



и часто ныряли, возможно, поэтому среди добытой дичи охотников савок не оказалось. Судя по окраске, все особи были определены как самки, или молодые птицы.

Описанный факт может свидетельствовать как о периодическом пребывании савки в Северо-Западном Приазовье в осенне-зимний период, так и о возрастающем числе встреч вида в Азово-Черноморском регионе Украины. Но из-за малочисленности вида, с одной стороны, и ограниченных контактов между орнитологами и охотниками, с другой стороны, об этих утках в регионе, по-прежнему, почти ничего не известно.

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ABOUT SOME RARE SPECIES OF WADERS IN DNEPROPETROVSK REGION, 2000-2003

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О некоторых редких видах куликов, отмеченных в Днепропетровской области в 2000-2003 гг.
Пол Бредбир. Украинское общество охраны птиц.

Автор сообщения в течение 2000-2003 гг. наблюдал сорок видов куликов в Днепропетровской области. В сообщении приводятся подробности о некоторых редких видах на Булаховском лимане и на территории Самарского рыбхоза.

Булаховский лиман: стетная тиркушка - три пары гнездились на этой территории и, по крайней мере, одна из них - успешно (15 мая - 27 июня 2003 г.); луговая тиркушка - три особи (19 мая 2001 г.).

Самарский рыбхоз: кречетка - одна особь, не в брачном оперении (4 сентября 2003 г.); белохвостая пегалица - одна пара, неудачная попытка размножения (июнь 2000 г.); исландский песочник - одна особь (21 сентября 2002 г.) и две особи (4 сентября 2003 г.); средний кроншнеп - одна особь (4 и 9 мая 2003 г.); малый веретенник - одна особь (28 сентября 2003 г.); плосконосый плавунчик - одна особь, самка в брачном оперении (9 июня 2003).

In the years 2000 to 2003 inclusive the author observed 40 species of waders in Dnepropetrovsk Region. Details for the eight rarest of these are given here. The most productive and most frequently visited site was the Samarsky Rybkhoz, located 15 kilometers northwest of Dnepropetrovsk, between the villages of Alexandrovka and Novoslovka. When two or more of the larger fishponds in this complex are drained simultaneously in spring and autumn the resulting mudflats can provide more habitat for migrating waders than at better



known natural sites in the area, such as Bulakhovsky Liman, 50 kilometers northwest of Dnepropetrovsk. All observations were made using Swift-Audubon 8.5 by 44 binoculars and a 27 times Opticron telescope.

Black-winged Pratincole (*Glareola nordmanni*). At least two territorial pairs were observed at Bulakhovsky Liman on 15 May 2003. Their activity was centered on a saline depression where a colony of Kentish Plovers (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) nests. One pair was seen to copulate. On 6 June a clutch of three eggs was found in this area and three pairs of territorial adults were present on the ground simultaneously with an additional bird feeding in the air. A different clutch was found in mid June in the same area by M. Listopadski (pers. comm.). On 27 June three recently fledged juveniles were observed being fed by a pair of adults while a second pair performed a distraction display. On my next visit three weeks later the birds had already dispersed.

This species became very rare in Ukraine last time and the most recent breeding record I'm aware of before this was of two pairs nesting at the Lebyazhy Islands Reserve (Crimea) in 2002 (Kostin, Tarina, 2002). Bulakhovsky Liman is itself a former breeding site but on my first visit there on 23 June 1996 it was obvious that they were no longer present.

Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*). My only record is of three birds on the saline depression north of Bulakhovsky Liman on 19 May 2001. Courtship display was observed but without mating and by my next visit a week later they had disappeared. Although locally common near the coast this species is clearly rare inland.

Sociable Lapwing (*Chettusia gregaria*). One bird in non-breeding plumage was observed resting on one of the drained ponds of the Samarsky Rybkhoz in company with a flock of over 200 lapwings (*Vanellus vanellus*) on 4 September 2003. For most of the hour of observation it stood on one leg, its neck hunched into its body. It ran twice when jostled by a Lapwing but was neither seen to feed nor to fly. It was absent on my next visit four days later, which was not surprising as there were only thirty Lapwings present. At best a scarce and irregular passage migrant in the steppe regions of Ukraine in the first half of the twentieth century, it is now only a rare vagrant. The most recent record before this one was of one bird shot as a specimen in the Black Sea Reserve in July 1985 (information supplied by A. Rudenko). However, its annual status as a vagrant in Western Europe suggests that it would be observed more regularly in Ukraine if there were more birders.

White-tailed Plover (*Vanellochettusia leucura*). One pair was found on a partially drained pond at the Samarsky Rybkhoz on 30 May 2000. They flew to another pond where copulation was observed. On 13 June a nest was found at the original pond. The nest contained four eggs and was located in low reed stubble on a small muddy island where six pairs of Black-winged Stilts (*Himantopus himantopus*) were also nesting. By the time of my next visit on 23 June, following a week of thunderstorms and hail, the White-tailed Plovers had disappeared and the Black-winged Stilts had also deserted their nests. The pair reappeared at the former nest site on 30 June and were seen again on 9 and 17 July but made no further breeding attempt.

On 25 April 2001 a single passage bird was observed resting on another pond of the Samarsky Rybkhoz in company with a flock of Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) and other waders but was not seen three days later.

Knot (*Calidris canutus*). A distant non-breeding plumaged bird was scoped on mudflats in the Dnieper, just east of the dam at Dneprodzerzhinsk on 27 August 2001. On 21 September 2002 a juvenile was observed at the Samarsky Rybkhoz. At the same site I watched two juveniles on 4 September 2003 and one on 8 September. From these observations it appears that Knot is a scarce but almost regular autumn migrant in Dnepropetrovsk region.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*). A juvenile was at the Samarsky Rybkhoz on 28 September 2003. It associated initially with Ruff and later with Black-tailed Godwits (*Limosa limosa*). Although regular at Sivash on migration it is considered uncommon on the Black Sea



coast as a whole and is rare inland in Ukraine. My only other inland record was of a juvenile found on the banks of a reservoir west of Schastiye, Lugansk region on 5 September 1998.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*). One was observed at the Samarsky Rybkhoz on 4 and 9 May. As some hundreds pass along Ukraine's Black Sea coast on migration and it is regular in single figures at Cholgyn, Lvov region, it is surprising that this is my only observation so far in Dnepropetrovsk region.

Grey Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*). A breeding plumaged female was observed for two and a half hours at a minimum range of eighty meters on 9 June 2002 on a large drained pond of the Samarsky Rybkhoz. In this plumage it was unmistakable. Though it spent some time pecking at the surface of the mudflats, it spent most of its time swimming and feeding on a favourite shallow pool. Grey Phalarope is only a rare vagrant in Ukraine seen perhaps less than once a decade. There are apparently no records from Sivash, where thousands of Red-necked Phalaropes pass through on spring and autumn migration. Of course, its usual migration route lies well off the coast of Western Europe, where, incidentally it is rarely seen in spring. Possibly the stormy weather of the previous week may have pushed this bird off course into Central Ukraine. At any rate it was not seen three days later when the weather had cleared.

My impressions of the status of waders in Ukraine come more from conversations with Ukrainian ornithologists than from the published literature, which I know poorly. My thanks go especially to Josif and Raisa Chernichko, Vladimir Kinda, Antonina Rudenko, Tatiana Ardamatskaya, Anatoli Korzyukov, Anatoli Gubkin, Igor Gorban and numerous others. Some observations of waders were made together with Ukrainian specialists Alexander Ponomarenko, Vitali Vetrov and students of Dnepropetrovsk National University.

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