

## Short Communication

### Ornithological results of the Czechoslovak–Iranian expedition in Iran in 1977

JIRI MLIKOVSKY

Department of Zoology, National Museum, Vaclavske namesti 68, CZ-115 79 Prague 1, Czech Republic

Email: jiri.mlikovsky@nm.cz

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مجموعه‌ای از ۸۱ نمونه پرنده (مشمول بر ۳۰ گونه مختلف) جمع‌آوری شده توسط هیات تحقیقاتی چکسلواکی – ایرانی، اطلاعات مفیدی را در مورد پراکنش این پرندگان در سال ۱۹۷۷ فراهم آورد.

The composition of Iranian avifauna is well known (Firouz 2005, Scott & Adhami 2006), but details of past distribution of many species remain imprecise. Below I present distributional data on Iranian birds obtained during the Third Czechoslovak–Iranian Entomological Expedition in Iran, led in 1977 by Czech entomologist Ludvík Hoberlandt (1918–2005). Although primarily entomological, this expedition (in particular Bohumil Pražan, then taxidermist at the National Museum) collected also small vertebrates, including 81 specimens of birds, which are now deposited at the National Museum in Praha (Prague), Czech Republic (accession number 114/1977, inventory numbers P6V-030282–030336, P6V-103338–103361). The itinerary and collecting localities were described in detail by Hoberlandt (1983). Avian nomenclature and sequence of taxa follow Scott & Adhami (2006). The transliteration of toponyms follows Hoberlandt (1983). A collection of 81 specimens of birds from 30 species obtained during the Czechoslovak–Iranian expedition to Iran in 1977 is listed with some brief additional information

#### Gazetteer

Ahwaz (= 40 km north of Ahwaz), Khuzestan [31.68°N, 48.55°E]  
 Bandar-e Mahtabi, east of Bandar Lengeh, Hormozgan [26.78°N, 55.33°E]  
 Gachsar (= 8 km west of Gachsar), north of Karaj, Tehran Province [36.12°N, 51.32°E]  
 Hassan Langi, north of Minab, Hormozgan [27.37°N, 56.87°E]

Issin, north of Bandar Abbas, Hormozgan [27.32°N, 56.28°E]  
 Kahnuj (= 43 km north of Kahnuj), Kerman [28.35°N, 57.77°E]  
 Khahak, north of Karaj, Tehran Province [36.18°N, 51.28°E]  
 Kuh-e Khajeh, west of Zabol, Seistan and Baluchistan [30.93°N, 61.25°E]  
 Kuh-e Lalehzar, northeast of Baft, Kerman [29.52°N, 56.85°E]  
 Mashhad, Khorasan Razavi [34.67°N, 58.78°E]  
 Nehbandan (= 17 km north of Nehbandan), South Khorasan [31.68°N, 60.03°E]  
 Sheykh Mahalleh, north of Seyadun, Gilan [37.88°N, 48.92°E]  
 Shirinu, southeast of Bandar-e Tahari, Bushehr [27.57°N, 52.55°E]  
 Ziaran (= 8 km northeast of Ziaran), Abyek, Tehran Province [36.17°N, 50.58°E]

#### Species list

Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes*: Issin (1 May)  
 Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*: Bandar-e Mahtabi (26 April)  
 Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*: Issin (29–30 April)  
 Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*: Kahnuj (17 May)  
 Pale Crag Martin *Hirundo obsoleta*: Hassan Langi (10 May). Breeding recorded (two juveniles collected).  
 White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*: Sheykh Mahalleh (2 July). The specimen belongs to the nominotypic subspecies *M. a. alba* (cf. Alström & Mild 2003).  
 Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*: Gachsar (7 July). Breeding recorded (three juveniles collected).  
 White-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis*: Shirinu (23 April), Bandar-e Mahtabi (25–26 April), Issin (29–30 April), Breeding recorded at Bandar-e Mahtabi (a juvenile collected).  
 White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*: Gachsar (8 July). Breeding recorded (three juveniles collected).  
 Red-tailed Wheatear *Oenanthe xanthopyrmyna*: Ziaran (15 July). The specimen belongs to the subspecies *O. x. chrysopygia* (cf. Porter *et al.* 1996).

Common Babbler *Turdoides caudatus*: Bandar-e Mahtabi (26 April)  
 Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*: Gachsar (8 July), Ziara (16 July)  
 Moustached Warbler *Acrocephalus melanopogon*: Kuh-e Khajeh (4 June). Breeding recorded (two juveniles collected).  
 Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*: Gachsar (8 July). The occurrence of this and the next *Acrocephalus* species in July in the Alborz, north of Karaj is unexpected (D.A. Scott *in litt* to the Editor). The locality was described as "Valley of the right tributary of the river Karaj below Gachsar." (Hoberlandt 1983: 23).  
 Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*: Gachsar (8 July)  
 Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata*: Mashhad (10 June). Both specimens collected on 10 June belong to the subspecies *rama*, which is now often elevated to a species rank (see Knox *et al.* 2002).  
 Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*: Ahwaz (16 April)  
 Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*: Ahwaz (16 April). This specimen belongs to the nominotypic subspecies *curruca* (cf. Loskot 2005, Loskot & Abramson 2006).  
 Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*: Sheykh Mahalleh (3 July)  
 Great Tit *Parus major*: Sheykh Mahalleh (2 July). Breeding recorded (a juvenile collected).  
 Western Rock Nuthatch *Sitta neumayer*: Ziara (11 July)  
 Purple Sunbird *Nectarinia asiatica*: Bandar-e Mahtabi (26 April), Issin (29 April and 2 May)  
 Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*: Gachsar (8 July)  
 Mongolian Finch *Rhodopechys mongolica*: Nehbandan (5 June). This record confirms the existence of a possibly isolated population of this species in South Khorasan (cf. Vaurie 1949, Portenko & Stübs 1976).  
 Desert Finch *Rhodopechys obsoleta*: Mashhad (10 June)  
 Indian Silverbill *Lonchura malabarica*: Issin (3 May), Mashhad (10 June). Indian Silverbill reaches in Iran at its westernmost distribution. Issin does lie within the known range of *L. malabarica*, but Mashhad (two specimens collected) lies far to the northeast. Further data are needed to show whether this species is spreading in Iran to the west, or whether the population at Mashhad is (or was) isolated and founded by introduced individuals. Indian Silverbills are known to have already established feral populations on several places in the Middle East (e.g. Hirschfield & King 1992, Meadows 1994, Mendelssohn & Yom-Tov 1999, Lever 2005)  
 House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*: Shirinu (23 April), Mashhad (11 June)  
 Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*: Mashhad (10-11 June)  
 Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*: Khahak (10 July)  
 White-winged Snowfinch *Montifringilla nivalis*: Kuh-e Lalehzar (25 May). This confirms previous record of White-winged Snowfinches made at the same locality in 1975 (Desfayes & Praz 1978).

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