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**PROBLEMS OF SYSTEMATICS
OF THE BUNTINGS (GENUS *EMBERIZA* L.) OF THE FSU.
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF SONGS, CALLS AND EGG COLORATION**

V.V. Leonovitch, G.V. Demina, O.D. Veprintseva

Summary

Taxonomic structure of the genus *Emberiza* is analyzed by using vocalizations and zoological characters of all species which breed in Russia and the neighboring countries (the Former Soviet Union). As a whole, the features considered here confirm previous morphological generalizations concerning subgeneric divisions (Portenko, 1960). It is proposed that the genus (an analysis of African species is not attempted here) should be divided into 12 subgenera. *E. personata* Temminck and *E. lydiae* Portenko should stand as species. Systematic status of *E. yessoensis* requires further investigation.

**DATA ON VAGRANT AND IRREGULAR PASSAGE BIRDS
IN MOSCOW REGION**

S.V. Volkov, I.S. Smetanin, R.F. Shtariov

Summary

Nine species of vagrant birds (*Egretta alba*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Cygnus olor*, *C. bewickii*, *Netta rufina*, *Hieraaetus pennatus*, *Falco cherrug*, *Calidris alba*, *Cuculus saturatus*) and seventeen species of irregular passage birds (*Gavia artica*, *Cygnus cygnus*, *Aythya nyroca*, *A. marila*, *Clangula hyemalis*, *Melanitta fusca*, *Mergus senator*, *Circus gallicus*, *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Tringa erythropus*, *Phalaropus lobatus*, *Calidris ferruginea*, *Limnocryptes minimus*, *Numenius phaeopus*, *Larus heuglini*, *L. fuscus*) were recorded in 1984—1995 in Moscow region. Time and places of meetings are provided, possible reasons of these phenomena are discussed.

**DUCKER (TACHYBAPTUS RUFICOLLIS)
IN SOUTHWESTERN TAJIKISTAN**

I.B. Preobrazhenskaya

Summary

Ducker is a background species of marsh ornithofauna of Vakhsh river lower reaches. Total population of the birds in Tigrovaya Balka Reserve is 100 couples, nesting period lasts 170 days. Fresh layings of the first generation were observed between April, 10th and May, 20th. An average laying consists of five eggs. Layings of the second generation were observed from May, 28th till July, 10th. An average second generation laying equals 3,75 eggs. Successfulness of reproduction is 52,25%. A number of peculiar traits by which the birds of that area can be characterized are listed, namely: a settled way of life among a part of adult individuals, early reproduction, the presence of as many as three generations during the nesting period.

**MORPHOLOGICAL PLASTICITY OF *AGROSTIS VINEALIS* SSP.
PLANIFOLIA (C.KOCH) TZVEL. (POACEAE)
IN ALPINE COMMUNITIES OF TEBERDA RESERVE,
THE NORTHWESTERN CAUCASUS**

N.V. Lubeznova

Summary

Agrostis vinealis ssp. *planifolia* is a rootstock grass. It occurs in different plant communities along the snow depth gradient from snow-free alpine heath to snowbeds.

Vegetative reproduction is typical for the species while sexual reproduction and seed invasions are very rare due to short growth season.

Such morphological parameters as leaf width, rhizome width and length were studied. Shoot longevity and proportion of generative shoots were observed. It was shown that productive *Geranium gymnocaulon* — *Hedysarum caucasicum* grasslands were the most favorite communities for the species. Morphological parameters decreased and ramet longevity increased from this community to stressful alpine heath and snowbeds.

SIGNIFICANCE OF SEED SURFACE STRUCTURE FOR THE SYSTEMATICS OF *PLANTAGO* L. AND *PSYLLIUM* MILL. (*PLANTAGINACEAE*)

A.B. Shipunov

Summary

Surface ultrasculpture of 70 species from two genera (*Plantago* and *Psyllium*, *Plantaginaceae*) was examined by means of scanning electron microscope. The classification of seed ultrasculpture types was suggested. The characters of seed surface ultrasculpture were evaluated and their taxonomic value was discussed.

FLORAL MORPHOLOGY OF SOME *SALVIA* SPECIES AS A REFLECTION OF ITS ADAPTATION TO POLLINATORS AND AS A BASIS FOR A GENERIC SYSTEM

E.V. Baikova

Summary

Flowers of 26 species (from nine sections) of the genus *Salvia* L. were investigated. Morphological traits of calyx, corolla and stamens were described, some of them were considered to be diagnostic for subgenera and sections. Two directions of adaptive evolution of the flower — ornithophilous and mellittophilous — were considered. Correlations in characters of corolla and stamen apparatus were shown. Rows of *S. officinalis*, *S. taraxicifolia*, *S. stenophylla* and *S. przewalski* were found to have a lot of primitive features. Flowers of sages from the following sections: *Aethiopis*, *Horminum*, *Plethiosphace*, *Calosphace*, *Hemisphace* and *Hymenosphace* are highly specialized.

NEW DATA ON THE GENUS *JUNCUS* L. IN CHINESE FLORA

V.S. Novikov

Summary

Herbarium specimens of the genus *Juncus* L. from China, kept in Botanical Institute, Russian Academy of Science (Sankt-Petersburg, LE), Moscow State University (MW), Botanical Institute, Chinese Academy of Science (Kunmin, KUN) and Hunnan University were critically revised. II species (including a newly described one) were added to the species composition of the genus: *Juncus brachypetalus* V. Krecz. et Gontsch., *J. dulongjiongensis* V. Novikov, *J. orchonicus* V. Novikov, *J. persicus* Boiss. ssp. *persicus*, *J. salsuginosus* Turcz. ex E. Mey., *J. soranthus* Schrenk, *J. hybridus* Brot. subsp. *nastanthus* (V. Krecz. et Gontsch.) V. Novikov, *J. pygmaeus* L.C.M. Richard, *J. fischerianus* Turcz. ex V. Krecz., *J. virens* Buchenau, *J. leucochlamis* Zing, ex V. Krecz. New names were given for two new species instead of previously proposed invalid ones: *J. lanpinguensis* V. Novikov and *J. yanshanuensis* V. Novikov. A number of alterations and clarifications were introduced into the genus nomenclature.