

Notes on bird species newly recorded in Korea

Hwa-Jung Kim^{1,*}, Dong-Won Kim¹, Wee-Haeng Hur¹, Byoungsoon Jang², Yun-Kyung Lee³, In-Ki Kwon⁴, Jong-Hyun Park⁵, Jong-Gil Park⁶, Chang-Wan Kang⁷, Eun-Mi Kim⁷, Soon-Kyoo Choi⁸ and Han-Kyu Kim⁹

¹Animal Resource Division, National Institute of Biological Resources, Incheon 22689, Republic of Korea

²Faculty of Biological Sciences, Seoul National University, Seoul 08826, Republic of Korea

³National Institute of Ecology, Seoecheon 33657, Republic of Korea

⁴Research Center for Endangered Species, National Institute of Ecology, Yeongyang 36531, Republic of Korea

⁵Department of Environmental Horticulture, Sahmyook University, Seoul 01795, Republic of Korea

⁶National Park Bird Research Center, Sinan 58863, Republic of Korea

⁷Jeju Wildlife Research Center, Jeju 63209, Republic of Korea

⁸Department of Biological Sciences, Kangwon National University, Chuncheon 24341, Republic of Korea

⁹Department of Forest Science, Seoul National University, Seoul 08826, Republic of Korea

*Correspondent: hwajung@korea.kr

A total of 527 species of birds have been recorded in Korea. We summarize the records of three genera and six species that have been newly reported in Korea, discovered through the avian monitoring programs carried out by The National Institute of Biological Resources from 2013 to 2016. These six newly recorded species are; Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*), Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*), Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*), Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*), Mongolian Lark (*Melanocorypha mongolica*) and Crested Myna (*Acridotheres cristatellus*). One Ring-necked Duck was observed on March 23, 2014 in Jungrangcheon Stream. One male Lesser Scaup was recorded on February 24, 2014 in Gyeongpoho Lagoon. A male bufflehead was first seen in Yeongrangho Lagoon on January 26, 2013. The Black-winged Kite was first observed on January 23, 2013 at the Gangseo Wetland Ecological Park. One Mongolian Lark was also recorded on May 11, 2016 and May 12, 2017 in Marado Island. The Crested Myna was first observed on April 20, 2016 in Seomando, Island.

Keywords: *Acridotheres cristatellus*, *Aythya affinis*, *Aythya collaris*, *Bucephala albeola*, *Elanus caeruleus*, *Melanocorypha mongolica*

© 2020 National Institute of Biological Resources
DOI:10.12651/JSR.2020.9.4.532

INTRODUCTION

There are 527 bird species recorded in the National List of species of Korea (NIBR, 2018). This report aims to summarize and provide formal reference for the recently reported three genera and six species of birds that have been newly recorded in the research projects by The National Institute of Biological Resources (NIBR).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

We followed Howard and Moore's Checklist of birds (Dickinson, 2003) for the classification system and nomenclature for this report. Birds were recorded in different NIBR monitoring and research surveys from 2013 to 2016. The goals of these surveys were to record occur-

rence and abundance of birds in each survey unit in Korea, during different time of years. Each species account below provides details about the timing and location of each observation. We also propose common Korean names for these newly recorded species.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Three species of North American ducks (Family Anatidae), the Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, and Bufflehead, and a Black-winged Kite were found at Han River and the east coast of Korean Peninsula during the Winter Waterbird Census. Two passerine species, Mongolian Lark and Crested Myna, were found during the survey of migratory birds in the islands in the West Sea of Korea. The details of observations of these newly recorded

birds in Korea are in the following species accounts.

***Aythya collaris* (Donovan, 1809) 북미댕기흰죽지**

A female Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) was first observed on January 13, 2014 in the downstream section of the Chungju Dam in Chungju, Chungcheongbukdo Province (Birds Korea, 2014a). On March 23, 2014, one bird was observed during the winter waterbird monitoring survey in the Jungrangcheon Stream, Seoul. It was not confirmed in Chungju on the same date, so it is unclear if it is the same individual.

The Ring-necked Duck is a diving duck species. Both males and females have protruding and angled foreheads, grey bill with broad white sub-terminal band, and a large black nail. Except for head and bill, the overall color pattern is similar to the Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*), which is much more common winter visitor in Korea. The male's head is black with purple gloss, while the female is brownish overall with paler flanks, prominent white to sandy brown eye-ring and eye-line, and whitish feathers at the base of the bill.

