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Shokhrin V.P.,* Weissensteiner M., Mattes H. (2012) Findings of new and records of rare bird species in the Lazovsky State Nature Reserve. *Far East. J. Orn.* 3: 15–22.

SUMMARY

This article presents new data on the rare birds recorded in the Lazo Nature Reserve (Eastern Russia) for the five-year period (2007–2011) since the last avifaunal inventory. Eight species are added to the checklist of birds of the Nature Reserve and two of them were firstly documented for the Ussuriland

The referred figures and tables are in the original article in Russian, pp. 15–22

Almost five years have passed after publishing the last information on rare and new species of birds in the Lazovsky State Nature Reserve (Shokhrin, 2007). During this time, new data on rare birds have been obtained and species that are new both in the reserve and in Primorye have been recorded. The taxonomy of birds and the sequence of species description are given according to E.A. Koblik et. al. (2006).

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*). A rare passage migrant. Four birds were seen flying on May 27, 2011, in Kievka Bay.

Little grebe (*Tachybartus ruficollis*). A rare passage migrant and breeding species. Single birds were observed on November 12, 2007, November 11, 2008, and October 27, 2010, on the river at the Petrov Bay and on October 31, 2010, in a relic marsh lake at the Kit Bay. One adult bird was caught in the vicinities of the Lazo Village on November 23, 2009.

Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*). A rare passage migrant. Single birds were observed on September 27 and October 14, 2010, and on October 23, 2011, in the river valley at the Petrov Bay.

Schrenck's bittern (*Ixobrychus eurhythmus*). A rare passage migrant and, possibly, breeding species. Four birds were caught in mist nets at the Petrov Bay on October 2 and 4, 2011 (females) and on October 5 and November 7, 2011 (males). the last bird was observed on November 6, 8, and 9, 2011.

Chinese pond heron (*Ardeola bacchus*). A rare vagrant species. One adult bird was encountered on May 22, 2007, in the Proselochnaya River estuary. An adult male was caught May 26, 2011, in a mist net at the Petrov Bay. It had the following characteristics: wing length, 224 mm; tail length, 74 mm; tarsus length, 64 mm, beak length, 64 mm; and weight, 370 g. Additionally, a young bird was met here on October 20, 2011.

Cattle egret (*Bubulcus ibis*). A rare vagrant species. In 2007, cattle egrets were recorded only in the Sokolovka River valley: one bird, on May 28 and three birds on June 20. In 2008, three birds were encountered on May 24 in the vicinities of the swamp near the Glazkovka Village, and five birds were met on May 27 in the vicinities of the Sokolovka Village. In 2009, five birds were recorded on May 16 in the vicinities of the Kievka Village and 5 birds were seen on May 20 in the vicinities of the swamp near the Glazkovka Village. In 2010 and 2011, cattle egrets were not recorded.

Great egret (*Casmerodius albus*). Vagrant, summer and winter visitor. During the spring migration, was observed in the second ten-

*E-mail: <shokhrin@mail.ru>

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day period of March both singly and in groups numbering up to 17 birds. Three great egrets stayed in a shallow bay near the Preobrazhenie Village on July 12, 2011. Single great egrets and groups numbering up to four birds were recorded in autumn. Of interest are regular wintering cases of this species reported in recent years. In the Sokolovka River valley (near the Preobrazhenie Village), two birds were met in winter 2007/2008, and single birds were seen in 2008/2009, 2009/2010, and 2010/2011. Three herons stayed at nonfreezing sites of Kievka and Lazovka rivers (in the vicinities of the Lazo Village) in winter 2009/2010 and one in 2010/2011. Three birds were found in the lower reaches of the Kievka River on November 22, 2011.

Great egret (*Casmerodius (albus) modestus*). Three birds were recorded on May 7, 2008, in the Kievka River estuary and one bird was seen on May 29, 2008, in the Lazovka River valley, in the vicinities of the Lazo Village. Two birds were encountered on May 21, 2009, in the Kievka River estuary. Four herons of this species were met at the Petrov Bay on March 29, 2011, one bird stayed near the Proselochnaya River on June 15–17, 2011, and three birds were observed on July 12, 2011, in a shallow sea bay near the Preobrazhenie Village. The correctness of identification of this species, which is difficult to distinguish from *Casmerodius albus*, was confirmed by photographs as well as on the basis of comparison of birds of both species staying in joint groups.

