

The Hall collection of birds from Wonsan, central Korea, in spring 1903

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The world's museums hold few bird specimens from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The 213 specimens from Robert Hall's brief stop in Korea in April–May 1903 (mostly from Wonsan) are herein listed in full, illuminated by the letters of Hall's assistant, Ernie Trebilcock. The collection contains mostly common Korean birds but also includes the first Korean Greater Sand Plovers *Charadrius leschenaultii* and other noteworthy records. Reanalysis reveals there is no acceptable record of Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* from eastern DPRK.

In the first English-language review of the birds of Korea, Austin (1948) wrote that 'nowhere in the literature can I find any mention of the fact that Hall stopped off for two weeks at Wonsan en route from Melbourne to Vladivostok, and collected over 200 birds there!'. Wonsan lies in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) at 39°09'N 127°25'E, and the excitement communicated by Austin is even more apt today. Extant, publicly accessible specimens from the DPRK have a scientific value far exceeding those from most other countries, reflecting a unique combination of circumstances. Few Western explorer-collectors ever visited the country, it never being a European colony, and hence few specimens arrived in Europe during the main global collection-building phase of the 1870s–1930s. Japan ruled Korea from 1910 to 1945 and Japanese collectors were active in Korea during these decades; tragically, many of the skins exported to Japan were destroyed by earthquakes or during the Second World War (Austin 1948). During the following decade's strife, collections in Korea were largely lost (Austin 1948) and the only fresh northern collection exported seems to be that of Neff (1956).

The DPRK was born in 1948 and followed a policy of self-reliance, which included the building up of a national zoological collection largely through the hard work and diligence of Won Hong Koo (1963–1965). This collection, held at the DPRK Korea Academy of Sciences, Pyongyang, is documented in Tomek (1999, 2002), and its scale was a remarkable achievement in the straitened circumstances of the fledgling republic. However, some time after Won's death on 3 October 1970, its curation went into decline and, for example, specimen labels were re-written. As elsewhere (see Rasmussen and Prys-Jones 2003) this reduces reliability of data, and on some specimens an original label left attached proves that data were not transcribed correctly. It follows that for the unknown proportion of skins with only the re-written label, some data will be erroneous (Tomek 1999, 2002). Despite several attempts during the 3½ years in which JWD lived in DPRK, he was unable to obtain access to this irreplaceable collection. It is possible that the collection has, with the last decade's national economic hardships, deteriorated largely or entirely beyond salvation. If so, the majority of DPRK specimens ever collected are gone. A few specimens have been sent out of DPRK in the last 50 years (Csorba and Demeter 1989, Báldi and Waliczky 1992, Fiebig 1995: 92, Tomek 1999: 3, 2002: 3), but essentially the world's museums lack material from the country.

Robert Hall (1867–1949; Fig. 1) was an Australian ornithologist who, along with his companion R. E. 'Ernie'

Trebilcock (1880–1976), travelled to Siberia and collected around the Lena river during summer 1903 (Hall 1904, 1919, Hartert and Hall 1904, Sharland 1949, Kloot 1986, Robin 2001). His plan was to explore this poorly known region and, in particular, to search for the breeding grounds of shorebirds that winter in Australia (Sharland 1978). En route for Vladivostok by ship, Hall and Trebilcock stopped in Korea and collected birds, posting >200 skins to the Rothschild Collection at Tring, U.K., through a £50 sale arranged by telegraph during the expedition itself (Sharland 1978, Kloot 1986). They were received on 22 August 1903 (Rothschild acquisition book, Archives American Museum of Natural History [AMNH] Ornithology Dept.) and subsequently, with that collection, went to the AMNH, where they still are. Austin had time only to trace some 50 of the skins, and for the subsequent half-century the others remained in anonymity, ignored