This species is distributed in North and Central America. It breeds in northern latitudes, including Canada, Alaska, and northern U.S., and winters in southern U.S., Mexico, and West Indies (BirdLife International, 2018).

***Aythya affinis* (Eyton, 1838) 쇠검은머리흰죽지**

On February 14, 2014, a male Lesser Scaup was first seen in Gyeongpoho Lagoon, Gangneung, Gangwondo Province (Birds Korea, 2014b). The male was also identified during the winter waterbird monitoring survey on February 24 of the same year (Byoungsoon Jang).

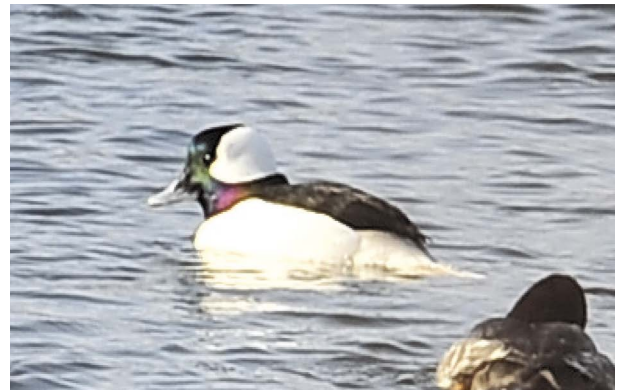
This species is very similar in form to the Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*), but the black tip of the bill is small and the head crest is slightly protruding in the Lesser Scaup. The gloss of the male's head is purple. The Great Scaup has white primaries and secondaries, while the Lesser Scaup has dark primaries and white secondaries.

The Lesser Scaup is distributed in North and Central America. They breed in midwestern Canada, western U.S. and Alaska, and winter in southern U.S., Panama and West Indies (BirdLife International, 2018).

***Bucephala albeola* (Linnaeus, 1758) 꼬마오리**

A Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) was first seen in Yeongrangho Lagoon, Sokcho, Gangwondo Province, on January 26, 2013 (NIBR, 2013). On January 12 and January 25 of 2014, a male bird was observed again in the Yeongrangho Lagoon in the "Winter Waterbird Census of Korea" (NIBR, 2014). A male was observed in the same site in the winter of 2014–2015.

The Bufflehead is one of the smallest diving duck species. The male's head is glossy black with broad white patch behind the eyes. The upperpart is black with white



flanks, secondaries, and wing coverts. The underparts are all white and the underwing is dark. The bill is pale bluish grey and the legs are bright red or orange.

This species is mainly distributed in North America, breeding in Canada and northeastern United States, and wintering in the western and southern United States, and northern Mexico. It is a common duck species in the United States, and is also recorded in Far East Russia and Japan since the 1920s (Brazil, 1991; del Hoyo *et al.*, 1992; OSJ, 2012).

***Elanus Savigny*, 1809 검은어깨매속**

***Elanus caeruleus* (Desfontaines, 1789) 검은어깨매**

The Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) was first observed on January 23, 2013 at the Gangseo Wetland Ecological Park in Gangseo-gu, Seoul. This individual was observed in the same area until March 10, 2013. Later, another juvenile bird was recorded for at a riverside park of the Namhangang River in Yeosu, Gyeonggi Province in the winter of 2014–2015. One individual was observed repeatedly in the same site on January 17, 2015 and on February 4, 2015 during the winter waterbird monitoring survey (NIBR, 2015).

The Black-winged Kite is a small raptor with pointed wings in the Family Accipitridae. The upperpart is pale gray with black shoulders and the lower part is white except for the dark underwing feathers. Face is white with a black mask. The white, unmarked tail is unique to this species among similar-sized raptors in Korea. Iris is red.

This species is distributed in Africa, India, southern China, Southeast Asia, and New Guinea. It is geographically divided into three subspecies, and the type subspecies is distributed in Africa, Iberia, and Arabia. Subspecies *vociferus* is found in India, southeastern China, Indochina, and the Malay Peninsula. Subspecies *hypoleucus* is distributed in Indonesia, the Philippines, and New Guinea (Ferguson-Lees and Christie, 2001). Each allopatric subspecies is resident in their range, with local, short distance migration or dispersal movements. We assume these



two bird are subspecies *vociferus*, which has the closest geographic distribution to the Korean Peninsula (Brazil, 2009).