Intermediate egret (*Egretta intermedia*). Three birds were seen on May 30, 2007, at the Sokolovka River. In 2008, two birds stayed at Kit Bay on April 21, and single birds were seen many times in May and June in the Kievka River estuary. In 2009, the first heron of this species was met on March 25 in the outskirts of Sokol'chi Village. Single birds were recorded in May and June in the Kievka River estuary. In 2010, single birds were observed in April and May in the Kievka River estuary and around Kievka and Glazkovka villages.

Little egret (*Egretta garzetta*). Six adult birds were seen on May 28, 2007, in the Sokolovka River valley and one bird was met

on June 3, 2007, at the Sokolovskaya Bay. Two birds were observed on May 7 and 16, 2008, in the Kievka River estuary and on April 10, 2009, on the swamp in the vicinities of the Glazkovka Village. One Little egret was met on April 7, 2011, at the Petrov Bay.

Oriental stork (*Ciconia boyciana*). Single birds were recorded four times: on April 1, 2008, and on March 31, 2009, in the vicinities of Benevskoe Village; on July 17, 2009, on the bank of the Bystrushka River (Korpad' tract); and on July 21, 2010 on the shore of Lake Zarya.

Black stork (*Ciconia nigra*). A highly flying bird was seen in the Valunovka River valley on June 22, 2007, and a pair of birds was met on May 13, 2008, in the Sokolovka River valley.

Graylag goose (*Anser anser*). A very rare passage migrant. A single bird was encountered on October 4, 2011, on the bank of the river at the Petrov Bay.

Lesser white-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*). A rare passage migrant. Four birds were recorded on October 14, 2011, at the Petrov Bay.

Baikal teal (*Anas formosa*). A rare passage migrant. In 2008, five Baikal teals were seen in the Kievka River estuary on April 5, and groups of 6 and 13 birds were encountered on April 8 in the Chernaya River valley. In 2009, two male and one female Baikal teals were seen in the vicinities of the Lazo Village on March 24 and flocks consisting of 4, 6, 8, 12, and 22 birds were observed on April 1 on the flood meadow in the outskirts of the Kievka Village. In 2010, four birds were met on April 15 in the Kievka River valley in the vicinities of Benevskoe Village. At the Petrov Bay, a pair of Baikal teals stayed on April 2 to 5, 2011, and seven birds were seen here on April 4, 2011.

Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*). A rare passage migrant. A pair of Baer's pochards was observed on September 21, 2010, at the Zarya Bay and one bird was seen on April 30, 2011, at Kit Bay.

Chinese sparrowhawk (*Accipiter soloensis*). A male Chinese sparrowhawk was met on May 26, 2011, in the oak stand on the way to the Petrov Bay. This record of this species again fell on a year

of a peak abundance of rodents, as it was in 2005 (Shokhrin, 2007).

Japanese sparrowhawk (*Accipiter gularis*). A rare breeding species. Starting from 2007, records of Japanese sparrowhawk in the reserve and its vicinities were single both in the breeding season and during migration. In 2011, five breeding pairs were found, which, in our opinion, was due to the high abundance of the Red-backed vole *Clethrionomys rufocanus*, which forms the basis of the diet of this bird of prey.

Gray-faced buzzard (*Butastur indicus*). A rare breeding species. Beginning from 2009, this species is recorded in the Lazo District more frequently than in previous years. Birds were encountered in the valleys of Kievka, Krivaya, and Lazovka rivers.

Hodgson's hawk-eagle (*Spizaetus nipalensis*). A rare, probably breeding species. An adult female was observed in the vicinities of the Snezhnaya Mountain on June 12, 2010. An adult male was caught in a trap in the Tselinka River valley on January 15, 2010. This bird had the following characteristics: wing length, 480 mm; tail length, 370 mm; tarsus length, 95 mm; bill length, 37.3 mm; weight, 1680 g.

Saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*). A rare species with unclear status. A pair of birds was observed on June 7, 2007, in the Sokolovka River valley.

