THE SIBERIAN GROUSE EXPERIENCE

25-05 UNTIL 08-06-2015

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Legenda:

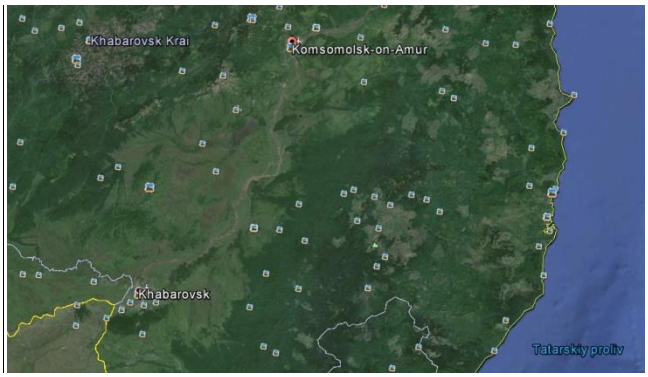
***AAAA** = New (Holarctic) Species **()**
AAAAA = Good species for the trip or for me

The list order is conform Beaman (M) 1994 with the recent changes on the splitting and lumping issue mainly based on publications in the "important magazines". Subspecies is only mentioned when thought to be important and really visible in the field. The totals of birds per species are just a total of the birds I saw to give an idea how many of a species you encounter during a trip. Only species seen are mentioned, and heard when no lifer (with one exception)

On this the weather was reasonable with almost no rain in the birding moments. In the mountains it was rather cold with quite a lot of snow. In the marshes and forests it was pleasant, sometimes quite hot but very good birding weather.

