

NESTING RECORD OF THE GREY-FACED BUZZARD, *BUTASTUR INDICUS*, ALONG THE TOM RIVER, AMUR OBLAST, RUSSIAN FEDERATION

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[Стейн А. К. Гнездовая находка ястребиного сарыча, *Butastur indicus*, на реке Томь Амурской области России] Department of Field Research and Conservation, Wildlife World Zoo and Aquarium, Litchfield Park, Arizona 85340. E-mail: adamstein@wildlifeworld.com

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Summary. The rare and declining breeding migrant Grey-faced Buzzard, *Butastur indicus* (Gmelin, 1788) was recorded near its nest within a patch of forest between the villages of Krugloye and Pavlovka, Amur Oblast [approximately N: 50.886304, E: 128.888083].

Резюме. Описана находка в Амурской области редкого гнездящегося мигранта – ястребиного сарыча, *Butastur indicus* (Gmelin, 1788). Птица отмечена у гнезда на островном участке леса в Белогорском районе, между селами Круглое и Павловка (приблизительно N: 50.886304, E: 128.888083).

The Grey-faced Buzzard, *Butastur indicus* (Gmelin, 1788), is a rare and declining breeding migrant to the Amur Oblast (Province) in the Russian Far East [Antonov, Parilov, 2009, Glushchenko et al., 2009, Dugintsov, Pankin, 1993]. The range of this species within the Amur region is thought to extend along the Amur River from the Burea River west to the Goryun River [Glushenko et al., 2009]. However, a few individuals have been sighted along the Nora and Selemja Rivers in spring and autumn [Kolbin, 2005].

On July 14, 2009, I encountered an adult Grey-faced Buzzard near its nest within a patch of forest between the villages of Krugloye and Pavlovka [approximately N: 50.886304, E: 128.888083]. The bird was perched within a meter of the nest and did not flush when I approached. I observed the bird and the nest from a distance of approx. seven meters for four-six minutes before departing. The bird made no attempt to fly during the observation period. The nest showed obvious signs of occupation (many fresh feathers and feces), although the occupants of the nest were unable to be seen or counted.

The forest patch was a composite of 80% birch (*Betula* spp.) and 20% pine (*Pinus* spp.) trees surrounded by large open spaces of wet meadows near the Tom River, typical of the habitat this bird occupies in its summer range [Brazil,

2009]. The nest was located between 4-6 meters high in an oddly shaped pine tree.

The site was visited again in the July of 2010, but no nests or buzzards were located.

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