Yellow-legged buttonquail (*Turnix tanki*). A rare breeding species. In 2007, the voices of lekking females were heard in July in the vicinities of the aerodrome (Lazo Village, three birds) and in the «America» tract on overgrown fields (two birds). One to three lekking birds were periodically encountered in an abandoned field in the vicinities of the Lazo Village in July–August 2008. On August 20, 2008, an abandoned nest with one egg was found here. The nest had the following characteristics: diameter, 10 cm; depth, 2.5 cm; material, dry grass; egg size, 25.8 x 21.3 mm. One or two lekking birds in 2009 and one to three birds in 2010 were periodically recorded in July and August in the vicinity of Lazo Village. In 2011, the birds were not met in this place; however, two lekking females were

encountered in the Pasechnaya River valley.

White-naped crane (*Grus vipio*). A rare passage migrant. Seven birds were observed on March 9, 2008, in the vicinities of the Kishinevka Village and one bird was met on April 11, 2008, in the vicinities of the Lazo Village.

Water rail (*Rallus aquaticus*). A rare passage migrant and breeding species. Single birds were observed on October 15, 2007; on October 24, 27 and 30, 2010; on November 1, 5, and 7, 2010; and on October 25 and November 3 and 8, 2011, in the reed thickets on the bank of the river at the Petrov Bay. On November 18, 2010, the remains of a dead bird were found here. A hardly flying young water rail was caught on October 5, 2011, in a garden of the Lazo Village. The bird had the following characteristics: wing length, 128.0 mm; tail length, 55.0 mm; tarsus length, 38.8 mm; bill length, 39.6 mm; and weight, 102.0 g. Another bird was caught on October 20, 2011, in a mist net at the Petrov Bay. It had the following characteristics: wing length, 127.0 mm; tail length, 57.0 mm; tarsus length, 42.6 mm; bill length, 36.2 mm; and weight, 104.9 g. A pair of birds showing great anxiety and apparently distracting the observer from their brood was encountered on July 12, 2011, in a swamp near the Preobrazhenie Village.

Watercock (*Gallicrex cinerea*). A rare vagrant during passage migration. Two single birds were recorded on May 15, 2011, in the lower reaches of the Kievka River, upstream of the village of the same name.

Ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*). A rare vagrant species recorded in the reserve for the first time. A single bird, apparently of the first year of life, was observed on May 27–28, 2011, on the shore of the Petrov Bay.

Long-billed ringed plover (*Charadrius placidus*). Scarce breeding species. A count performed in late May – early June 2007 revealed 29 pairs of this species: 13 pairs in the Kievka River valley (60 km), six pairs in the Perekatnaya River valley (20 km), seven pairs in the Krivaya River valley (15 km), and three pairs in the Polyarnaya Zvezda River valley (10 km). In 2008, eight pairs of long-billed ringed plovers

were recorded on the route from the S. Kamenka Village to the Kishinevka Village (30 km). In May 2009, nine pairs of these birds were recorded on the same route, and 19 pairs were recorded on the route from the Kishinevka Village to the Kievka Village (55 km). On the route along the Krivaya River (10 km), four pairs were recorded. One nest, which was located on pebbles, was found. It had the following characteristics: diameter, 7.5 cm; tray depth, 2.5 cm; egg size, 36.9 x 26.9 mm (13.5 g), 37.3 x 26.6 mm (12.5 g), 37.3 x 26.7 mm (12.0 g), and 37.9 x 26.9 mm (12.0 g).

In 2010, the first birds were recorded on March 21 and 23 in the Kievka River valley in the vicinity of the Kishinevka Village. In May, the level of water was very high, and nearly all pebble shoals were flooded. In mid-June, six pairs and three single birds were recorded in the Kievka River valley on the route from S. Kamenka Village to the Kishinevka Village (32 km); eight pairs and four single birds were recorded on the route from the Kishinevka Village to the Chistovodnenskii bridge (40 km); and three pairs and two single birds were recorded on the Krivaya River (10 km of the lower reach). In late May 2011, 13 pairs and six single birds were recorded in the Kievka River valley on the route from the Lazo Village to the Krivaya River estuary (55 km).

Greater sand plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*). A this-year bird was seen on May 3–5, 2011, on the shore of the Petrov Bay (fig. 1). This is the first record of this species in the Lazo Reserve, which was previously encountered only three times in Primorye (Nechaev, 1993, 2003; Volkovskaya-Kurdyukova, 2009).

Redshank (*Tringa totanus*). Occasionally occurs in the vicinities of the reserve at the time of migration. On the shore of Petrov Bay, two birds were met on March 22, 2011, and three on April 8, 2011.