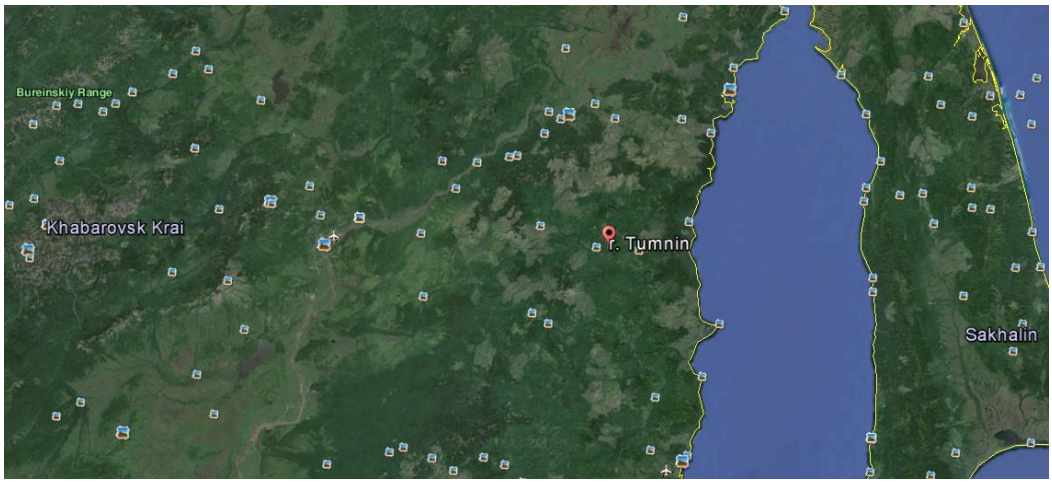
Itinerary

25+26-05 Flew from Dusseldorf to Moscow and later on to Khabarovsk where Sergey Ivanov picked us up to go to Bolshoy Khekhtsyr Nature reserve and slept in a hotel in Bechika.
27-05 Birding at the Bolshoy Khekhtsyr Nature reserve in the morning and drove from 10.am until approximately 4 a.m to Komsomolsk-on-Amur and later on to Amut base camp in the mountains.
28-05 Birded at and around Amut base camp all day, mainly from the entrance road (up and down to the lake) but also around the one and a half loop behind the camp.
29-05 Birded at Amut all day, in the morning we did a fourteen km snow walk on the trails behind the camp and later on the road where we found THE bird around 12.30!!. Later that afternoon we chilled out and did some birding. Later on we drove back to Komsomolsk (60 km) birded on "Milky" marsh near the town and slept in a good hotel.
30-05 In the morning birded at a bog north of Komsomolsk and in the afternoon at Milky marsh again. In the evening we took the night train to Tumnin.
31-05 Arrived early in Tumnin by train and took a bus to the sanatorium out of town where we birded from all day.
01-06 Birded at Tumnin all day, along the road up and down. In the evening we took the night train again back to Komsomolsk.
02-06 Arrived around 07.30 at Komsomolsk and took a car to Khabarovsk and Bechika where we birded in late the afternoon.
03-06 Birded at Bechika in the morning and later on birded at Priamusky marsh near Khabarovsk in the late morning and afternoon. In the evening took the night train to Ussurisk.
04-06 Arrived in Ussurisk in the early morning, after buying food for the next days, drove to Vinevitinovo and birded around there all day.
05-06 Birded around Vinevitinovo all day.
06-06 Birded around Vinevitinovo all day and walked all the way to "Duck" lake.
07-06 Birded around Vinevitinovo until 17.00, and drove to Ussurisk to take the night train to Khabarovsk
08-06 Arrived in Khabarovsk in the early morning. Birded in two city parks and later on flew to Moscow, and to Dusseldorf where I arrived around 22.00.

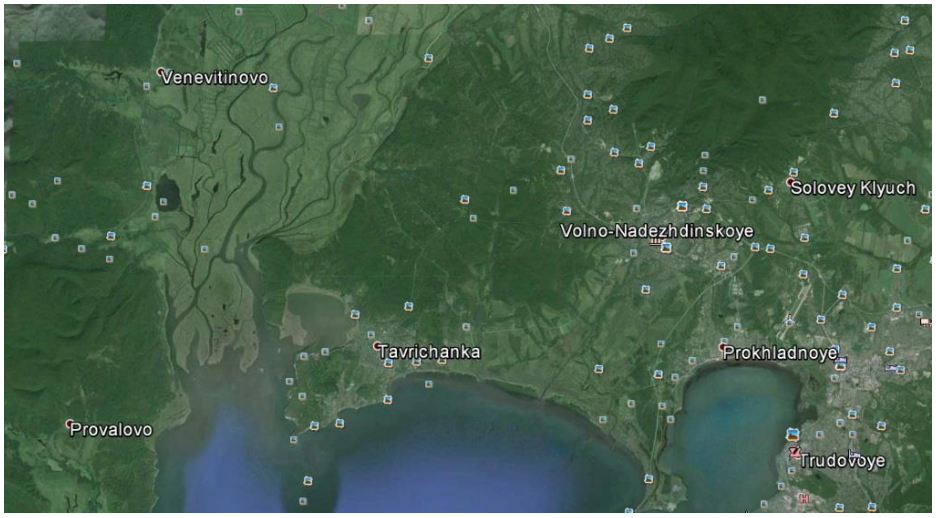


Khabarovsk to Komsomolsk

Amut from Komsomolsk and in detail



Tumnin



Venevitinovo

Mark at the" rail arena" at Venevitino

China was often close (near Khabarovsk)

Amut ski village, from where we found our "holy grail"

Mark found an unexpected Northern Parrotbill.

Khabarovsk and the Amur, a city as big as Amsterdam, in the top ten of big rivers.

THE BIRD SPECIES

01. **Great Crested Grebe – Podiceps cristatus**

    A total of 29 birds seen on lakes in the low lands on three days.

02. **Red-necked Grebe – Podiceps grisegena**

    29+30-05 14 ex. in total on the Milky mashes near Komsomolsk, breeding pairs.

03. **Great Cormorant – Phalacrocorax carbo**

    A total of 23 seen spread over the trip, all near rivers and lakes.

