

Lobkov, E.G. 1980. Materialy po migratsiyam gagar, poganok, baklanov, chaek i chistikov vdol' vostochnogo poberezh'ya Kamchatki [Materials on migrations of divers, grebes, cormorants, gulls and alcids along eastern shore of Kamchatka]. // *Ekologiya ptits morskikh poberezhnykh* [Ecology of birds of the sea shores]. Moscow, CNIL Glavokhota RSFSR. Pp.74-86. In Russ.

Translated by Jevgeni Shergalin, edited by Oksana Lane

### 1. **Red-throated Loon (RTLO)** *Gavia stellata* Pontop.

RTLOs appear near Zhupanovo (Jupanovo) settlement (Kamchatka) in the second half of April. However, their passage is visible only by the beginning of May. Flying loons are detected infrequently, their flyway lies over the sea, and only small portion of the population can be observed directly near shores.

RTLOs usually migrate just above water, but occasionally single birds, in pairs, or in groups of 3-4 individuals fly at the altitude of up to 70 m. In 1974 the highest number of RTLOs was recorded from 12 to 19 May. During each of these days 4 hours before sunrise 3-5 birds migrated through along the seashore near Zhupanovo settlement. In the spring 1975 in 84 hours of observations in early morning hours from Pamyatnik Cape a total of 51 loons was registered, among which the RTLO dominated. Majority of them migrated through in the first half of May. The intensity of passage was the same in 1976.

Loons rest and feed at sea, but we did not see great flocks. Only occasionally loons gather together 507 individuals, but even then the birds stay at a great distance from each other. Spring migration terminates at the end of May or by the beginning of June, though we observed single loons in the coastal waters of the sea in the summer as well.

The beginning of the autumn migration is poorly expressed and we always missed its dates. Active migration in southern direction begins approximately in the end of September and continues until the end of October – beginning of November. A light passage lasts until the end of November. Loons fly by single birds, in pairs, and often in groups of 3-4 or even 6 birds. They usually fly far from the coasts, at 10-15 m and sometimes even at 60 m above water. Intensity of migrations near the coast is low. In October-November 1975 at 4 hours from sunrise we counted 1-12 loons. Approximately the same number of loons migrates during daytime hours as well. Only on 2 November 1975 during the morning observations we counted 27 RTLOs, and probably, their number was much higher, because it is impossible to identify the species with certainty at great distance. In the second half of October and in November in the collected RTLOs the moult is visible, and includes the small feathers and sometimes - the contour feathers (plumage).

### 2. **Yellow-billed Loon (YBLO)** *Gavia adamsii* Gray.

The YBLO is recorded only during the fall migration. 13 October 1972 the wounded birds were picked up by fishermen at 30 km south of Zhupanovo settlement near Karymskiy River mouth. This is the earliest record. The active migration goes on later – at the end of October and in November, and it ends by the beginning of December. The character of passage is the same, as in other loons – they fly by single birds, in pairs, in small groups of 4-6 birds, mainly far from the seacoast. In 1975 the highest number of the YBLO was registered during migration in the end of November (28 November for 4 hours from sunrise – 30 individuals).