Spoon-billed sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*). A very rare passage migrant. Two young birds were recorded September 20, 2011, in a flock of Red-necked stints (*Calidris ruficollis*).

Japanese snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*). A rare breeding species. In recent years, was met only in the vicinities of the Glazkovka Village. For

example, three displaying male Japanese snipes were seen here on May 9, 2008; five birds, on May 20, 2009; and two birds, on May 27, 2010. In 2011, Japanese snipes were not recorded.

Far Eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*). A rare passage migrant. Five birds were observed in the Kievka River estuary on April 15, 2008. Single Far Eastern curlews were met on April 3, 2009, at the Kit Bay and on April 7, 2011, at the Petrov Bay. Three birds were seen at the same bay on April 9, 2011. In autumn, four curlews of this species were recorded on September 8, 2010, at the Proselochnaya Bay, and three birds were met on October 21, 2011, at the Petrov Bay.

Black-legged kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*). Two birds were met on September 16, 2010, in the Proselochnaya River estuary, where they stayed together with the Black-tailed gulls (*Larus crassirostris*).

Green pigeon (*Treron sieboldii*). Two birds were observed on August 25, 2010, at the Proselochnaya Bay.

Indian cuckoo (*Cuculus micropterus*). The voice of one bird of this species was heard at dusk on May 29–30, 2009, in the Svobodinka River valley.

Snowy owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*). Two single birds were seen by zoologist I.V. Voloshina (personal communication) on September 27, 2010, on the 6th and 7th km of the Lazo–Sergeevka road. An adult male was encountered dying on November 20, 2010, at the in the Proselochnaya Bay. It had the following characteristics: wing length, 405 mm; tail length, 225 mm; tarsus length, 59.1 mm; bill length, 34.7 mm; and weight, 980 g. Single birds were observed once (December 24) in 2010 and four times in 2011: on January 15 and 27 and on February 7 in the vicinities of the Kievka Village and on February 16 at the Proselochnaya Bay.

Eagle owl (*Bubo bubo*). A rare breeding species. A nest with two feathered chicks was found on June 22, 2011, in a niche on the Opasnyi Island.

Brown hawk-owl (*Ninox scutulata*). A common passage migrant and a scarce breeding species. An exhausted bird was trapped in the Lazovka River valley on November 13, 2011.

Black-capped kingfisher (*Halcyon pileata*).

Single birds were observed three times in 2011: on May 15 on the Kievka River upstream of the Lazo Village, on May 21 on the road near the Zvezdochka cordon and on May 30 on the bank of the creek at the bend in the road to the Chistovodnoe Village.

Common house martin (*Delichon urbica*).

Previously was observed only during migrations. In 2011, from late May to June 10, four birds stayed near high-rise buildings in the Lazo Village and attempted to breed. Later, the birds were not recorded here.

Asian house martin (*Delichon dasypus*).

Previously was observed only in flight. A colony consisting of 38 nests was found on July 26, 2011, in the vicinities of the Benevskoe Village, on the bridge over the Kievka River. Nest constructions in the form of a half cup, with a wide open notch were located on the central metal transition under the bridge. Adult birds were actively feeding chicks.

Horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*). A rare passage migrant recorded in the Lazo reserve for the first time. Two birds stayed on March 18 to March 23, 2011, on a steppe meadow at the Petrov Bay. The presence of the yellow color of their plumage allows them to be referred to the *Eremophila alpestris flava* subspecies (J.F. Gmelin, 1789).

White-shouldered starling (*Sturnia sinensis*). Four birds of this species were observed on August 31, 2011, in a joint flock with Daurian and gray starlings and were well distinguished by the white speculum on the wings.

Brown-eared bulbul (*Microscelis amaurotis*).

A rare wintering species. Two birds (maybe a couple) were observed in the vicinities of the Lazo Village from December 11, 2008, to the end of January 2009, they were feeding on hawthorn fruits and, rarely, the mistletoe. One bulbul, perhaps from the same pair, was met several times in mid-February 2009.

Siberian bush warbler (*Tribura thoracica davidi*). A rare passage migrant. An adult bird was trapped in a mist net on October 5, 2011, in the Bay of Petrov.

Chinese bush warbler (*Tribura tacsanowskia*).

A rare span species in the reserve is recorded for the first time. The young bird is caught in a web of network October 29, 2011 in the Bay of Petrov.