04. **Great Bittern – Botaurus stellaris**

    29+30-05 Heard only on the Milky marshes near Komsomolsk.

05. **Schrenk's Bittern – Ixobrychus eurhythmus**

    29-05 1 ex. seen very well standing in a bare field near the marsh.

    04-06 1 ex. seen in flight from the train in the early morning

    06-06 1 ex, heard calling in the early morning from the marsh near the cabins. The first bird gave superb views.

06. **Striated Heron – Butorides striatus**

    29-05 1 ex. at Milky marsh.

    05-05 1 ex. seen from the railroad in the marsh.

07. **Grey Heron – Ardea cinerea**

    The commonest heron seen almost daily in the visited and passed marshes.

08. **Greater White-fronted Goose – Anser albifrons ssp: *frontalis***

29+30-05 4 ex. a family flock in the reeds at Milky marshes.

09. **Mandarin Duck – Aix galericulata**

A total of 15 birds seen mostly in pairs in visited suitable habitat (forest pools and marshes)

10. **Falcated Duck – Anas falcata**

27-04 7 ex. seen in the pools between Khabarovsk and Komsomolsk

02-04 29 ex. on the same stretch, all cracking males.

11. **Eurasian Teal – Anas crecca**

30-05 1 male at Milky marshes.

12. **Mallard – Anas platyrhynchos**

The commonest encountered duck on the trip, seen in low numbers (15 in total).

13. **Chinese Spot-billed Duck – Anas zonorhyncha**

05-06 2 ex. flying over the marshy area we visited in the evening.

14. **Garganey – Anas querquedula**

A total of 7 seen in the visited marshes.

15. **Common Pochard – Aythya ferina**

29+30-05 1 ex at the Milky Marshes.

16. **Tufted Duck – Aythya fuligula**

29+30-05 6 ex. at the Milky Marshes.

17. **Harlequin Duck – Histrionicus histrionicus**

28+29 10 ex. in total at Amut lake, in couples in courtship.

18. **Red-Breasted Merganser – Mergus serrator**

29+30-05 1 female at the Milky Marshes.

19. **Crested Honey Buzzard – Pernis ptilorhyncus**

26-05 2 ex. seen circling above Bolshoy Khekhtsyr Nature reserve, very nice views. Huge birds

02-05 1 ex. seen circling in the evening at the same place.

20. **Black –eared Kite – Milvus milvus ssp: *lineatus***

27-05 1 ex. along the way.

03-06 2 ex. at Priamusky marsh

21. **White-tailed Eagle – Haliaeetus albicilla**

27-05 1 adult seen along the way.

22. **Pied Harrier – Circus melanoleucos**

30-05 1 male at the Milky marshes, a migrant.

04+05+06-06 4 ex, three males and one female flying over the marshes, great birds, the males were seen very well, the female was distant and hard to ID from Eastern Marsh.

23. **Japanese Sparrowhawk – Accipiter gularis**

04-06 1 male seen hunting over the cabins.

24. **Eurasian Sparrowhawk – Accipiter nisus**

27-05 1 ex. seen along the way.

25. **Grey-faced Buzzard – Butastur indicus**

06-06 2 ex. seen flying over the cabins, one in the evening one in the morning, could be the same bird.

26. **Japanese Buzzard – Buteo buteo ssp: *japonicus***

01-06 1 ex. at Tunmin, surprisingly the only one of the trip.

27. **Osprey – Pandion haliaetus**

4 ex. seen spread over the trip, the most in the marshes of Vinevitinovo

28. **Amur Falcon – falco amurensis**

05-06 2 ex. at the marshes of Vinevitinovo, both immature males.

29. **Eurasian Hobby – falco subbuteo**

A total of 8 birds seen spread over the trip at al main localities.