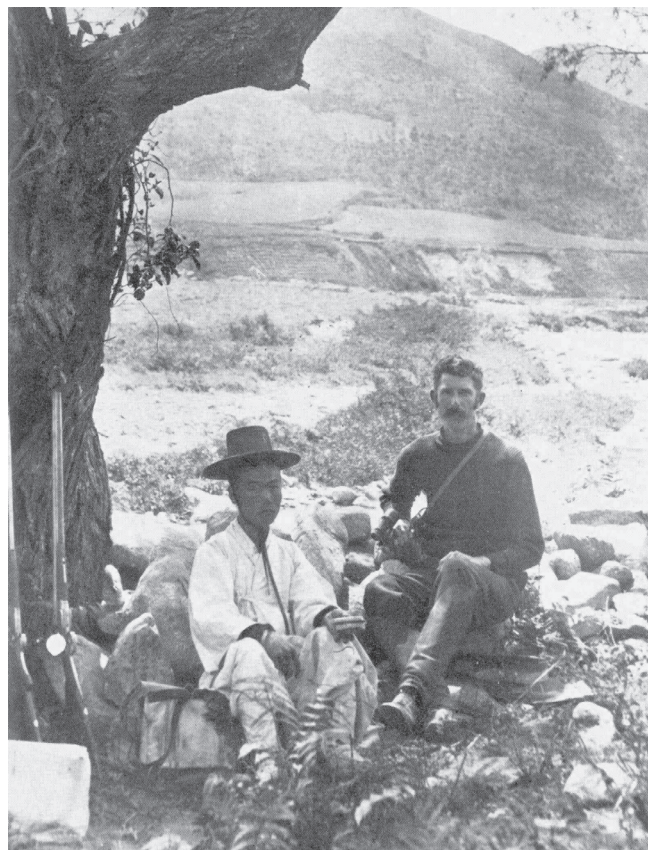


Figure 1. Robert Hall and field companion in Korea on his way to eastern Siberia, 1903. Photo by R. E. Trebilcock. Reproduced from Sharland (1978). Courtesy National Library of Australia.

Table 1. The Hall collection from Wonsan, 27 April–6 May 1903.

