

## SPECIAL REVIEW

### RUSSIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

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THE ornithological literature published in recent years in the Soviet Union is abundant and its rate of increase is ever rising, but, with very few exceptions, it is unknown in America. At least three journals have made their appearance within the last decade, an annual in 1958, called *Ornitologiya*, which covers all the aspects of ornithology studied in the Union, one devoted to the study of migration, and another to bird banding. Before this, the only Russian journals devoted purely to ornithology, the *Messenger Ornithologique* had died in 1917, and the obscure *Uragus* from Siberia (of which a few numbers were published) in 1929. The ornithological articles in the meantime, had appeared in a bewildering array of periodicals or occasional publications that sometimes had little, if any, connections with ornithology. Still no ornithological society exists, but, nevertheless, meetings comparable to ours in the A.O.U. are held about every other year in a different city and draw about 300 attendants, including, on occasions, a sprinkling of invited foreigners.

The Russian ornithologists are therefore very active and Dr. Kenneth C. Parkes, Review Editor of *The Auk*, suggested that I draw up a list of the more important current publications. I went back to 1950 because Johansen (*Ibis*, 94: 1-48, 1952) has given a list of the Russian papers published between 1920 and 1950. I have included two older important publications, dated 1942 and 1947, that were not in Johansen's list. My own list is brief but mentions all the important monographs, faunistic surveys, symposiums, and journals that have come to my attention. I do not list individual articles because these have been reported in *The Zoological Record* since 1958 by Professor A. I. Ivanov of Leningrad. Nearly all these publications were given or sent to me by Russian colleagues to whom I have expressed my gratitude privately and now do so publicly.

Some explanation is in order. All these publications are in Russian; only one has a summary in another language, but two have been translated into English by the Israel Program for Scientific Translations, pursuant to an agreement with the National Science Foundation and the Smithsonian Institution. These latter being public institutions, it seems to me that interested American ornithologists can and should recommend the translation of additional publications to the authorities in Washington. The most obvious candidate always was the monumental work of Dementiev and Gladkov, but, although I did recommend it, no action was taken. Other publications that should certainly be translated are the series *Fauna S.S.S.R.*, starting with Kozlova's two volumes on the Limicolae which are excellent. Some of the faunistic monographs should be considered also, the most exhaustive and illuminating being the two volumes by Dolgushin and Gavrin, *Ptitsy Kazakhstana*, but to American ornithologists the most useful would be those on eastern Siberia, Gizenko on Sakhalin, and Vorobiev on Ussuriland and Yakutia, and Portenko's work on Anadyrland that is not listed here because it was mentioned by Johansen. It was published in 1939 in Leningrad by the Chief Administration of the Northern Sea Route, in two volumes of about 200 pages each. For convenience I repeat its title here, which is *Fauna Anadyrskogo Kraya, Ptitsy*, chast' 1 and 2 [*Fauna of the Anadyr region, birds*, parts 1 and 2].

I should mention also that the interests of the Russian ornithologists differ in important respects from ours. Their chief interest is ecology, in which they are exceptionally well trained, and related subjects, such as distribution, studies of bird communities or of single populations, including their conservation and management as natural resources. They are also active in the study of migration, physiology, comparative anatomy, and, to a lesser extent, systematics. But one will usually look in vain for articles on ethology and they have not yet taken up certain techniques such as the recording and study of vocalizations. The approach of the Russians is much more "factual" than is ours—they are not interested in "birding," which we sometimes dignify in publication as "field observation." Their records are based on specimens collected or birds trapped.

The Russian publications on ornithology are hard to get because the editions are small (I have indicated the size of the printings), and are so cheap and the demand so great, that they soon vanish from sale in the Soviet Union. Very few find their way abroad although one can pick up an occasional copy now and then from a specialized book seller in America or western Europe. One can also write to the academies or other government agencies that published them, or, as a last resort, to the author in care of the publisher. I have indicated the price when known to me, but wait for an answer before sending money, and bear in mind that the author might be seriously embarrassed by receiving unauthorized foreign currency or checks. I know that he would very much prefer to receive a comparable publication in exchange; it is just as difficult for him to obtain foreign publications, as it is for us to obtain Russian ones.