30. ***SIBERIAN GROUSE – Dendragapus falcipennis**

29-05 1 male seen very well for half an hour. We must have walked for several times past this bird. It was feeding behind a snow mount at the right side of the first corner coming out of the "village" of Amut. Only when Sergey jumped on the mount the bird flew in a tree and we could admire it for half an hour, when it flew into the woods on the opposite side of the road. In flight the white tailband was seen. See also: http://observado.org/waarneming/view/105686206

What a relief, it is far from sure you will come across this species when you try for it.

31. **Hazel Grouse = Bonasa bonasia**

28-05 2 ex. at Amut near the lake.

31-05 2 ex. at Tumnin seen very well in a tree

One of the birds at Tumnin

32. **Japanese Quail – Coturnix japonica**

    03-06 2 ex. seen well in flight and also calling at Priamusky marsh

33. **Common Pheasant – Phasianus colchicus**

    Heard and seen (2 ex.) around Bechika when birding there.

34. **Yellow=legged Buttonquail – Turnix tanki**

    05+06-06 1 heard on both days, unfortunately not seen.

35. **Band-bellied Crake – Porzana paykullii**

    05+06-06 8 ex. in total, of which several seen well (but one very well when it "performed", calling on the artificial "crake alley". The where calling the most in the evening and early morning but also heard during the day time. Quite a big crake.

    See also: http://observado.org/waarneming/view/105736514

Sorry, but they were very common so no harm done.

36. **Common Moorhen – Gallinula chloropus**

A total of 4 seen spread over the trip in the marshy areas.

37. **Eurasian Coot – Fulica atra**

A total of 4 seen in the marshy areas.

38. **Little Ringed Plover – Charadrius dubius**

29-05 1 ex. Milky marsh.

39. **Northern Lapwing – Vanellus vanellus**

02-06 1 ex. along the way.

03-06 1 ex. at Priamusky marsh

40. **Pintail Snipe – Gallinago stenura**

29-06 1 ex. at the Milky marshes, seen in flight with no white trailing edge at the wings.

41. **<u>Swinhoe's Snipe – Gallinago megala</u>**

30-05 3 ex. at a bog north of Komsomolsk. Good views of birds flushed from the bogs. An obvious big snipe seen quite well in flight, no white trailing edge to the wing, quite uniform pale, with a board supercilium and with a rasping call.

42. **Far-Eastern Curlew – Numenius madagascariensis**

30-05 2 ex. at the Milky marshes, feeding.

43. **Whimbrel – Numenius phaeopus ssp: variegates**

29-05 1 ex. flying over the Milky marshes, calling.

44. **Spotted Redshank – Tringa erythropus**

29-05 1 ex. in flight and calling Milky Marshes.

45. **Common Redshank – Tringa tetanus**

30-05 2 ex. at the Milky marshes.

46. **Wood Sandpiper – Tringa glareola**

30-05 1 ex. at the Milky marshes.

47. **Common Sandpiper – Actitis hypoleucos**

The commonest Sandpiper, seen on several places with 7 in total.

48. **Black-Tailed Gull – Larus crassirostris**

04+06-06 1 ex. on the main mash in front of the cabins

49. **Vega Gull – Larus Vegae**

06-06 20 ex on the lakes to the coast near Vinevitinovo. Good views of this Herring gull lookalike.

50. **Black-headed Gull – Larus ridibundis**

Common in big mixed colonies with WWBlackterns and Common Terns in the marshes passed and visited

51. **Common Tern – Sterna hirundo ssp: *longipennis***

Common in big mixed colonies with W.W.Blackterns and B.H. Gulls in the marshes passed and visited

52. **Whiskered Tern – Chlidonias hybridus**

27-05 1 ex. on the Amur

29+30-05 Common in a mixed colony at the Milky marshes.

53. **White-winged Tern – Chlidonias leucopterus**

Common in big mixed colonies with Common Terns and B.H. Gulls in the marshes passed and visited. Great to see them in summer plumage.

