

# **Ussuriland and Amurland**

## **Far East Siberia**

**May – June 2003**

**NETVERSION**

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**Danish Ornithological Society**  
**Birdlife - Denmark**

## Introduction

In May-June 2003, the excursions committee of the Copenhagen section of the Danish Ornithological Society (DOF) carried out its first tour to Russia. The destination was Ussuriland and Amurland in the Far East Siberia.

The tour was designed to give the participants a thorough coverage of Far East Siberia. We had chosen a selection of excellent and different habitats. The number of bird species recorded was very impressive. We made up a bird list of 250 species and additional 60 species on our days in Moscow region.

The time for the trip was elected for trying to see all the breeding birds and still see some migrating too. In fact, some of the breeding birds had not arrived e.g. Lesser Cuckoo and Swinhoe's Storm-Petrel. In the first days in the southern area we had a lot of migrating passerines. But it should be considered to start the trip a week later!

The weather on the tour was very changing. In southern Ussuriland the weather on the coast was influenced by the cold sea, being misty, and with few showers and 10 - 15°C most days. 30 kms inland from the coast, the climate changed and it got warmer. At Bikin River and Udyl Lake it was sunny and nice. In the Muravievka Crane Park it was colder with few showers but most days were sunny.

Be aware that winters can get extremely cold and summers very hot in the entire region. In April and May temperatures are very moderate. Always have in mind that rain is normal, though we had almost none of this in what they call a very dry spring.

The participants were: Annelis Martinussen, Anne Birgitte Dahl-Hansen, Inger Andersen, Jørgen Bech, Erling Krabbe, Mogens Henriksen, Ebbe Arnfeldt Hansen, Henning Vikkelsøe Rasmussen, Flemming Quist Møller, Jette Kriegel, Finn Kriegel, Lise Fabricius, Jens Fabricius, Marianne Mølgaard, Gorm Vogensen Jensen, Erik Mølgaard (tour leader), Eric Schaumburg (tour leader).

The tour fee was DKK 27,800 including all transportation, accommodation, full board, guides, and "official" tips, tour leaders as well as the usual DOF services.

Derzu Usula "Eco-travel" in Moscow with Elena Ledovskikh ([elenik@deol.ru](mailto:elenik@deol.ru)) organized the whole trip. The arrangement was well organized but they still need to learn more for making perfect bird trips. E.g. the boat we used the first days from Vladivostok was only approved for 12 passengers and we were 19! Almost all the coaches in Siberia were very old and were in poor condition with too few seats for our group. It would be more convenient to have vans instead, even if the price would have risen a little bit. All the accommodation apart from Moscow and Khabarovsk was very basic and in some places the beds were quite bad. But the over all impression was very good having the possibilities in mind. Banja – the Russian way of sauna and bath - was available at most places. There are no chances of starving, the food is solid and good and the hosts think of it as an important issue. At most places there are small shops where chocolate and soft drinks as well as beer and vodka are available. Finally, we have not got any problems to recommend Derzu Usula for your trip.

Our main guide for the whole trip was Konstantin Mikhailov from Moscow. Konstantin had worked for many years in the Bikin River area and the southern Ussuriland, but never been at Udyl Lake and the Crane Park. He was extremely skilled in all biological matters at Bikin River and very good for the voices of the forest birds too. Konstantin was not committed for the difficult birds. He had not tried to get information on finding species that was important to us, though he had promised to do so. Also it was extremely difficult to get information from Konstantin as he seemed to be more interested in finding birds for himself in some places or to photograph them. This some times placed him far ahead and out of reach to the group.

In addition to Konstantin we had several local guides on the tour. With us in Ussuriland we also had Anna, director from the Biological Museum in Vladivostok. Her job was to make food, coffee and being the local contact to the accommodations and coaches. A nice lady – the only problem was the fact that she did not speak English.

In the southern Ussuriland we also had the local birdwatcher "Juri" with us. He knew a lot of the birds in the area but did not speak English either.

At Udyl Lake the local manager for the hunters had made the arrangement there. He did not know much about the passerines and the other target birds apart from Steller's Sea-Eagle.

In the Muravievka Crane Park the manager Sergei Smirenski (E-mail: [sergei@savingcranes.org](mailto:sergei@savingcranes.org)) was also our bird guide. He was brilliant. Sergei knew all the birds in the reserve and told us a lot about the protection of the cranes, storks etc.

The report contains the following,

1. Summary of the Journey
2. A Personal Diary (in Danish)
3. Description of the Localities Visited
4. List of Birds Recorded in Ussuriland and Amurland
5. List of Birds Recorded in Moscow Region
6. Comments on different bird-groups and species not observed
7. List of Mammals and reptiles

This report is based on the field notes from Erling Krabbe, Ebbe Hansen, Mogens Henriksen, Jørgen Bech, and Eric Schaumburg.

We wish to thank the following persons for their assistance in writing this report: Jørgen Bech, Erling Krabbe, Ebbe Hansen, Mogens Henriksen, and Marianne Mølgaard.

Species observed only by one or two persons are marked in the bird and mammals lists with initials of the observers in brackets.

It should not be forgotten that the whole trip was characterised by good fellowship and pleasant being together. Again it is a pleasure to look back on a successful DOF tour! We hope to see you all another time!

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## Summary of the journey

<b>17.05.03</b>	- 10.45	Copenhagen Airport
	12.00-13.30	Arlanda Airport (Stockholm)
	17.30-19.30	Moscow Airport
	21.05-	Svenigorod (Sanatorium Hotel)
<b>18.05.03</b>	05.30-09.10	Morning forest walk at biological station, Svenigorod (Pos 55,41 N-36,44 E)
	10.15-13.10	Walk along Moscow River, Svenigorod
	15.00-	Bus drive to Moscow Airport. Evening flight to Vladivostok
<b>19.05.03</b>	09.45-11.00	Vladivostok Airport.
	11.45-16.30	Vladivostok. (Lunch in Marine Biological Institute).
	16.30-17.00	Boat trip to Popov Island.
	17.00-	Popov Island and some had a evening boat trip to nearby seabird rock.
<b>20.05.03</b>	-09.15	Morning at Popov Island
	09.15-17.20	Boat trip to nearby islands (Pleskes Warbler island 10.45-13.40).
	17.40-	Evening at Popov Island
<b>21.05.03</b>	-09.15	Morning at Popov Island
	09.25-12.15	Boat trip to Eastern Marine Reserve
	12.15-16.40	Forest walk on Stenin Island, Eastern Marine Reserve Island.
	16.40-20.00	Boat trip to Vityaz.
	20.00-	Evening in village of Vityaz.
<b>22.05.03</b>	06.15-20.00	Full day boat trip to and walk at Khasan Nature Park. Evening in the village of Vityaz.
<b>23.05.03</b>	-08.45	Morning in Vityaz.
	08.45-20.10	Full day bus trip to Khasan Nature Park.
<b>24.05.03</b>	06.00-09.00	Morning at Vityaz.
	09.25-12.20	Bus drive to Kedrovaya Pad National Park.
	12.20-20.00	Walk in Kedrovaya Pad N.P.
<b>25.05.03</b>	06.00-20.00	Kedrovaya Pad National Park. Walk in forest and open areas.
<b>26.05.03</b>	06.30-13.40	Kedrovaya Pad National Park. Walk in forest and along river.
	13.40-18.00	Bus drive to Vladivostok Night train: Vladivostok – Luchegorsk.
<b>27.05.03</b>	06.00-07.00	Luchegorsk railway station surroundings.
	07.00-11.05	Bus drive to village of Verknij Pereval at Bikin River.
	12.10-17.15	Walk in Verknij Pereval and surroundings. Museum and forest hill top.
	19.30-23.30	Evening walk to wetland and river near Verknij Pereval.

<b>28.05.03</b>	07.00-08.45 08.45-10.00 10.00-12.25 12.25-18.00 18.00-	Morning birding in Verknii Pereval at Bikin River Boat trip upstream Bikin River Walk from riverside to vast peat bog. Breeding site for Hooded Crane. Continued boat trip upstream Bikin River to village of Krasny Yar. Evening at Krasny Yar.
<b>29.05.03</b>	06.15-12.15 15.25-21.10	Forest walk at Krasny Yar Boat trip upstream Bikin River. Walk in river forest (pos. 46,42 N-135,30 E. 525 ft. a.s.l. 16 km from Krasny Yar)
<b>30.05.03</b>	06.30-09.00 11.30-17.00 17.00-	Forest walk at Krasny Yar. Bus drive Krasny Yar – Khabarovsk. Evening in Khabarovsk
<b>31.05.03</b>	06.00-08.20 08.20-14.00 14.20-21.00	Khabarovsk at Amur River Bus drive Khabarovsk to Komsomolsk Hydrofoil boat trip down Amur River to village of Bogorodskoyie.
<b>01.06.03</b>	06.30-07.10 08.15-21.00 21.00-	Bogorodskoyie. Boat trip to Lake Udyl. Evening in Bogorodskoyie.
<b>02.06.03</b>	06.00-17.00	Bus trip to taiga hill forest and stream 30-50 km east of Bogorodskoyie. Evening in Bogorodskoyie.
<b>03.06.03</b>	04.50-13.00 13.50-20.15 20.15-	Hydrofoil boat trip from Bogorodskoyie to Komsomolsk. Bus drive from Komsomolsk to Khabarovsk. Evening in Khabarovsk.
<b>04.06.03</b>	06.35-12.30  17.00-18.05 18.20-21.00	Bus trip to farmland and wetland area 1½ hours drive south of Khabarovsk. Visit to Derzu Usulas grave at highway. Flight from Khabarovsk to Blagoveshchensk. Bus drive airport - Muravievka Crane Park.
<b>05.06.03</b>	All day	Muravievka Crane Park. Morning walk along lake slope. Afternoon bus trip to burnt grass area and ponds.
<b>06.06.03</b>	All day	Muravievka Crane Park. Morning walk from HQ across dried out lake area for Pechora Pipit. Afternoon bus trip to central part of park.
<b>07.06.03</b>	All day	Muravievka Crane Park. Morning bus trip to ponds i north western part of the park. Afternoon bus trip to Japanese Crane breeding site.
<b>08.06.03</b>	04.10-07.00 07.00-08.00 10.40	Muravievka Crane Park at HQ. Bus drive to Blagoveshchensk airport. Flight to Moscow. Afternoon sightseeing in Moscow.

**09.06.03**      -15.55    Sightseeing in Moscow and transfer to the airport.  
16.40-        Copenhagen Airport.

## A Personal Diary (in Danish)

Af Jørgen Bech & Erik Schaumburg

### **17/5 København-Moskva-Zvenigorod.**

Gruppen samles i Kastrup kl. 7.30. I lufthavnen stod et Aeroflotfly – og der blev det stående med defekt i en motor. Redningen blev SAS der fløj os til Stockholm og senere til Moskva. Velforsinket trådte vi uden større formalia ind i Rusland. Vores kontaktfolk udeblev, så der blev nu hængt ud på restauranten på 5.sal. Efter et par timer blev de så omsider lokaliseret – Elena som den Moskva-baserede tur-ansvarlige og Konstantin Mikhailov, vores guide på hele turen. Oven på starttumulten var det meget passende at vi blev overflyttet til et sanatorium 50 km vest for Moskva. I spisesalen forsøgte et orkester at skabe liv på et tomt dansegulv. I den fugtigkolde aften høres nattergal og vindrossel, men kikkerten var stadig ikke pakket ud.

### **18/5 Zvenigorod. Flight Moskva-east!**

Dagen bød på en mindre træningslejr inden det skulle gå løs i det sibiriske. Zvenigorod er et område med flod, græsenge, blandskov og en biologisk feltstation, der bl.a. driver ringmærkning. Ikke en stor lokalitet, men en mosaik af hyggelige habitater. En Rødrygget Tornskade gik i nettet – nyankommen svarende til at ankomsterne her er ca. 14 dage senere end i DK. Flodsanger snurrede. Lærkefalk og Hedeheg. Generelt var skoven rig – et meget stort antal Grå og især Broget Fluesnapper og syngende Lille Fluesnapper, Lille Flagspætte, Fyrremejse og Skovsanger som dominerende phyll. I skoven lå et lille museum – russerne er i alle forhold tættere på og langt mere optaget af historien end de forjagede folk fra vest, det gælder også deres naturhistorie. Efter en kort sanatoriebehandling var gruppen klar – bound for Sibiria. Aeroflot revancerede sig stærkt, en airbus afgik on time mod Vladivostok.

### **19/5 Vladivostok. Båd til Popov Island. Aften: Bådtur til havfugle-kolonier.**

Vladivostok kl. 9.30 – 10 grader – dis. Vi kom relativt ukompliceret ud gennem den rudimentære lufthavn og White-cheeked Starling blev første bevis på at vi var østpå! Det så fint ud, men gradvist blev det erkendt at et logistisk mareridt var i gang. Dagen gik med at rykke rundt i Vladivostok mens vores pas undergik en langsommelig behandling i det lokale bureaukrati. Konstantin havde erklæret at waders var standardudstyr til turen (gummistøvler viste sig fuldt tilstrækkelige). I en lille forretning var der et større arsenal af våben – i håndkøb! og her blev bl.a. Jens og Ebbe udstyret med waders. Sidst på eftermiddagen stod vi så omsider ud fra Vladivostok – byen med den historiske flådehavn, men også bunker af skrot, stillestående fabrikker og mørnet beton. Om bord var vi nu på det lille inspektionsskib der var vores transportmiddel den næste uges tid. Et godt og solidt arbejdende fartøj om end dimensioneret til en gruppe noget mindre end vores. Anna var med os nu - vores værn mod sult og nød og også i starten Juri, leder af stationen på Popov og af opsynet i Eastern Marine Reserve. Sydud mod Popov kom en fin stribe af Stillehavsalkefugle og vi var i gang!

Ved landsætningen på Popov var der dog stadig voldsomme observations-abstinenser. Hele gruppen forsvandt ud i krattene, men blev kaldt til orden af Erik så det lykkedes at gennemføre en indkvartering på øens gamle gæstehus. På fronten havde et hammer og segl overlevet massakren efter Glasnost. Indendørs var det spartansk men ok. Som andre steder var toiletter udendørs jordhuller og badning traditionel russisk banja.

Øen: Grøn Manchurisk løvskov, lidt kultivation og brakland og en klippekyst. Der VAR fuglefald. Og i den korte tid inden mørke indrapporteres de første af de fine østarter – som f.eks. de 2 Sibirian Blue Robins der sang tæt ved gæstehuset og tilmed kunne ses!



Om aftenen var der fødselsdagsgave til Flemming! – Anna havde set datoen i passene. De der havde energien sejlede ud med båden til en af de gode små klippeøer. Det var en fantastisk aften – stille, lidt diset og det kogte af fugle – Ancient Murrelet, Næsehornsalk, Brilletejst, Vandrefalkepar der slog Pacific Swifts.

Dagen bød også på en negativ melding: De annoncerede Swinhoe's Stormsvaler og Streaked Shearwater var ikke ankommet! Så var det i hvert fald helt klart, at denne tur ville blive en pionertur og at helt sikre informationer – også dem der gjaldt main-targets blandt fuglene – ikke rigtigt eksisterede. Store muligheder for frustrationer – men også en udfordring!

### **20/5 Popov Island – Eastern Marine Reserve incl. "Pleske Island".**

Lysset kom først kl. 6 og morgenobs'en blev kortere end ventet. Gruppen spredte sig ud i den østpalæarktiske felt og første møde med karakterarter som Eastern Crowned Leaf-Warbler, Blue&White og Yellow-rumped Flycatcher, Ashy Minivit, Chestnut-eared og Black-faced Bunting. Skovværtingen Yellow-throated Bunting sad hist og her – det tog en uges tid inden alle havde set den smukke, diskrete værting perfekt. Henning nappede en Vinous-throated Parrotbill i noget brakland – skulle vise sig siden at kun en person yderligere fik den art at se. Det egentlige ø-hit kom kl. 9 – Brown-eared Bulbul – en talrig art i Japan der de sidste år er expanderet op langs kysten og her ses for første gang i reservatet. Vores gode skib sejlede ud i ø-havet kl. 9 – der hittede med Asiatisk Gråklire og Marbled Murrelet fra båden inden landing per gummibåd på "Pleske-øen". Target var den ultralokale Pleske's Græshoppesanger – tidligere betragtet som en del af Sakalinarten Middendorf's Græshoppesanger. Det var midtformiddag og en af de (få) dage hvor solen næsten brænder tågeskyerne af. Kombineret med en noget kaotisk strategi så det tvivlsomt ud, men i løbet af de næste timer fik alle hørt eller set den fine art, der var nyankommet og dagvokal i korte seancer. Ebbe fandt den første fugl der ses kort – en stor locustella der hastigt åler sig ned i sit skjul. Øen var utrolig smuk – rig urtevegetation, buskadser (mange Langhalede Karmindompapper) og små-skær langs kysten – Strømænder i pragt! Efter øen krydsejles rundt og alle får demonstreret Rhinoceros Auklet og Ancient Murrelet håndholdt – hentet af Juri fra redehullerne. Aften på Popov – smådrengene kører rundt i landsbyen i motorcykler med sidevogn. På fuglefronten er der fin Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker til alle.

### **21/5 Popov Island. Eastern Marine Reserve og videre sydpå med båd til Vityaz (Khasan)**

Rygter om hård vind og natterusk i træerne, men om morgenen stille med den sædvanlige gus. God fald-nat - blandt mange Yellow-rumped og Brun Fluesnapper enkelte Mugimaki'er, Phyll-indslaget var især Palle-legged Leaf-warbler. Dagens hovedopgave var den 7 timer lange sejltur mod syd til Khasanområdet. Første del gik gennem kerneøerne i Marine reserve – rigdom af havænder, alkefugle, måger og også Harbour Seals. En større ø var udset til landgang – skoven her var en stor oplevelse. Skovtypen er lys Manchurisk løvskov – såkaldt pyrogen skov, med tendens til (også spontane) brande og derfor præget af relativ unge træer. Skovbunden er helt unik med sin rige urtevegetation, blomstertæpper, orkideer, bregnebede. Tristam's Bunting sad tæt og en højdiskant mærkelig stemme viste sig at komme fra Japansk Silkehale, men fuglene var yderst flygtige. Endnu et kommunikationskoks kastede imidlertid hovedparten af forsamlingen ud i en timelang stroppeur frem til modsatte kyst med en stor koloni af Black-tailed Gulls – områdets talrigste art og dermed ude af proportioner. En del gode timer blev dermed tabt for yderligere skov- og kratlusk. Efter en af Annas velorganiserede frokoster sejlede holdet videre mod syd. Målet: Vityaz - en hussamling med spisested og en lille butik der blev åbnet og fik et fint aftensalg af øl og den for øvrigt fortræffelige russiske chokolade. Daurian Redstart og efter mørkning Brown Hawk-Owl. Der var gevinst til dem med større øl-konsum og dårlig blærekapacitet der drevet op efter midnat kunne høre Yellow-legged Buttonquail (som brølet fra en fjern ko).

### **22/5 Khasan Nature Park - laguner og flodslette ved Tumanganflodens udløb.**

Store forventninger knyttede sig til dette floddelta, store vadefugledag var i gang! Vi sejlede et par timer for at komme derned, blygrå dag, diset og ca. 12 grader. Lommer, fløjsænder, alkefugle – 2 immature Hvidnæbbede Lommer lettede fra tæt hold og skabte større diskussion mellem for- og agterholdet på grund af de mange unge Temmincksskarver og deraf mulige fejlbestemmelser.

Fremme ved floddeltaet var der udsigt over ideelle vadeflader – men de var tomme!! Det arktiske vader-roost var fuldstændigt floppet. Et lille hold Hvidbrystede Præstekraver udgjorde det lokale vaderindslag og selv en enkelt stornæbbet spove holdt ikke til nærmere eftersyn: alm. storspove.

