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SUMMARY

This article describes encounters with bird species that are either new to Terneiskii County, Primorskii Krai, or are rare in the region. Most records are between 1994–2007.

The referred figures and tables are in the original article in Russian at pages 33—36

This article describes encounters with bird species that are either new to Terneiskii County, Primorskii Krai, or are rare in the region. Most records are between 1994–2007. Thanks to Y.A. Redkin for help with some bird identification, and to Y.N. Glushchenko for help with manuscript preparation.

Spot-billed pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*). The first records of pelicans (not identified to species) in northeastern Primorye were from autumn 1954, near the village of Ternei and the mouth of the Kema River, and again in late April and early May, 1989 (Yelsukov, 1999). Another vagrant pelican was reported near the village of Ternei from 12–14 April 1999, when a single bird was observed on the Serebryanka River, where it rested for some time on the ice. Judging by its plumage, this was a Spot-billed pelican, which is considered a vagrant in the Republic of Korea (Won, 2005) and in northeastern China (Jiachuan et al., 1995).

Cinnamon bittern (*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*). A rare vagrant to Primorye, with only two previous records along the coast in the southern half of the province (Labzyuk and Glushchenko, 1984; Litvinenko and Shibaev, 1999). The fresh remains of an individual of this species (including numerous bright-rufous primaries, tail feathers,

and body feathers) were found on the shore of Lake Blagodatnoe on 18 October, 1994.

Emperor goose (*Anser canagicus*). A rare, vagrant species. This goose had only been observed on two occasions prior, both times in spring in the lower reaches and mouth of the Razdolnaya River (Gorchakov, 1988, 1996; Nechaev, 1988). On 28 September, 2001, a wounded female was collected by A.I. Bondarchuk in the lower reaches of the Serebryanka River near the village of Ternei.

Ruddy shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*). This species has only been observed once, when a female was seen on 13 November, 1998 on Lake Blagodatnoe, where it rested on the ice 6–7 meters from shore.

Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*). An occasional vagrant. The first record was from 19 November, 1970, when a young female in a group of four birds was collected in the lower reaches of the Dzhigitovka River (Yelsukov, 1974). Next, two adult birds were observed on 13 November, 1989 on Lake Blagodatnoe, and a single individual was seen at that same location the following day. A single male was observed on the same lake on the 1st, 6th, 7th, and 9th of November, 1991. On 20 October, 1993, two birds were observed, and on 15 October, 1997, a flock of 35 individuals was seen. In winter, a single bufflehead was seen on the sea near the coast by the village Ternei on 15 February, 1992. The skins of three individuals (a male and two females) are housed in the author's collection with inventory #s 2313, 8075, and 8076.

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Common crane (*Grus grus*). A very rare vagrant species. A single bird was observed for the first time on 22 May, 1998, in the lower reaches of the Serebryanka River, and was seen again in the same location on the 8th and 10th of June of the same year. Two common cranes were seen at about the same place on 23 June, 2002.

Swinhoe's rail (*Coturnicops exquisitus*). A rare vagrant species. One bird was flushed on 18 October, 1999, along a marshy stretch of Lake Blagodatnoe's shore.

Greater painted-snipe (*Rostratula benghalensis*). A rare vagrant species. This painted-snipe was first recorded on the bank of Lake Blagodatnoe on 27 October, 1999. On 14 October, 2000, fresh remains of a painted-snipe, including many bloody feathers, were found along a sandy shore of the same lake. Encounters with single individuals occurred on 15 October, 2002, in the lower reaches of the Serebryanka River, and on 29 and 30 October, 2003 at Lake Blagodatnoe. On 5 January, 2005, the fresh carcass, of a female was found on the ice of the Vilka River within village limits of Ternei. This bird had struck a power line. Its dimensions were: total length 250 mm, wing length 152 mm, tail length 35.9 mm, bill length 51.2 mm, tarsus length 54.7 mm, wingspan 490 mm, and weight 116.6 g. There were molting feathers noted on the head and neck, and fat reserves were "3" on a 5-point scale. Only small stones were found in its stomach. Maximum ovary size was 9 x 5 mm. The skin of this specimen is housed in the author's collection (inventory #12472).