54. **Oriental Turtle Dove – Streptopelia orientalis ssp: *orientalis***

Common throughout the whole trip

55. **Rufous Hawk Cuckoo – Hierococcyx hyperythrus**

29-05	1 ex. heard and badly seen at Amut.
01-06	1 ex.at Tumnin

56. **Indian Cuckoo – Cuculus micropterus**

26-05	1 ex. heard at Bechika.
03-06	1 ex. heard at Bechika.

57. **Common Cuckoo – Cuculus canorus**

Common throughout the trip in the open areas

58. **Oriental Cuckoo - Cuculus saturatus ssp: *optatus***

Common throughout the trip in the wooded areas, the "forest call of Siberia".

59. **Ural Owl – Strix uralensis**

31-05	1 ex. heard calling in the night at Tumnin

60. **Grey Nightjar – Caprimulgus indicus**

27-05	1 ex. flushed during daytime near Bechika and later on seen perched.

61. **White-throated Needletail – Hirundapus caudacutus**

A total of 13 seen spread over the trip, often in pairs above wooded areas. Great views of a great species.

62. **Pacific Swift – Apus pacificus**

Quite common in and around the cities

63. **Common Kingfisher – Alcedo atthis**

29-05	1 ex. at the Milky marshes
03-06	1 ex. at Priamusky marsh.

64. **Dollarbird – Eurystomus orientalis**

26-05	3 ex. at Bechika, calling and in courtship
02-06	3 ex. again at Bechika.

65. **Eurasian Hoopoe – Upupa epops**

A total of 6 seen in the small villages visited, mainly Bechika.

66. **Eurasian Wryneck – Jynx torquilla**

A total of 5 spread over the trip, one IN the house of our guide Sergey.

67. **Grey-headed Woodpecker – picus canus ssp: *jessoensis***

Seen and heard daily (6 ex.) at Vinevitinovo.

68. **Black Woodpecker – Dryocopus martius**

Most common around Amut (7) but also 2 more were seen spread over the trip.

69. **(Eurasian) Great-Spotted Woodpecker – dendrocopos major ssp: *brevirostris***

29-05	1 ex. at Amut.
02-06	2 ex. at Bechika.

70. **White-backed Woodpecker – Dendrocopos leucotos**

A total of 4 birds seen spread over the trip, in the visited forested parts.

71. **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker – Dendrocopos minor ssp: *amurensis***

26-05 1 ex. at Bechika.

06-06 1 ex. at a bare tree at the cabins near Vinevitinovo.

The last bird had a very dark back.

72. **Barn Swallow – hirundo rustica**

The commonest swallow of the trip seen daily.

73. **Red-rumped Swallow – hirundo daurica ssp: *japonica***

Common in big colonies. Based on the amount of streaking all japonica.

See the heavy throat streaking

74. **Asian House Martin – Delichon dasypus**

Quite common in some big colonies along the way, mainly around bridges. The rump was obvious bigger and higher up the back than with the European birds.

75. **Richard's Pipit – Anthus richardi**

03-06 2 ex. singing and perched in a field at Bechika.

76. **Olive-backed Wagtail – Anthus hodgsoni ssp: *yunnanensis***

Quite common in the visited forests and as a migrant on the fields in the mountains.

77. **Eastern Yellow Wagtail – Motacilla flava/tschutschensis ssp: *macronyx***

03-06 4 ex, breeding birds at Priamusky marsh

78. **Grey Wagtail – Motacilla cinerea**

Quit common at all suitable areas.

79. **White Wagtail – Motacilla alba ssp: *leucopsis (Amur) + lugens (Black-backed)***

A total of 3 Leucopsis in the lower countries and a total of 4 Lugens at Tunmin.

80. **Ashy Minivet – Pericrocotus divaricatus**

Common throughout the trip, its flight call was almost a daily sound on the trip.

81. **Japanese Waxwing – Bombycilla japonica**

27-05 4 ex. in one flock at Bechika, nice the dark red tailbands in flight.