Langt senere på turen mødte vi et hold schweiziske ornitologer der havde oplevet et lignende tomhedssyndrom på Sakhalin. Teorien var at fuglene stadig stod i Korea. Eneste sikre konklusion: Det østpalæarktiske arktiske vadefugletræk er lunefuldt og dårligt beskrevet!

Vi gik gennem rør med Orchre-rumped Buntings – alias Japansk Rørspurv, endnu en af de fine og meget lokale værlinger. Græssletterne præget af det massive afbrænderi som åbenbart er obligatorisk for denne del af verden – både med og uden praktisk begrundelse. Mod syd rejste sig gamle klippekystlinier inde på sletten som spektakulære brud på de store flader. Specielt i klipperavinerne var der en rig vegetation og dermed opsamling af småfugle: Chinese Penduline Tit ved rede, Manchurian Bush-Warbler – en stor sanger der kravler i vegetationen med en imponerende sang (pirolagtig eksplosion fulgt af kortere strofe), en sen Brundrossel (turens eneste), Pileværting 1 par (langt syd for yngleområdet). Gorm gav prøve på sit skarpe øje – pillede en Stor Hornugle ud oppe på klippen (godt gået Gorm...). På engene nedenfor første Mandarinand og første Amurfalk. Mogens var blevet tilbage og havde slidt med vaderne – udbyttet blev Mongolsk Præstekrave, Strandhjejle, Rødhals og Langtået Ryle – én af hver.

### **23/5 Khasan Nature Park og tilgrænsende områder (bagland).**

Vi havde taget afsked med vores gode skib – lidt vemodigt. I stedet bus-baseret heldagsekskursion. Mange begivenheder de første km – Tatlers i hver eneste havbugt, en fin sø med Mandarinand og Segland i pragt! Fra fugtig skovbund lyden fra en skralde – det mystiske udbrud tilhørte den yderst lokale Band-bellied Crake (senere play-backed ud af skoven af tur-kommandant Erik til glæde for de inviterede tæt ved øl & chokoladebutikken i Vityaz). Hill Pigeon viste sig én gang. Vi passerede flere laguner/afsnørede flodløb med lidt hvide hejrer indtil vi pludselig stod med et røddata-hit: En hvid egret med gult næb, ultralange nakke-rydfjer og blå fascial-skin – Chinese Egret! Ifølge russerne er 2-3 par dukket op som ynglefugle på en af småøerne. Og så fik alle deltagere fasan som ny art! Den lokale ringfasan er sky og flot og giver baghjul til vore hjemlige jagt-hybrider af flere racer. Vi kom igen ud på flodslettens græsland og pludseligt ligger et par huse med reservatbetjente (får næppe løn hver måned), en frokost (flodfisk og borsch, velsmagende, utroligt hvad de kan stampe op af jorden) og ikke mindst: en gruppe popler, et par frugttræer og lidt buskvegetation. I det ellers åbne kystland et klassested for fuglefald – Nordsanger, Hvidbrynet Løvsanger, Brun Løvsanger, Grey-streaked Flycatcher smutter rundt i de små åbne træer, og senere ved et genbesøg var der skiftet ud: Brown Hawk-Owl og Sibirisk Drossel, sidstnævnte havde ingen chance for skulking og blev et hit for alle. Og en meget vigtig observation (lidt uventet turens eneste fraset 1 yderligere med kun 1 observatør).

Denne tur førte os klods på Nordkorea og Kina – Bayer's Pochard viste sig ikke, arten rasler ned. Til trøst en totalopvisning på vej hjem af en af verdens smukkeste rovfugle: Pied Harrier gammel han.

#### **24/5 Vityaz til Kedrovaya Pad. Kedrovaya Pad.**

Morgen hvor tågedisen tætnede yderligere til. En stille morgen med et par Band-bellied Crakes og så viste det sig at byen havde alle 3 stære dvs.incl.Chestnut-cheeked der stikker op fra syd.

Næste underholdende transportmiddel var den ekstremt højbenede, 4-hjulstrukne formodentlig pensionerede militærbus, hvor vi akkurat kunne staves sammen – det blev rimeligt komfortabelt efter længere diskussioner og fremskaffelse af en varevogn til bagagen. Vi buldrede af sted sikre på ikke at køre fast, mens varevognen med Konstantin forsvandt. Senere gik vi helt i stå ved et T-kryds i timelang venten på Konstantin der efter alt at dømmе kørte rundt efter sine waders som han havde glemt dagen før. Tågen gik momentvis i finregn, mut og trøstesløs stemning bredte sig. Endelig rykkede vi videre og ind i den naturskov, der var de næste dages target.

Hovedkvarteret ligger få km. inde i skoven og består af spredte træhuse. Her som andre steder klarede de værtskabet for os på beundringsværdig vis. Med en kollapset offentlig infrastruktur er det vanskelige tider overalt for naturbevarelse i Rusland. Deltagerne blev spredt til forskellige huse. Gruppen af gamle feltbisser med rod i sen-60erne blev dumpet i et træhus der næppe havde været varmet op i den sidste vinter og et indeklima der lignede den råkolde finregn udenfor. Russere dimensionerer jo altid stort, den kæmpemæssige murede brændeovn ingen undtagelse. Erling tog initiativet til at fyre op, hvilket fyldte huset med røg men til sidst steg røgen af skorstenen og der blev smeltende hedt. Eftervarmen i ovnen holdt i dagevis – vi var flyttet ind!

Dagen gik i den nærmeste skov, der buldrede med fugle – phyllerne havde Eastern Crowned og Pale-legged som karakterfugle, men også mange Schwartz's Løvsangere fra bunden og Fuglekongesangere fra toppen. Uden for skoven gennemføres en række Parrotbill-forsøg, det gælder om at finde græsvegetationer der ikke! er afbrændt. Det lykkes subcommandante Eric at finde 2 fugle, som han forblev alene om også de næste dage trods god habitat.

En anden gruppe var nået til en ejendommelig samling skrot og tomme bygninger bag rustne pigtrådsruller og fik associationer til en forladt Gulak-institution. Midt i dystreheden var der fine Gråspætter.

#### **25/5 Kedrovaya Pad.**

Permatågen og de lave skyer hang stadig. Men skoven var i fuld gang og det blev en dag hvor folk i mindre grupper og individuelt søgte ud i denne fantastiske løvurskov med sin frodige underskov og stribe af østpalæarktiske super-arter. Stedets "flagskib" er bestanden af Amurleopard og med kun 30-40 dyr tilbage er det en hårdt trængt bestand og håbløst isoleret. Leoparden skaffer de sponsormidler og indtægter området kan overleve på inkl. filmhold og fotografer og i vores periode bissede en koreaner rundt i området med sine fotolinser. Inden for de nærmeste ca..15 km skov var der 3 leoparder + 1 unge og mindst 1 tiger. Bag vores huse rejser sig en skovklædt skråning. Et hold kravlede turen op til huler på toppen – et kendt leopardtilholdssted med masser af spor, bytterester etc. Her kommer også en smuk, dybt melankolsk fuglestemme i øret, sammenholdt med habitatens gættes på White-throated Rock-Thrush. Det bekræftes senere og næste dag ser flere fuglen i kort sangflugt på klods. Et par Grey-faced Buzzard havde territorium i skoven.

En anden gruppe fandt Slagugle og playbackede på en af de absolut vanskeligste skulkere: Sib. Blue Robin der kun lader sig se efter lang tålmodighed og i splitsekunder. Erling gik solo på turens eneste Chinese Goshawk under et (forgæves) parrotbillforsøg. Blev man ved hytterne (Henning desværre permanent på grund af en skade i den ene fod) var der også belønning med f.eks. Thick-billed Warbler, Stribet Græshoppesanger, Asian Stubtail (set!) og overflyvende Japanese Grosbeak. Søsterarten Chinese G. udeblev helt på turen, var i flg. russerne forsvundet inden for de sidste 10-år. Om eftermiddagen kom den første lille opklaring i en uges tid. Orientalisk Hvepsevåge poppede straks op og rundt omkring sås Dollarbirds. Hvidrygget Spætte var almindelig – Yellowthroated Bunting hist og her – hvad kan man ønske sig mere.

### **26/5. Kedrovaya Pad. Bus til + ophold i Vladivostok. Nattoget mod Luchegorsk.**

Endnu ½ døgn i de jomfruelige skove. Gruppen spredte sig igen, nogle guidede af den lokale leder (Juri). På den anden side af den lille flod forsvinder en sti ud i fantastisk skov, domineret af løv med spredte grupper af nål (fyr,ceder). Omkring nåletræerne var der Pale Thrush. Gulddrossel blev hørt og det var noget uventet eneste livstegn fra arten overhovedet, Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo blandede sig i koret fra de mange Skovgøge. En Hjerpe stødes op. Tydeligt de store rovdyr turnerer i området, spor fra leopard, skrabet fra tiger, kløerne fra bjørn....

Om eftermiddagen rykker vi så ud af leopardskoven. Ind mod Vladivostok muler vejret hurtigt til igen. Vi rykker ubemærket ind i byen i vores nye vrag af en bus, som imidlertid kører upåklageligt. Der er en vis forstemthed i byen, der stadig domineres af flåden og hæren. Tågen, skrottet, de iøjefaldende sociale uligheder, man ser næsten ingen børn. Nu nærmer sig imidlertid et nyt highlight: Jernbanestationen – den transsibiriske jernbanes østlige terminal, og kun Jens og Lise havde tidligere erfaringer fra verdens længste jernbane. Vi havde nu en noget mere regional udgave: Nattoget til Luchegorsk (en oplagt titel på en kriminalroman!). Der var absolut en oplevelseskvalitet i at stå på toget i Vladivostok og rulle ud i natten, og særdeles solide tog-stewardesser sørgede for disciplin og tidlig nattero i sovekupeerne.

### **27/5. Luchegorsk. Bus (incl. længere stop ved flodleje) til Verkhniy Pereval ved Bikin-floden.**

Kl. 6.35 til forventet tid væltede vi ud ved Luchegorsk til morgentåge og den typiske næsten mennesketomhed. Og der holdt bus klar – som sædvanligt næsten stor nok, men efterhånden var der på holdet en expertice i effektivt at loade bagage bag i bussen så der blev sæder til alle.

Hovedproblemet viste sig nu hurtigt at være buschaufføren og hans relation til alkohol! Vi rullede ind mod Bikinfloden og passerede floden i mere doven lavlandsudgave efter ½ times kørsel. Langs floden var der galleriskov af især pil. Alle de gamle feltbisser arbejdede på højtryk langs floden eller fra broen, men Anne Lis tog fusen på alle ved pludseligt at reagere på en lille lys fugl. Det var den! Azurmejsen – en art som dele af gruppen havde ventet et helt liv på at se. Konstantin havde gjort klart at det var en vanskelig art her længst mod øst og han havde ingen lokaliteter hjemmefra. Så der var tale om en markant stabilisering af nervesystemet hos adskillige deltagere. Azurmejsen yngede klassisk i pil ved floden, kom frem i små fremkaldelser på scenen under broen. Også turens første Rubinnatergal meldte sig - hørt og set!

I landsbyen Verkhniy Pereval blev vi indkvarteret i et lille hotel. En typisk sibirisk bebyggelse med træhuse, en skole, få mennesker og snoede grusveje i en større skovrydning. Livsgrundlaget var byens tømmerplads. Samtidig brød den kontinentale sol frem og markerede vi var ude af kystens tågeklime. Byen havde et lille naturhistorisk museum og en legendarisk skikkelse i russisk naturbeskyttelse i en 86 årig tidligere skolelærer med en livslang kamp for Bikinfloden og de omgivende skove. En flot skikkelse, men der er bekymring for fremtiden. Kinesiske og koreanske tømmerfirmaer banker på, lokaladministrationen er svækket, korruptionsniveauet højt. Men endnu ligger 400 km dal uforstyrret hen.

Ved byen ligger en lille isoleret bjergknold – og der var 4 gode grunde til at bruge energien her: Endelig Meadow Buntings – engværlinger som havde habitat langs de åbne områder for foden af bjergknolden og ses fint langs vejen. Bortset fra at Inger havde haft en af sine (hyppige!) solo-obs. af arten på Popov var det en vanskelig art på denne tur som kun ses her.

Dernæst var Konstantin nu på hjemmebane og førte holdet op ad skrænterne i den fineste løvskov efter Forest Wagtail. En svær art. En fin, næsten skrøbelig sang fra træerne, men nem er den ikke at finde. Diskret stående eller vandrende på horizontale grene. I skovbunden blomstrer Fruesko. Nær toppen var det Ebbes tur til at få nærkontakt med White-throated Rock-Thrush.

Fra toppen er der et formidabelt syn ud over den vildmark der venter os de næste dage – Bikinfloden i sit vilde løb gennem skove der kun brydes af pletter af højmoser. Vi er heldige – vi er på vej derud.

Aftentur langs floden med tørre enge og småkultivation. Der blev talt om Stor Græshoppesanger, men efter rapporter fra Happy Island kunne arten næppe ventes før ind i juni. Til gengæld var der 3 hanner af Pied Harrier og efter mørkets frembrud fantastisk spil af Swinhoe's Snipe, et mystisk, eksplosivt, punkterende spil udført i flugten. Vi kom meget sent tilbage med en chauffør der var lakket slemt til.

### **28/5 Op ad Bikinfloden.**

Efter den oprindelige plan skulle vi med bus 5 timer op til næste landsby, herved ville vi lave en by-pass uden om det nok vigtigste og mest fantastiske natursceneri på hele turen. Erik skruede bissen på og Eric anvendte diplomatiet og derfor var en helt afgørende ændring i planen på plads for dagen: Bussen måtte nøjes med bagagen mens vi fordelte os på 6 smalle flodbåde. Vi forlod civilisationen opstrøms på Bikins vandveje. Bådene havde stærke motorer og især en fantastisk dygtighed hos bådførerne, der hver gang ramte strømhvirvlerne i de rigtige kurver, for det var vildt vand vi sejlede på og i dagens løb steg vi 400 meter! Med skiftende både i spidsen fik alle klasse-iagttagelser af Scaly-sided Merganser – omkring 60 blev set i dagens løb som post-breeding overvejende hanflokke, men også 1 hun med pull. Det er en god ide at se sig godt for – der er også Stor Skallesluger på floden. Med senere erfaring er Bikinfloden på denne strækning kerneområdet for skalleslugeren med flodens talrige opdelinger i flere løb. Skalleslugerne var ganske sky, løftede sig hurtigt op over skoven og fløj mod alternative flodløb. En af de andre fine andefugle – Mandarinand - sås almindeligt langs brinker og i rolige vige og i alt 44 blev set denne dag. Luft-rummet bød på en ekstrem-flyver – Tornhalseejler sås regelmæssigt hele vejen op, 18 i alt.

1/3 opstrøms lagde vi ind og Anna gjorde klar til frokost mens gruppen gik ind i land mod en af de store højmoser, ifølge Konstantin habitat for Hooded Crane. Der var overvejende tør men hård gang indad i det tuede terræn ind til den vidtstrakte mose. Og ganske rigtigt – Munketræner på yngleplads. Far-eastern Curlew med det far-out lange næb. Stor Kobbersneppe – den lille, kortbenede østrace. Lydbilledet domineres af Thick-billed Warbler og snurrende Stribet Græshoppesanger. Og når Pied Harrier hanner patruljerer kan det næsten ikke blive større! Tilbage ved floden var der frokost i det meget grønne – godt humør, et par små spidse til bådførerne.

Videre op ad vandvejene. Interessen var nu meget knyttet til øer i floden med grusede, småstenede bredder og en vis central græsflade. Long-billed Plover er flodens vader-specialitet – men en krævende art. Det lykkes at finde 3 lokaliteter – jagten på arten blev et drama, bådfolkene er hurtige og var ikke meget for unødigt forsinkelse, så et par både røg forbi det første fund af Long-billed Plover mens det kun lykkedes for en anden båd at se arten via et små-mytter. Men arten kom fint i land hos alle inden aften.

6 timer up-stream, først til allersidst sås de første spor af menneske-aktivitet men så var vi også fremme ved Krasny Yar, en meget isoleret landsby ved Bikin. Landsbyen er ganske pittoresk med de gamle træhuse og befolkningen er helt domineret af Ussurilands oprindelige asiatiske befolkning – udægeiski. Der var – selvfølgelig af lokale kvinder – organiseret privat indkvartering rundt omkring i byen. Alle blev velanbragt hos deres værtsfamilie, det var hyggeligt og en meget fin dimension at komme indenfor hos de lokale. Der var god borsch, elg-kød og andet guf, dampende Banja og der blev kommunikeret løs efter bedste evne.

### **29/5 Krasny Yar, Bikinfloden.**

En dag med 2 hovedmål: Gåtur ind i tigerskoven! Sejlads yderligere op ad Bikin.

Det gik lidt trægt med at få samlet gruppen om morgenen, men til sidst gik det ind ad et hjulspor

gennem prægtig ældgammel blandsskov. De mudrede kørespor afslørede hurtigt at her var vi en skov hvor toppen af fødekæden var tungt besat. Tigerspor var almindelige helt tæt ind til landsbyen, men især efter løvspring ville det kræve mere end almindeligt held at se sibirisk tiger. Der var spor efter bjørn og efter ulv. Lige for at markere hvilket øko-system vi rodede rundt i. Måske hvis man havde haft et par uger og bare var gået stille rundt ad den skovvej hver dag....?

Vi var efterhånden godt med hvad angår Ussurilands skovfugle – ændringen her var især indslaget af nåletræer med Mugimaki Flycatcher syngende fra flere poster og i spættediversiteten indslag af Sortspætte og Tretået Spætte. Noget uventet trådte Marianne en Schrenck´s Bittern op fra et vandløb midt i skoven, kun de omkringstående fik et medkig på den.

Eftermiddagen bød på endnu en flodsejls. Floden her var mere samlet i ét løb og tydeligvis dermed mindre attraktiv for Scaly-sided Merganser som dog genses incl.nogle hunner der med 22 pull. gjorde deres yderste for at fjerne arten fra rød-listen. Der blevet fundet 1 ø med Long-billed Plover.

Længere oppe blev det til en længere landgang hvor Flemming tillod sig at gå solo på en Slagugle, men hvor deltagerne må gøre sig definitivt klart, at der på denne tur ikke bliver set Blakinstons Fiskeugle. Der var ingen kendt yngleplads inden for vores rækkevidde. Lidt sorg over den tabte mulighed.

Aften-retourering til Krasny Yar – dollarbirds, i land i et sandet område med nåleskov og Pale Thrush. Hjem til hygge i familierne – mens vores berusede chauffør lavede dørtræk op og ned ad byens veje med bussen.

### **30/5 Bikin ved Krasny Yar. Buskørsel til Khabarovsk.**

Småregn morgen, men for lidt til at løse op for den tørke der plager markerne. Meget rodet morgen hvor Konstantin ikke kunne finde vejen ind i skoven. Erik havde heller ikke den bedste morgen – en Rubinnattergaloptagelse viste sig at tilhøre Black-faced Bunting. Skoven var ikke i klasse med gårdagens og flere ærgrede sig over ikke bare at være vendt tilbage til tigersporene. Det var især Rufous-tailed Robin der markerede denne morgen – den monotone snurrestrofe høres mange steder, desuden mange stubtails, gråspætter etc .

Udegesk-byen var i øvrigt spændende. På flere gavle var malet en konfiguration med et ansigt, et ikon fra en orientalsk kultursphære. Øjnene i disse malerier var ikke til at tage fejl af – Bhuddaøjne som fra de nepalesiske stupaer. Skolen så ud til snart at falde sammen - 2.sal var lukket på grund af risiko for sammenstyrtning. Der var ellers tegn på en vis børneproduktion i denne by med en del skoleungdom. Og så er ingen by så lille at der ikke er et mindesmærke for den store fædrelandskrig 1941-45. I det mindst lidt gammelt krigsmateriel, en hyldest til den Røde Hær, en stribe navne – alle byerne havde faldne.