Species	Given race ¹	No. of skins	Date range ²	Other records ³
JAPANESE QUAIL <i>Coturnix japonica</i>		1	11 May	none
SPOT-BILLED DUCK <i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	<i>zonorhyncha</i>	2	7 May	none
COMMON GOLDENEYE <i>Bucephala clangula</i>	<i>clangula</i>	1	11 May	1917, 1987
COMMON MERGANSER <i>Mergus merganser</i>	<i>merganser</i>	1	13 May	none
WHITE-BACKED WOODPECKER <i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i> *	' <i>uralensis</i> '	7	4–8 May	1897
COMMON KINGFISHER <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	' <i>japonica</i> '	1	2 May	1886–1991, T
HILL PIGEON <i>Columba rupestris</i>	<i>rupestris</i>	1	8 May	c.1989, T
BAR-TAILED GODWIT <i>Limosa lapponica</i>	<i>baueri</i>	5	6–10 May	1897, T
WHIMBREL <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	<i>variegatus</i>	8	6–11 May	none
GREEN SANDPIPER <i>Tringa ochropus</i>		1	5 May	1980
COMMON SANDPIPER <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		1	2 May	none
GREY-TAILED TATTLER <i>Heteroscelus brevipes</i> *		2	10–14 May	1880, 1980, 1988
RED-NECKED STINT <i>Calidris ruficollis</i>		2	7 May	1897, 1987, T
DUNLIN <i>Calidris alpina</i>	<i>sakhalina</i>	4	6–11 May	1897, T
EURASIAN OYSTERCATCHER <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	<i>osculans</i>	1	8 May	1897
PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER <i>Pluvialis fulva</i>		1	6 May	1897, T
LONG-BILLED PLOVER <i>Charadrius placidus</i> *		3	2–9 May	none
LITTLE RINGED PLOVER <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	<i>curonicus</i>	9	2–11 May	1883, 1980, T
KENTISH PLOVER <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	<i>alexandrinus</i>	15	6–11 May	none
GREATER SAND PLOVER <i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i> *		2	10 May	none
BLACK-TAILED GULL <i>Larus crassirostris</i>		1	7 May	1880–recent, T
COMMON TERN <i>Sterna hirundo</i> *	<i>longipennis</i> *	1	8 May	1984–1989, T
LITTLE TERN <i>Sterna albifrons</i>	<i>sinensis</i>	1	8 May	1897, 1984, 1987
SPECTACLED GUILLEMOT <i>Cephus carbo</i>		1	11 May	none
BLACK KITE <i>Milvus migrans</i>	<i>lineatus</i>	1	6 May	1897, 1900
AMUR FALCON <i>Falco amurensis</i>		1	10 May	1897
LITTLE HERON <i>Butorides striatus</i>	<i>amurensis</i>	1	10 May	none
ORIENTAL STORK <i>Ciconia boyciana</i>		1	2 May	none
EURASIAN JAY <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	<i>brandti</i>	2	1–11 May	1987
BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE <i>Pica pica</i>	<i>sericea</i>	8	30 Apr–10 May	1897–recent, T
CARRION CROW <i>Corvus corone</i>	<i>orientalis</i>	1	4 May	recent, T
ASHY MINIVET <i>Pericrocotus divaricatus</i>		1	9 May	none
BLUE ROCK THRUSH <i>Monticola solitarius</i> ⁴	<i>philippensis</i>	1	10 May	c.1933
GREY-BACKED THRUSH <i>Turdus hortulorum</i>		2	7 May	none
EYEBROWED THRUSH <i>Turdus obscurus</i> *		1	9 May	none
PALE THRUSH <i>Turdus pallidus</i>		3	27 Apr–5 May	none
ASIAN BROWN FLYCATCHER <i>Muscicapa dauurica</i> *		1	4 May	1980
YELLOW-RUMPED FLYCATCHER <i>Ficedula zanthopygia</i> *		2	2–4 May	1980
BLUE-AND-WHITE FLYCATCHER <i>Cyanoptila cyanomelana</i> *		2	2 May	none
DAURIAN REDSTART <i>Phoenicurus auroreus</i> ⁴		3	1–2 May	none
WILLOW TIT <i>Parus montanus</i>	<i>baicalensis</i>	1	8 May	none
COAL TIT <i>Parus ater</i>	<i>pekinensis</i>	2	5–8 May	1980, T
GREAT TIT <i>Parus major</i> ⁴	' <i>wladivostokensis</i> '	1	5 May	1897, T
BARN SWALLOW <i>Hirundo rustica</i> ⁴	<i>gutturalis</i>	3	5–10 May	recent, T
JAPANESE BUSH WARBLER <i>Cettia diphone</i>	<i>borealis</i>	4	5–10 May	1980
ORIENTAL REED WARBLER <i>Acrocephalus orientalis</i> ⁴		2	10–11 May	1886, 1980
EASTERN CROWNED WARBLER <i>Phylloscopus coronatus</i>		4	5–10 May	none
EURASIAN SKYLARK <i>Alauda arvensis</i> ⁴	<i>intermedia</i> *	12	27 Apr–10 May	1897
EURASIAN TREE SPARROW <i>Passer montanus</i>		6	1–5 May	1897, recent, T
WHITE WAGTAIL <i>Motacilla alba</i> *	<i>ocularis</i> *	2	4–6 May	none
WHITE WAGTAIL <i>Motacilla alba</i> ⁴	<i>leucopsis</i> *	5	27 Apr–9 May	1897, recent, T?
YELLOW WAGTAIL <i>Motacilla flava</i> *	<i>simillima</i> *	1	10 May	1984
GREY WAGTAIL <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	' <i>melanope</i> '	6	1–5 May	1980
OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>		1	6 May	none
RED-THROATED PIPIT <i>Anthus cervinus</i> *		3	2–9 May	1897
BRAMBLING <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>		4	27 Apr–4 May	1987
GREY-CAPPED GREENFINCH <i>Carduelis sinica</i> ⁴	<i>ussuriensis</i>	14	27 Apr–10 May	1897, recent, T
CHESTNUT-EARED BUNTING <i>Emberiza fucata</i> *	<i>fucata</i> *	10	1–11 May	1897
BLACK-FACED BUNTING <i>Emberiza spodocephala</i> ⁴		13	1–15 May	1897, 1980, T

* Identification confirmed by critical re-examination.

¹ From Rothschild label or AMNH catalogue; races not in Dickinson (2003) or where the range in that source does not include Korea are within inverted commas.² Assigned from the specimen tags, except for the Common Merganser, the date of which was given in a Trebilcock letter.³ Wonsan records from Tomek (1999, 2002) through checking the references therein, supplemented by Clark (1910), Cumming (1933: 41) and Stepanyan (1998). 'Recent' indicates records, often multiple, after 1977, and 'T' indicates a previously unpublished record from H. Tauchnitz (per J. Fiebig *in litt.* 2003). Species recorded by these sources but not collected by Hall are not listed here.⁴ Hall's skin(s) of the species is/are referred to in Austin (1948) and, hence, were assigned erroneously by Tomek (1999, 2002) to Hamgyong South province.

