, можно предположить, что находящаяся на участке группа насчитывала несколько десятков особей.

Наконец, 15/VIII 2001 г., при очередном обследовании участка отмечена одна птица, пролетевшая над зарослями тростника. Иногда доносились голоса усатых синиц; птицы держались скрытно.