

New species in the Hungarian avifauna in 2013

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Tibor Hadarics 2014. New species in the Hungarian avifauna in 2013. – Ornis Hungarica 22(2): 130–134.

Abstract Three new species appeared in the Hungarian avifauna in 2013: the Black-throated Thrush, the Booted Warbler and the Caspian Plover. A Black-throated Thrush stayed at the Nagyerdő, Debrecen between the 1st and 12th of March. A Booted Warbler was trapped and ringed at the Hortobágy Fishpond on the 25th of May. Finally, a Caspian Plover was observed near Kardoskút on the 15–17th of November. Thus the number of bird species known to occur in Hungary has increased to 409.

Keywords: official bird checklist, Hungarian Checklist and Rarities Committee, Black-throated Thrush, *Turdus atrogularis*, Booted Warbler, *Iduna caligata*, Caspian Plover, *Charadrius asiaticus*

Összefoglalás 2013-ban három faunára új madárfaj bukkant fel Magyarországon: a feketetorkú rigó, a kis geze és a sztyeppi lile. Egy feketetorkú rigó 2013. március 1-től 12-ig tartózkodott a debreceni Nagyerdőben, egy kis gezét 2013. május 25-én gyűrűzés során fogtak a Hortobágyi-halastavon, egy sztyeppi lilét pedig 2013. november 15–17-én figyeltek meg a kardoskúti Fehér-tavon. E fajok előkerülésével a mai Magyarországon bizonyítottan előfordult madárfajok száma 409-re emelkedett.

Kulcsszavak: Magyarország madarainak névjegyzéke, MME Nomenclator Bizottság, feketetorkú rigó, *Turdus atrogularis*, kis geze, *Iduna caligata*, sztyeppi lile, *Charadrius asiaticus*

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In 2013, three bird species were accepted by the Hungarian Checklist and Rarities Committee as new to the Hungarian fauna. These are the Black-throated Thrush (Dezső 2013a), the Booted Warbler (Szilágyi 2013, Dezső 2013b) and the Caspian Plover (Dezső 2014). By these, the number of bird species found in Hungary to date has risen to 409.

Turdus atrogularis Jarocki, 1819

– Black-throated Thrush –

1–12th March, 2013, Debrecen (Hajdú-Bihar County), Nagyerdő, 1 male exemplar (D. Balla and others).

Breeding area of the Black-throated Thrush ranges from the lower Angara and upper Yenisei rivers through the Ob and Irtysh area

to the Ural (Clement & Hathway 2000, del Hoyo *et al.* 2005). The distribution area runs into Eastern Europe in a narrow belt where it breeds at the forested foothills of the western part of the Ural Mountains in the coniferous and mixed forests of the middle and northern taiga and the forest-tundra zone (Estafiev *et al.* 1997).

The Eastern European populations are stable, but estimates of population size vary, ranging from 50,000–55,000 (Estafiev *et al.* 1997) to 5000–20,000 (BirdLife International 2004). A northwestwards area expansion is predicted due to climate change (Huntley *et al.* 2007).

Overwintering sites of the Black-throated Thrush are in Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Northern India (del Hoyo *et al.* 2005), evident of a north-southward migra-

tion route, thus, Western and Northern European occurrences cannot be explained by reverse migration (Lees & Gilroy 2009). These, however, are the result of some kind of disturbance in the birds' navigation system or of post-breeding random scatter autumn migration (Gilroy & Lees 2003). The apparent increase of West-European occurrences may possibly be explained by the increase of observation intensity.

More than 60 records are reported up until 2007 from the British Isles, mainly from late September to mid November, with a peak in mid October. Records are rarer for the winter period (December–February), and spring occurrences (March–April) are only known since the first half of the 1990's (Slack 2009). Most European occurrences were reported from the northwestern parts of the continent: Sweden >30, Norway >25, Finland >35, with regular sightings also from Denmark and Iceland (Slack 2009). Other data include: France >10, Germany >40, Poland >10, Italy >25, also the Netherlands, Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece and Spain (Lewington *et al.* 1991, Slack 2009). Out of the countries neighbouring Hungary, it was only reported from Austria (nine sightings). More than half of these data are dated to the 19th century. Two cases from Eastern Austria are of particular interest: one specimen at Semmering (Styria) in December 1993 (Mayer 1995), and one immature (2y) male in a garden at Oberpullendorf (Burgenland) in January and February 2003 (Brandner *et al.* 2003).

The Black-throated Thrush was first observed in Hungary on 1st March, 2013 in Debrecen. The bird was sighted every day during the next week until 7th March, and it was also seen on 12th March. The immature (2y) bird based itself around Lake Békás in the Nagyerdő at Debrecen, and was of-

ten observed at the fountain behind the spa and on the poplar and pine trees alongside the lake (Dezső 2013a). The occurrences of this species in Europe can be best explained by the northwestward and southwestward autumn dispersion of young birds (Slack 2009). Spring occurrences are rarer, when probably overwintering individuals are seen. Black-throated Thrushes can most frequently be observed in Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*) and Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*) flocks. The East-European and Siberian populations of these two common species migrate in an east–west direction, with overwintering sites situated in Europe, as evidenced by re-captures of ringed individuals (Milwright 1994). Black-throated Thrushes might arrive to Europe from Siberia mixed among such huge thrush flocks (Slack 2009).