even in Tomek's (1999, 2002) wide-ranging review of the birds of northern Korea, although the sole globally threatened species in the collection (Oriental Stork *Ciconia boyciana*) was included in BirdLife International's (2001) record collation. The lack of research interest in Hall's Korean collection is the more surprising because at the time Australian newspapers made much of the fact that he had collected specimens of half the then-known Korean avifauna (Sharland 1978). Ongoing databasing in the AMNH Department of Ornithology, led by TJJ, has now traced all the specimens. Hence, we can now finally detail the birds, a century after the trip, a case of Collar and Rudyanto's (2003: 97) statement that 'so much unpublished information resides on the labels of specimens in...natural history museums...that a visit to any one of them represents something of a voyage of discovery in miniature'.

Specimens at elevated risk of misidentification were verified through critical re-examination by PRS (except that K. Mild determined all *Alauda* specimens and L. Svensson the *Parus montanus*), and other specimens were checked rapidly when reviewing labels. Wonsan, given on the labels as 'Gensan', the Japanese rendering of the name, is the main collecting locality, accounting for 197 of the skins (Table 1). There are also 16 specimens from elsewhere or of uncertain locality (Table 2). A pheasant labelled 'purchased in Seoul' has no field label and there is no independent evidence how it came into Hall's possession; no doubt it explains the discrepancy in total count between the 212 skins noted in Lord Rothschild's accession book and the actual total of 213 Korean birds from Hall now in AMNH. The two men shot pheasants at Busan (Trebilcock letters) but this could not possibly be presented as Seoul.

The labelling of the skins initially led to some confusion and doubts about the dates and provenance of some specimens. Three letters sent by Trebilcock to his fiancée Miss Hester 'Hessie' Tymms, now deposited in the Australian Manuscripts Collection of the State Library of Victoria (MS 9247: Royal Australian Ornithologists' Union Archives), helped to resolve questions regarding the itinerary, as well as added additional information for some species. In his first letter, which takes a diary form, Trebilcock explained the difficulties in leaving 'Fusan' (=

Busan, in southern Korea; 35°06'N 129°03'E) during a typhoon. Several attempts were made to reach Wonsan, which Trebilcock mentioned as a planned halt. Their ship left Busan on 21, 22 and 25 April and was each time forced back by severe weather. They were then detained until 29 April by lack of coal. On 27 April Trebilcock reported that he and Hall went shooting in 'the ranges behind Fusan' and indeed there are five specimens from this date labelled 'Fusan', clearly in his hand (Table 2). Confusion still arises from ten specimens labelled 'Corea', four from 24 April and six from 27 April, and from 14 specimens labelled 'Gensan' from 27 April. According to dates in Trebilcock's letter, the Australians could not have arrived in Wonsan until 30 April at the earliest. The remaining skins, collected from 30 April to 10 May, as well as one undated skin (see Common Merganser) are all labelled 'Gensan'. Because of the problems with the 24 specimens, PRS made a critical examination of the handwriting and paper type of the original field labels of these specimens. While Hall did number the specimens, it seems that these numbers were added subsequent to collecting and were not given sequentially as "field numbers"; hence they are not useful in resolving the discrepancies. Nor do there seem to be any surviving field notes, other than the letters. The 14 'Gensan' skins from 27 April are all labelled in pencil by one hand on one paper stock. Although this labelling style continues in 'Gensan' skins collected subsequent to 30 April, many other specimens are clearly labelled by at least one other hand using brown ink. A plausible explanation is that someone was collecting at Wonsan in anticipation of the Australians' arrival; the letters indicate that they intended to make a stop at Wonsan and take another boat to Vladivostok. It seems likely that they had contacted a resident naturalist there, who secured birds in expectation of their arrival. In Trebilcock's second letter written aboard ship en route for Vladivostok, he mentioned that his fellow European passengers were all 'more or less naturalists' and in his third he mentions several expatriate residents of Wonsan: customs officials Messrs Bowie and Wakefield; a missionary, Mr Foote; Mr and Mrs Mannheim; and Mr Billonough, an English resident. For the ten specimens with locality simply given as 'Corea', the labelling style differs from the aforementioned specimens but there seems no way to

Table 2. Birds collected in Korea away from Wonsan by Hall or his associates.