82. **Brown Dipper – Cinclus pallasii**

A total of 7 birds seen spread over the trip in suitable habitats.

83. **Winter Wren – Troglodytes troglodytes ssp: *dauricus***

28-05 1 ex. at Amut.

31-05 2 ex. seen well at Tunmin.

84. **Rufous-tailed Robin – Luscinia sibilans**

30-05 1 ex. heard near the bog north of Komsomolsk

31-05+01-06 A maximum of 8 seen daily, many only heard but at least two seen well.

One of the obvious birds at Tunmin.

85. **Siberian Rubythroat – Luscinia calliope**

A total of 4 seen in the lower parts of the trip, mainly at the Milky marshes.

86. **Siberian Blue Robin – Luscinia cyane**

Heard daily at all kind of habitats (mainly woods) and seen twice very well.

87. **Red-flanked Bluetail – Tarsiger cyanurus**

A total of 9 seen, mostly at the highest elevations visited.

88. **Daurian Redstart – Phoenicurus auroreus**

Seen almost daily breeding in houses in the countryside.

89. **Siberian (Stejnegers) Stonechat – Saxicola (maura) stejnegeri**

A Total of 13 birds seen mainly in the southern part of the trip in the marshes.

90. **White-throated Rockthrush – Monticola gularsi**

30-05 1 male, singing and giving very nice views at a bog north of Komsomolsk. The bird sang from a telegraph pole.

91. **Grey-backed Thrush – Turdus hortulorum**

A total of 5 seen mainly in the southern parts visited, good to hear the singing males.

92. **Pale Thrush – turdus pallidus**

A total of 26 seen with the most at Amut seen in the forests visited.

93. **Dusky Thrush – Turdus obscures**

28-05 1 ad. male seen at the ski camp of Amut.

94. **Asian Stubtail – Urosphena squamiceps**

26-05 + 02-06 1 male seen and heard very well at Bechika.

95. **Manchurian Bush Warbler – Cettia canturians**

A total of 7 seen during our stay near Vinevitinovo.

96. ***BAIKAL BUSH WARBLER – Bradypterus davidi**

04+05-06 1 male found singing near our cabins in Vinevitinovo. The song is an easy buzzy song. Later on we could not relocate this bird which is quite far east from its known range. See also: http://observado.org/waarneming/view/105741807

Unfortunately the camera focused wrong but the species is still identifiable.

97. **Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler – Locustella certhiola**

Commonly heard in the visited marshes and seen with song flights. One bird was found along a mountain road at Amut in the snow! a migrant.

98. **Lanceolated Warbler – Locustella fasciolata**

06-06 1 heard singing from the marsh at Vinevitinovo

99. **Gray's Grasshopper Warbler – Locustella fasciolata**

04-06 1 heard singing for fifteen minutes near Vinevitinovo. Unfortunately we left the bird "for the evening" and did not see anything. It was gone that evening..

100. **Black-browed Reed Warbler – Acrocephalus bistrigiceps**

Common throughout the trip in the visited mars areas.

101. **Oriental Reed Warbler – Acrocephalus orientalis**

Common in the marshy areas visited and with Black-browed the common reed bird.

102. **Thick-billed Warbler – Acrocephalus aedon**

The third most common bird in the marshy areas but more in the drier parts, also in villa gages. Often fighting and showing well.

103. **Eastern-Crowned Warbler – Phylloscopus coronatus**

The commonest forest phylo mainly in the southern part of the trip.

104. **Pale-legged Leaf Warbler – Phylloscopus tenellipes**

28-05	2 ex. singing at Amut.
31-05+01-06	5 ex. in total at Tunmin.

Great to hear them sing and see them very well. The legs are really pale!

105. **Two-barred Warbler – Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus**

28+29-05	2 ex. at Amut, migrants.
31-05+01-06	2 ex. at Tunmin, also migrants I presume.