Willow warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*). A rare passage migrant. A young bird was caught in a mist net on August 13, 2009, in the Korpado tract. This is the second case of recording this species in the vicinities of the reserve (Shokhrin, 2007).

Common chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*).

An adult bird was trapped in a mist web on May 4, 2011, at the Petrov Bay. It had the following characteristics: wing length, 67.5 mm; tail length, 50.0 mm; tarsus length, 19.3 mm; and weight, 8.8 g. This was the first record of this species in Primorie. Another bird, caught in the same place on November 1, 2011, had the following characteristics: wing length, 63.0 mm; tail length, 54.0 mm; tarsus length, 18.5 mm; beak length, 8.3 mm; and weight, 7.5 g. The catches of this species were documented by photographs (fig. 2).

Gray-headed Canary-flycatcher (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*). A singing male was encountered in the forest of the Petrov Bay on May 13, 2011. The next day (May 14), the bird was caught in a mist net. It had the following characteristics: wing length 65.5 mm; tail length, 50.0 mm; tarsus length, 12.6 mm; beak length, 9.9 mm; and weight, 7.2 g (fig. 3). This was the second record of this species in Russia. The first time it was recorded in Southern Primorye on the Gamov Peninsula on May 10, 1986 (Veprintsev, Leonovich, 1988).

Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*). A rare passage migrant. An adult male was observed in the bush on October 11, 2007, at the Petrov Bay. In 2011, the bluethroat was caught in a mist net twice, on May 15 (adult male) and October 18 (young male).

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*). Two birds of this species were encountered in Primorye for the first time in the vicinities of the Lazo Village on January 11, 2011. In the next few days, they stayed here near a nonfreezing site of a small spring (Medvedev, Makovkin, 2011). According to our data, these birds stayed here until January 15, after which there remained only one of them, which continued to stay there until January 20.

One bird (most likely the same one) was observed on the Lazovka River on January 23–27, 2011, and stayed both near the water and in the forest, where it fed on Amur cork tree and hawthorn fruit.

White-winged crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*). Previously this species was not recorded in the Lazo Reserve. A small flock consisting of a male and two females was met on September 11, 2011, in the spruce–fir forest on the Nogeenskaya Mountain spurs.

Yellow-billed grosbeak (*Eophona migratoria*). A rare breeding, passage migrant, and wintering species. Single birds were observed on May 23–25, 2008, and May 19, 2009, in the vicinities of the Kishinevka Village; on May 30, 2009, in the Lazovka River valley; and on February 8, 2010, in the vicinities of the Lazo Village. A pair of these birds was met on June 2, 2009, in the of the Gerasimov Spring valley.

Savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*). A young female was caught in a mist net on October 17, 2007, at the Petrov Bay. It is kept in the collection of the Biology and Soil Science Institute, Far East Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences (Vladivostok).

Japanese reed bunting (*Schoeniclus yessoensis*). A rare and apparently wintering species. Birds of different sex and age were caught in mist nests at the Petrov Bay on October 10 and 23, 2007. In 2011, in the period from April 2 to May 1 and from October 19 to October 29, seven and five birds of this species, respectively, were caught here.

Yellow-browed bunting (*Ocyris chrysophrys*). A rare passage migrant. In 2011, adult males were caught in webs at the Petrov Bay on May 1 and 6 (two birds) and on May 7, 10 and 11, and a young bird was caught on October 14.

Masked bunting (*Ocyris (spodocephalus) personatus*). A rare passage migrant. Is regularly observed and caught in mist nets during both spring and autumn migrations. For example, three masked buntings were caught in 2007 (on October 7, 10 and 11); two, in 2009 (on September 28 and 30); and 12 birds, in 2011 (on April 24, 25, 26, 29 and 30; May 11, 15, 25 and 28; September 27; and October 4 and 5).

Yellow-breasted bunting (*Ocyris aureolus*).

A rare passage migrant and breeding species. At the Petrov Bay, young birds were caught in a mist net on October 6, 2007. In 2011, yellow-breasted buntings were caught on October 9, 13 (two birds), and 23. An adult male was caught on May 18, 2011.

Thus, the new ornithological findings described in this paper complete the checklist of birds of the Lazo Reserve (Shokhrin, 2002, 2005, 2007) to 380 species.

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