Species	Given race	Hall number	Locality	Dates
COMMON PHEASANT <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	<i>karpowi</i>	none (1 bird)	Seoul	undated
HILL PIGEON <i>Columba rupestris</i>		26	Busan	27 April
LITTLE RINGED PLOVER <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	<i>curonicus</i>	35	Busan	27 April
BLACK-TAILED GULL <i>Larus crassirostris</i>		25	Korea	24 April
SPECTACLED GUILLEMOT <i>Cephus carbo</i>		24	Korea	27 April
BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE <i>Pica pica</i>	<i>sericea</i>	27	Busan	27 April
BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE <i>Pica pica</i>	<i>sericea</i>	28	Korea	27 April
BLUE-AND-WHITE FLYCATCHER <i>Cyanoptila cyanomelana</i>		31	Busan	27 April
RED-RUMPED SWALLOW <i>Hirundo daurica</i>	<i>nipalensis</i>	37	Busan	27 April
RED-RUMPED SWALLOW <i>Hirundo daurica</i>	<i>nipalensis</i>	30	Korea	27 April
CRESTED LARK ² <i>Galerida cristata</i>	<i>leautungensis</i> ³	33 & 39	Korea ¹	24 April
EURASIAN TREE SPARROW <i>Passer montanus</i>		32	Korea	27 April
WHITE WAGTAIL ² <i>Motacilla alba</i>	<i>leucopsis</i>	38	Korea	27 April
MEADOW BUNTING ² <i>Emberiza cioides</i>	<i>castaneiceps</i>	29 & 36	Korea	24, 27 April

¹ See species text

² Listed by Austin (1948) and, following him, Tomek (2002) for South Hamgyong province (= Wonsan; see above), but this locality is not defensible. Austin's error is immaterial for the wagtail and bunting, both of which are otherwise known from Wonsan, but significant for the lark.

³ From ranges in Dickinson (2003) more likely to be *G. c. corensis*.

identify the locality or collector. Of these specimens, only the Crested Larks are critical (see below).

Trebilcock's letters show that the two men collected the birds themselves, Trebilcock himself being new to shooting; there is no indication in the letters that they purchased any of them from markets, and they clearly saw the birds when fresh because bare part colours, including iris, are noted. Every day they covered the rugged hinterland of Wonsan energetically (evidently somewhat too energetically for Trebilcock's taste), so the locality 'Wonsan' should be understood to cover quite a large area. For example, one day they walked to a river 10 miles distant, and another they ascended 'the river that empties itself near Gensan...far back into the ranges'. Trebilcock gave a total of 224 birds secured; the difference between this and the 212 given by Rothschild probably reflects loss through damage or simply the original poor preparation of the specimens (as noted by Hartert and Hall 1904). Specimens of 'Korean blue jay' and 'starling' mentioned in Trebilcock's letters were presumably in the 12 skins lost.

The birds collected at Wonsan are listed in Table 1, using the species taxonomy and nomenclature of Inskipp *et al.* (1996). Subspecies are as given on the Rothschild labels which were attached to the specimens after their arrival at Tring, or as written in the AMNH catalogue. Also indicated are, for the species Hall collected, other records from Wonsan. As one of the country's main east-sea ports, Wonsan has been, by DPRK standards, well covered. Bird data were collected there on the following trips: 15–18 August 1880 (Giglioli and Salvadori 1887); 1883 and 1886 (Clark 1910); spring 1886 and November 1887–February 1888 (Taczanowski 1887, 1888); September–October 1897 (Yankovskii 1898 in Tomek 1999, 2002); 19 June 1900 (Tomek 1999: 79–80); 18 July 1901 (Duckworth and Frisk in prep.); April–May 1917 (Kuroda 1918); unspecified date(s) in or shortly before 1933 (Cumming 1933: 41); summer 1936 (Yamashina in Austin 1948: 17); May 1960 (Tomek 1999: 41); May 1970 (Tomek 1999: 21); 10 October 1978 (Bochenski *et al.* 1981); 7 August 1979 (Tomek and Dontchev 1987); 19 and 23–24 May 1980 (Mauersberger 1981); 10, 14 June 1980 (Tomek 1984); October 1980 (Grummt 1993); 17 and 20–23 August 1984 (Kolbe 1988); 19, 24 April and 2 May 1987 (Glowacinski *et al.* 1989); 26 Sep–1 Oct 1988 (H. Tauchnitz per J. Fiebig *in litt.* 2003); 18–19 and 22 Nov 1989 (Stepanyan 1998); repeatedly during 1987–1990 (Fiebig 1993, 1995); and October 1991 (Tomek 1999: 5, 25). In spite of this activity, there are no other published Wonsan records for over a third of the species (21 of 58) that Hall collected there.