Common ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*). A rare migrant species. The first encounter in the study area was on 3 September, 2001, when a young female was collected on the beach near the village of Ternei. In the same year, a group of eight birds was seen on 3 October at Lake Blagodatnoe. Two days later, two individuals were seen at the same place.

Gray-headed lapwing (*Microsarcops cinereus*). This species was first recorded in northeastern Primorye on 30 April, 1975, at Lake Blagodatnoe (Yelsukov, 1977). Since then, in spring time, there have been a total of 17 encounters with this species at Lake Blagodatnoe, and six encounters in

the lower reaches of the Serebryanka River. The earliest date of arrival was 13 April 1983, and the latest date of arrival was 21 May, 1975. Individuals lingered in the area from one day (in 1980, 1984, 1989, and 2006) to as long as 22 days (in 1975). An individual of this species was only observed once in autumn, when a solitary bird was seen from 1-3 November, 1988, at Lake Blagodatnoe.

Pied avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*). This species has been recorded twice; first on 7 May, 1970, at Lake Blagodatnoe, when a flock of 5 birds was seen, and second on 17 September of the same year, when a local hunter collected a male in the lower reaches of the Dzhigitovka River.

Spotted greenshank (*Tringa guttifer*). An extremely rare migratory species. A female was collected on 1 June, 1974, at Lake Blagodatnoe.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*). A rare migratory species. Two individuals were collected at Blagodatnoe Bay in September, 1960 (Rakhilin, 1973), and a young male was collected by A.I. Bondarchuk on 11 September, 2001, in the lower reaches of the Serebryanka River.

Little curlew (*Numenius minutes*). A rare migrant along the coast. It has been recorded twice in May, once in July, and four times in August and September. In the springtime, a single individual was seen on 1 May, 1977, at Lake Blagodatnoe, and a flock of seven birds was seen on 26 May, 1993, near the village of Samarga. Individuals have been recorded in autumn migration at Lake Blagodatnoe from 30 July (in 1990) to 12 September (in 2007). In total there have been 11 records of encounters with this species, in which were seen single birds (on four occasions), pairs (on four occasions), and three flocks (of three, four, and seven birds, respectively).

Oriental praticole (*Glareola maldivarum*). This species was first recorded in northeast Primorye on 24 April, 1969, at Blagodatnoe Bay, where it was collected three days later and determined to be an adult male (Yelsukov, 1974). Since then this species has been encountered nine more times: four times in April, twice in May and July respectively, and once in June. In most cases single birds are seen, rarely two birds (on two occasions), or three birds (one occasion).

Long-tailed skua (*Stercorarius longicaudus*). This skua was seen once (7 August, 2007) by the shores of Ternei Bay. This was a solitary individual in intermediate plumage with markedly-elongated central tail feathers.

Black-capped kingfisher (*Halcyon pileata*). This species was observed for the first time in northeastern Primorye on 21 May, 1977, when a single female was collected near the Dukhovskiye Lakes (Yelsukov, 1981). Single birds were observed on 30 April, 1983 in the lower reaches of the Serebryanka River, as well as on 4-5 May, 1983, and 28 May, 1996, at Lake Blagodatnoe. According to local residents along the lower Serebryanka River, one or two birds that matched the description of this species were seen repeatedly from June-September, 1982.

Blyth's pipit (*Anthus godlewskii*). A new species for the avifauna of the Russian Far East. Its breeding range is in the part of Asia that extends from the eastern Altai and eastern slopes of the Mongolian Altai to the Great Khingan Mountains in the east (Stepanyan, 2003). This species has not previously been recorded in the Russian Far East (Nechaev and Gamova, 2006). In Korea, this species is considered a rare migrant (Won, 2005), and has also been recorded in North Korea (Tomek, 2001) and Japan (Checklist of Japanese Birds, 2000).

A vagrant adult male was collected on 27 May, 1996, on the grassy beach of a small bay, which had a sand and pebble substrate, located about 30 km north of Ternei. It weighed 27.5 g. Its linear dimensions were: overall length 184 mm, wing length 95 mm, tail length 71.2 mm, tarsus length 30 mm, back toe length (including claw) 23 mm, bill length (from forehead) 13.1 mm, bill length (from the front edge of the nostril) 9.7 mm. Fat reserves were "3.5-4" on a 5-point scale. The larger testis was 7.0 x 5.6 mm. The skin of this specimen is housed in the author's collection (inventory #9973).

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