The Soviet currency was changed on 1 January 1961, on the basis of ten to one, hence a price quoted before that date as, for instance, 38 roubles (R) 65 kopecks (K), is now 3.86; the new "strong" rouble being worth \$1.10. Other abbreviations in the list below are "Akad." for "Akademii," and "pt." for the size of the edition.

- BAZHANOV, V. C., *et al.* 1961. *Materialy po nazemnym pozvonochnym Kazakhstana* [Materials on the land vertebrates of Kazakhstan, 19 papers by various authors]. Alma Ata, Akad. Nauk Kazakhskoi S.S.R.; 198 pp., pt. 900, 1 R 45 K.
- BELOPOL'SKII, L. O. 1957. *Ecologiya morskikh kolonial'nykh ptitsy Barentsova moria* [Ecology of sea colony birds of the Barents Sea]. Moscow-Leningrad, Akad. Nauk S.S.S.R.; 460 pp., 135 figs., 16 pls., pt. 1,300, 22 R. This book was reviewed in *The Auk* (76: 249, 1959), but is mentioned again since an English translation is now available from the Office of Technical Services, U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C., price \$3.50.
- DEMENTIEV, G. P. 1952. *Ptitsy Turkmenistana [1]* [Birds of Turkmenia, Non Passeres]. Ashkhabad, Akad. Nauk Turkmenskoi S.S.R.; 546 pp., 15 figs., 1 pl., pt. 2,000, 36 R 45 K.
- DEMENTIEV, G. P., AND N. A. GLADKOV (eds.). 1951-1954. *Ptitsy Sovetskogo Soiuza* [Birds of the Soviet Union]. Moscow, Sovetskaya Nauka; 6 vols.: **1**, 652 pp., 157 figs., 111 maps, 4 col. pls., 35 R; **2**, 480 pp., 93 figs., 86 maps, 5 col. pls., 26 R; **3**, 680 pp., 169 figs., 118 maps, 4 col. pls., 33R 50 K; **4**, 640 pp., 114 figs., 78 maps, 5 col. pls., 32 R 50 K; **5**, 803 pp., 162 figs., 114 maps, 4 col. pls., 40 R 65 K; **6**, 792 pp., 153 figs., 147 maps, 4 col. pls., 38 R 65 K. The printing was 5,000 copies for vols. 1 to 5, and 4,000 for vol. 6.
- DEMENTIEV, G. P., *et al.* 1955. *Materialy po faune Iugo-Zapadnoi Turkmenii* [Materials on the fauna of southwestern Turkmenia, 5 papers by various authors].