106. **Arctic Warbler – Phylloscopus borealis**

27-05 20 ex. showing well and calling at Bechika, a good wave of migrants

107. **Pallas's Leaf Warbler – Phylloscopus proregulus**

Quite common and seen daily in the northern visited areas (not around Vinevitinovo), most likely migrants

108. **Radde's Warbler – Phylloscopus schwartzi**

A total of 15 birds seen in the visited forests, all singing birds.

A singing bird at Tunmin.

109. **Dusky Warbler – Phylloscopus fuscatus**

A total of 5 migrants found on the marshy places visited.

110. **Goldcrest – Regulus regulus**

A total of 6 seen spread over the trip, all in the evergreen forest

111. **Blue-and-white Flycatcher – Cyanoptila cyanomelana**

26+27-05 4 ex. in total giving great views near Bechika, Nicely displaying and calling.

112. **Dark-sided Flycatcher – Muscicapa siberica**

31-05 1 ex. in a flock of migrating Grey-Streaked at Tunmin.

113. **Grey-streaked Flycatcher – Muscicapa griseisticta**

31-05 5 ex. in a migrating flock at Tunmin. I did not know they migrate in flocks.

114. **Asian Brown Flycatcher – Muscicapa dauurica**

A total of 7 seen spread over the trip, often in (breeding) pairs

115. **Mugimaki Flycatcher – Ficedula mugimaki**

A total of 10 singing males found in the visited forested areas, also singing on snowy hillsides.

116. **Yellow-rumped Flycatcher – Ficedula zanthopygia**

The common flycatcher in this part of Russia, seen almost daily.

A nice male in a city park of Khabarovsk

117. **Northern (Reed) Parrotbill – Paradoxornis heudei ssp: *palivanovi***

05-06 1 ex. in a reedbed near the railway track at Vinevitinovo. Great views. The bird had no tail (or a growing short one). We quest that it was a left over winter bird. It looked very much the same as the northern Chinese birds I saw last year, see also: http://observado.org/waarneming/view/105736551

118. **Vinous –throated Parrotbill – Paradoxornis webbianus**

06+07-06 2 ex. a pair near the cabins of Vinevitinovo, seen well found on call

119. **Long-tailed Tit – Aegithalos caudatus ssp: caudatus**

05-06 15 ex. all white headed birds in one flock at Vinevitinovo.

120. **Marsh Tit – Parus palustris ssp: *brevirostris***

A total of 4 seen spread over the trip in the visited lowland forests.

121. **Willow Tit – Parus montanus ssp: *baicalensis***

A total 8 seen in the higher forested sites visited in the northern part of the trip.

122. **Coal Tit – Parus ater**

Seen in several forested places, but most common at Tunmin.

123. **Azure Tit – Parus cyanus**

05+06-06 2 ex. in total around the cabins of Vinevitinovo.

Giving great view, this species likes marshy areas

124. **Great (Japanese) Tit – Parus minor ssp: *kapustini***

Common in the southern part of the trip.

125. **Eurasian Nuthatch – Sitta europaea**

Quite common seen (9 in total) spread over the trip

126. **Eurasian Treecreeper – Certhia familiaris**

29-05 1 ex. seen well at Amut, classic looking bird.

127. **Chestnut-flanked White-eye – Zosterops erythropleurus**

A total of 11 seen spread over the trip, mostly in the lowland forests. Often found on call. Not always showing chestnut flanks.

128. **Black-naped Oriole – Oriolus chinensis**

A total of 5 seen in the lowlands visited, often near houses, sometimes giving great views.

129. **Brown Shrike – Lanius cristatus ssp: *cristatus***

A total of 5 seen spread over the trip, often in the open low areas and in breeding pairs.

130. **Eurasian Jay – Garrulus glandarius**

03-06 1 ex. seen while driving.

131. **Siberian Jay – Perisoreus infaustus**

27+28+29-05 A total of 5 birds seen at Amut. As usual quite curious.