Det var dagen hvor vi skulle på en lang bustur til Khabarovsk. Det var så her miraklet indtrådte – vi blev undsat af en fin bus med ædru chauffør. Inden afgang forsøgte lokale koner at sælge hjemmenørkede souvenirs. En hård branche – vi havde stadig ikke set en turist på hele turen.

Busturen forløb uden de helt store begivenheder. Khabarovsk nås kl. 17. En større by, mere afslappet og intakt, måske er det solen, måske går livet mere upåvirket videre her inde i Sibirien. Vi fik vores værelser der varierede fra luksus-suites til møblerede pulterkamre. Det var så bare om at være heldig. Om aftenen var der overarbejde idet vi var 3 dage bagud med den fugleliste, som blev ført fælles hver aften (uanset udmattelsesgrad!), men var blevet afbrudt i Krasny Yar. Desuden var der problemer med næste dags transport der skulle indlede ”projekt Udyl.” Det er første gang vi gør os klart at der er noget der hedder ”den store centralasiatiske tørke (år 5)” og at det vil få betydning for resten af turen.

### **31/5 Khabarovsk-Komsomolsk (Bus). Amurfloden: Komsomolsk-Bogorodskoya (Hydrofoilbåd)**

Amurfloden har ved Khabarovsk forladt sit løb som grænse mellem Kina og Rusland og løber nordpå mange 100 km til udmundingen over for Sakhalins nordspids. Planen om at sejle hele vejen deropad strandede i bogstaveligste forstand på den lave vandstand i floden – en effekt af endnu et tørkeforår. Vi skulle op til Komsomolsk med bus og udskibes herfra. Bussen stod klar til afgang, men havde ingen mulighed for at rumme både russere, bagage og danske ornitologer. Det kom der så en længere forhandlings sag ud af, men til sidst blev vores oprindelige bus mobiliseret. Der var ikke nervøsitet for at komme for sent til båden idet vi medbragte bådens kaptajn som et solidt gidsel. Store, overvejende tomme landskaber domineret af blandskov med dominans af birk vekslende med enge (ofte for tørre) og småsøer. Ornitologisk ret begivenhedsfattigt. I Komsomolsk kom vi ombord. Kajen måtte rykkes langt ud, men det klarede de ved at lægge oplagte fartøjer uden på hinanden og surre dem sammen. Det gav nogle interessante, kringledede ruter når man skulle ombord. Især for dem der medbragte megakufferter på hjul! På båden igen stewardesser af den brede type, skrappe i starten, grinende siden. Der var 2 passagerkabiner og vi fik topservice med bagerste kabine til vores gruppe alene. Mellem kabinerne var der et lille åbent dæk og dermed en fremragende observationspost. 7 timer opad Amur var begyndt – legendariske Amur. Det store target var endnu en legende, en af ornitologiens største – Steller's Havørn! Der blev observeret kontinuerligt hele vejen op, Mogens og Jørgen viste den rigtige feltånd ved at tage alle 2 x 7 timer både op og nogle dage senere retur. Første strækning var ret stille selvom et par flokke Hvidvingede Terner i sommerdragt altid er en æstetisk fornøjelse. Mod nord trådte landskabet for alvor i karakter, mere åbent, koldere med sneklædte småbjerge som bagkulisser. . Scenen var sat. Og pludseligt var kæmpen der – det helt store vingefang og tæt ved skibet - og der kunne brøles ”Steller!” ned i kabinen som blev lynmobiliseret. Observatørerne blev nødt til at give den tid – 16.40. Siden gik det løs og frem til ankomsten kl. 20.55 ses i alt 7 Steller's Havørne og 17 almindelige Havørne. Humøret på det lille dæk var på toppen. Aftenen var lang og nordisk, lyset koldt og holdbart og skyformationerne dramatiske. Landsbyen Bogorodskoya ligger hvor en lille biflod fra Udylsøen løber ud i Amur. Landsætning via de sædvanlige paralleltejlrede både. Modtagelsen stod den stedlige jagtopsynsmand for, der bl.a. havde ansvaret for populationen af Steller-havørne. Vi blev fordelt på 3 adresser incl. et mindre gæstehus. Vi blev bospist i 2 hold i en privat bolig – venteholdet hyggede sig med pragtudsigten over Amur.

#### **1/6. Udyl-søen.**

Om morgenen kunne man hygge sig med adskillige rastende og syngende Nordsangere i byen. Kl. 8.45 var vi klar til en ny variant af de mange fantastiske bådtransporter denne tur bød på. 4 små stål både som så ud som om de var kommet ud fra en sideproduktion fra et sovjetisk militært skibsværft. Starten gik fint, men bådene løb så ind i en serie af sammenbrud, specielt den ene var svært instabil med 3 nedbrud. Bådførerne var imidlertid ferme til at reparere on location og ekspeditionen kunne sejle videre. Der var en fin landgang ved en landsby længere inde tæt ved søen og de første af mange Gulbrystede Værlinger. Vi nåede så søen og havde allerede de første Steller's Havørne bag os samt 5 alm. Havørne. Søen tilhørte imidlertid alene Steller's Havørn, som synes at være af en helt anden tid og næsten upåvirkelige af menneskelig forstyrrelse. Territorierne lå regelmæssigt. Der var de kolossale reder, søbredder med bunker af fortærede karpefisk under ædepladserne og så selvfølgelig en stribe fantastiske observationer på en fin sol-dag. Den kuperede skov bød bl.a. på Blåstjert og Hvidstrubet Stendrossel. Søengene var ret tørre, i pilelundene sad Brune Løvsangere og på engene var Pallas' Græshoppesanger nået frem, de 4 første

blev set og smuttede ret medgørligt rundt med fine hvide halespidser. Småøer blev gennemgået for ænder – gav en fin stribe Seglænder og blandt hjemlige arter f.eks. Lille Skallesluger. Vi var 3 uger efter trækket af Sibirisk Krikand – og der hang ikke bare en enkelt tilbage! Der var desuden stigende bekymring for Svanegås, engene gennemgående for tørre og vådenge i det fjerneste hjørne af den 60 km lange sø var helt uden for vores rækkevidde. Nær flodens afløb lå en mudderflade med en gruppe Store Kobbersnepper.

Returtrækket startede om aftenen med bådene til vores hjem-landsby. En enkelt båd gik helt i stå og måtte evakueres. Ingen risiko for sult – Stellersk festmåltid med laks. Endnu en stor dag.

## **2/6. Taigaskov ved Bogorodskoya (bus).**

Vi var i den sydlige del af taigaen med dominerende indslag af fyr, gran og lærk. Et vist faunaskeft kunne derfor forventes og vi rullede ud i de nærmeste skovstrækninger i et småkuperet terræn. Skoven bar præg af en ikke ubetydelig hugst-aktivitet. Vi kom ikke ud i rigtig ideel skov og stod især under sydgrænsen for flere af de spændende arter. Der var derved ikke reel mulighed for at se tjuren og næppe heller Sibirisk Jernspurv, som kun på disse kanter findes som småpopulationer ved bjergenes trægrænse og i øvrigt for længst var trukket nordover. Vi blev ganske vist pudset på en bjergknold som imidlertid var groet over med ungfyr i en grad, der stort set lukkede for passage. Skoven var dog bestemt ikke uinteressant: Den helt klassiske Blåstjert syngende fra grantop. En Rubinnattergal der pludselig popper op og sidder helt frit. Der var taigastemning med rester af snedække i skovmørket og gode nåleskovsarter som Nøddekrige og Krognæb. Taigapiber var almindelig i skovlysninger.

Flemming gad ikke tromle rundt i krattene men satte sig strategisk i en mere vegeterende obs. Det gav pote – spillende Sibirian Spruce Grouse. En art han blev solist på!

Tilbage nær Amur var der en potentielt meget fin lokalitet med udstrakte enge i kommunikation ud til Amurfloden. Engen var imidlertid ikke uventet i en tørketilstand - knastør og dermed endnu en ubesat lokalitet for Svanegås. Mogens stod for dagens 2. solistoptræden ved at slide sig frem til Sibirisk Drossel.

Kølig aften ved Amurs bred ved vores by Bogorodskoya. Amurmundingen ligger ikke langt væk, stod vadefuglene derude og var der f.eks. Spotted Greenshank på engene? Ubesvaret – på en sådan tur er der altid noget der er tæt på men alligevel ikke kan nås. På bredden rastede en flok gule vipstjerter og 2 havørne af hver sin art rumsterede rundt.

## **3/6 Amurfloden Bogorodskoya-Komsomolsk (hydrofoilbåd). Komsomolsk-Khabarovsk (bus).**

En dag magen til 31/5 – spejlvendt. Båden afgik kl. 5 og vi bordede rutineret gennem de sammenlængede kajbåde og re-okkuperede vores bagkabiner. Territoriet måtte denne gang forsvares mod et par berusede russere men de blev drevet ud af Konstantin. Det faste observatørhold indtog dækket og i starten gik det løs med at finde Stellers Havørne (4 ad + 1 imm) og Havørne (13) trods en del regn på det første stykke. Siden var det interessanteste at der var et nordgående vadefugletræk i gang, der tydeligvis fulgte flodløbet og ved Komsomolsk tillige lidt smårast på sandbankerne. Tallene var ikke prangende – men Sibirisk Tundrahjule 12, Stenvender 30, Far Eastern Curlew 8, Lille Regnspove 6, Rødhals Ryle 31 og Spidshalet Ryle 25 var dog endelig en aktivitet af arktiske vadere.

Busturen gav nogle hyggestop (Seglænder, Lærkefalk, Grey-backed Thrush for en gang skyld set ordentligt). Genindkvartering på hotellet hvor bureaukratiet sikrede at alle mand fik den samme seng én gang til. Det var dem med luksussuiterne mere tilfredse med end dem med pulterkamrene. Særlig hyggelige var byernes hoteller nu ikke, kølige, udnyttende – også af egen befolkning. Trivsel og varme oplevede man på udstederne hvor der ud af ingenting blev skabt en struktur til os.



**4/6. Khabarovsk + ekskursion til grænselandet mod Manchuriet. Fly kl. 17 til Blagoveshenk. Aften: Bus til og ankomst til Muravievka Crane Park.**

Godt halvdelen af holdet tog på halvdagsekskursion tidlig morgen med bus mod syd. Den lokale ornitolog var med – uden kikkert! Det forløb at der var blevet arbejdet hårdt for at finde en besat rede med Oriental Stork. Der var i bussen dagen før dannet en ad hoc ”storkegruppe” der bare krævede, at nu skulle(!) vi se denne rødliste-target-fugl. Lad gå med gåsen, men storke!

Vi lagde ud med lidt morgenskov: Sib.Blue Robin, Rubinnattergal mm. Kursen var mod syd ned i et sletteland nær den kinesiske grænse. Konstantin kom i tanke om at han tidligere havde set en meget efterspurgt allike i det område vi nu rullede ind i – et semikultiveret landskab med heste og kvæg græssende. Fra Ebbes informationslager blev det oplyst, at alliken var knyttet til husdyrflokkene og ikke optrådte som almindelig skorstensart. Sibirisk Allike bukkede under for forventningspresset – 6-7 fugle fløj til og rastede nu blandt græssende kreaturer.

Kort efter stod vi ud i et område med spredte lunde og delvist opgivne marker. Inden sidste mand nåede ud hænger den første stork i luften og på en højspændingsmast står 2 Orientaliske Storke på rede. Sort næb. Gul iris der gav arten et mere koldt blik. En lidt mere ”jaibiruagtig” grundstruktur. Storkene var i display, ivrigt knebrende, vi holdt afstand i respekt – arten er ret sky og har ikke den tilknytning til mennesket som karakteriserer hvid stork.

Bedste bi-fund var Chinese Grey Shrike med nyudfløjne unger. Største tornskade i verden. Hjemtursstop ved mindestenen for Derzu Usala – legendarisk guide fra de store ekspeditioners tid dengang for kun 150 år siden hvor Sibirien var ukendt ødemark. Pay tribute!

By-gruppen havde i mellemtiden kigget på den ganske moderne Khabarovsk. Plenum i en af byens fineste restauranter med saftvand til 100 rubler. Til lufthavnen gik det fint bortset fra at vi var dumpet det forkerte sted og skulle ud via den gamle bygning ½ km derfra. Det udløste et større husleri ang. baggagetransport med deraf følgende ikke alt for velplacerede offentlige skændrier. Propelfly, 1 ½ time og så landing i Blagoveshchenk – byen der er udgangspunkt for den sidste hovedlokaltet: Muravievka Crane Park.

Der var en forventning om at der ventede et sted med en velfungerende infrastruktur, adresser på fuglene og altså en mere tilbagelænet situation for især de 2 ledere og en noget slidt Konstantin end de forrige uger med de mange improvisationer og strategiproblemer. Det kom i overvejende grad til at holde stik. Modtagelsen stod Marina for – ung meget grinende hurtigtaler (på flydende amerikansk). Det var måske årsagen til at den mere end almindeligt udbombede bus nærmest blev populær. Vi raslede de 2 timer derudad. Området var sletteland klods på Kina og uventet helt skovløst. Det var et landbrugsområde – enkelte marker var usædvanligt velfriserede og var i kinesisk forpagtning! I øvrigt var det relativt ekstensivt, men alt andet end økologisk med brede kørespor fra mark-sprøjtninger. I en af de små landsbyer var der panikstop ved byens lille butik da det gik op for folk at der ikke var indkøbsmuligheder i reservatet. Hurtigt udsolgt i cola mm. Der var tillige Sibirisk Allike til dem der var kommet bagud tidligere på dagen.

Ankomsten var uforglemmelig. Reservatcentret ligger ved skrænten ned til det store kærneområde af græsland, enge og spredte småsøer som er et formidabelt udsigts- og dermed obs.punkt. I det sidste af aftenen stod vi så der og så ud på 2 par Red-crowned Cranes og 28 White-naped Cranes mens en Oriental Stork fløj forbi.

Reservatchef Sergei tog i mod – på sit perfekte engelsk. Han havde fuldstændig check på sit reservat! I toptiden primo maj er der op til 7! tranearter her – de 4 af dem er røddataarter. Alligevel var der kun 2 grupper der i år havde meldt deres ankomst til stedet, hvoraf vi var den første. Hvilket privilegium de næste 3 dage.

### **5/6. Muravievka Crane Park.**

Området omkring hovedkvarteret var perfekt sangerhabitat. Sump lige neden for skrænten, rige krat og smålunde i nærheden. Two-barred Warbler, den østlige udgave af lundsanger og en sang der er tæt på, havde en energisk men meget kort periode i den første lystime. Black-browed Reed-Warbler almindelig overalt, Thick-billed Warbler langs skræntvegetationen. Pallas' Græshoppesanger var nu ankommet massivt og også Stribet Græshoppesanger sang intensivt. Der var Almindelig og Japansk Rørspurv – Sibirisk var desværre for længst trukket igennem. En solid blok på 32 Hooded Cranes rastede på en mark i nærheden som Sergei havde fået ind i reservatet og dyrkede økologisk med et afgrødevalg der støttede tranernes fourageringsmulighed. De 32 røg senere ud på fladerne, hvor der så var en rød-data topsamling på alle 3 tranearter. Der blev kørt 2 ekskursioner hver dag. Formiddagens langs skrænten gav yderligere 2 besatte reder af Orientstork, Schrenck's Bittern og Sibirisk Allike.

Det var helt tydeligt at vores plage – den store centralasiatiske tørke! – havde sat sine alvorlige spor på området. Det var 5. år i træk med forårstørke og engene var derefter. Mange vandfugle var forsvundet – f.eks. tidligere større kolonier af Hvidvinget Terne, men også mange ande- og vadefugle. Og hermed tørrede sidste mulighed for bl.a. svanegås ud for os. I hvert fald en enkelt positiv følge af tørken var til gengæld rykket ind – en helt uventet tilstedeværelse af højlands- og tørslettearten Upland Buzzard, som ses fint på eftermiddagsekskursionen ved aktiv rede. En række småsøer bliver gennemgået med tilgrænsende små vådenge. Lokalt ynglende Damklire ses spillende flere steder og det lykkes at vride 5 Rødhalsede og 3 Spidshalede Ryler ud af området - fineste sommerdragt.

Fra stampladserne ved skrænten obses aftenen ud til mørke. Rørdrum pauker og det ugleagtige "huut" tilhører Schrenck's Bittern. I sumpen er der et åbent kørespor – en lille fin friluftsscene for rikser og lignende. Her optræder i aften Vandrikse og Dværgrørvagtel og en af de næste aftener er det Schrenck's Dværghejre.

### **6/6. Muravievka Crane Park.**

Dagen bød på den lange vandring ud i den åbne flade – reservatets hjerte med Sergei som excursionsleder. Sumpen neden for hovedkvarteret afløses hurtigt af overvejende ganske tørre flader med forskellige græsser men også små fugtigere partier hvor der kan findes fin botanik. Karakterarterne på vandringen bliver Black-browed Reed-Warbler, Pallas' Græshoppesanger, Sibirisk Bynkefugl og Gulbrystet Værling. Om nogen er stedets småfuglespecialitet den isolerede bestand af Pechorapiber, der her i kortgræs der spirer efter afbrænding om efteråret har fundet en habitat der minder om artens karrige tundrahabitat. Det er en ultra-skulker, men afslører sig i sin høje sangflugt og den meget specielle næsten "elektroniske" pibersang som frembringes med stor energi. I et stykke type-habitat er der 4 syngende hanner – er bestemt ikke talrig. Russerne er ramt af den generelle split-epidemi og foreslår at give piberen artsstatus som Menzbier's Pipit. Et alt for grimt navn til den fine piber. Meget muligt er der nu tale om en ikke nødvendigvis særlig gammel aflægger af nordtrækkende Pechorapibere.

I øvrigt stor aktivitet af traner og 3 storkereder. Adskillige Grævlinger vandrede rundt. Alt er jo stort dimensioneret i Rusland – gælder også racen af Rådyr. Hjemturen bød på super-flush af von Schrenck's Dværghejre.

Eftermiddagens ekskursion ned mod den kinesiske grænse forbi gamle voldanlæg – ikke fra skyderierne ind over Mao-kina, men tilbage fra japanernes invasion af Manchuriet. Det var gennemgående for tørt, formodentlig også forklaringen på at vi kun ser få omend daglige Amurfalke. Men vi kendte nu elektronsangen og fandt endnu 1 Pechorapiber. Hjemmeobservatørerne havde i mellemtiden fundet turens første aquila. Sibirien er generelt ret

rovfuglefattigt. Afstanden til trods fik de gamle rovfuglespecialister også bestemt den: imm Steppeørn.

Om aftenen var der foredrag og video hos Sergei. Det efterlader i hvert fald drømmen om at komme til Muravievka i starten af maj. Det er her det topper med Sibiriske Krikænder, Dværggæs, den helt store Tranediversitet inkl. Snetraner og Jomfrutraner + muligheder også for f.eks. dværgspøve og nordtrækkende småfugle. Trods stedets internationale betydning kæmpes der hårdt for at skaffe sponsorindtægter til driften, udvidelse af buffer-zonen, områdets generelle pleje etc. Der arbejdes lokalt i forsøg på at forhindre de mange afbrændinger der tit løber løbsk, mindre kemibelastede dyrkningsmetoder, kurser, undervisning af skolebørn etc.

De fleste var ude i den sene aften. Her var en ny aktør ankommet, bradypten Chinese Bush-Warbler sang løs med sin insektagtige monotoni. Adskillige Rubinnattergale var også i gang, Grey Nightjar flyver forbi.