Austin (1948) listed less than a quarter of Hall's collection (Table 1) but, even so, sowed some confusion. Some specimens labelled merely as 'Corea' were listed for Wonsan (Table 2, note 2), and in Austin's (1948) map, Wonsan lay in Hamgyong Namdo (= Hamgyong South) province. Because he localised records only to province, Tomek (1999, 2002) likewise listed all these records also for Hamgyong South. However, following province boundary realignment, Wonsan has lain in Kangwon province for many years; hence the records should have been reassigned. The same holds for these authors' assignment to province of P. Jouy's few records from Wonsan (Clark 1910).

Species are discussed below only where they are significant as individual records at species or subspecies

level, either through paucity of previous DPRK records in total, or from the east coast, at the appropriate season.

COMMON GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

The date of 11 May is much later in spring than any record traced by Tomek (1999) outside the northernmost provinces, but is echoed by a recent sighting on the Taedong river in Pyongyang of five birds on 19 May 2002 (JWD own data).

COMMON MERGANSER *Mergus merganser*

This specimen (AMNH 734284), a male in nuptial plumage, is undated but labelled as being from Gensan. Trebilcock's letter of 16 May noted: 'Wed May 13th. Another twenty mile tramp today...and all for only one species that was new to us—a diver with very bright red legs and feet. Today we ended our Korean shooting'. This cannot refer to any specimen but the merganser, probably left undated because of the rush to pack and post the skins before leaving for Russia (Trebilcock's letters make clear a level of uncertainty about precise dates, stemming no doubt from Hall's punishing schedule which meant that Trebilcock had no time to write any Korean letters until he boarded the ship). This date is significantly later in spring than any DPRK record listed by Tomek (1999) or any Korean record in Austin (1948). More recently, Park Jin-Young (2002) listed a single on 1 May 1993 from southern Korea, and it is now known to breed there (Duckworth and Moores in prep.). There are previous records from only one east-coast province of DPRK, North Hamgyong (Tomek 1999).

WHITE-BACKED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos leucotos*

This is the only forest specialist in Hall's birds. Its presence is doubly surprising given the absence of Great Spotted Woodpecker *D. major*, which is common in the sort of deforested habitats with scattered trees occupied by the majority of Hall's land-birds (Tomek 1999, JWD own data). That there are seven skins is even more remarkable.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Although Whimbrel is common in DPRK, only two of the several dozen records traced by Tomek (1999) were on the east coast. That Hall collected eight specimens, that S. Bergman also found the species on this coast, near Chuul in the 1930s (Duckworth and Frisk in prep.), and that it is common on the east coast of southern Korea (N. Moores *in litt.* 2006) all suggest it has been under-recorded on DPRK's east coast.

LONG-BILLED PLOVER *Charadrius placidus*

Birds on 2 May (one) and 9 May (two) are noteworthy, because Tomek (1999) traced no May records. This species's seasonality in DPRK remains unclear, and there are few recent records. This may reflect under-recording, because in southern Korea it is a widespread breeder along rivers (Moores in press).

GREATER SAND PLOVER *Charadrius leschenaultii*

Hall's two birds on 10 May 1903 are the first for Korea (see Austin 1948), the only subsequent record from DPRK being from near the west coast on 19 April 1958 (Tomek 1999). In southern Korea it was traditionally considered a vagrant (Won Pyong-Oh 1996) but is better classed as

‘a rare or uncommon migrant’ (Park Jin-Young 2002), and the same may be found to hold for DPRK.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Tomek (1999) traced only one spring record of Common Tern from DPRK, from May 1927 on the west coast. However, it may have been simply overlooked at this season; there are recent records of terns presumably this species from the west coast on 10 April 1999 and Pyongyang on 3 May 2002 (JWD own data), there are overlooked historical records from the east coast near the Russian border in spring 1935 (Duckworth and Frisk in prep.), and it is widespread in southern Korea in spring (N. Moores *in litt.* 2006).