Iduna caligata (Lichtenstein, 1823)

– Booted Warbler –

25th May, 2013, Hortobágy (Hajdú-Bihar County), Hortobágy Fishpond, 1 *ad.* exemplar (A. Szilágyi and others).

Breeding area of the Booted Warbler extends from the upper Yenisei river through the Ob and Irtysh area and the Ural Mountains to Lake Ladoga and Onega in the northwest and the Donetsk in the southwest (del Hoyo *et al.* 2006). In the East European part of the distribution range, it breeds mostly in riverbeds in knee-high shrublands dominated by *Spirea* spp., different legume species and low-growing willows (Morgan & Shirihai 1997).

A westward area expansion began in the second half of the 1970s from the northwestern part of its distribution range, during which it reached Saint Petersburg in the 1990's where it bred for the first time in 1997 (Slack 2009). In Finland, the first

specimen was observed in 1981, followed by the observation of a revrier-keeping male bird in 1986 and the first breeding pairs in 2000 (Kivivuori 2000). Since then, several revrier-keeping males have been observed mostly in the eastern part of the country. Breeding is also probable, but it could not be proved for each year (Lindblom 2008). Between 1990 and 2000, the population size in the European part of Russia was estimated to be 30,000–80,000 pairs, for Finland, this was cca. 30 pairs between 2000 and 2002 with an increasing trend (BirdLife International 2004).

It is a rare vagrant in European countries west of its breeding areas. Most of its 115 occurrences in the British Isles are dated after 1975; it was deemed very rare before that year. However, since the late 1970's, there is an increase in occurrence data, indicating a westward area expansion of the species. British sightings are mostly from the late August to late October period (Slack 2009), which point to the reverse migration of young birds (Gilroy & Lees 2003, Lees & Gilroy 2009). Interestingly, the average arrival date of birds in the British Isles shifted ten days earlier in two decades (Slack 2009). Further autumn records are known from Estonia, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, The Netherlands, Belgium, France and Germany (Lewington *et al.* 1991). There is only one report from countries neighbouring Hungary: Austria, Rheindelta, September 1997 (Ranner 2002).

In Hungary, a Booted Warbler was caught and ringed on 25th May, 2013 on the southern part of the main dam of the Hortobágy Fishpond by Attila Szilágyi in the course of the CES bird ringing program (Szilágyi 2013, Dezső 2013b). This was not only the first record of the species in Hungary, but also in the Carpathian Basin as a whole.

Most occurrence data of the species in Europe are from the late August to early November period, dominated by young birds displaying reverse migration. Spring occurrences are very rare. The Hungarian datum from May can possibly be explained in two alternative ways. Either a young bird that overwintered in Western Europe migrated towards its breeding area, or, alternatively, a bird returning from East-Indian wintering areas performed overshooting.

Charadrius asiaticus Pallas, 1773

– Caspian Plover –

15–17th November, 2013, Kardoskút (Békés County), Lake Fehér, 1 *juv.* exemplar (Á. Kaczkó, Zs. Ampovics and others).

Breeding area of the Caspian Plover ranges from the steppes north and east of the Caspian Sea through the Central Asian deserts, semi-deserts and steppes to Lake Zaysan (del Hoyo *et al.* 1996). A small part of the distribution area runs into Europe west of the Ural river (Caspian Lowlands, Manych River valley) (Belik 1997).

In the middle of the 20th century, the northwestern border of its distribution area extended towards northwest, however, it has not changed since then (Belik 1998). The size of its European population was estimated to be 200–250 pairs between 1990 and 2000 by Belik (1997, 1998), and 130–500 pairs by BirdLife International (2004). The population size showed a considerable decline between 1970 and 1990, with no signs pointing to a halt in this trend, although there are no data to confirm it (BirdLife International 2004). The distribution range of the species is expected to expand westwards due to climate change (Huntley *et al.* 2007).

It is a rare spring and summer vagrant in Europe, i.e. in the British Isles, Norway,

Finland, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Malta, Greece and Bulgaria (Lewington *et al.* 1991). Its only record from countries neighbouring Hungary was from Romania (Istria, May 1979) (Zimmerli 1980, Kiss 1980).

In Hungary, a young specimen of the Caspian Plover was observed for the first time by Ádám Kaczkó and Zsolt Ampovics on 15th November, 2013 in the afternoon at Lake Fehér near Kardoskút, in the company of Northern Lapwings (*Vanellus vanellus*) and European Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis apricaria*). During the following two days, it was also seen by others observers at the same location, and several demonstrative photos were taken (Dezső 2014). This was not only the first record of the species

in Hungary, but also in the Carpathian Basin as a whole.

Most occurrence data of the species in Europe are from the spring and summer period, when adult birds, returning from the South and East African wintering sites, are drifted westwards from their breeding areas by weather events. The considerably fewer autumn sightings of young birds can possibly be explained by their pre-migratory multi-directional roaming.

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my gratitude to referees and József Vuts who made the language corrections for the manuscript.

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