### **7/6. Muravievka Crane Park.**

Sidste hele feltdag. Traner! Klasseobs. af par af Japansk Trane – og i dagens løb typiske 22 White-naped og 52 Hooded Cranes. Sidste søer gennemtrævles – fin Langtået Ryle, de sædvanlige Damklirer. Der blev set Upland Buzzard 2 steder, Steppeørn og Stor Skrigeørn. Dagen bød på en regnbyge, men kun nok til at skabe en mudderfilm på jordvejene og slalomkørsel med bussen. Megen aktivitet samlede sig nu omkring den lille lund der lå knap 1 km fra vores indkvartering. Det var et fint lille sted med en bande Blåskader og adskillige syngende Chinese Bush-Warbler og Rubinnattergale. Samtidig var det habitat for en af de helt store ”sibiriske brag” – Stor Græshoppesanger. En marginalart på turen på grund af den sene ankomst – 1 uge ind i juni. Om morgenen havde Mogens en kort sang fra en ukendt sanger velforeneligt med arten. Siden tavshed. Om eftermiddagen kom næste melding – Eric S. feltobser Stor Græshoppesanger. Om aftenen afholder Erik M. tur med gruppen + play-backsystemet. Der er ingen spontansang, men en sanger responderer vildt på afspilning, men trækker sig så tilbage.

### **8/6. Muravievka Crane Park. Fly Blakoveshchensk til Moskva. I Moskva.**

Kl. 4.10 er Jørgen og Erling i buldermørke (vi er på ret sydlig breddegrad) på plads i den lille lund. Stor Græshoppesanger synger igennem – sangen er tæt gentagne, lange næsten larmende temaer af både klare fløjtetoner og grovere skurrende toner (kan måske sammenlignes med bulbulsang). Med kun få sekunders pause mellem temaerne fuldstændig dominerende sit skovbryn. Kl. 4.50 i det tidlige lys stopper sangen pludseligt og genoptages ikke i modsætning til det almindelige morgenkor i nærheden af noget mere civiliseret syngende Rubinnattergale, Grey-headed Thrush og Yellow-throated Flycatcher. Dermed var Stor Græshoppesanger på alle måder veldokumenteret og en passende afskedsart. Vores bidrag til den alt for lille økoturisme til denne fornemme lokalitet var slut. Helt rørende vajede et dansk og et russisk flag side om side – var fundet i de gamle skuffer fra Sovjettiden inde i byen. Busvraget rullede mod byen og exit mod Moskva kl. 9.50 med påbegyndelse af den lange flyvetur mod vest.

Med den store tidsgevinst var det endnu ikke middag i Moskva. Der var derfor basis for en ret lang dag med sightseeing med udgangspunkt i en nærmest utiltalende stor Mercedes-bus. Rusland har mange dygtige, højt uddannede personer – en af dem var vores guide der gav en flot indsigt i ikke blot landets store historie, men også udviklingen efter Perestrojka og de nuværende levevilkår i en stemning af røver-kapitalisme og mafiainfiltration. Det foregik under en tur rundt til den Røde Plads, omkring Kreml, Gorkij Park, de nyriges luksusanlæg og store kontrast til pjaltefattigdommen etc. Det danske kulturindslag var de mange dansk-koncept pølsevogne rundt om i byen og testsmagning af en ”danski” viste at der var tale om en perfekt kopiering. Om aftenen var det

efterhånden 24 timer siden morgenobs. i Sibirien. Men de fleste klarede en tur ud på Moskvas gågade, der var stille og samtidig fuld af kreativitet.

**9/6. Moskva. Fly Moskva-København.**

Dagen hvor vi var inde på Kreml. Der blev hittet med Lundsanger (tur-phyll. nr 12!) og Buskrørsanger som Kreml-arter. En tæt gorillaopdækket dame blev identificeret som den finske præsident og siden ankom Mr.Putin bag røgfårvede glas i en kortege af sorte BMWer.

Det var stadig en stor tur!

Udkørselen til lufthavnen foregik - de brede Stalinalleeer til trods - i lange træge bilkøer. Så var det også slut: Aeroflot fløj til København til aftalt tid.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE LOCALITIES VISITED

### **Far Eastern Marine Reserve**

Far Eastern Marine Reserve is situated in Peter the Great Gulf south of Vladivostok and consists of a bunch of small islands. Most of the islands are uninhabited and the reserve has not been open to tourists until recent years. The islands vary from wooded islands to uncovered rocks.

Popov Island (42°58'N, 131°44'E): A small forested island only 1½ hours by boat from Vladivostok. It is the only island being inhabited and it is possible to stay at the biological station (as we did). The station is very basic. The island is a very good place for migrating passerines and to set out from to visit the other islands. We can recommend staying here at least two days in the migrating season.

"Bird Island" (42°53'N, 131°48'E): A small island consisting of a larger seabird colony containing a lot of breeding Ancient Murrelet and Rhinoceros Auklet. The island is also known to hold a population of Swinhoe's Storm-petrel and 10-11 pairs of Streaked Shearwater.

"Grasshopper Warbler's Island": In the reserve there are several small islands holding a population of the Pleske's Grasshopper Warbler. We visited one of them and heard a few birds. It is very difficult to see without play-back!

Stenin Island (42°44'N, 131°30'E): This Island is one of the larger in the group. The island holds a huge colony of Black-tailed Gull, and interesting forest and fields.

### **Khasan Nature Park (42°27'N, 130°47'E)**

Khasan Nature Park is situated in the southernmost Ussuriland at the border to North Korea and China. The Nature Park consists of extensive areas of meadows, lakes, mudflats, and beaches. In the central part of the Park is some high rocks called Golubiny ("Pigeon's") Knoll. You can reach the area from the sea and from road from Vladivostok to China.

You cannot stay in the Park. The nearest place to stay is the village of Vityaz (42°37'N, 131°08'E). From Vityaz it took 2 hours by boat to the park and approx. 1 hour by bus.

We visited the park twice:

First time by boat we visited the extensive mudflats and meadows. From the landing site you have to walk 3 kilometres on the beach along wetlands and mudflats. After 3 kilometres you reach the huge Golubiny Knoll which is a very nice place and hold a lot of migrants in the ravines. It is not clear what time is the optimal to look for shorebirds. We missed the waders by coming on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May though the optimal time was told to be the 15<sup>th</sup>. We simply do not know whether the waders already passed or still were in Korea.

The second time, we visited the area from the road. Along the road from Vityaz we stopped at several excellent wetlands containing considerable more birds than in the Nature Park itself. At one of the stops we saw the rare Chinese Egret (42°42'N, 130°50'E). This rare Egret breeds in the area with 2-3 pairs. We had lunch at the Park Entrance (42°34'N, 130°42'E), where the surrounding bushes teemed with migrants. Among these the trip's only Siberian Thrush was observed. Finally entering the Park we reached the conclusion that here was not as many birds as we had been watching outside the Park, and we turned back close to North Korea (42°27'N, 130°38'E).

Vityaz (42°37'N, 131°08'E): The nearest place to stay is this little village near a little harbour surrounded by a forest. In the village we saw Chestnut-cheeked Starling and Band-bellied Crake.

### **Kedrovaya Pad' Nature Reserve (43°06'N, 131°34'E)**

Kedrovaya Pad' N.R. is the oldest Russian nature reserve established in 1925. The Park is situated 200 km south of Vladivostok near the southern highway. The park is famous for having the only breeding Amur Leopards in Russia. It is a large beautiful pristine forest situated along the Kedrovaya River with huge trees like Manchurian Pine and Korean fir. Birding is very good in the forest as in the neighbouring grasslands. Among the specialities are Vinous-throated Parrotbill, Lesser Cuckoo (had not arrived), Chinese Goshawk etc. It is worth staying three days to be able to get the thrushes, raptors and to get the peace of enjoying the forest and maybe to get the chance of seeing leopard. Parrotbills takes time to find. In the park is a forest quarter where it is possible to stay. When we were there no birders lived there but some nature guides.

### **Bikin River**

One of the most beautiful places on earth. The River is also called the Russian Amazon and that it true. Here you find huge areas of wild virgin forest where footprints of Tiger and Bear are common. Along the river Scaly-sided Merganser, Mandarin Duck, and Long-billed Plover are common. We arrived in the morning at Luchegorsk and continued by bus to Verkney Pereval. Our first stop was where the road crosses the Bikin River. Here we had the first Azure Tit. We stayed one night in Verkney Pereval (46°34'N, 134°40'E), a little town with a small hotel. The surrounding forest holds a number of good birds e.g. Meadow Bunting and (for Russia) the rare Forest Wagtail. Next day was one of the best on the trip. By small motorised canoes we spent the whole day on the river on our way to Krasny Yar (46°33'N, 135°22'E). On the way we had a walk to a marsh which holds Hooded Crane and Far Eastern Curlew. Back on the river we saw many Scaly-sided Merganser and Long-billed Plover. After 9 hours we finally arrived at Krasny Yar. We were told that Krasny Yar is the last stop before vast area of virgin forest. From the village several trails lead into the excellent virgin forest. We also had an afternoon trip up the river but we did not see anything we had not seen on the first trip. There is no hotel in Krasny Yar, so we stayed with families in their private homes and the group really enjoyed that.

### **Khabarovsk**

There is no sublime birding area near the town. We visited a place where the local birder had found a pair of Oriental Stork and Daurian Jackdaw one hour south of the city. Part of the group spent time in the city, which was much more beautiful than Vladivostok.

### **Udyl Lake Area**

This was an interesting place to visit and mostly because of the Steller's Sea Eagle. It was a very long trip to Bogorodskoya from Khabarovsk. The water level in Amur River was very low and the hydrofoil boat could not sail from Khabarovsk. Hence, we were forced to take a bus half the way - to Komsomolsk-na-Amure - and then continue by the river. That means that two full days were spent (wasted) on transportation to visit Udyl Lake, but we found it was worth while. With better information Swan Goose and Siberian Accentor would also have been possible.

We stayed at Bogorodskoya (52°22'N, 140°26'E) at the riverside of Amur River. The town has a small hotel and some shops but not many birds around.

### Udyl Lake (52°00'N, 140°27'E)

This huge lake is known for the high breeding density of Steller's Sea Eagle – and we were not disappointed! The Lake is more than 60 km long and can only be visited by boat. Rental of boats can be arranged in Bogorodskoya. In and around the Lake several pairs of Swan Goose are known to breed, but due to the low water level we could not visit these areas.

### Forest near Bogorodskoya (around 52°30'N, 140°27'E)

We visited the taiga hill forest and dry marshes around Bogorodskoya, about 1 hour drive. We did not find any really excellent places, but we saw some new species for the trip, e.g. Orange-flanked Bluetail, Pine Grosbeak, Nutcracker and Siberian Grouse. All the forest was much logged and only very few patches of good forest was found. We were told that the area holds Siberian Accentor, but we were not lucky to find any! The local guides also told us about some virgin forest 100 km away (3 hours drive) that should hold Black-billed Capercaillie.

### **Muraviovka Crane Park (49°52'N, 127°42'E)**

Muravievka Crane Park is the first privately operated Russian territory of sustainable land use and is situated only 1½ hours drive from Blagoveshchensk. It includes wetlands of international importance (RAMSAR site). The territory consists of vast wetlands and grasslands in the Amur River Valley as well as croplands on the river terraces, small islands of forest, and small rivers forming many shallow lakes. The Park holds a number of rare breeding birds like Red-crowned Crane (2-3 pairs), White-naped Crane (10-15 pairs) and Oriental Stork (7 pairs). In the migrating season of mid May good numbers of Lesser White-fronted Goose, Baikal Teal can be included and if you are lucky few Siberian Cranes. In the lakes and surroundings you can find many interesting birds like Schrenk's Bittern, Amur Falcon, Spotted Eagle, Steppe Eagle, Daurian Jackdaw etc. In special short wet grassy area you can find the Pechora Pipit. Around the lodge you will see most of the warblers, but Gray's Grasshopper Warbler and Chinese Bush Warbler arrive late (around 6<sup>th</sup> of June).

The lodge is a nice place with a nice look over the wetlands. At the lodge you can see most of the species. At the viewpoint, look for rails and crakes in a trail through the reeds at dusk and dawn. The people at the Park Centre are very friendly and everything is arranged to fit to the birding programme. All the food is served outside and was very nice but the dinner were very limited. Book in advance, since the manager Sergei Smirenski travels a lot and we are sure he wants to be there when you come!

## LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED IN USSURILAND AND AMURLAND

### **Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata* (Rødstrubet Lom)

20/5 1 + 1 at sea, Eastern Marine Reserve.

### **Arctic Diver** *Gavia arctica* (Sortstrubet Lom)

22/5 3 at sea between Popov Island and Vityaz/Khasan.

### **Pacific Diver** *Gavia pacifica*

21/5 3 at sea and 22/5 2 at sea Popov Island-Vityaz.

### **Arctic/Pacific Diver** *Gavia arctica/pacifica*

22/5 10 at sea Popov Island-Vityaz.

Note: Differentiation between these two species was often very difficult. Typical arctic divers identified on larger size, heavier bill, and pronounced white patch on flanks.

### **Yellow-billed Diver** *Gavia adamsii* (Hvidnæbbet Lom)

22/5 2 imm (2.cal) at sea between and Vityaz and Khasan Nature Park.

### **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis poggei* (Lille Lappedykker)

22/5 1 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 4 en route Khasan Nature Park, 1 Khasan Nature Park.

### **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus* (Toppet Lappedykker)

21/5 1 at sea, 22/5 1 at sea off the Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 13 en route Khasan Nature Park, 30 Khasan Nature Park, 5/6 2 Muravievka Crane Park.

### **Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena* (Gråstrubet Lappedykker)

22/5 1 at sea off the Khasan Nature Park, 22/5 3 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 1 en route Khasan Nature Park, 10 Khasan Nature Park, 31/5 2 Kabarovsk - Bogorodskoyie, 1/6 6 Lake Udyl, 3/6 2 Komsomolsk - Khabarovsk, 5/6 2 Blagoveshchenck- Muravievka Crane Park, 4 5/6 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 6 and 7/6 2.

### **Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo* (Skarv)

23/5 42 en route Khasan Nature Park, 1 Khasan Nature Park, 27/5 2 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 6 Bikin River, 29/5 2 Bikin R., 31/5 9 Komsomolsk - Bogorodskoyie, 1/6 Udyl Lake, 3/6 20 Bogorodskoyie-Komsomolsk, 5/6 2 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 6 and 7/6 5.

### **Japanese Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax capillatus*

23/5 75 Vladivostok - Popov Island, 20/5 500 and 21/5 200 Eastern Marine Reserve, 22/5 50 boatrip to Khasan Nature Park.

Note: The two large cormorants are difficult to separate in the field – generally cormorants at the sea were referred to as Japanese (or Temminck's) Cormorant – inland birds as Great Cormorant.

### **Pelagic Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax pelagicus*

23/5 10 Vladivostok - Popov Island, 20/5 50 seatrip, 21/5 50 en route by boat, 22/5 1 boatrip to Khasan Nature Park.



**Bean Goose** *Anser fabalis* (Sædgås)

7/6 1 Muravievka Crane Park (left-over from winter/migratory flocks).

**Greater White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons* (Blisgås)

5/6 2 Muravievka Crane Park (left-overs from winter/migratory flocks).

**Mandarin Duck** *Aix galericulata* (Mandarinand)

22/5 1 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 2 en route Khasan Nature Park, 26/5 1 en route to Vladivostok, 27/5 9 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 44 Bikin river (Verkniy Pereval to Krasny Yar), 29/5 12 Bikin River (upstream from Krasny Yar), 4/6 1 S of Khabarovsk.

Note: This handsome duck is classified as near-threatened. A total of 70 were seen. 56 of the Mandarin Ducks were seen at the Bikin River – a significant locality for this species with undisturbed surrounding forests providing nestholes. Peak-numbers were between Verkniy Pereval and Krasny Yar (44). Most birds observed were post-breeding males. Confined to the Manchurian forest-zone of the South.

**Eurasian Wigeon** *Anas penelope* (Pibeand)

23/5 9 en route Khasan Nature Park, 6 Khasan Nature Park, 1/6 3 Udy Lake, 5/6 2 Muravievka Crane Park.

**Falcated Duck** *Anas falcata* (Segland)

23/5 2 en route Khasan Nature Park, 1 Khasan Nature Park, 26/5 2 en route to Vladivostok, 28/5 2 Bikin River, 31/5 1 Khabarovsk - Bogorodskoyie, 1/6 7 Lake Udy, 3/6 5 Komsomolsk – Khabarovsk, 5/6 1 Muravievka Crane Park.

Note: This fine duck was found to be widespread but in low numbers (21 in total)

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera* (Knarand)

23/5 2 Khasan Nature Park.

**Common Teal** *Anas crecca* (Krikand)

22/5 32 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 4 en route Khasan Nature Park, 1/6 9 Lake Udy.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* (Gråand)

21/5 3 Eastern Marine Reserve island, 22/4 2 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 13 en route Khasan Nature Park, 12 Khasan Nature Park, 26/5 1 en route to Vladivostok, 27/5 2 Luchegorsk-Verkniy Pereval, 28/5 8 Bikin River, 29/5 3 Bikin River, 31/5 1 Khabarovsk - Bogorodskoyie, 22 Komsomolsk - Bogorodskoyie, 1/6 55 Udy Lake, 3/6 8 Bogorodskoyie-Komsomolsk, 4/6 2 Blagoveshchensk-Muravievka Crane Park, 5/6 30 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 10 and 7/6 25.

**Spot-billed duck** *Anas poecilorhyncha zonorhyncha*

21/5 2 Eastern Marine Reserve island, 22/5 5 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 3 en route Khasan Nature Park, 5 Khasan Nature Park, 24/5 4 en route Kedrovaya Pad, 26/5 2 en route to Vladivostok

**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta* (Spidsand)

22/5 2 Khasan Nature Park, 3/6 2 Komsomolsk - Khabarovsk.

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula* (Atlingand)

23/5 1 Khasan Nature Park, 1/6 4 Udy Lake, 4/6 Blagoveshchenk- Muravievka Crane Park, 5/6 10 Muravievka Crane Park, and 7/6 2.

**Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata* (Skeand)

23/5 6 en route Khasan Nature Park, 110 Khasan Nature Park, 1/6 3 Udy Lake.

**Common Pochard** *Aythya ferina* (Taffeland)

23/5 12 Khasan Nature Park.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula* (Trolldand)

22/5 2 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 250 Khasan Nature Park, 1/6 26 Udy Lake.

**Greater Scaup** *Aythya marila* (Bjergand)

23/5 6 en route Khasan Nature Park, 3 Khasan Nature Park, 1/6 2 Udy Lake.

**Harlequin Duck** *Histrionicus histrionicus* (Strømand)

20/5 12 Eastern Marine Reserve, 21/5 1 Eastern Marine Reserve, 1 en route by boat, 22/5 1 off the Khasan Nature Park.

Note: Typically found at rocky outlines of the marine islands – main flock at the “Pleske”-island.

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis* (Havlit)

21/5 1 at sea Eastern Marine Reserve.

**Black Scoter** *Melanitta nigra americana* (Sortand)

21/5 2 Eastern Marine Reserve, 22/5 20 off the Khasan Nature Park.

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca* (Fløjsand)

20/5 3 Vladivostok -Popov Island, 5 seatrip, 21/5 97 Eastern Marine Reserve, 22/5 240 boattrip to Khasan Nature Park, 31/5 28 Komsomolsk - Bogorodskoyie.

Note: Belongs to the race *stejnegeri* of the subspecies “White-winged Scoter”.

**Common Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula* (Hvinand)

1/6 6 Udy Lake.

**Smew** *Mergellus albellus* (Lille Skallesluger)

1/6 3 Udy Lake.