Melanocorypha Boie, 1828 흰날개종다리속

***Melanocorypha mongolica* (Pallas, 1776)** 흰날개종다리

An adult Mongolian Lark (*Melanocorypha mongolica*) was first observed on May 6, 2014 in Baekryeong



Island, Ongjin-gun, Incheon (Birds Korea, 2014c), and later in the Ganwolho Reservoir, reclaimed Cheonsu Bay, Chungchungnamdo Province. And during the “Monitoring of Passage Migrants” survey, another individual was identified on May 11, 2016 and May 12, 2017 in Marado island, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province.

Head has pale brown with rufous crown and pale supercilium and central crown stripe. Lores are pale brown as the supercilium. It has black collar and rufous nape. The upper part is reddish brown, and the lower part is buff-white. The outer primaries are black, and inner primaries and secondaries are white.

The Mongolian Lark is in the family Aludidae, distributed in Transbaicalia region, Mongolia, and inland China. The northern breeding population moves south during the winter.

Acridotheres Vieillot, 1816 구관조속

***Acridotheres cristatellus* (Linnaeus, 1766)**

검은뿔찌르레기

The Crested Myna (*Acridotheres cristatellus*) was first observed on April 20, 2016, in Seomando, Ongjin-gun, Incheon. Then, three individuals were observed in Gageo Island, Sinan-gun, Jeollanamdo Province in May 2016. And on June 22, 2018, one was observed in Baega Island, Ongjin-gun, Incheon.

The Crested Myna is a large starling in Family Sturnidae. It has a distinctive black body and short crest from bill base to forehead. When flying, large white patches on the wing are clearly visible.

This species is mainly a resident of southern China, Taiwan and Indochina, and has been introduced to Japan, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia (OSJ, 2012; Robson, 2015; BirdLife International, 2018) from the cagebird trade. There are three subspecies: type subspecies in inland China, subspecies *brevipennis* in Hainan Island and Indochina, and subspecies *formosanus* in Tai-



wan. The individuals observed in Korea were considered to be subspecies *brevipennis* based on the red coloration on the base of the lower mandible, orange iris, and dense and long crest feathers on its forehead.

REFERENCES

- BirdLife International. 2018. IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 20/10/2018.
- Birds Korea. 2014a. Birds Korea's Bird News January 2014. <http://www.birdskorea.org/Birds/Birdnews/BK-BN-bird-news-2014-01.shtml>.
- Birds Korea. 2014b. Birds Korea's Bird News February 2014. <http://www.birdskorea.org/Birds/Birdnews/BK-BN-bird-news-2014-02.shtml>.
- Birds Korea. 2014c. Baekryeong Island: April 25-May 9 2014. <http://www.birdskorea.org/Habitats/Other/Baekryeongdo/BK-HA-Baekryeongdo-May-2014.shtml>.
- Brazil, M.A. 1991. The Birds of Japan. Christopher Helm, London. 466pp.
- Brazil, M.A. 2009. Birds of East Asia. Princeton University Press, Princeton. 528pp.
- del Hoyo, J., A. Elliott and J. Sargatal. eds. 1992. Handbook of the Birds of the World. Vol. 1. Lynx Edition, Barcelona. 696pp.
- Dickinson, E.C. (Ed.). 2003. The Howard & Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World. 3rd Edition. Christopher Helm, London. 1039pp.
- Ferguson-Lees, J. and D.A. Christie. 2001. Raptors of the world. Christopher Helm. London. 992pp.
- NIBR. 2013. 2013 Winter Waterbird Census of Korea. National Institute of Biological Resources, Incheon. 478pp.
- NIBR. 2014. 2014 Winter Waterbird Census of Korea. National Institute of Biological Resources, Incheon. 235pp.
- NIBR. 2015. Migration study for HPAI surveillance and winter waterbird monitoring in Korea. National Institute of Biological Resources, Incheon. 133pp. In Korean.
- NIBR. 2018. Nation list of species of Korea. National Institute of Biological Resources, online at <http://kbr.go.kr>, accessed on 4 July 2018.
- OSJ; The Ornithological Society of Japan. 2012. Check-list of Japanese Birds, 7th revised edition. The Ornithological Society of Japan. Sanda. 438pp.
- Robson Craig. 2015. Birds of South-East Asia. Christopher Helm, London. 544pp.

Submitted: May 22, 2019

Revised: November 30, 2020

Accepted: November 30, 2020