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans*

Black Kite is now exceedingly scarce in DPRK (Duckworth and Moores in prep.), and Hall’s specimen is further evidence (adding to the records in Tomek 1999) that it was formerly more common.

LITTLE HERON *Butorides striatus*

Although now a common bird in DPRK, Tomek (1999) traced only two records from before 1950; in addition, S. Bergman collected three in 1935 (Duckworth and Frisk in prep.). Whether it was genuinely rare or was simply overlooked is difficult to say. Trebilcock’s letter stated this was the only individual of the species that they saw.

GREY-BACKED THRUSH *Turdus hortulorum*

Although presently a common breeding species and passage migrant in inland west-central Korea (JWD own data), and widely recorded from the western half of the country, Tomek (2002) traced no other DPRK records from the east coast.

WILLOW TIT *Parus montanus*

The single black-capped tit in the collection, AMNH 682357 from 8 May, was referred by Vaurie and Snow (1957) to Willow Tit, evidently after critical comparison by Charles Vaurie who concluded it showed no differences from Willow Tits from Ussuria and lower Amurland. A Willow Tit of this date and locality would be a highly significant DPRK record compared with the records assembled by Tomek (2002; who made no mention of this record), whereas the closely similar-looking Marsh Tit *P. palustris* is already known from Wonsan (Tomek 2002). Hence, AMNH 682357 was compared with north-east Asian holdings of the two species at the Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Stockholm, and L. Svensson determined it as certainly a Willow Tit. There seem to be only two other Korean Willow Tits specimens outside DPRK (where Tomek traced well over 100), both from southern Korea: one from 10 October 1926 and held in the Yamashina collection (Austin 1948) and one from 11 October 1982, housed at the south Korean national arboretum (Park Jin-Young 2002).

This Willow Tit record is outside the pattern established by Tomek (2002) for the species in northern Korea: a fairly widespread and at least locally common breeder in the northern highlands, with winter records over a wider area. Its presence in the central Korean coastal strip, during the breeding season, may reflect an extremely late departure from a long-distance movement the previous autumn. East Asian Willow Tits make irregular autumn eruptions and the (smaller) return movements

may run into May (Harrap and Quinn 1996), although after one such irruption into the Pyongyang area in autumn 2002, all birds disappeared from four separate sites within a fortnight of each other, in late March 2003 (JWD own data). It certainly should not be assumed that Willow Tits would be present in Wonsan in a typical May.

CRESTED LARK *Galerida cristata*

Austin (1948) and after him, Tomek (2002), listed Hall’s two Korean skins (AMNH 557841 and AMNH 557842) for South Hamgyong province (= Wonsan; see above), one of only three records for the three east-coast provinces of DPRK. In fact, the locality is unknown (Table 2), and Wonsan (and South Hamgyong province) should be deleted from this species’s recorded range. The other two east coast records, from unspecified localities in North Hamgyong province in 1917 and with no date, cannot be assumed to come from within the modern province’s boundaries, because large sectors of its historical area now fall in the new Ryanggang province. These sectors include the Paekdu area and surroundings which were a lure to the early collectors, where Crested Lark was observed in 1978 by Bochenski *et al.* (1981). Hence, there is no Crested Lark record certainly from the eastern provinces of DPRK.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

As well as six Grey Wagtail specimens taken between 1 and 5 May, Trebilcock’s third letter noted that on 9 May he ‘found the nest of the yellow-breasted wagtail’, an ‘open saucer shaped nest of grass in a crevice between some granite boulders picturesquely situated between two miniature waterfalls’ with ‘five pale greenish eggs lightly spotted with a very pale brown’. This must refer to Grey Wagtail; the only other ‘yellow-breasted wagtail’ occurring regularly in Korea, Yellow Wagtail *M. flava*, is only a migrant (Tomek 2002). Austin (1948) considered Grey Wagtail to be only ‘a common spring and autumn transient...doubtfully a summer resident in the north’, despite several previous references to its status as a Korean breeder which he cited. This was part of a pattern of his rejection of others’ testimony when it did not fit his personal notions (Duckworth and Moores in prep.).

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*

Tomek (2002) listed only eight records from DPRK, but the species has surely been overlooked as it was found commonly in inland west-central Korea during 2000–2003 (Duckworth 2006); Hall’s specimens provide further support for this.

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