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Crane Working Group of Eurasia
Severtsov' Institute of Ecology and Evolution Russian Academy of Science

# ИНФОРМАЦИОННЫЙ БЮЛЛЕТЕНЬ РАБОЧЕЙ ГРУППЫ ПО ЖУРАВЛЯМ ЕВРАЗИИ

## № 15

# NEWSLETTER OF CRANE WORKING GROUP OF EURASIA

## # 15

**Москва – 2020**

**Moscow – 2020**

**ISBN 978-5-85941-486-4**

Информационный бюллетень Рабочей группы по журавлям Евразии. 2020. №15. М., 246 с.

Ответственный редактор: Е.И. Ильяшенко

Рецензенты: А.Ф. Ковшарь, А.Л. Мищенко

Редакция английского текста: Б. Пфистер

Фото на передней обложке С.М. Слепцова: стерхи восточной популяции на месте миграционной остановки в Национальном природном резервате Момоге, Китай, 2007 г.

Фото на задней обложке С.М. Слепцова: стерх восточной популяции на местах гнездования в Якутии, Россия (верхнее) и Юфей Джиа: стерхи восточной популяции на месте зимовки на оз. Поянг, Китай (среднее и нижнее)

Утверждено к печати Ученым советом Института проблем экологии и эволюции им. А.Н. Северцова Российской академии наук

Newsletter of the Crane Working Group of Eurasia. 2020. #15. Moscow, 246 p.

Executive Editor: E. Ilyashenko

Reviewers: A.F. Kovshar, A.L. Mishchenko

Editing of English text: B. Pfister

Photo on the front cover by S. Sleptsov: Siberian Cranes of the Eastern population at the migration stopover in Momoge National Nature Reserve, China, 2007

Photo on the back cover by S. Sleptsov: a Siberian Crane at breeding grounds in Yakutia, Russia (upper), and by Yifei Jia: Siberian Cranes of the Eastern population at wintering grounds on the Poyang Lake (middle and lower)

Approved by Scientific Council of Severtsov' Institute of Ecology and Evolution Russain Academy of Science

# The White-naped Crane clutch with three eggs in Amur Region, Russia

**I.V. Ishchenko**

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On On 25 April 2019, near Muraviovka Village in Tambov District in Amur Region (the Muraviovka Wildlife Refuge), a White-naped Crane pair, which incubated a clutch, was sighted.

On 2 May, during the nest examination, it was found that the clutch contained three eggs.

In 2014, not far from the place of this nest, a pair with three grown chicks was observed. The question of whether the third chick was its native or whether the birds adopted a stranger chick remained open that time (Ishchenko, 2014). A new discovering confirmed the assumption that White-naped Cranes can lay and incubate more than two eggs in rare cases.

On 10 May, both birds stayed near the nest, but did not incubate the clutch. On 11 May, the crane behavior did not change.

During the nest examination it turned out that there were no eggs in the nest. The nest was trampled on; therefore, the area of the nest had increased significantly.

After careful examination, a hole with a diameter of about 10 cm was discovered in the center of the tray. It was covered by the nesting material. The hole led into a vast, water-filled cavity under the nest, inside the cavity, the eggs were lying at a depth of 20 cm.

The reason for the death of the clutch, apparently, was the following. The pair began to build a nest at a time when the swamp was still covered with ice, which is confirmed by personal observations. Obviously, the birds laid the building material on the ice directly. During the spring thaw, a cavity formed under the nest and filled with water. Deprived of solid support, the role of which the ice played, the bottom of the tray failed under the weight of the incubating bird. The eggs rolled into the hole and ended up in the water.

After unsuccessful breeding, the pair continued to stay at the territory until late July, although they did not lay repeated clutch.

# О первой в России находке кладки серого журавля с тремя яйцами

**Ю.М. Маркин**

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16 мая 2018 г. найдено гнездо серого журавля, помеченного 17 августа 2017 г. на месте предмиграционного скопления в окрестностях Окского государственного природного биосферного заповедника (ОГПБЗ) в рамках Израильско-Российского проекта по мечению серых журавлей передатчиками. Птица окольцована стандартным металлическим кольцом А223358 и цветными пластиковыми кольцами ELSA (красный-белый-черный сверху вниз) на правую ногу и GPRS-GSM передатчиком Ornitela, прикрепленным к двум белым кольцам – на левую.

**В кладке оказалось три яйца** (рис. 1).

С 1978 по 1996 гг. автором в ОГПБЗ обследована 31 кладка серых журавлей. В 30 было по два яйца, и лишь в одной кладке – одно яйцо (Маркин, 2013). Л. Уолкиншоу (Walkinschaw, 1973), суммировав данные из литературных источников по 292 кладкам серых журавлей, получил, что 278 кладок содержали два яйца, 12 – одно, и лишь в двух кладках было три яйца.

Насколько известно, это первая в России найденная кладка серого журавля, состоящая из трех яиц.

***Рис. 1. Гнездо с тремя яйцами в обводненном ольховом лесу. Фото Ю. Маркина***

***Fig. 1. Nest with three eggs in flooded alder forest. Photo by Yu. Markin***

***Рис. 2. Судя по окраске скорлупы и форме яиц, они принадлежали одной самке. Фото Ю. Маркина***

***Fig. 2. Judging by the color of the shell and the shape of the eggs , they belong to one female. Photo by Yu. Markin***

Место находки: Рязанская область, Спасский район р-н, оз. Тишь (54,44247 с.ш., 40,92274 в.д.)

Размеры яиц 1) 104,0 х 64,3 мм, 2) 101,5 х 63,8 мм, 3) 100,0 х 64,0 мм.

Судя по окраске скорлупы и форме яиц, можно предположить, что они снесены одной самкой (рис. 2).

По насиженности яиц, определенной по водному тесту, предполагаемый период вылупления – 30 мая – 4 июня.

В дальнейшем гнездо не обследовали, но осенью на местах предмиграционных скоплений эта пара встречена без птенцов.

# About the first Eurasian Crane clutch with three eggs in Russia

**Yu.M. Markin**

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On 16 May 2018 the nest of the Eurasian Crane was found. This crane was marked on 17 August 2017 at the staging area near Oka State Nature Biosphere Reserve, Ryazan Region, within the joint Russia-Israel project on tagging of cranes with transmitters. The bird was banded with a standard metal band A223358 and color plastic bands ELSA (red-white-black from up to down) on the right leg and with GPRS-GSM leg-mounted transmitter “Ornitela” – on the left leg.

**There were three eggs in the clutch of this tagged crane** (Fig. 1).

From 1978 to 1996, the author found 31 clutches of the Eurasian Crane. 30 clutches contained two eggs each, and one clutch – one egg (Markin, 2013). L. Walkinschaw (1973), adding data from literary sources on 292 Eurasian Crane clutches 278 clutches contained two eggs, 12 contained one, and only two clutches had three eggs each.

As far as I know, this Eurasian Crane clutch with three eggs is the first to be found in Russia. Location: Ryazan Region, Spassk District, Tish Lake (54,44247 N, 40,92274 E)

Egg size: 1) 104.0 x 64.3 mm, 2) 101.5 x 63.8 mm, 3) 100.0 x 64.0 mm.

Judging by the color of the shell and the shape of the eggs, it was proposed that they were laid by one female (Fig. 2).

By the incubation dates of eggs determined by the water test, the estimated hatching period was determined as 30 May – 4 June.

In the following days the nest was not examined, but in autumn at the staging area this pair was sighted without chicks.