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator* (Toppet Skallesluger)

21/5 5 Eastern Marine Reserve, 22/5 26 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 25 en route Khasan Nature Park 1/6 50 Udy Lake.

**Scaly-sided Merganser** *Mergus squamatus*

28/5 60 + 1 female w. 10 pull Bikin River (between Verknii Pereval and Krasny Yar), 29/5 11 + females w. 22 pull Bikin River (upstream from Krasny Yar).

Note: Classified rare and declining and is probably threatened! Maybe less than 2000 pairs are left in the world. On the Bikin River more than 70 birds were counted, the majority post-breeding males. Two flocks of pulli (32). The species is confined to clear, fast-floating rivers in the Manchurian zone, and the Bikin River is obviously of great importance.

Birds were most numerous between Verknii Pereval and Krasny Yar where the river was much more divided in multiple streams than upstream from Krasny Yar (as with Mandarin Duck). The birds seem to be under some hunting pressure – they lifted at quite a distance and flew towards alternative streams.

**Common Merganser** *Mergus merganser* (Stor Skallesluger)

28/5 18 Bikin river.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* (Silkehejre)

23/5 3 en route Khasan Nature Park, 1 Khasan Nature Park.

**Chinese Egret** *Egretta eulophotes*

23/5 1 in breeding plumage on the riverplains on the way to Nat.reserve of Khasan.

Note: Classified as endangered (maybe only about a 1000 birds left). A very unexpected observation. The bird was found in the interior part of the river-plains in a system of shallow lagoons or former riverbeds (pos 42,42 N-130,50 E.). A few Little and Great White Egrets in the proximity. Observation: The birds was seen at quite close range offering splendid telescope-views. Full breeding plumage including yellow bill, very long elongated crest, and blue fascial skin. The species is known to the Russians – some 2 or 3 pairs were found on an island inside the Reserve three years earlier, but no news for the last years!

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* (Fiskehejre)

19/5 10 Vladivostok, 10 Vladivostok -Popov Island , 5 Popov Island, 20/5 1 en route by boat, 21/5 1 Marine reserve island, 22/5 20 boattrip to estuary Khasan, 40 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 75 en route Khasan Nature Park, 5 Khasan Nature Park, 24/5 4 Kedrovaya Pad, 25/5 1 Kedrovaya Pad, 26/5 1 Kedrovaya Pad, 2 en route to Vladivostok, 28/5 2 Bikin River, 29/5 1 Bikin R., 31/5 2 Kabar-Bogorodskoyie, 17 Komsomolsk - Bogorodskoyie, 1/6 30 Udyl Lake, 2/6 5 Bogorodskoya, 3/6 8 Bogorodskoyie-Komsomolsk, 4/6 1 trip S of Khabarovsk. , 2 Blagoveshchensk- Muravievka Crane Park, 5/6 16 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 10 and 7/6 15.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* (Purpurhejre)

23/5 1 en route Khasan Nature Park, 5/6 4 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 2 Muravievka Crane Park, 7/6 3 and 8/6 1.

**Great Egret** *Casmerodius albus* (Sølvhejre)

19/5 1 Vladivostok, 20/5 1 Popov Island, 22/5 1 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 8 en route Nat.Reserve of Khasan 26/5 2 en route to Vladivostok, 4/6 1 trip S of Khabarovsk.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* (Kohejre)

20/5 1 Popov Island.

Note: North of distribution-area – migratory over-shoot.

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striatus*

19/5 1 Vladivostok – Popov Island, 23/5 1 en route Khasan Nature Park, 27/5 1 Verkney Pereval.

**Von Schrenck's Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus eurhythmus*

29/5 1 Bikin River - inside the forest at a small stream!, 5/6 1 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 1 Muravievka Crane Park, 7/6 2 Muravievka Crane Park.

Note: Observed, flushed, and heard – voice an owl-like hoot given at dusk. A quite scarce species and may be considered nearthreatened.

**Great Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris* (Rørdrum)

4/6 1 trip s. of Khabarovsk, 5/6 3 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 1 and 7/6 1. (All heard only).

**Oriental Stork** *Ciconia boyciana*

4/6 2 at nest + 1 S of Khabarovsk, 4/6 1 Muravievka Crane Park, 5/6 2 pairs at nest with pull Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 5 Muravievka Crane Park, 7/6 5 Muravievka Crane Park.

Status: Endangered! World population estimated to may be less than 700 pairs and under steady decline. 7 pairs breed in the Muravievka Crane Park. Not accustomed to man. Nests in trees (Muravievka Crane Park) or occasionally on electric pylons (pair south of Khabarovsk).

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* (Fiskeørn)

23/5 1 en route Khasan Nature Park, 28/5 1 Bikin river, 29/5 2 Bikin River, 31/5 3 Komsomolsk - Bogorodskoyie, 1/6 6 Udyl Lake, 3/6 2 Bogorodskoyie-Komsomolsk, 1 Komsomolsk - Khabarovsk.

**Oriental Honey-buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

25/5 2 Kedrovaya Pad, 26/5 2 Kedrovaya Pad, 3 en route to Vladivostok, 27/5 5 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 4 Bikin River, 29/5 2 Bikin River, 30/5 1 Bikin River, 2 31/5 Khabarovsk- Bogorodskoyie, 1/6 1 Udyl Lake, 7/6 1 Muravievka Crane Park.

Note: The misty climate at the coastal zone made registration of soaring raptors difficult, but the airspace in SE-Siberia is certainly not rich in raptors, the honey-buzzard being the most frequent.

**Black-eared Kite** *Milvus (migrans) lineatus* (Sort Glente)

29/5 4 Bikin River, 30/5 2 Bikin River, 31/5 2 Kabar.- Komsomolsk, 13 Komsomolsk - Bogorodskoyie, 1/6 5 Udyl Lake, 2/6 3 Bogorodskoya, 3/6 9 Bogorodskoyie-Komsomolsk, 1 Komsomolsk-Khabarovsk, 4/6 1 trip S of Khabarovsk, 5/6 1 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 1 and 7/6 2.

**White-tailed Sea-Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla* (Havørn)

31/5 17 Komsomolsk - Bogorodskoyie, 1/6 5 River connecting Udyl Lake with Amur River, 2/6 2 Bogorodskoyie, 3/6 13 Bogorodskoyie-Komsomolsk.

Note: A total of 37 all but a few adult birds and all in the upper Amur. Breeding in the same area as Stellers Sea-Eagle, but absent in the Udyl Lake that seemed to be totally dominated by Steller's.

**Steller's Sea-Eagle** *Haliaeetus pelagicus* (Stellers Havørn)

31/5 7 ad Komsomolsk - Bogorodskoyie (first bird ab. 100 km from the mouth of the Amur), 1/6 12 ad Udyl Lake, 2/6 1 ad Amur River (Bogorodskoyie village), 3/6 2 ad + 1 imm Bogorodskoyie-Komsomolsk.

Note: A total of 22 adults and 1 imm. This huge and legendary eagle was certainly one of the bird of the trip! Seemed to be of an ancient time paying little attention to the observers. Huge nests close to the lake-shores, also 1 nest noted on upper Amur. Piles of partly eaten fish on the shores of Udyl. Clearly this is breeding area and only 1 imm. bird was seen. Dominates White-tailed Sea-Eagle which is absent in the Udyl Lake.

Classified as rare with a world-population about 7500 birds (5600 adults). Upper Amur including the Udyl Lake (and Mouth of Amur) is a major breeding site away from the main-population on Kamchatka.

**Eastern Marsh-Harrier** *Circus spilonotus* (Østlig Rørhøg)

22/5 1 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 2 en route Khasan Nature Park, 1 Khasan Nature Park, 26/5 1 en route to Vladivostok, 28/5 1 Bikin River, 4/6 1 Blagoveshchenck - Muravievka Crane Park, 5/6 7 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 8 and 7/6 10.

**Pied Harrier** *Circus melanoleucos*

22/5 1 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 2 en route Khasan Nature Park, 26/5 2 en route to Vladivostok, 27/5 4 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 3 moorland Bikin River, 30/5 1 Bikin River, 4/6 2 S of Khabarovsk, 1 Blagoveshchenck- Muravievka Crane Park, 5/6 1 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 1 and 7/6 3.

Note: The majority of the birds were adult males (esthetical highlights!) – A total of 21 but seen at all major, suitable localities.

**Japanese Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter gularis*

20/5 1 Popov Island, 25/5 1 Kedrovaya Pad and 26/5 2, 28/5 1 Bikin River, 29/5 3 Bikin River.

**Chinese Goshawk** *Accipiter soloensis*

25/5 1 Kedrovaya Pad (EK).

Note: Only known from the extreme SE of Siberia

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus* (Spurvehøg)

21/5 1 Vityaz, 27/5 1 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 1 Bikin River, 5/6 1 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 1 and 7/6 2.

**Northern Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis* (Duehøg)

28/5 1 Bikin River.

**Grey-faced Buzzard** *Butastur indicus*

25/5 2 Kedrovaya Pad 26/5 1, 27/5 2 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 1 Bikin river, 29/5 2 Bikin River.

Note: Rather elusive – spends much time in the canopy, quite uncommon and declining.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo* (Musvåge)

30/5 1 Bikin River, 31/5 2 Kabarovsk - Komsomolsk.

**Upland Buzzard** *Buteo hemilasius*

5/6 2 at active nest Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 1, 7/6 1.

Note: A surprise that this bird of mountain- and dry steppes not only showed up at this locality in the Amur River Valley, but was successfully breeding! One of the breeding birds was very worn and only seen in the vicinity of the nest.

**Greater Spotted Eagle** *Aquila clanga* (Stor Skrigeørn)

7/6 1 subad/ad Muravievka Crane Park.

**Steppe Eagle** *Aquila nipalensis* (Steppeørn)

6/6 and 7/6 1 imm Muravievka Crane Park.

Note: Same individual both days – east of main range.

**Eurasian Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* (Tårnfalk)

19/5 2 Vladivostok, 20/5 1 "Pleskes island", 23/5 3 en route Khasan Nature Park, 31/5 1 Kabarovsk -Komsomolsk, 3/6 2 Komsomolsk - Khabarovsk, 4/6 4 S of Khabarovsk, 1 Blagoveshchenk - Muravievka Crane Park, 5/6 2 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 2 and 7/6 1.

**Amur Falcon** *Falco amurensis* (Amurfalk)

22/5 1 Khasan Nature Park, 30/5 1 Krasny Yar - Kabarovsk, 31/5 1 Komsomolsk - Bogorodskoye, 3/6 1 Komsomolsk- Khabarovsk, 4/6 1 S of Khabarovsk, 2 Blagoveskchenck- Muravievka Crane Park, 5/6 3 + 1 at nest Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 10, 7/6 7 and 8/6 1.

Note: A total of 29 and only regular at Muravievka Crane Park (24). Maybe higher counts were expected but breeding population may be affected by the drought and burns. Anyway – 1 bird was seen at the legendary Amur!

**Eurasian Hobby** *Falco subbuteo* (Lærkefalk)

19/5 1 Vladivostok (airport), 27/5 3 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 1 Bikin River, 29/5 4 Bikin River, 31/5 3 Kabarovsk -Komsomolsk, 3/6 9 Bogorodskoye - Khabarovsk, 5/6 4 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6, 2 and 7/6 3.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* (Vandrefalk)

19/5 2 ad Eastern Marine Reserve, 20/5 2 ad (same), 21/5 1 ad + 1 ad Islands between Popov Island and Vityaz.

Note: Peregrines probably breed at most suitable coastal islands or islets S of Vladivostok – feeding on sea-birds and swift – the birds 19/5 were seen catching Fork-tailed Swifts.

**Japanese Quail** *Coturnix japonica*

22/5 1 Khasan Nature Park, 24/5 2 Kedrovaya Pad, 4/6 1 Blagoveshchenck-Muravievka Crane Park, 5/6 15 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 20 and 7/6 2.

**Ring-necked Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus* (Fasan)

22/5 3 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 3 en route Khasan Nature Park, 4 Khasan Nature Park, 24/5 3 Kedrovaya Pad, 25/5 6, 31/5 1 Kabarovsk - Komsomolsk, 4/6 5 Blagoveshchenck-Muravievka Crane Park, 5/6 20 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 15 and 7/6 15.

Note: The race pallasii with broad neck-ring. Shy and elusive and much more spectacular than the introduced hybrid-mess at home.

**Siberian Grouse** *Dendragapus falcipennis*

2/6 2 heard (display) Bogorodskoyie taiga forest (FQM).

**Hazel Grouse** *Bonasa bonasia* (Hjerpe)

25/5 1 male flushed Kedrovaya Pad, 2/6 1 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest, 5/6 1 Muravievka Crane Park.

**Yellow-legged Buttonquail** *Turnix tanki*

23/5 1 heard Vityaz – around mid-night.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus* (Vandrikse)

5/6 3 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 2 and 7/6 2.

**Baillon's Crake** *Porzana pusilla* (Dværgrørvagtel)

5/6 1 Muravievka Crane Park 7/6 1.

**Band-bellied Crake** *Porzana paykullii*

23/5 1 heard Vityaz, 24/5 2 seen Vityaz (MM & EM)

A restricted-range bird heard from moist forest-edge in the proximity of the village of Vityaz. Voice peculiar – like a rattle. Responds to play-back and brought into view on the 24/5.

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* (Rørhøne)

23/5 5 en route Khasan Nature Park, 1 Khasan Nature Park, 27/5 1 Verkney Pereval, 31/5 3 Kabar-Bogorodskoyie.

**Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra* (Blishøne)

23/5 2 Khasan Nature Park.

**Hooded Crane** *Grus monacha* (Munketrane)

28/5 3 (1 pair + a single bird) on a vast raised bog close to Bikin River, 5/6 32 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 50 and 7/6 52.

Note: The Bikin-birds were on a typical breeding site. The birds of Muraviovka Muravievka Crane Park were non-breeding flocks. With an estimated world-population of 10.000 birds the most numerous of the three cranes but highly dependent on artificial crops esp. during winter.

**White-naped Crane** *Grus vipio*

4/6 28 Muravievka Crane Park, 5/6 20, 6/6 50 and 7/6 22.

Note: Classified vulnerable/near-threatened – world population only about 5000 individuals. Perfect views of breeding-pairs and non-breeding flocks (6 pairs and 100-150 individual in the reserve).

**Red-crowned or Japanese Crane** *Grus japonensis*

4/6 2 Muravievka Crane Park, 5/6, 6 (3 pairs) Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 6 Muravievka Crane Park, 7/6 2 Muravievka Crane Park.

Note: Vulnerable/near-threatened – world-population estimated to be 1700 individuals making this great crane the second rarest of the world. (11 individuals in the park – including 4 breeding pairs).

**Eurasian Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola* (Skovsneppe)

7/6 1 Muravievka Crane Park (JB)

**Swinhoe's Snipe** *Gallinago megala*

27/5 1 flushed Luchegorsk- Verkney Pereval, 3 birds in display after dusk Verkney Pereval, 1/6 1 Udyl Lake (heard).

**Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago* (Dobbeltbekkasin)

22/5 2 Khasan Nature Park, 6/6 1 Muravievka Crane Park.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa* (Stor Kobbersneppe)

28/5 5 in display at raised bog near Bikin River, 1/6 47 on mudflat Udyl Lake.

Note: The distinct eastern race *melaronoides* – small and short-legged.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* (Lille Regnspove)

22/5 1 Khasan Nature Park, 3/6 6 Amur River at Komsomolsk.

**Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata* (Stor Regnspove)

22/5 1 Khasan Nature Park.

**Far Eastern Curlew** *Numenius madagascariensis*

28/5 6 raised bog Bikin River, 31/5 2 Kabarovsk - Bogorodskoyie, 3/6 8 Amr River at Komsomolsk, 4/6 1 S of Khabarovsk , 7/6 1 Muravievka Crane Park.

Note: The birds on the bog of the Bikin River-valley were displaying pairs.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus* (Sortklire)

22/5 1 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 4 en route Khasan Nature Park, 4 Khasan Nature Park.

**Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus* (Rødben)

20/5 21 migrating north "Pleskes island", 23/5 1 en route Khasan Nature Park. 4 Khasan Nature Park.

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis* (Damklire)

5/6 12 Muravievka Crane Park, 7/6 6.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* (Hvidklire)

20/5 40 migrating north "Pleskes island", 8 migrating north at sea, 23/5 11 en route Khasan Nature Park, 31/5 10 Komsomolsk - Bogorodskoyie, 1/6 20 Udyl Lake.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* (Tinksmed)

22/5 2 Khasan Nature Park, 23/53 en route Khasan Nature Park, 1 Khasan Nature Park.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* (Mudderklire)

20/5 1 "Pleskes island", 23/6 3 en route Khasan Nature Park, 27/5 3 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 30 Bikin River, 29/5 15 Bikin River, 2/6 10 Amur at Bogorodskoyie, 3/6 10 Bogorodskoyie-Komsomolsk, 4/6 1 S.of Khabarovsk.

**Grey-tailed Tattler** *Heteroscelus brevipes*

20/5 1 Popov Island, 1 "Pleskes island", 22/5 4 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 en route Khasan Nature Park, 6 Khasan Nature Park, 24/5 1 coast close to Vityaz.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* (Stenvender)

3/6 30 Bogorodskoyie-Komsomolsk – migrating north + roosting at Komsomolsk.

**Red-necked Stint** *Calidris ruficollis* (Rødhalsset Ryle)

22/5 2 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 12 en route Khasan Nature Park, 3/6 30 migrating north and 2 roosting Bogorodskoyie-Komsomolsk, 5/6 5 Muravievka Crane Park.

**Long-toed Stint** *Calidris subminuta* (Langtået Ryle)

22/5 1 Khasan Nature Park, 7/6 1 Muravievka Crane Park.

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** *Calidris acuminata* (Spidshalet Ryle)

3/6 25 Bogorodskoyie-Komsomolsk – migrating north at Komsomolsk, 5/6 3 Muravievka Crane Park.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* (Almindelig Ryle)

22/5 1 Khasan Nature Park.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea* (Krumnæbbet Ryle)

23/5 3 Khasan Nature Park, 1/6 1 Udyl Lake, 3/6 70 (40+30) Bogorodskoyie-Komsomolsk migrating north, 5/6 1 Muravievka Crane Park.

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* (Stylteløber)

23/5 2 Khasan Nature Park, 31/5 2 Kabar.- Komsomolsk, 3/6 2 Komsomolsk – Khabarovsk.

**Long-billed Plover** *Charadrius placidus*

28/6 7 Bikin River between Verkniy Pereval and Krasny Yar, 29/5 1 Bikin River at Krasny Yar.

Note: Rare and considered near-threatened – estimated world population perhaps 10,000 individuals. The birds were invariably found on certain river-islets with pebble-stones along the shores, fast-floating stream, and a central elevation high enough to avoid floating with sandy/grassy flats. 4-5 breeding islands were found from the boats on about 100 km of river. Readily distinguished from Little Ringed Plover by longer bill, tail, and legs – giving the bird a little Kildeer-like shape.



**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius* (Lille Præstekrave)

23/5 1 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 8 Bikin River between Verknii Pereval and Krasny Yar, 29/5 4 Bikin River at Krasny Yar, 2/6 1 Amur at Bogorodskoyie Village.

**Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus* (Hvidbrystet Præstekrave)

22/5 10 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 1 en route Khasan Nature Park 23/5

**Mongolian Plover** *Charadrius mongolus* (Mongolsk Præstekrave)

23/5 1 Khasan Nature Park, 3 en route Khasan Nature Park.

**Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva* (Sibirisk Tundrahjelle)

3/6 12 migrating north Bogorodskoyie-Komsomolsk.

**Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus* (Vibe)

23/5 2 en route Khasan Nature Park, 1 Khasan Nature Park, 30/5 7 Bikin, 31/5 2 Kabarovsk. – Komsomolsk, 1/6 9 Udyi Lake, 3/6 8 Komsomolsk- Khabarovsk, 5/615 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 8 and 7/6 10.

**Black-tailed Gull** *Larus crassirostris*

19/5 300 +Vladivostok and Vladivostok-Popov Island, 20/5 50.000 pairs at breeding colonies islands of Eastern Marine Reserve and adjacent islands, 21/5 20.000 Marine reserve island, 22/5 1000+ at sea Vityaz-Estuary Khasan + at the estuary, 23/5 200 en route Khasan Nature Park, 24/5 1 Vityaz, 2 Kedrovaya Pad, 25/5 4 Kedrovaya Pad, 26/5 80 en route to Vladivostok

Note: By far the most numerous bird along coasts and islands with huge colonies, but does not penetrate to the interior.

**Caspian Gull** *Larus cachinnans mongolicus*

1/6 16 Udyi Lake – breeding colony on an island.

Note: Traditionally regarded as subspecies of Caspian, but more closely related to Vega Gull *Larus vegae birulai*. Could attain fully specific status based on differences from *cachinnans* in plumage, breeding season, migration routes and winter quarters (Yésou 2001a and 2002) This breeding site may be an eastern extension of the breeding area of the mongolicus race.

**Slaty-backed Gull** *Larus schistisagus*

19/5 10 Vladivostok- Popov Island boat trip, 20/5 20 20”Pleskes island”, 40 adj. islands, 21/5 50 Easten Marine Reserve, 22/5 1 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 5 en route Khasan Nature Park, 1/6 2 (breeding pair) island in Udyi Lake.

Note: Coastal – but found at Udyi ab. 100 km from the coast. First-summer birds are whitish – avoid confusion with sub ad. Glaucous Gull (not identified on the trip).

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus* (Hættemåge)

19/5 1 Vladivostok, 22/5 7 boattrip to estuary Khasan, 23/5 18 en route Khasan Nature Park, 23/5, 10 Khasan Nature Park, 27/5 40 Bikin/Verkney Pereval, 30/5 2 Bikin- en route, 31/5 160 Khabarovsk - Bogorodskoyie, 1/6 250 Udyi Lake, 3/6 200 Komsomolsk - Khabarovsk, 5/6 8 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 5 and 7/6 8.

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybridus* (Hvidskægget Terne)

7/6 3 Muravievka Crane Park.

**White-winged Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus* (Hvidvinget Terne)

23/5 10 en route Khasan Nature Park, 27/5 8 Verkney Pereval, 30/5 27 Bikin River at Krasny Yar, 31/5 118 Khabarovsk - Bogorodskoye, 3/6 100 Bogorodskoye-Komsomolsk , 7/6 8 Muravievka Crane Park.

Note: Both Chlidonias-terns were once common breeders in Muraviovka – sadly ended by 5 years of drought. Especially White-winged Terns used to be numerous.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo longipennis* (Fjordterne)

19/5 2 Vladivostok, 2 Vladivostok- Popov Island, 23/5 15 en route Khasan Nature Park, 2 Khasan Nature Park, 26/5 1 en route to Vladivostok, 27/5 1 Verkney Pereval, 30/5 1 Bikin, 31/5 220 Khabarovsk - Bogorodskoye 31/5, 1/6 200 Udyl Lake, 3/6 220 Bogorodskoye - Khabarovsk, 5/6 6 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 2 and 7/6 10.

Note: A distinct race "longipennis" showing black legs, black bill, and rather dark plumage.

**Little Tern** *Sterna albifrons* (Dværgterne)

22/5 2 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 5 en route Khasan Nature Park, 31/5 9 Khabarovsk - Bogorodskoye, 3/6 2 Bogorodskoye-Komsomolsk, 5/6 2 Muravievka Crane Park 7/6 6.

**Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus* (Mellemkjøve)

31/5 1 Amur River in Khabarovsk (ES).

**Common Guillemot** *Uria aalge* (Lomvie)

19/5 20 Vladivostok- Popov Island, 20/5 1500 at sea and colonies Eastern Marine Reserve, 21/5 30 Eastern Marine Reserve, 22/5 11 Vityaz - Khasan Nature Park.

**Spectacled Guillemot** *Cepphus carbo*

19/5 200 Vladivostok- Popov Island, 20/5 500 Eastern Marine Reserve, 21/5 150 Eastern Marine Reserve, 22/5 100 Vityaz - Khasan Nature Park, 20 off The Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 2 Vityaz.

**Marbled Murrelet** *Brachyramphus marmoratus*

19/5 1 and 20/5 6 Eastern Marine Reserve, 22/5 2 Vityaz – Khasan Nature Park.

Note: Belongs to the race perdux - by some considered a full species (Long-billed Murrelet).

**Ancient Murrelet** *Synthliboramphus antiquus*

19/5 100 Vladivostok - Popov Island, 20/5 80 and 21/5 30 Eastern Marine Reserve and adjacent islands, 22/5 30 Vityaz to Khasan Nature Park.

**Rhinoceros Auklet** *Cerorhinca monocerata*

19/5 60 Vladivostok - Popov Island, 20/5 35 and 21/5 20 Eastern Marine Reserve and adjacent islands, 22/5 2 Vityaz – Khasan Nature Park.

**Hill Pigeon** *Columba rupestris*

23/5 13 en route Khasan Nature Park - a flock seen some kilometers from Vityaz.

**Oriental Turtle-Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis* (Østlig Turteldue)

19/5 1 Popov Island, 20/5 4 Marine reserve islands, 2 Popov Island, 21/5 1 Marine reserve island, 22/5 1 Marine reserve island, 23/5 2 en route Khasan Nature Park, 1 Vityaz, 24/5 2 Vityaz, 10 Kedrovaya Pad, 25/5 40 and 26/5 10. 27/5 10 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 2 Bikin river, 30/5 5 Krasny Yar, 31/5 5 Kabar-Koms, 2/6 10 Bogorodskoye taiga forest, 3/6 6 Komsomolsk - Khabarovsk, 4/6

10 S of Khabarovsk, 30 Blagoveshchenk - Muravievka Crane Park, 5/6 25 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 10 and 7/6 20.

**Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo** *Cuculus fugax*

26/5 1 Kedrovaya Pad, 30/5 1 Krasny Yar, 1 Bikin R at Krasny Yar – all heard only.

**Common Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus* (Gøgg)

21/5 1 Eastern Marine Reserve island, 23/5 2 en route Khasan Nature Park, 24/5 2 Kedrovaya Pad 25/5 6 and 26/5 3. 27/5 5 Verkney Pereval, 30/5 7 Krasny Yar, 2 Bikin at Krasny Yar, 31/5 1 Kabar.–Komsomolsk, 2/6 6 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest, 3/6 5 Komsomolsk-Khabarovsk, 4/6 18 S of Khabarovsk , 5/6 35 Muravievka Crane Park , 6/6 30 and 7/6 30.

**Oriental Cuckoo** *Cuculus saturatus* (Skovgøgg)

19/5 1 Popov Island 20/5 3 Popov Island, 1 "Pleskes island", 21/5 2 Eastern Marine Reserve island, 1 Popov Island, 1 Vityaz, 23/5 1 Vityaz, 24/5 5 Kedrovaya Pad, 25/5 16, and 26/5 7. 27/5 2 Verkney Pereval, 30/5 5 Krasny Yar, 2 Bikin at Krasny Yar, 1/6 1 Udyl lake1, 2/6 5 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest, 4/6 3 S of Khabarovsk

**Indian Cuckoo** *Cuculus micropterus*

27/5 1 heard Verkney Pereval, 4/6 4 heard S of Khabarovsk.

**Eurasian Eagle-Owl** *Bubo bubo* (Stor Hornugle)

22/5 1 seen Khasan Nature Park.

Note: Roosting on old sea cliffs on the riverplain – race ussurensis, huge, with ochre wash.

**Ural Owl** *Strix uralensis* (Slagugle)

25/51 Kedrovaya Pad, 27/5 3 Verkney Pereval, 30/5 1 Bikin at Krasny Yar (FQM).

Note: Not vocal at this time of the year but splendid views of birds found in the forests.

**Brown Hawk-Owl** *Ninox scutulata*

21/5 and 22/5 2 heard and seen Vityaz, 23/5 1 Khasan Nature Park – found roosting in bright daylight in isolated trees on the riverplain, 24/5 1 Kedrovaya Pad and 25/5 1. 30/5 1 Krasny Yar.

**Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus* (Skovhornugle)

5/6 1, 6/6 2 and 7/6 2 Muravievka Crane Park (2 breeding pairs)

**Jungle Nightjar** *Caprimulgus indicus*

27/5 1 Verkney Pereval , 6/6 1 Muravievka Crane Park, 7/6 1.

**White-throated Needletail** *Hirundapus caudacutus* (Tornhalesejler)

28/5 18 Bikin river between Verknij Pereval and Krasny Yar, 29/5 3 Bikin River at Krasny Yar, 31/5 4 Khabarovsk - Bogorodskoyie, 2/6 2 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest, 3/6 7 Bogorodskoyie - Khabarovsk, 4/6 4 S of Khabarovsk, 7/6 6 Muravievka Crane Park.

Note: 44 birds located – half of which found along the Bikin River where the undisturbed forest provides the species with nest-holes for breeding – an extremely fast flier often seen passing by at low height.

**Fork-tailed Swift** *Apus pacificus*

19/5 300 Vladivostok - Popov Island incl. islands, 20/5 250 Popov Island + "Pleskes island", 21/5 5 Eastern Marine River Island, 22/5 3 Vityaz-Khasan Nature park, 1 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 50 en route Khasan Nature Park, 24/5 5 Kedrovaya Pad, 26/5 100+ Kedrovaya Pad, 30/5 Krasny Yar - Khabarovsk, 31/5 5 Khabarovsk -Komsomolsk, 100 1/6 Khabarovsk, 2/6 5 Bogorodskoyie village, 4/6 60 Blagoveschchenk-Muravievka Crane Park.

**Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis* (Isfugl)

23/5 2 en route Khasan Nature Park , 24/5 1 Kedrovaya Pad, 25/5 1 Kedrovaya Pad, 27/5 3 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 7 Bikin river, 29/5 4 Bikin river at Krasny Yar, 1/6 1 Udyl Lake, 2/6 1 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest .

**Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis*

24/5 2 Kedrovaya Pad, 25/5 4, and 26/5 4. 27/5 12 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 6 Bikin River, 29/5 7 Bikin River at Krasny Yar.

**Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops* (Hærfugl)

23/5 2 en route Khasan Nature Park, 24/5 1 Kedrovaya Pad and 26/5 1. 27/5 6 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 2 Bikin River, 4/6 1 S of Khabarovsk, 1 Blagoveshcheck-Muravievka Crane Park, 5/6 4 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 3 and 7/6 5.

**Eurasian Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla* (Vendehals)

24/5 3 Kedrovaya Pad and 25/5 1. 26/5 1 en route to Vladivostok, 27/5 3 Verkney Pereval.

**Grey-capped Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos canicapillus*

24/5 1 Kedrovaya Pad, 25/5 1 and 26/5 1.

**Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos kizuki*

20/5 5 Popov Island, 21/5 1 Eastern Marine Reserve island, 23/5 2 Vityaz, 24/5 4 Kedrovaya Pad, 25/5 3 and 26/5 3.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos minor* (Lille Flagspætte)

24/5 2 Kedrovaya Pad and 25/5 1.

**White-backed Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos leucotos* (Hvidrygget Spætte)

24/5 1 Vityaz, 5 Kedrovaya Pad, 25/5, 6 26/5 and 6 27/5 1 Verkney Pereval, 30/5 4 Krasny Yar, 2/6 2 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest, 3/6 2 Komsomolsk - Khabarovsk

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major* (Stor Flagspætte)

27/5 2 Verkney Pereval, 29/5 8 Bikin/Krasny Yar, 4/6 2 S of Khabarovsk.

**Three-toed Woodpecker** *Picoides tridactylus* (Tretået Spætte)

30/5 1 female Krasny Yar forests.

**Black Woodpecker** *Dryocopus martius* (Sortspætte)

30/5 3 Krasny Yar forests, 31/5 1 Khabarovsk - Komsomolsk, 2/6 2 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest, 3/6 1 Komsomolsk - Khabarovsk

**Grey-headed Woodpecker** *Picus canus* (Gråspætte)

24/5 2 Kedrovaya Pad, 25/5 4 and 26/5 2, 1 en route to Vladivostok, 27/5 5 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 1 Bikin River, 29/5 2 Krasny Yar and 30/5 1. 1/6 1 Udyl lake, 2/6 2 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest.

**Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius* (Skovskade)

21/5 2 Popov Island, 1 Marine reserve island, 26/5 2 Kedrovaya Pad, 27/5 1 Verkney Pereval, 30/5 2 Krasny Yar, 31/5 1 Khabarovsk - Komsomolsk, 1/6 1 Udyl Lake, 2/6 2 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest, 6/6 2 Muravievka Crane Park.

**Azure-winged Magpie** *Cyanopica cyana* (Blåskade)

26/5 1 en route to Vladivostok, 30/5 4 Krasny Yar-Khabarovsk, 2/6 2 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest, 4/6 2 S of Khabarovsk, 5/6 2 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 11 and 7/6 12.

Note: Few seen but easy seen at the Muravievka Crane Park where a noisy group stayed in a near-by patch of wood, it differs slightly from the Iberian birds, somewhat paler.

**Eurasian Magpie** *Pica pica* (Husskade)

Seen at all localities at numbers up to 25. Different nest-style than European Magpies.

**Eurasian Nutcracker** *Nucifraga caryocatactes* (Nøddekrige)

2/6 2 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest

**Daurian Jackdaw** *Corvus dauricus*

1/6 1 imm Udyl Lake, 4/6 6 S of Khabarovsk, 8 Blagoveshchenk-Muravievka Crane Park, 5/6 4 Muravievka Crane Park and 8/6 2.

Note: Certainly not a common chimney-breeder in towns and villages. More of a scarce steppe-species and often relates to cattle – exactly where we found them!

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus* (Råge)

26/5 8 en route to Vladivostok, 1/6 2 Udyl Lake, 4/6 1 S of Khabarovsk, 40 Blagoveshchenk-Muravievka Crane Park.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone* (Sortkrage)

Common at most places. Dominates at more urban or cultivated areas.

**Large-billed Crow** *Corvus macrorhynchos*

Common, especially along rivers, lakes, forest-edge.

**Common Raven** *Corvus corax* (Ravn)

1/6 2 Udyl Lake.

**Black-naped Oriole** *Oriolus chinensis*

20/5 1 "Pleskes island", 3 Popov Island, 21/5 and 2 23/5. 2 Vityaz, 2 Khasan Nature Park, 24/5 3 Vityaz, 1 en route Kedrovaya Pad, 5 24/5 Kedrovaya Pad, 25/5 25 and 26/5 3. 27/5 5 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 3 Bikin River, 29/5 2 Krasny Yar, 30/5 1 Krasny Yar-Khabarovsk, 4/6 5 S of Khabarovsk, 6/6 3 Muravievka Crane Park and 7/6 4.

**Ashy Minivet** *Pericrocotus divaricatus*

20/5 6 Popov Island, 24/5 15 Kedrovaya Pad, 25/5 25 and 26/5 20. 27/5 20 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 25 Bikin River, 30/5 5 Bikin/Krasny Yar, 3 Bikin River.

Note: Often heard and glimpsed flying restlessly over the forest canopy – from time to time seen roosting, common in the Ussuriland forests.

**Tiger Shrike** *Lanius tigrinus*

23/5 1 Khasan Nature Park (EM)

**Brown Shrike** *Lanius cristatus*

19/5 1 Vladivostok, 20/5 2 "Pleskes island", 21/5 4 Marine reserve island, 22/5 1 Khasan Nature Park and 23/5 2. 2 en route Khasan Nature Park, 24/5 2 Vityaz, 5 Kedrovaya Pad, 25/5 3 Kedrovaya Pad and 26/5 1. 1 en route to Vladivostok, 27/5 2 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 2 Bikin river, 30/5 1 Krasny Yar, 1/6 1 Udyl Lake, 2/6 1 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest, 4/6 2 S of Khabarovsk, 5/6 2 Muravievka Crane Park and 6/6 4.

**Chinese Grey Shrike** *Lanius sphenocercus*

23/5 1 Vityaz, 4/6 4 + 4 juv S of Khabarovsk.

**Japanese Waxwing** *Bombycilla japonica*

21/5 2 heard and seen briefly Eastern Marine Reserve island (migrants), 26/5 3 Kedrovaya Pad.

**White-throated Rock-Thrush** *Monticola gularis*

25/5 2 Kedrovaya Pad and 26/5 1 (same), 27/5 2 Verkney Pereval, 1/6 2 Udyl lake, 2/6 1 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest.

Note: Local and not common – but found on 4 localities, song is soft and melancholic. Invariably found on well-wooded steep rocky. Difficult to see unless you penetrate to it's territory where we got beautiful views of singing males including short display-flights.

**Blue Rock-Thrush** *Monticola solitarius philippensis* (Blåddrossel)

20/5 1 "Pleskes island", 2 20/5 Eastern Marine Reserve island and 21/5 1. 22/5 3 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 1 en route Khasan Nature Park.

**Siberian Thrush** *Zoothera sibirica* (Sibirisk Drossel)

23/5 1 female Khasan Nature Park, 2/6 1 male Bogorodskoyieforests (MH).

Only 2 birds seen on the trip, but the female was a migrant roosting in a few trees and bushes on the otherwise open coastal riverplain - a typical migrant and unable to skulk!

**Scaly Thrush** *Zoothera dauma* (Gulddrossel)

26/5 1 heard Kedrovaya Pad.

Note: The soft whistles in this fabulous forest were the only contact with this species on the trip.

**Grey-backed Thrush** *Turdus hortulorum*

20/5 3 Popov Island and 21/5 1. 23/5 1 Vityaz, 24/5 1 Vityaz, 1 en route Kedrovaya Pad, 2 Kedrovaya Pad, 26/5 1 Kedrovaya Pad, 30/5 1 Krasny Yar-Khabarovsk, 3/6 2 Komsomolsk-Khabarovsk, 4/6 1 S of Khabarovsk, 8/6 2 Muravievka Crane Park.

**Pale Thrush** *Turdus pallidus*

25/5 1 Kedrovaya Pad, 26/5 3 Kedrovaya Pad, 30/5 4 Bikin/Krasny Yar, 4/6 1 S of Khabarovsk

Note: Needs conifers – found where such patches are available – some banks at the Bikin River are very sandy with coniferous trees and a good option for Pale Thrush.

**Dusky Thrush** *Turdus naumanni* (Naumanns Drossel/Brundrossel)

21/5 1 Popov Island, 22/5 1 Khasan Nature Park.

Note: The bird of the Estuary was the race eunomus – a late migrant, main population passes much earlier.

**Brown-eared bulbul** *Ixos amaurotis*

20/5 1 Popov Island.

Note: Probably the first observation of this species on Popov Island, but it is expanding north along the coast and is very common in Japan.

**Purple-backed Starling** *Sturnus sturninus*

19/5 4 Popov Island 20/5 2 and 21/5 2. 3 Eastern Marine Reserve island, 23/5 2 Vityaz, 24/5 2 Vityaz, 10 Kedrovaya Pad and 25/5. 27/5 8 Verkney Pereval, 30/5 4 Krasny Yar, 2 Bikin at Krasny Yar.

**Chestnut-cheeked Starling** *Sturnus philippensis*

24/5 2 Vityaz.

Note: In Russia a rare starling from the south and only found in the extreme SE. It was a breeding pair – so the village of Vityaz had 3 species of breeding starlings.

