

Vartapetov, L.G. 1998. from: Ptitsy severnoi taiga Zapadno-Sibirskoi ravniny [Birds of the northern taiga of West-Siberian Plain]. Novosibirsk, Nauka. Sib. Branch of Russ. Ac. of Sc. 327 p. ISBN 5-02-031241-X. Tabl.27. Ill.9. Bibliogr: 164 titl. In Russ.

Translated by Jevgeni Shergalin, edited by Oksana Lane

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata* Pontopp.).

Red-throated Loon (RTLO) is described as a breeding, migratory and passage bird. It is rare and distributed quite irregularly. We registered it only in Kazym River valley. In addition, it is recorded as commonly nesting in Lower Elogui River in 1932-1935 [Skalon, Sludskiy, 1941]. It should be taken into account that population numbers can significantly decline with years, until extinction (disappearance) [Semenov-Tyan-Shanskiy, Gilyazov, 1991]. RTLO probably arrives at the end of May. During nesting period in the 1st half of June it was observed on large lakes amidst complex peat bogs (4). [Indices of bird abundance are given in brackets, which correspond to bird number per 10 km of shoreline or per 1 sq km of the nesting habitats]. In post-nesting period it was registered on the peat bogs in the first half of August (2), where it was sighted on small lakes.

On average, in the summer this is a rare species on “a chain-of-wet beds complex” peat bogs and large lakes amidst them (0.4 and 0.5). Population size of the Red-throated Loon in the northern taiga of West-Siberian Plain is estimated approximately at 8 (3-20 thousand) birds, its major population is located outside of floodplain bogs in combination with lakes and lesser part – along the shoreline (75 and 25%).

Popov, V.A. 1977. Gagaroobraznye [Gaviiformes]. // Ptitsy Volzhsko-Kamskogo kraja [Birds of the Volga-Kama Territory]. Moscow, Nauka Press. Pp.21-22. Tabl.20. Fig.71 Bibliogr: on 10 pages: 286-295. In Russ.

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

Eversmann (1866) considers, that the RTLO “occurs in Kazan’ Province”, “where it also rears up children”. Bogdanov (1871) writes: “...I supposedly have doubts in Eversmann’s statement, that the RTLO breeds in Kazan Province”. Based on the harvest on 12 July near Cheboksary of old male, and in Vyatka River floodplain near Mamadysh on 23 October of a young male, Ruzskiy (1893) considered that the RTLO, probably, breeds in Kazan’ Province. All subsequent investigators (Buturlin, Pershakov, Snigirevskiy, Vorontsov) considered the RTLO breeding records in the territory of Volga-Kama Territory as unconfirmed. According to the information from Bolotnikov, Efremov, Plesskiy, Prikloonskiy, Proezzhev and our observations, there are no confirmed data on the RTLO breeding in the area.

Thus, we classify the RTLO as a rarely passing bird in the Territory and should note that during the last 50 years not a single specimen was harvested.