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RUFOUS-BELLIED WOODPECKER *DENDROCOPOS HYPERYTHRUS* AND CHINESE PARADISE FLYCATCHER *TERSIPHONE* PARADISI *INCEI* AT MURAVIOVKA PARK, FAR EAST RUSSIA: FIRST RECORDS FOR THE AMUR OBLAST

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РЫЖЕГРУДНЫЙ ДЯТЕЛ *DENDROCOPOS HYPERYTHRUS* И КИТАЙСКАЯ РАЙСКАЯ МУХОЛОВКА *TERSIPHONE PARADISI INCEI* В МУРАВЬЕВСКОМ ПАРКЕ, ДАЛЬНИЙ ВОСТОК РОССИИ: ПЕРВЫЕ НАХОДКИ В АМУРСКОЙ ОБЛАСТИ

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Key words: range shift, vagrant, over-shoot, Amur river

Summary. Two new species were recorded at Muraviovka Park and added to the avifauna of the Amur Oblast. A male Rufous-bellied Woodpecker was trapped and ringed 11.05.2016, and a Chinese Paradise Flycatcher was sound-recorded 26.06.2016. Both species are of southern origin and might have been over-shoot migrants from the north-western edge of their range. Both species are listed in the Russian Red Data Book, and might therefore qualify for an inclusion in the Red Data Book of the Amur Oblast as well.

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Ключевые слова: рыжегрудый дятел, китайская райская мухоловка, новые находки, Амурская область

Резюме. В Муравьевском парке были обнаружены два новых вида для орнитофауны Амурской области. Самец рыжегрудого дятла был пойман в ловушку и окольцован 11.05.2016. Голос китайской райской мухоловки был записан 26.06.2016. Оба вида южного происхождения и, возможно, являются мигрантами из северо-западных частей своего ареала. Оба вида занесены в Красную книгу России, и, следовательно, могут быть рекомендованы для включения в Красную книгу Амурской области.

INTRODUCTION

The wetland ecosystems along the Amur river in Far East Russia and North East China are considered a hotspot of threatened biodiversity [Vignieri, 2014]. However, the middle stream of the Amur river has not gained much attention among ornithologists, and its avifauna remains rather poorly studied. Intense ornithological fieldwork was carried out only in some of the protected areas. One of them is Muraviovka Park, a non-governmental nature reserve south-east of the city of Blagoveshchensk, where studies take place since the 1980´s [Smirenski, in litt.]. In 2011, the volunteer-based Amur Bird Project started a monitoring project for its local bird populations [Heim, Smirenski, 2013]. More than 30,000 individuals of 157 species have been ringed until 2016, and a total of almost 300 species was observed – including several first records for the region [Heim, Smirenski, in lit.].

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker
Dendrocopos hyperythrus

The Rufous-bellied Woodpecker has a wide distribution across South and East Asia. The nominate form *hyperythrus* breeds as a resident in India and South-east Asia. The race *subrufinus,* however, is a long-distance migrant, breeding in Heilongjang/China and adjacent South East Russia, and wintering in South East China [Brazil, 2009]. The species is listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Redlist, but its population is believed to be declining [BirdLife International, 2012]. In Russia, the first birds were observed in the 1960´s, and breeding was proved on several locations in the south of the Primorye region [Nazarenko, 1997] and on the east slopes of the Sikhote Alin mountain ridge [Shokrin, 2013] in the Khabarovsk Oblast. The species was therefore included in the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation [Val'chuk, 2000]. It mainly inhabits mixed deciduous forest with oak *Quercus sp.* and aspen *Populus sp.* trees, and was observed in its breeding range between mid-May and mid-August [Val'chuk, 2000]. Between 15. and 28.05.2015, several birds were observed on at least four coastal sites, where the species is not known as a breeding bird [Burkovskii, Tiunov, 2015; Sotnikov et al., 2016]. However, Rufous-bellied Woodpeckers have never been reported west of Khabarovsk.