**White-cheeked Starling** *Sturnus cineraceus*

19/5 12 Vladivostok, 10 19/5 Popov Island 20/5 10 and 21/5 10. 21/5 20 Vityaz 22/5 10 and 24/5 10. 20 en route Kedrovaya Pad, 24/5 10 Kedrovaya Pad and 25/5 40. 26/5 50 en route to Vladivostok, 27/5 40 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 3 Bikin river, 30/5 2 Krasny Yar, 12 at Bikin at Krasny Yar, 4/6 30 S of Khabarovsk, 20 Blagoveshchenck-Muravievka Crane Park, 5/6 40 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 20 and 7/6 25.

**Grey-streaked Flycatcher** *Muscicapa griseisticta*

23/5 1 Khasan Nature Park (migrant-fall), 24/5 1 Kedrovaya Pad.

**Siberian Flycatcher** *Muscicapa sibirica*

30/5 1 Krasny Yar inside the forest.

**Asian Brown Flycatcher** *Muscicapa dauurica* (Brun Fluesnapper)

19/5 3 Popov Island, 20/5 1 "Pleskes island", 1 Popov Island and 21/5 5. 21/5 1 Eastern Marine Reserve island, 22/5 6 Khasan Nature Park and 23/5 6. 24/6 50 Kedrovaya Pad, 25/5 40 and 26/5 10, 27/5 1 Verkney Pereval, 30/5 1 Bikin River, 30/5 1 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest.

**Yellow-rumped Flycatcher** *Ficedula zanthopygia*

19/5 1 Popov Island 3 20/5 and 10 21/5. 20/5 2 "Pleskes island", 11 Eastern Marine Reserve island, 22/5 5 Khasan Nature Park and 1 23/5, 23/5 4 Vityaz and 24/5 2, 1 en route Kedrovaya Pad, 20 Kedrovaya Pad 25/5 15 and 26/5. 27/5 14 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 2 Bikin River, 30/5 5 Krasny Yar, 1 Bikin at Krasny Yar, 1/6 6 Udyl Lake, 4/6 6 2 S of Khabarovsk, 5/6 1 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 1 and 7/6 2.

**Mugimaki Flycatcher** *Ficedula mugimaki*

20/5 2 "Pleskes island", 21/5 1 Popov Island, 23/5 5 Krasny Yar forest, 2/6 2 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest.

Note: Few on migration on the coast compared to the very common Yellow-rumped and Brown Flycatchers. In the "Tiger-forest" of Krasny Yar readily heard singing from top of conifers and some were seen.

**Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva albicilla* (Lille Fluesnapper)

21/5 2 Popov Island, 1 Eastern Marine Reserve island, 22/5 1 Khasan Nature Park, 1/6 1 Udyl Lake.

**Blue-and-white Flycatcher** *Cyanoptila cyanomelana*

19/5 1 Popov Island 20/5 2 and 21/5 2. 23/5 1 Vityaz, 24/5 8 Kedrovaya Pad 25/5 15 and 26/5 5, 27/5 3 Verkney Pereval, 30/5 10 Krasny Yar.

**Rufous-tailed Robin** *Luscinia sibilans*

20/5 1 "Pleskes Island", 23/5 1 Vityaz, 30/5 1 Krasny Yar, 2/6 10 Bogorodskoye taiga forest.

Note: Skulky! Characteristic monotonous, whirring song.

**Siberian Rubythroat** *Luscinia calliope* (Rubinnattergal)

27/5 2 Luchegorsk-Verkney Pereval, riverside, 31/5 1 Khabarovsk-Komsomolsk, 1/6 1 Udyl Lake, 2/6 2 Bogorodskoye taiga forest, 4/6 8 S of Khabarovsk, 1 4/6 Muravievka Crane Park, 5/6 5, 6/6 3, 7/6 5 and 8/6 2.

Note: Did not show up on the coastal migratory spots – but seen and heard from the Bikin-area and more commonly in Amurland. Sings both in day- and nighttime. Skulky at times – but eventually some of the birds will perch for a short while in the open showing the glowing ruby throat.

**Siberian Blue Robin** *Luscinia cyane*

19/5 2 Popov Island, 24/5 2 Kedrovaya Pad 25/5 6 and 26/5 2. 30/5 5 KrasnyYar forests, 6 Bikin River, 1/6 1 Udyl Lake, 2/6 1 Bogorodskoye taiga forest, 4/6 2 S of Khabarovsk, 6/6 3 Muravievka Crane Park.

Note: Quite common in Ussuriland broadleaf forests but an extreme skulker in the breeding range, even surpassing notorious skulkers like locustellas and stubtails. Only showed its beauty in short glimpses – responds to play-back but mostly keeps out of sight. So – majority are singing males. Song is a striking series of melodious whistles.

**Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus* (Blåstjert)

1/6 1 Udyl Lake, 2/6 4 Bogorodskoye taiga forest.

Note: Few – migration seemed to have been earlier and found only when we reached the southern part of the taiga in Amurland. Anyway – classic singing Bluetails from the top of a conifer!

**Daurian Redstart** *Phoenicurus auroreus*

21/5 1 Vityaz, 23/5 1 Khasan Nature Park, 24/5 2 Kedrovaya Pad 25/5 1 and 26/5 10. 27/5 10 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 1 Bikin river, 30/5 10 Krasny Yar, 5 Bikin River, 2/6 2 Bogorodskoye village.

**Siberian Stonechat** *Saxicola maura* (Sibirisk Sortstrubet Bynkefugl)

21/5 2 Marine reserve island, 22/5 1 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 5 en route Khasan Nature Park, 1 Khasan Nature Park, 24/5 10 Kedrovaya Pad and 25/5 36. 26/5 3 en route to Vladivostok 27/5 4 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 15 Bikin River, 30/5 1 Krasny Yar to Khabarovsk, 31/5 1 Khabarovsk – Komsomolsk, 4/6 2 S of Khabarovsk, 4 Blagoveshchenck-Muravievka Crane Park, 5/6 50 Muravievka Crane Park 6/6 50 and 7/6 30.

Note: A recent split from Stonechat (*S. saxicola*). Common on open grassy areas – the birds of Kedrovaya refer to the areas of fallow fields outside the forest – here as on the Muravievka "steppe" it was a character bird.



**Eurasian Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea* (Spætmejse)

19/5 3 Popov Island and 20/5, 21/5 1 Marine reserve island, 24/5 1 en route Kedrovaya Pad, 20 Kedrovaya Pad 25/5 40 and 26/5 25, 27/5 2 Verkney Pereval, 30/5 10 Krasny Yar, 1 Bikin at Krasny Yar, 1/6 8 Udyl Lake, 2/6 1 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest.

**Eurasian Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris* (Træløber)

25/5 3 Kedrovaya Pad 26/5 1.

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus* (Halemejse)

20/5 2 Popov Island, 23/5 2 Vityaz, 24/5 6 Kedrovaya Pad 25/5 20 and 26/5 10, 27/5 2 Verkney Pereval, 30/5 8 Bikin at Krasny Yar.

**Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia* (Digesvale)

19/5 1 Popov Island, 23/5 6 en route Khasan Nature Park, 27/5 1 Verkney Pereval, 31/5 4 Komsomolsk - Bogorodskoyie, 1/6 3 Udyl Lake, 3/6 30 Bogorodskoyie-Komsomolsk, 6/6 10 Muravievka Crane Park.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* (Landsvale)

19/5 30 Vladivostok, 10 19/5 Popov Island and 20/5 20, 5 "Pleskes island", 21/5 2 at sea and 5 Eastern Marine Reserve islands, 22/5 5 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 100 en route Khasan Nature Park, 24/5 12 Kedrovaya Pad and 25/5 2, 26/5 50 en route to Vladivostok, 27/5 50 Verkney Pereval, 29/5 30 Bikin River, 30/5 20 Bikin at Krasny Yar, 5 Krasny Yar-Khabarovsk, 4/6 2 S of Khabarovsk, 120 Blagoveshchenk-Muravievka Crane Park, 5/6 50, 6/6 60 and 7/6 60.

Note: Dominantly the nominate race rustica, but some were manchurica (very red underparts) esp. at the Muravievka Crane Park.

**Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica* (Rødrygget Svale)

19/5 50 Vladivostok, 20/5 5 Popov Island, 23/5 25 en route Khasan Nature Park, 24/5 3 Vityaz, 10 en route to Vladivostok, 27/5 30 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 5 Bikin River, 29/5 20 Krasny Yar, 20 Bikin at Krasny Yar, 31/5 2 Khabarovsk-Komsomolsk, 4/6 Blagoveshchenck-Muravievka Crane Park, 5/6 2 Muravievka Crane Park.

**Common House-Martin** *Delichon urbica* (Bysvale)

27/5 4 Verkney Pereval, 31/5 200 Khabarovsk-Komsomolsk, 5/6 10 Blagoveshchenk-Muravievka Crane Park.

**Asian Martin** *Delichon dasypus*

6/6 1 Muravievka Crane Park (MH)

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus* (Fuglekonge)

21/5 2 Marine reserve island, 30/5 3 Krasny Yar forests.

**Chestnut-flanked White-Eye** *Zosterops erythropleurus*

19/5 15 Popov Island and 20/5 50, 24/5 15 Kedrovaya Pad 25/5 10 and 26/5 10, 27/5 5 Verkney Pereval.

**Asian Stubtail** *Urosphena squameiceps*

25/5 3 Kedrovaya Pad, 26/5 5, 30/5 10 Krasny Yar, 6 Bikin at Krasny Yar.

Note: Characteristic high-pitched voice (like Goldcrest) and a challenge to the ears – next challenge is to see the bird that skulks like a mouse in the forest bottom, but with patience it will eventually appear.

Kommentar [SFR1]: Det må vist være en fejl?

**Manchurian Bush-Warbler** *Cettia (diphone) canturians*

22/5 3 Khasan Nature Park and 23/5 2, 24/5 4 Kedrovaya Pad 25/5 7 and 26/5 3.

Note: A recent split from Japanese Bush-Warbler (*C.diphone*) primarily based on differences in song. Heard and seen – typically from rich herbal vegetation in open areas, has an extremely loud song – an oriolelike explosion followed by a chatter.

**Chinese Bush-Warbler** *Bradypterus tacsanowskius*

5/6 2 Muravievka Crane Park 6/6 7, 7/6 8 and 8/6 4.

Note: Arrives late, in early June – song insectlike and monotonous.

**Lanceolated Warbler** *Locustella lanceolata* (Stribet Græshoppesanger)

21/5 2 Popov Island, 1 Eastern Marine Reserve island, 23/5 1 Khasan Nature Park, 25/5 1 Kedrovaya Pad, 28/5 2 on the large moor at Bikin River, 1/6 6 Udyl Lake, 3/6 1 Komsomolsk-Khabarovsk, 4/6 2 S of Khabarovsk, 1 4/6 Muravievka Crane Park 5/6 15, 6/6 15, 7/6 10 and 8/6 3.

Note: Song very like Grasshopper Warbler – seen at quite a few occasions, migrants flushed and excited birds occasionally were singing from an open branch at the Muravievka Crane Park (heavy competition!)

**Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella certhiola* (Pallas' Græshoppesanger)

27/5 1 Verkney Pereval, 1/6 4 Udyl Lake, 3/6 4 Komsomolsk- Khabarovsk, 4/6 1 S of Khabarovsk, 6 Muravievka Crane Park, 5/6 30 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 30 Muravievka Crane Park, 7/6 10 Muravievka Crane Park, 8/6 2 Muravievka Crane Park.

Note: Also called Rusty-rumped Warbler. Arrival late May increasingly common during the trip and quite easy to watch.

**Pleske's Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella pleskei*

20/5 2-3 "Pleskes island"

Note: Closely related to and split from Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler (of Sakhalin Island) and extremely local on off-shore islands. Arriving in bright daylight it was not an easy job to locate the warbler, but it was vocal in short intervals and eventually 2 or 3 birds were heard or seen briefly.

**Gray's Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella fasciolata* (Stor Græshoppesanger)

7/6 1 heard and 1 observed (ES) Muravievka Crane Park, 8/6 1 heard.

Note: Known to pass Happy Island at China coast in the beginning of June, and thus a very late arrival to the breeding grounds. Arrival of Chinese Bush-Warbler created some optimism and eventually 7/6 the bird was heard in the evening (app. 10:30 PM) and even observed in the afternoon. Responded to tape. Strong, persistent song (loud, rich, and very dominant) was heard 8/6 from 4 o'clock until dawn (4:50 AM sharp). The habitat is forest edge with dense vegetation (small patch of wood, close to Muravievka Crane Park HQ).

**Black-browed Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*

20/5 1 Popov Island, 1 "Pleskes island", 22/5 1 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 18 en route Khasan Nature Park, 4 Khasan Nature Park, 24/5 3 Vityaz, 15 Kedrovaya Pad, 25/5 32 and 26/5 1, 27/5 15 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 1 moor at Bikin River, 29/5 1 Bikin River, 30/5 2 Krasny Yar-Khabarovsk, 31/5 2 Khabarovsk – Komsomolsk, 1/6 2 Udyl Lake, 2/6 1 Bogorodskoye, 3/6 2 Komsomolsk-Khabarovsk., 4/6 25 S of Khabarovsk, 4 Muravievka Crane Park, 5/6 50, 6/6 30, 7/6 15 and 8/6 1.

**Oriental Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus orientalis*

23/5 8 en route Khasan Nature Park, 1 Khasan Nature Park, 25/5 1 Kedrovaya Pad, 27/5 1 Verkney Pereval, 3/6 3 Komsomolsk - Khabarovsk, 4/6 15 S of Khabarovsk, 5 5/6 Muravievka Crane Park 6/6 1 and 7/6 1.

**Thick-billed Warbler** *Acrocephalus aedon* (Tyknæbbet Rørsanger)

24/5 1 Vityaz, 1 Kedrovaya Pad, 27/5 3 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 2 moor at Bikin River, 30/5 1 Bikin River, 30/5 3 Krasny Yar-Khabarovsk, 4/6 2 S of Khabarovsk, 5/6 20 Muravievka Crane Park 6/6 5 and 7/6 10.

**Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus* (Brun Løvsanger)

21/5 2 Eastern Marine Reserve island, 27/5 2 Luchegorsk-Verkney Pereval, 1/6 15 Udy Lake, 2/6 5 Bogorodskoyie, 4/6 3 S of Khabarovsk, 5/6 3 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 2 and 7/6 1.

Note: Mainly in moist wood – typically found in willows.

**Radde's Warbler** *Phylloscopus schwarzi* (Schwarz Løvsanger)

21/5 1 Popov Island, 1 Eastern Marine Reserve island, 24/5 3 Kedrovaya Pad 25/5 10, 28/5 1 Bikin River and 30/5 1, 30/5 1 Krasny Yar, 1/6 4 Udy Lake, 2/6 7 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest, 3/6 1 Komsomolsk - Khabarovsk

Note: Found in dense brush in forest underground often at forest edge or edges to clearings, heard and seen with a bit of patience.

**Pallas's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus* (Fuglekongesanger)

21/5 1 Eastern Marine Reserve island, 24/5 5 Kedrovaya Pad 25/5 15 and 26/5 3, 30/5 2 Krasny Yar, 1 Bikin River, 1/6 9 Udy Lake, 2/6 2 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest.

Note: Sings from the canopies of tall trees making it difficult to watch properly.

**Inornate Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus* (Hvidbrynet Løvsanger)

20/5 1 Popov Island and 21/5, 21/5 1 "Pleskes island", 22/5 3 Khasan Nature Park and 23/5 4.

**Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis* (Nordsanger)

19/5 1 Popov Island, 23/5 2 Khasan Nature Park, 1/6 3 Bogorodskoyie village and 2/6 3, 1 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest, 4/6 1 S of Khabarovsk.

**Two-Barred Warbler** *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus*

20/5 1 "Pleskes island", 5/6 2 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 4 and 7/6 2.

**Pale-legged Leaf-Warbler** *Phylloscopus tenellipes*

21/5 5 Popov Island, 24/5 10 Kedrovaya Pad, 25/5 15 and 26/5 7, 28/5 1 Bikin River, 30/5 5 Bikin/Krany Yar, 2/6 2 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest.

**Eastern Crowned-Warbler** *Phylloscopus coronatus* (Østlig Kronesanger)

19/5 1 Popov Island 20/5 5 and 21/5 10, 8 20/5 Eastern Marine Reserve island, 23/5 1 Khasan Nature Park, 24/5 30 Kedrovaya Pad 25/5 35 and 26/5 10, 27/5 3 Verkney Pereval, 1/6 1 Udy lake 1/6, 4/6 1 S of Khabarovsk

Note: A character phylloscopus of esp. the Ussuriland forests – as with many other passerines easier to see on migration than on the breeding spot.

**Vinous-throated Parrotbill** *Paradoxornis webbianus*

20/5 1 Popov Island (HVR), 24/5 2 Kedrovaya Pad (ES).

Note: The habitat is stands of grass or reeds that have not (!) been burned down – at Kedrovaya Pad good habitat was just outside the forests, but only ES saw these birds.

**Marsh Tit** *Parus palustris* (Sumpmejse)

20/5 2 Popov Island, 23/5 1 Vityaz, 24/5 25 Kedrovaya Pad, 25/5 25 and 26/5 10, 27/5 5 Verkney Pereval, 7/6 1 Muravievka Crane Park, 8/6 1.

**Willow Tit** *Parus montanus* (Fyrremejse)

19/5 3 Popov Island 20/5 3 and 21/5, 24/5 5 Kedrovaya Pad and 25/5 10, 27/5 2 Verkney Pereval, 29/5 2 Krasny Yar, 2 Bikin River, 1/6 8 Udyl Lake, 2/6 10 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest.

**Coal Tit** *Parus ater* (Sortmejse)

26/5 2 Kedrovaya Pad, 29/5 3 Krasny Yar, 1 Bikin River, 1/6 12 Udyl Lake, 2/6 16 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest.

**Great Tit** *Parus major* (Musvit)

19/5 1 Popov Island 20/5 2 and 21/5 4, 6 20/5 Marine reserve island 21/5, 22/5 4 Khasan Nature Park, 23/5 3 Vityaz and 24/5 6, 15 Kedrovaya Pad 25/5 40 and 26/5 10, 27/5 10 Verkney Pereval, 29/5 2 Krasny Yar, 30/5 1 Krasny Yar-Khabarovsk, 7/6 1 Muravievka Crane Park, and 8/6 1.

Note: The majority belongs to the “minor-complex” apart from the birds in the Muravievka Crane Park that might have been the major-race kapustini. It is very complex and we prefer to treat “Parus minor” (Oriental Tit) as part of *P. major*.

**Kommentar [SFR2]:** Var der ikke kun major i crane park. Resten var minor?

**Azure Tit** *Parus cyanus* (Azurmejse)

27/5 2 where bridge cross Bikin River between Luchegorsk and Verkney Pereval, 1 Krasny Yar – Khabarovsk (ALM & HVR).

Note: This species is not common in the Far East, but was found here in typical river-side habitat breeding in willows. The birds were found from the bridge and seen flying and roosting on both sides of the bridge.

**Chinese Penduline-Tit** *Remiz consobrinus*

22/5 3 Khasan Nature Park at nest and 23/5 1, 27/5 1 Verkney Pereval, 4/6 2 Muravievka Crane Park and 6/6 1.

**Sky Lark** *Alauda arvensis* (Sanglærke)

22/5 10 Khasan Nature Park and 1 23/5, 23/5 5 en route Khasan Nature Park, 24/5 4 Kedrovaya Pad and 25/5 1, 1/6 5 Udyl Lake, 5/6 10 Muravievka Crane Park and 6/6 14.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* (Gråspurv)

31/5 2 Kabarowsk City, 4 Komsomolsk - Bogorodskoyie (river-harbour in a small town).