- Published in *Uchenye Zapiski*, no. 171, Biology, Moscow State University; 218 pp., pt. 500.
- DEMENTIEV, G. P. (ed.). 1958. *Raboty Okskoi Ornitologicheskoi Stantsii*, no. 1 [Report of the Okskoi Ornithological Station]. Published in *Trudy Okskogo Gosudarstvennogo Zapovednika*, no. 2; Moscow [Ministry of Natural Resources]; 234 pp., pt. 1,000.
- DOLGUSHIN, I. A. 1960. *Ptitsy Kazakhstana* [Birds of Kazakhstan]. Alma Ata, Akad. Nauk Kazakhskoi S.S.R.; 1, 470 pp., 193 figs., 1 col. pl., pt. 2,600, 28 R 50 K.
- GAVRIN, V. F., I. A. DOLGUSHIN, *et al.* 1962. *Ptitsy Kazakhstana* [Birds of Kazakhstan]. Alma Ata, Akad. Nauk Kazakhskoi S.S.R.; 2, 779 pp., 398 figs., 6 col. pls., pt. 3,000, 5 R 56 K.
- GIZENKO, A. I. 1955. *Ptitsy Sakhalinskoi Oblasti* [Birds of Sakhalin Province]. Moscow, Akad. Nauk S.S.S.R.; 328 pp., 73 figs., pt. 2,200, 21 R 25 K.
- IANUSHEVICH, A. I., P. S. TIURIN, *et al.* 1959-1960. *Ptitsy Kirgizii* [Birds of Kirghizia]. Frunze, Akad. Nauk Kirgizskoi S.S.R.; 2 vols.: 1, 279 pp., 104 figs., 47 maps, pt. 500, 15 R 65 K; 2, 272 pp., 107 figs., 65 maps, pt. 500, 18 R 10 K.
- IVANOV, A. I., E. V. KOZLOVA, L. A. PORTENKO, AND A. I. TUGARINOV. 1951-1960. *Opredeliteli po faune S.S.S.R.*, nos. 39, 49, 54, and 69; *Ptitsy S.S.S.R.* [Synopsis of the fauna of the U.S.S.R. . . . birds]. Moscow-Leningrad, Akad. Nauk S.S.S.R.; 4 vols.: 1, 281 pp., 137 figs., 19 R 75 K; 2, 344 pp., 127 figs., 21 R 75 K; 3, 255 pp., 103 figs., 15 R 75 K; 4, 415 pp., 188 figs., 24 R 85 K. The printing was 3,000 copies for each volume, volumes 3 and 4 being by Portenko alone.
- KIRIKOV, S. V. 1952. *Ptitsy i mlekopitaiushchie v usloviakh landshaftov iuzhnoi okonechnosti Urala* [Birds and mammals of the ecological zones of the extreme southern Urals]. Moscow, Akad. Nauk S.S.S.R.; 411 pp., 33 figs., pt. 1,500, 19 R 30 K.
- KOZLOVA, E. V. 1957. *Fauna S.S.S.R.*, Zool. Inst. Akad. Nauk S.S.S.R., nov. ser., no. 65; *Ptitsy*, 2, no. 3 [Fauna U.S.S.R. . . . Birds. Charadriiformes, suborder Alcae]. Moscow-Leningrad, Akad. Nauk S.S.S.R.; 144 pp., 83 figs., pt. 1,800, 9 R 40 K. An English translation is now available from the Office of Technical Services, U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C., price \$1.50.
- KOZLOVA, E. V. 1961-1962. *Fauna S.S.S.R.*, Zool. Inst. Akad. Nauk S.S.S.R., nov. ser., nos. 80-81; *Ptitsy*, 2, no. 1, pts. 2-3 [Fauna U.S.S.R. . . . Birds. Charadriiformes, suborder Limicolae]. Moscow-Leningrad, Akad. Nauk S.S.S.R.; pt. 2, 501 pp., 165 figs., 1 col. pl., pt. 1,400, 3 R 21 K; pt. 3, 433 pp., 119 figs., 1 col. pl., pt. 1,400, 2 R 86 K.
- KOZLOVA, E. V., AND A. I. TUGARINOV. 1947. *Fauna S.S.S.R.*, Zool. Inst. Akad. Nauk S.S.S.R., nov. ser., no. 33; *Ptitsy*, 1, no. 3 [Fauna U.S.S.R. . . . Birds. Colymbiformes and Procellariiformes by Kozlova; Pelecaniformes, Ciconiiformes, and Phoenicopteriformes by Tugarinov]. Moscow-Leningrad, Akad. Nauk S.S.S.R.; 317 pp., 107 figs., pt. 2,000, 26 R. Fourteen pages of English summary.
- KUMARI, E. V. (ed.). 1956. *Trudy vtoroi Pribaltiiskoi ornitologicheskoi konferentsii* [Transactions 2nd Pribaltic ornithological conference]. Moscow, Akad. Nauk S.S.S.R.; 427 pp., pt. 1,200, 25 R 50 K.
- KUZYAKIN, A. P., L. C. STEPANYAN, *et al.* 1959. [Three papers with various titles on the biology of colonial birds and on the birds of the Ala Tau]. Published in *Uchenye Zapiski*, 71, of the Moscow Oblast, "N. K. Krupskoi" Pedagogical Institute; 150 pp., pt. 500, 5 R.