11.05.2016 at 7 o´clock in the morning, a Rufous-bellied Woodpecker was trapped in one of the standard nets in a small forest island with *Populus* trees at Muraviovka Park (fig. 1). The bird was ringed with the ring number Moscow N06525. It showed a bright red cap and was therefore determined as male. Measurements were taken by TW, following standard protocols [Eck et al., 2011]: Wing length 132,5 mm, length of 8th primary feather 100,0 mm, Kipp´ distance (wing pointedness) 42,5 mm, tail length 79,5 mm, tarsus length 21,5 mm, bill length (to skull) 25,7 mm, bill width 8,7 mm, bill height 7,5 mm, weight 55,2 g. The bird had a fat score of 1 and a

Fig. 1. Male Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Dendrocopos hyperythrus* trapped at Muraviovka Park 11.05.2016. Photo by Mikhail Barabanov

Рис.1. Самец рыжегрудого дятла *Dendrocopos hyperythrus* пойманный в Муравьевском парке 11.05.2016. Фото М. Барабанова

muscle score of 2. We collected a swab sample for genetic analysis, took pictures and recorded its calls during the ringing process (see: www.xeno-canto.org/329929). The bird flew off northward and was not re-sighted after release. Most likely, this bird was a migrant, overshooting its usual range. The available habitat at Muraviovka Park is most likely too small to allow this species to breed there.

This record is the first for the Amur Oblast, the westernmost record in Russia and most likely also one of the earliest observations of this species in the northern part of its range.

Chinese Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone [paradisi] incei*

The Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone* [paradisi] occurs in a wide range between South Asia and North East China. Recent studies show that the former species *T. paradisi* consists of three different clades, of which the monotypic Chinese Paradise Flycatcher *T. incei* is sister to the Japanese Paradise Flycatcher *T. atrocaudata* and therefore merits a splitting [Fabre et al., 2012; Andersen et al., 2015]. As of yet, these findings have been acknowledged by the Clements Checklist [The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 2015] as well as BirdLife International [Birdlife International, 2016]. The northernmost populations of the Chinese Paradise Flycatcher reach the southern part of Russia´s Primorye region, where the breeding population is assumed to number less than 100 pairs [Brazil, 2009]. The birds are found there between mid-June and the end of August [Pronkevich, 2013]. They inhabit shady mature deciduous broadleaf forests [Brazil, 2009]. The Chinese Paradise Flycatcher is listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List [BirdLife International, 2016], but was included in the Russian Red Data Book under category 3 (rare and local).

26.06.2016 a bird was heard singing occasionally throughout the whole day from different spots at the perimeter of the headquarters. Despite searching for it several times we were not able to observe it, however we managed to record its song (see: www.xeno-canto.org/326539). It