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus* (Skovspurv)

Very common especially in towns and settlements

**Forest Wagtail** *Dendronanthus indicus*

27/5 1 seen and heard Verkney Pereval. Seen at the forested slopes of the hill behind town.

Note: A rarity in Rusland – found only 10 years ago!

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba* (Hvid Vipstjert)

19/5 1 Vladivostok, 21/5 2 Vitayaz, 22/5 5 Khasan Nature Park and 6 23/6, 23/5 8 en route Khasan Nature Park, 24/5 5 Kedrovaya Pad 25/2 4 and 26/5 2, 2 en route to Vladivostok, 27/5 6 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 6 Bikin River, 29/5 Krasny Yar, 2 Bikin River, 30/5 2 Krasny Yar-Khabarovsk, 2/6 2 Bogorodskoyie village, 4/6 3 S of Khabarovsk, 2 4/6 Muravievka Crane Park and 5/6 2.

2 different races involved. Amurland: *baikalensis*. Ussuriland interior: *leucopsis*.

**Black-backed Wagtail** *Motacilla lugens*

19/5 2 Vladivostok-Popov Island, 2 19/5 Popov Island 20/5 8 and 21/5 2, 2 21/5 "Pleske Island", 21/5 2 Eastern Marine Reserve.

Note: We found *lugens* strictly coastal – a distinct White wagtail with white wings.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava* (Gul Vipstjert)

21/5 4 Marine reserve island, 23/5 30 en route Khasan Nature Park, 1 Khasan Nature Park, 28/5 1 Bikin River, 1/6 3 Udyl Lake, 2/6 16 Bogorodskoyie village.

Note: Identified races were *macronyx* and 3 *taivana*. Low numbers!

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea* (Bjergvipstjert)

20/5 1 "Pleskes island", 21/5 1 Eastern Marine Reserve island, 24/5 1 en route Kedrovaya Pad, 2 24/5 Kedrovaya Pad 25/5 4 and 26/5 3, 27/5 2 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 4 Bikin River and 30/5 1, 29/5 5 Bikin River at Krasny Yar, Krasny Yar-Khabarovsk, 1/6 6 Udyl Lake, 2/6 6 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest, 4/6 1 S of Khabarovsk, 6/6 1 Muravievka Crane Park.

**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus richardi* (Storpiber)

23/5 1 Khasan Nature Park, 24/5 2 Kedrovaya Pad, 1/6 1 Udyl Lake, 6/6 1 Muravievka Crane Park.

**Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni* (Indisk Skovpiber)

20/5 3 "Pleskes island", 21/5 2 Marine reserve island, 1 Popov Island, 22/5 5 Khasan Nature Park, 27/5 1 Verkney Pereval, 30/5 1 Krasny Yar, 31/5 1 Kabar –Komsomolsk, 1/6 7 Udyl Lake, 2/6 20 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest.

**Pechora Pipit** *Anthus gustavi menzbier* (Pechorapiber)

6/6 4 in territorial song display Muravievka Crane Park, 7/6 1.

Note: The population is referred to as the race "menzbier". This subspecies breeds in north-east China and south-easternmost Russia. The song is markedly different from that of *gustavi*, and it has been suggested that they be treated as separate species (e.g. Leonovich et al. 1997). The subspecies is known from Amur Valley between 130°E and 135°E (Allström et al. 2002). Muravievka may then hold one of the westernmost populations at 127.42°E.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla* (Kvækkerfinke)

20/5 1 Popov Island and 21/5 1, 1 Eastern Marine Reserve island, 2/6 2 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest.

**Grey-capped (Oriental) Greenfinch** *Carduelis sinica*

19/5 1 Popov Island and 20/5 10, 23/5 4 en route Khasan Nature Park, 24/5 2 Vityaz, 10 24/5 Kedrovaya Pad and 25/5 1, 27/5 30 Verkney Pereval, 29/5 10 Krasny Yar, 10 Bikin River, 31/5 2 Khabarovsk-Komsomolsk, 1/6 5 Udyl Lake.

**Eurasian Siskin** *Carduelis spinus* (Grønsisken)

20/5 30 Popov Island, 22/5 20 Khasan Nature Park, 2/6 35 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest.

**Common Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea* (Gråsisken)

2/6 2 Bogorodskoye taiga forest.

**Long-tailed Rosefinch** *Uragus sibiricus*

19/5 1 Popov Island and 20/5 2, 16 20/5 "Pleskes island", 21/5 2 Eastern Marine Reserve island, 23/5 5 en route Khasan Nature Park, 24/5 1 Vityaz, 2 en route Kedrovaya Pad, 2 24/5 Kedrovaya Pad and 25/5 6, 27/5 7 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 1 Bikin River, 31/5 2 Khabarovsk –Komsomolsk, 4/6 2 Muravievka Crane Park, 5/6 2, 6/6 6 and 7/6 8.

**Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus* (Karmindompap)

20/5 1 Popov Island, 28/5 1 Bikin River, 29/5 1 Krasny Yar, 1/6 5 Udyl Lake, 1/6 6 Bogorodskoye taiga forest.

**Pine Grosbeak** *Pinicola enucleator* (Krognæb)

2/6 3 Bogorodskoye taiga forest.

**Red Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra* (Lille Korsnæb)

2/6 1 Bogorodskoye taiga forest

Note: Another 4 crossbills might have been White-winged Crossbil, but not properly identified.

**Eurasian Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* (Dompap)

29/5 2 Krasny Yar forests, 1/6 5 Udyl Lake.

Note: Races griseiventris and cineracea – both referred to as "Eastern Bullfinch" and by some given status as a species.

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* (Kærnebidder)

25/5 4 Kedrovaya Pad and 26/5 2, 27/5 1 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 1 Bikin River and 29/5 3, 29/5 2 Krasny Yar, 3/6 3 Komsomolsk-Khabarovsk.

**Japanese Grosbeak** *Eophona personata*

24/5 2 Kedrovaya Pad, 25/5 15 and 26/5 15, 27/5 1 Verkney Pereval, 29/5 15 Krasny Yar, 10 Bikin.

**Meadow Bunting** *Emberiza cioides*

20/5 1 Popov Island and 21/5 1, 27/5 4 Verkney Pereval (foot of hillside).

**Ochre-rumped Bunting (Japanese Reed)** *Emberiza yessoensis*

22/5 12 Khasan Nature Park and 23/5 1, 5/6 1 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 8 and 7/6 3.

Note: A very local bunting – found in the reed-fringes along the lagoons of the Khasan Nature Park, but we were a bit surprised to find the bird so far west and inland at the Muravievka Crane Park.

**Tristram's Bunting** *Emberiza tristrami*

20/5 1 Popov Island, 21/5 10 Eastern Marine Reserve island, 22/5 6 Khasan Nature Park, 24/5 20 Kedrovaya Pad, 25/5 15 and 26/5 8, 29/5 4 Krasny Yar.

**Chestnut-eared Bunting** *Emberiza fucata*

19/5 1 Popov Island, 20/5 6 and 21/5, 1 20/5 "Pleskes island", 10 Eastern Marine Reserve island, 22/5 50 Khasan Nature Park and 23/5 100, 23/5 100 en route Khasan Nature Park, 24/5 2 en route to Kedrovaya Pad, 40 24/5 Kedrovaya Pad and 25/5 5, 26/5 1 en route to Vladivostok, 27/5 20 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 10 Moor at the Bikin River.

**Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla* (Dværgværling)

21/5 1 Popov Island (IA).

**Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica* (Pileværling)

22/5 2 Khasan Nature Park.

Note: It was a male and a female and unexpected – it is far south of the breeding range and migration is weeks earlier. But it seemed to be a pair - observed at close range leaving no doubt to the identification.

**Yellow-throated Bunting** *Emberiza elegans*

19/5 2 Popov Island, 20/5 3, 21/5 3, 23/5 1 Vityaz, 24/5 7 Kedrovaya Pad 25/5 3 and 26/5 8, 29/5 5 Krasny Yar forests.

Note: A beautiful bunting dwelling in the Ussuriland broadleaf forests – often takes a little time to get a good view.

**Yellow-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza aureola* (Gulbrystet Værling)

20/5 2 Popov Island, 22/5 3 Khasan Nature Park, 27/5 1 Verkney Pereval, 29/5 1 Krasny Yar, 1/6 30 Udyl Lake, 4/6 1 Muravievka Crane Park, 5/6 30, 6/6 40 and 7/6 30.

**Chestnut Bunting** *Emberiza rutila*

19/5 1 Popov Island and 20/5 1 (EKR).

**Black-faced Bunting** *Emberiza spodocephala*

20/5 10 Popov Island and 21/5, 10 "Pleskes island", 4 Marine reserve island, 22/5 2 Khasan Nature Park and 23/5, 24/5 1 Vityaz, 2 en route to Kedrovaya Pad, 10 24/5 Kedrovaya Pad, 25/5 10 and 26/5 2, 3 en route to Vladivostok, 27/5 15 Verkney Pereval, 28/5 5 Bikin River, 29/5 3 Krasny Yar, 1/6 10 Udyl Lake, 2/6 30 Bogorodskoyie taiga forest, 3/6 8 Komsomolsk - Khabarovsk, 4/6 30 S of Khabarovsk, 5/6 10 Muravievka Crane Park, 6/6 5 and 7/6 10.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus* (Rørspurv)

6/6 3 Muravievka Crane Park and 7/6 2.

## List of Birds Recorded in Moscow Region

**European Honey-buzzard** *Pernis apivorus* (Hvepsevåge)

1 Svenigorod biological station.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* (Sort Glente)

2 Svenigorod biological station.

**Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygargus* (Hedehøg)

1 Svenigorod biological station.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus* (Spurvehøg)

1 Svenigorod biological station.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo* (Musvåge)

1 Svenigorod biological station.

**Eurasian Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* (Tårnfalk)

3 Svenigorod biological station.

**Eurasian Hobby** *Falco subbuteo* (Lærkefalk)

2 Svenigorod biological station.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* (Mudderklire)

1 Svenigorod biological station.

**Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus* (Vibe)

10 Svenigorod biological station.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus* (Sølvmåge)

10 Svenigorod biological station.

**Common Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus* (Ringdue)

1 Svenigorod biological station.

**Common Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus* (Gøg)

1 Svenigorod biological station.

**Common Swift** *Apus apus* (Mursejler)

60 Svenigorod biological station.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos minor* (Lille Flagspætte)

1 Svenigorod biological station.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major* (Stor Flagspætte)

3 Svenigorod biological station.



**Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius* (Skovskade)  
4 Svenigorod biological station.

**Eurasian Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula* (Allike)  
50 Svenigorod biological station.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus* (Råge)  
10 Svenigorod biological station.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone* (Krage)  
50 Svenigorod biological station.

**Common Raven** *Corvus corax* (Ravn)  
4 Svenigorod biological station.

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio* (Rødrygget Tornskade)  
1 Svenigorod biological station.

**Eurasian Blackbird** *Turdus merula* (Solsort)  
2 Svenigorod biological station.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris* (Sjagger)  
35 Svenigorod biological station.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus* (Vindrossel)  
15 Svenigorod biological station.

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos* (Sangdrossel)  
5 Svenigorod biological station.

**European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* (Stær)  
50 Svenigorod biological station.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata* (Grå Fluesnapper)  
10 Svenigorod biological station.

**European Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca* (Broget Fluesnapper)  
20 Svenigorod biological station.

**Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva* (Lille Fluesnapper)  
1 male Svenigorod biological station.

**European Robin** *Erithacus rubecula* (Rødhals)  
4 Svenigorod biological station.

**Thrush Nightingale** *Luscinia luscinia* (Nattergal)  
1 Svenigorod biological station.

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra* (Bynkefugl)  
3 Svenigorod biological station.

**Eurasian Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea* (Spætmejse)  
2 Svenigorod biological station.

**Winter Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes* (Gærdesmutte)  
1 Svenigorod biological station.

**Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia* (Digesvale)  
4 Svenigorod biological station.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* (Landsvale)  
15 Svenigorod biological station

**Common House-Martin** *Delichon urbica* (Bysvale)  
50 Svenigorod biological station.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus* (Fuglekonge)  
10 Svenigorod biological station.

**River Warbler** *Locustella fluviatilis* (Flodsanger)  
2 Svenigorod biological station.

**Blyth's Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus dumetorum* (Buskrørsanger)  
1 Kremlin Moscow.

**Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris* (Kærsanger)  
1 Kremlin Moscow.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus* (Løvsanger)  
15 Svenigorod biological station.

**Common Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita* (Gransanger)  
10 Svenigorod biological station.

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* (Skovsanger)  
20 Svenigorod biological station.

**Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* (Lundsanger)  
1 Kremlin Moscow.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla* (Munk)  
15 Svenigorod biological station.

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin* (Havesanger)  
6 Svenigorod biological station.

**Greater Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis* (Tornsanger)  
10 Svenigorod biological station.

**Willow Tit** *Parus montanus* (Fyrremejse)  
3 Svenigorod biological station.

**Great Tit** *Parus major* (Musvit)  
25 Svenigorod biological station.

**Sky Lark** *Alauda arvensis* (Sanglærke)  
15 Svenigorod biological station.

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba* (Hvid Vipstjert)  
50 Svenigorod biological station.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis* (Skovpiber)  
1 Svenigorod biological station.

**Common Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs* (Bogfinke)  
50 Svenigorod biological station.

**Eurasian Siskin** *Carduelis spinus* (Grønsisken)  
10 Svenigorod biological station.

**European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis* (Grønirisk)  
2 Svenigorod biological station.

**Eurasian Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* (Dompap)  
4 Svenigorod biological station.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella* (Gulspurv)  
3 Svenigorod biological station.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus* (Rørspurv)  
2 Svenigorod biological station.

**Corn Bunting** *Emberiza calandra* (Kornværbling)  
Seen at Svenigorod biological station.

## **Comments on different bird-groups and species not observed**

### **Swinhoe's Storm-Petrel.**

Not seen – a major target of the Eastern Marine Reserve. We never found out why we failed. A major population breeds S of Vladivostok esp. at Verkhovsky Island (7500 pairs!) and our guides probably never took us to the right island, maybe to avoid disturbance. Accordingly the species had not yet arrived due to a cold spring (same argument about another missing species, **Streaked Shearwater**). But litt. gives April as the start of breeding. So – it remains a mystery whether the bird was really absent or if they did not give us the chance to observe it.

### **Swan Goose**

Potential breeding-sites failed – at Bor. and in the Muravievka Crane Park – both due to the drought. Maybe the Khanka Lake could have produced this species, but the lake was not included in our schedule.

### **Baikal Teal**

Few chances to see this species in our period of time – a migrant passing in early May (when roosting in the Muravievka Crane Park). We looked after just a single left drake but the drought limited the numbers of waterbirds.

### **Baer's Pochard**

Lost from a lot of localities during the last decades – a disturbing decline! We visited lakes where it once was, but ended up with none.

### **Daurian Partridge**

According to the Russians more or less exterminated from vast areas – and we spent little time in suitable habitat (cultivation).

### **Little Curlew**

The species migrate in early May and probably fly inland. Seen sparsely at this time of year in the Muravievka Crane Park.

### **Latham's Snipe**

Breeds on the coast of Sakhalin and possibly also islands – a primarily Japanese snipe. We never located a snipe on islands and coasts S of Vladivostok.

### **Spotted Greenshank.**

No real chance to see this rare species on our trip – a prolongation the short distance to the mouth of the Amur might have given us a chance.

### **Arctic Gulls.**

3 species potential for the area, Glaucous, Glaucous-winged, and "Vega" Gull but they seemed to have left the Ussuriland coast. Immature Slaty-backed Gulls are very whitish!

### **Shorebirds**

The emptiness of the Khasan Estuary remained a mystery. Not a trace of migrant arctic waders. A Swiss birder group reported a similar emptiness of shorebirds during the same period on Sakhalin. Though spring migration is notoriously quick and unpredictable the seemingly ideal locality should have produced some wader-roost! We saw movements of tringa-species earlier on the coast and later movement north following the Amur River (Sharptailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Rednecked Stint, Pacific Golden Plover, Turnstone). We dipped on Great Knot – and a lucky punch on Spoonbilled Sandpiper was far away.

### **Black-billed Capercaillie**

We were told the species could be seen approx. 100 kms from Bogorodskoye.

### **Blakinston's Fish-Owl**

Very rare – the only chance to see this bird is to be guided to a known nest. No nest was known to the locals in the villages at the Bikin River – or to our guide! There is a breeding spot at Iman River that could be reached with a well-informed guide. On the other the eco-system in Iman is much more disturbed.

### **Lesser Cuckoo**

Arrive in late June.

### **Siberian Accentor**

Early migrant and passed the area before our arrival. Breeds further north and west. Small populations are said to breed in Ussuriland – but in mountains above tree-limit and probably difficult to reach.

### **Pallas' Rosefinch - Pallas Reed-Bunting – Pine Bunting – Yellowbrowed Bunting.**

These species are early migrants and had left for Northern breeding grounds before our arrival.

### **Chinese Grosbeak**

According to the Russians this species – once commonly seen – had disappeared during the last decades.

### **Bull-headed Shrike**

A possibility at the extreme SE – but have accordingly disappeared.

## List of mammals and reptiles

### **Wolf** (*Canis lupus*)

Tracks of a pack of wolves on a forest trail at Krasny Yar.

### **Common Red Fox** (*Vulpes vulpes*)

One seen Muravievka Crane Park

### **Raccoon-Dog** (*Nyctereutes procyonides*)

One Raccoon-Dog was seen by FQM in the Muravievka Crane Park.

### **Brown Bear** (*Ursus arctos*)

Tracks of Brown Bear were found in the mud on the forest track at the village of Krasny Yar.

### **Badger** (*Meles meles amurensis*)

Badgers were common in the Muravievka Crane Park,. 4 were seen at very close range in one day. Badgers are considered a threat to the breeding cranes, since they are not able to chase it away from the nest. Especially during the present drought badgers are a problem.

### **Leopard** (*Panthera pardus orientalis*)

We expectedly did not encounter the rare Amur Leopard in Kedrovaya Pad Nature Reserve, but we found fresh tracks in the sand banks along the river, and fresh droppings on forest track. We also visited the cave, where it lives. Here, a photo tower had been erected, and meat placed in front of the cave entrance by a Korean photographer.

### **Tiger** (*Panthera tigris*)

Tracks of Siberian Tiger were seen on a muddy forest track close to the village of Krasny Yar, at the Bikin River. According to the villagers, it is not uncommon in the surrounding forests, and during winters, it is even some times seen inside the village!

### **Common Seal** (*Phoca vitulina*)

Several colonies at islets in the marine park off Vladivostok.

### **Wild Boar** (*Sus scrofa*)

Tracks of Wild Boar found in Kedrovaya Pad N.P.

### **Sika Deer** (*Cervus nippon*)

6 seen in Kedrovaya Pad N.P.

### **Roe Deer** (*Capreolus capreolus*)

Common at the Muravievka Crane Park

### **Red Squirrel** (*Sciurus vulgaris mantchuricus*)

1 seen Kedrovaya Pad N.P.

### **Squirrel sp.** (*Sciurus sp.*)

Unidentified, grey squirrels seen in Kedrovaya Pad forest.

**Siberian Chipmunk** (*Tamias sibiricus*)

A few seen at Verkhniy Pereval and taiga near Bogorodskoye

**Longtailed Siberian Souselik** (*Citellus undulatus*)

Seen at Muravievka Crane Park

**Musk Rat** (*Ondatra zibethica*)

Introduced from North America due to the valuable fur, and now widespread in Eurasia and Siberia. It was seen in several freshwater areas during the trip a.o.Khasan N.P. and Bikin River

**Whale sp.**

An unidentified whale was spotted 22. May off Khasan.

**Reptiles**

**Snake sp.**

An unidentified, brown Grass Snake seen at Khasan River Mouth 22. May.