132. **Eurasian Magpie – Pica Pica**

Common throughout the trip

133. **Spotted Nutcracker – Nucifraga caryocatectes**

28+29-05 A total of 7 seen at Amut.

134. **Daurian Jackdaw – Corvus dauuricus**

27-05 8 ex. along the way in one flock while driving to Amut.

135. **(Eastern) Rook – Corvus grugilegus ssp: *pastinator***

02+03-06 3 birds seen along the way, most likely more but I did not pay much attention.

136. **Carrion Crow – Corvus corone ssp: *orientalis***

Quite commonly seen along the way, mainly in the northern visited sites.

137. **Large-billed Crow – Corvus macrorhynchos ssp: *mandshuricus***

The commonest corvid of the trip seen daily in all habitats.

138. **Common Raven – Corvus corax**

31-05+01-06 2 very tame birds at Tumnin village.

139. **Purple-backed Starling – Sturnus sturninus**

03-06 2 ex. in the village of Bechika and at Priamusky marsh.

05-06 1 ex. at the train station of Vinevitinovo.

The bird at the train station

140. **White-cheeked Starling – Sturnus cineraceus**

The common starling of the trip with many nests.

141. **Eurasian Tree Sparrow – Passer montanus**

One of the commonest birds seen on the trip. Seen daily.

142. **Grey-capped Greenfinch – Carduelis sinica**

27-05 3 ex. at Bechika.

05-06 2 ex. at Vinevitinovo.

143. **Eurasian Siskin – Carduelis spinus**

A total of 10 seen spread over the trip in the forested areas.

144. **Common Crossbill – Loxia curvirostra ssp: *japonica***

03-06 20 ex. in one flock, calling (klip,klip) flying over the hotel in Bechika

145. **Common Rosefinch – Carpodacus erythrinus**

26-05 10 ex. in one flock at Bechika, migrants

01-06 1 male singing at Tunmin.

146. **Long-tailed Rosefinch – Uragus sibericus ssp: *ussuriensis***

A total of 15 seen spread over the trip, the most in the southern visited marshes.

A nice male in the reeds at Vinevitinovo.

147. **Grey-bellied Bullfinch – Pyrrhula (pyrrhula) griseiventris**

28-05 6 ex. at Amut in two flocks.

148. **Hawfinch – Coccothraustes coccothraustes**

A total of 7 seen spread over the trip, paler than our subspecies.

149. **Pallas's Reedbunting – Emberiza pallasi ssp: *polaris***

27-05 2 ex., male and female seen very well in the low bushes along the road between Khabarovsk and Komsomolsk. We presumed they were late migrants?

150. **Black-faced Bunting – Emberiza spodocephala ssp: *spodocephala***

The most common bunting recorded, and maybe the most common bird species of the trip. In forested areas but also in marshes (taking over from the disappeared Yellow-breasted?)

151. **Chestnut-eared Bunting – Emberiza fucata**

A total of 25 seen, mostly in pairs in open areas (marsh and fields) and in pairs.

152. **Yellow-Throated Bunting – Emberiza elegans**

A total of 17 seen, mostly around Bechika, this is a lowland forest bunting.

153. **Tristram's Bunting – Emberiza tristrami**

A total of 13 seen in the higher forests visited. Often found on song.

A bird at Tunmin

The Hairy list:

- Raccoon Dog – Nyctereus procyonoides

05-06 1 ex. seen very well at the garbage cans at the camp at *Vinevitinovo*

- Wild Cat – Felis silvestris ssp: *omata*

02-06 1 dark rather warm brown cat crossed the road between Komsomolsk and Khabarovsk, more than one and half hour driving from the nearest village. The strange thing is that according to the distribution map, this is way to east from its range???

- Sable - Martes zibellina

02-06 1 crossing the road between Komsomolsk and Khabarovsk, A big dark/black marten.

The two man who made "it all happen", Mark Beaman (with snake) and Sergey Ivanov (with ugly bold man)

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