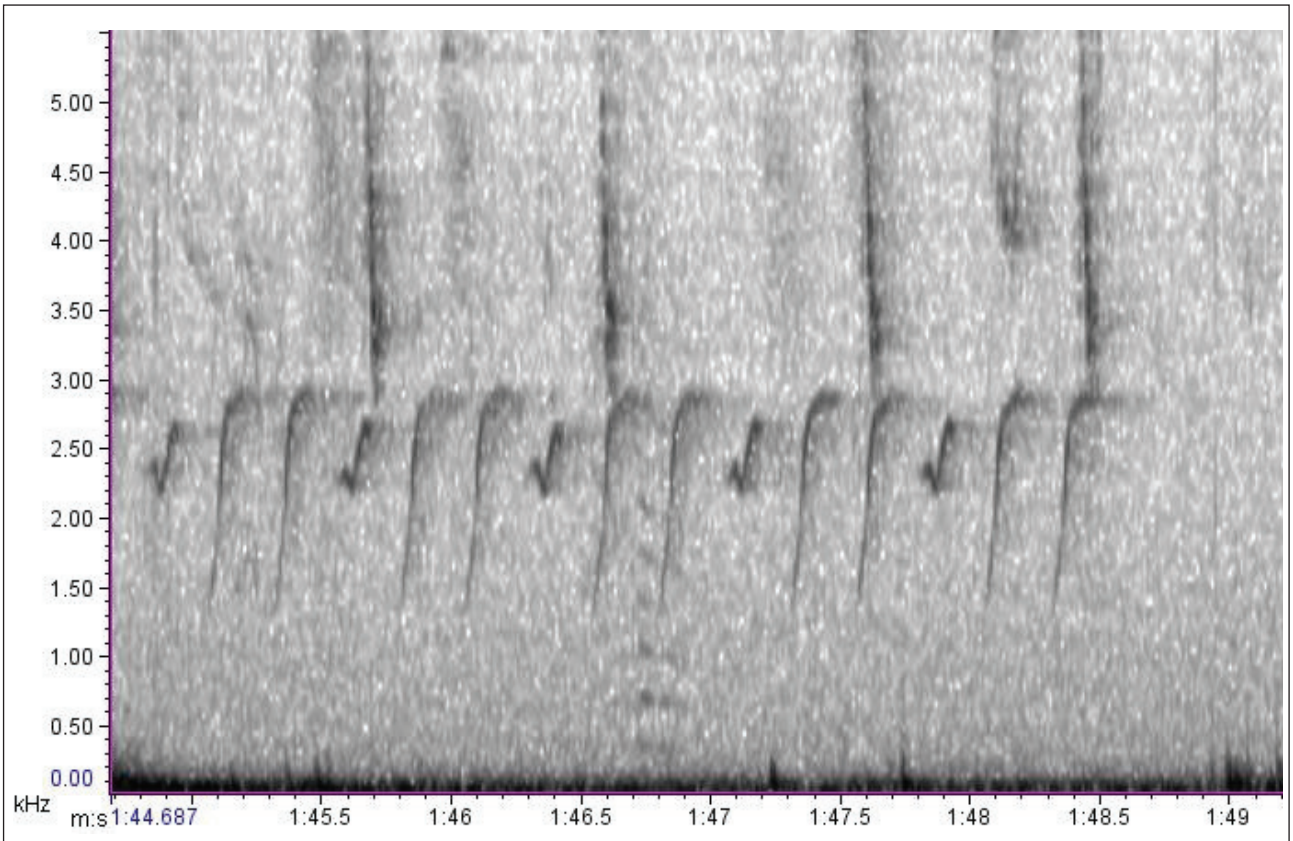

Fig. 2. Song of the Chinese Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone incei*, recorded by Alex Thomas 26.06.2016 at Muraviovka Park

Рис. 2. Песня китайской райской мухоловки *Terpsiphone incei*, записал Алекс Томас 26.06.2016 в Муравьевском парке

was not until two weeks later that we could identify the bird to be a Chinese Paradise Flycatcher thanks to a comment by Ilya Ukolov at www.xeno-canto.de and a comparison record made by Bo Shunqi (Accessible at hbw.com/ibc/1132223).

The song consists of elements of 0.7 sec length, of which up to 12 are uttered in close succession. Those elements comprise a short note around 2.5 kHz and two slightly longer and higher notes reaching almost 3 kHz (plate 2).

The bird has not been seen or heard after that day and, as the Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, was most likely a migrant overshooting its usual range. As there are no shady mature broadleaf forests at Muraviovka Park, it is unlikely for this species to be a future breeding bird there.

This marks another first record for the Amur Oblast, and the northernmost record of Chinese Paradise Flycatcher, as well as the westernmost record of this species in Russia.

CONCLUSION

Two new species were added to the avifauna of the Amur Oblast. Both species originate from the south and occurred in Russia so far only in the very South East, the Primorye region. The Amur Oblast is situated at the northern-western tip of their range. Numerous species of southern origin have recently been found in the region [Antonov, 2012; Dugintsov, Ishenko, 2014) and several species successfully colonized the Amur region during the past decade [Dugintsov, 2012; Heim et al., 2015]. Climate change might have contributed to this range shifts, and many more species are likely to occur north of their known range in the future. We suggest that both species should be included in the Red Data Book of the Amur Oblast under category 4, since it is unknown whether these two species might establish local populations in the region.

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