- LIAISTER, A. F., AND G. V. SOSNIN. 1942. Materialy po ornitofaune Armianskoi S.S.R. (Ornis Armenica) [Materials on the ornithofauna of Armenia]. Erivan, Armianskii filial Akad. Nauk S.S.S.R.; 416 pp., pt. 700, 35 R.
- MIGRATSII ZHIVOTNYKH* [ANIMAL MIGRATION]. A periodical of which three numbers have been published; no. 3 (1962) was the only one seen. Moscow, Akad. Nauk S.S.S.R.
- MURZAEV, E. M. (ed.). 1958. Srednyaya Aziya, fiziko-geograficheskaya Karakteristika [Central Asia, physical geography]. Moscow, Akad. Nauk S.S.S.R.; 647 pp., 164 figs. and maps; pt. 5,000; 42 R 55 K. An excellent treatise on the physical geography, flora, and fauna of Soviet central Asia.
- ORNITOLOGIYA*. 1958-1962. An annual journal of which five numbers have been published to date by Moscow State University. Vol. 1 had a printing of 2,000; 14 R 60 K; 2, pt. 2,500; 17 R 40 K; 3-5, pt. 3,000 each and price 2 R per vol.
- POPOV, A. V. 1959. Ptitsy Gissaro-Karategina [Birds of the Hissar-Karategin Ranges]. Stalinabad [now Dushambe], Akad. Nauk Tadzhikskoi S.S.R.; 182 pp., 55 figs.; pt. 425; 15 R 70 K.
- PORTENKO, L. A. (ed.). 1960. Trudy . . . ornitologicheskaya konferentsiya . . . Leningrad, 20-24 Yanvariya 1956 [Transactions . . . ornithological conference . . . Leningrad]. Leningrad-Moscow, Akad. Nauk S.S.S.R.; 382 pp.; pt. 2,000; 22 R 50 K.
- RUSTAMOV, A. K. 1954. Ptitsy pustyni Kara-Kum [Birds of the Kara Kum Desert]. Ashkhabad, Akad. Nauk Turkmenskoi S.S.R.; 344 pp., 64 figs.; pt. 2,000.
- RUSTAMOV, A. K. 1959. Ptitsy Turkmenistana, tom 2 [Birds of Turkmenia, 2, Passeres, Corvidae to Laniidae]. Ashkhabad, Akad. Nauk Turkmenskoi S.S.R.; 252 pp., 68 figs.; pt. 1,000; 17 R 30 K.
- STRAUTMAN, F. I. 1954. Ptitsy Sovetskikh Karpat [Birds of the Soviet Carpathians]. Kiev, Akad. Nauk Ukrainskoi S.S.R.; 331 pp., 79 figs.; pt. 1,000; 25 R 60 K.
- TRUDY BIORO KOL'TSEVANIYA* [TRANSACTIONS OF THE BUREAU OF BIRD BANDING]. 1957. Vol. 9; Moscow, Ministry of Agriculture of the U.S.S.R.; 320 pp.; pt. 1,200.
- VOINSTVENSKII, M. A. 1960. Ptitsy stepnoi polosy Evropeiskoi chasti S.S.S.R. [Birds of the steppe-zone of the European parts of the U.S.S.R.]. Kiev, Akad. Nauk Ukrainskoi S.S.R.; 290 pp.; pt. 2,000; 11 R 10 K.
- VOROBIEV, K. A. 1954. Ptitsy Ussuriiskogo Kraya [Birds of Ussuriland]. Moscow, Akad. Nauk S.S.S.R.; 359 pp., 76 figs., 46 maps, 20 pls. (19 col.); pt. 3,000; 25 R 70 K.
- VOROBIEV, K. A. 1963. Ptitsy Yakutii [Birds of Yakutia]. Moscow, Akad. Nauk S.S.S.R.; 336 pp., 96 figs., 63 maps (showing the distribution of 173 species), 26 col. pls., pt. 1,400, 2 R 67 K.