

Babenko, V.G. 2000. Ptitsy Nizhnego Priamur'ya [Birds of Lower Amur Region]. Moscow, Prometei Press. 724 p. In Russian.

1. **Red-throated Loon** – *Gavia stellata* (Pontoppidan, 1763).

**Status.** Breeding migratory and passage species.

**Distribution.** In Lower Primurie (Amur Region) the southernmost location of this species sightings: Pil'da River, Evoron Lake (Shtil'mark, 1973; Roslyakov, 1984a), Tumnin R. mouth (our data).

**Remarks on systematics.** The bird we collected belongs to the subspecies *G.s.stellata*.

**Seasonal movements.** In the spring along the shores of Primorie the RTLOs fly by single birds and in pairs throughout the month of May (Rakhilin, 1978), in Komsomol'sk Nature Reserve in migration they appear in the first half of May (Kolbin et al., 1994), in the region of Nikolaevsk-na-Amure – at the end of May (interrogatory data).

In autumn single birds were recorded 25-26 September 1988 in Tatar Strait in the region of Datta settlement. In Komsomol'sk Nature Reserve the migration lasts from September to 1<sup>st</sup> decade of October (Kolbin et al., 1994). In Primor'ie the birds, flying in southern and south-western direction in the region of Voznesenskoe settlement were observed 27 and 30 October 1961 (Rakhilin, 1978). During the winter period (December 1972) birds stayed near sea coasts in the region of Zolotoi Cape (north-east of Primorie) (Elsukov, 1990).

**Natural habitats.** During nesting period the birds prefer to settle on small (up to 100-500 m) oligotrophic (marevye?) lakes with overgrown banks, located in the vicinity of large water bodies, to which the feeding nomadic movements are carried out (Dul'keit, Shul'pin, 1937; Yakhontov, 1977a; Roslyakov, 1984a, our data).

**Number.** Stil'mark (1973) considers RTLO as a predominant species on lakes of Udyl'-Kizin(skaya) Lowland. Roslyakov (1984a, 1986, 1989b) points that this species numbers in favourable habitats of Lower Amur Region consists of 5-8 and even 20 pairs per 1000 ha (Malyi Shantar Island, August 1982); on Shantar(skie) Island there are 60-80 pairs (here per 3-4 km of the coastal line 15 pairs were counted). A total of 200-250 pairs occur in Lower Priamur'ie. The last numbers in our opinion are low. On Mukhtel' Lake in August 1986 about 30 birds were counted (Poyarkov, Budris, 1991).

Near the sea coasts of north-eastern Priamur'ie in March-April 1972 there were 0.2 loons per 1 km of the coast line, in May-July 1.2-18.2; in August-November – 386.2, in December – 0.2 (Elsukov, 1990).

In 1996 on Mukhtel' Lake there were about 10 pairs, in the region of Nerpichij Gulf (Gulf of Nikolaya) – about 5-7 pairs. In the mouth part of Dzhapa River, and also in the channels of Orel', Chya, Orlik and Dalzha Lakes region during nesting period the average number of feeding RTLOs is 6 birds per 10 km of the boat survey route; in the upper parts of Dzhapa and Dzhuk Rivers it was lower – 1-2 birds per 10 km; the number of feeding birds on the sea shores (bays of Ekateriny, Sakhalinskiy, Schast'ya) on the average is 11 specimens per 10 km of the boat route; on rivers Amgun', Tugur, Rumnin, on Chukchagir(skoe) Lake, Udyl' and Kizi the single specimens were sighted. On Kizi Lake we discovered 1-2 pair of RTLOs and only in the eastern part of the lake, where previously, the same number of birds was recorded by Shul'pin (1936).

**Breeding.** Young birds of 10-12 days of age were discovered by Roslyakov (1986) 28 and 29 July 1982 on Shantar(skie) Islands. In the first decade of August almost feathered young stayed on the sea near the islands of this archipelago (Yakhontov, 1977a). The follicle size was 6 mm in the female we collected on 2 July 1982 on Dzhapa River.

**Feeding.** The foraging (feeding) concentrations of this species were observed in mouths of spawning rivers, where at the beginning of summer the fry of Siberian salmon and Hunchback salmon are rolling down the stream. On 8 June 1981 at the site of Ul' River inflow in Dzhapa River 3 birds stayed, 16 July 1984 in Dzhapa R. mouth – 6 birds; 23–24 June 1986, in Kol' R. mouth 20 birds were registered, 11 July 1987 in Bolshaya Iska R. mouth 3 birds were foraging. Roslyakov (1986) observed feeding concentrations of the RTLOs (20 birds). On 15 August 1982 in the region of Malyi Shantar Island during feeding at sea loons were observed both near the bank and at several kilometres from it.

Regular feeding movements during nesting period were registered through out the day (the earliest record – 4.20 am on 28 June 1986 in the region of Petrovskaya Kosa (Spit), the latest – 10 pm on 17 July 1983 on Orel' Lake).

## 2. **Yellow-billed Loon** *Gavia adamsii* (G.R.Gray, 1859).

The Yellow-billed Loon is described as a rare migrant passing by in single birds in “The list of birds of Khabarovsk Krai (Territory)” (Roslyakov, 1989a, 1995). Shul'pin (1936) makes reference to Kuznetsov, according to whose words the YBLO was killed in the fall of 1927 near Chumikan settlement. Two birds were sighted in the Gulf of Aleksandry 6 and 8 August 1986 (Poyarkov, Budris, 1991). The single birds during seasonal migrations and summer nomadic movements sometimes also appear in neighbouring regions: in Amur Region and Primor'ye (Litvinenko, Shibaev, 1965; Barancheev, 1972; Ivanov, 1976; Elsukov, 1990).