

# Birds from Transcarpathia, Ukraine, in the collections of the National Museum of the Czech Republic

## *Ptáci ze Zakarpatska na Ukrajině ve sbírkách Národního muzea v Praze, Česko*

**Jiří Mlíkovský**

Center for Historical Ornithology, K Berance 6, CZ-190 00 Praha 9, Czechia; e-mail: jmlikovsky@gmail.com

Mlíkovský J. 2024: Birds from Transcarpathia, Ukraine, in the collections of the National Museum of the Czech Republic. *Sylvia* 60: 44–50.

The National Museum of the Czech Republic, possesses 155 specimens (skins and mounts) of 63 species of birds from Transcarpathia, mostly collected during 1930–1938 when that region was a part of the then Czechoslovakia. Full list of these specimens is given here. The most important collections were made by Julius Komárek (1892–1955) in 1930–1933, Otakar Štěpánek (1903–1995) in 1937, and V. Danihelka (*fl.* 1934–1938) in 1934–1938. This paper fills a gap in the history of ornithological research in Zakarpattia and provides valuable historical data on the distribution of birds in that region. However, no species listed here are new to or rarities in the region.

Národní muzeum v Praze, Česko, vlastní 155 exemplářů (balek a dermoplastů) 63 druhů ptáků ze Zakarpatska. Většina byla ulovena v letech 1930–1938, kdy bylo ono území částí tehdejšího Československa. V této práci uvádím plný soupis těchto exemplářů. Nejdůležitější sbírky pocházejí od Julia Komárka (1892–1955) z let 1930–1933, Otakara Štěpánka (1903–1995) z roku 1937 a V. Danihelky (*fl.* 1934–1938) z let 1934–1938. Tato práce zaplňuje málo známou mezeru v historii ornitologického výzkumu Zakarpatska a přináší cenné historické údaje o výskytu ptáků v dané oblasti. Žádný ze zaznamenaných druhů však není pro danou oblast nový, ani nepatří mezi vzácné zatoulance.

**Key words:** *Aves, avifauna, historical ornithology, 20th century*

### INTRODUCTION

The territory of Zakarpattia was nearly unexplored in terms of ornithology until the early 20th century. Its avifauna was first compiled by Aleksander Grabar (1883–1959; Grabar 1931, 1932, Lugovoj 1997), and later by Fedor Iogannovič Strautman (1912–1967; Strautman 1963a, 1963b).

From 1919 to 1939 (and then for a few weeks in 1945), Transcarpathia (then called Subcarpathian Ruthenia) was an autonomous part of Czechoslovakia. During that period, the natural history of Transcarpathia was studied by various Czech naturalists (Mišanin 2022). However, their work did not result in any significant ornithological publication. Despite that, some specimens were collected in 1930–1938, of which 155 belonging to 63 species are currently deposited in the National Museum of the Czech Republic.

Significant collections were made by three persons: Julius Komárek (1892–1955), a zoologist at the Charles University and the Research Institute of Forestry, repeatedly collected in Zakarpattia during 1930–1933, mainly at Velikij Byčків; Otakar Štěpánek (1903–1995), a zoologist at the National Museum of the Czech Republic, collected in June–July 1937 in Apšinec' Forest; and V. Danihelka (*fl.* 1934–1938), a Czech teacher based at Veliki Kom'ati collected birds in that region in 1934–1938 (for details see below).

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

I reidentified and cataloged the specimens during my tenure as the research curator of birds at the National Museum in Prague from 2003 to 2018. The sequence of taxa and English and scientific nomenclature follow IOC (Gill et al. 2024). Cyrillic characters were transliterated into Latin characters using the ISO 9:1995 standard (ISO 1995). Zoological collections of the National Museum of the Czech Republic (NMP) are prefixed with “P6V”.

### Collectors

The following 12 persons were given in catalogues and on labels as collectors of specimens listed in this paper. Most probably, they collected the specimens personally in the field, but some might have obtained the specimens from other persons (*cf.* Lucas & Lucas 2014). The list of collectors is arranged alphabetically.

Danihelka V. (*fl.* 1934–1938), teacher at Veliki Kom'ati, 41 specimens from 1934–1938.

Jirsík Josef (1898–1956), Czech ornithologist, 1 specimen from 1935.

Komárek Julius (1892–1955), Czech zoologist, 11 specimens during 1930–1933 (Komárek 1942, Lugovoj 2004).

Kotek František (1912–1994), Czech taxidermist, 8 specimens during 1936–1938.

Mokrý (*fl.* 1938), 1 specimen from 1938.

Peprný Ladislav J. (*fl.* 1935–1945), Czech soldier and taxidermist, 2 specimens during 1935–1936.

Plachetka Karel (1877–1961), Czech soldier and ornithologist (Káda 1971, Hušek 2021), 1 specimen from 1931.

Pokorný A. (*fl.* 1934), 3 specimens from December 1934.

Rambousek (*fl.* 1931–1933), forester at Velikij Byčків, 2 specimens from 1931–1933.

Špaček J. (*fl.* 1936–1938), forester at Buštino, 6 specimens from 1936–1938.

Štěpánek Otakar (1903–1995), Czech zoologist, 73 specimens from June–July 1937.

Zeman P. (*fl.* 1933), engineer, lived in Praha-Bubeneč, 1 specimen from 1933.

### Localities

Ukrainian names were transliterated into Latin characters using the ISO 9:1995 standard (ISO 1995). Alternative spellings and names are given in parentheses, where also details on localities are provided (taken from original labels).

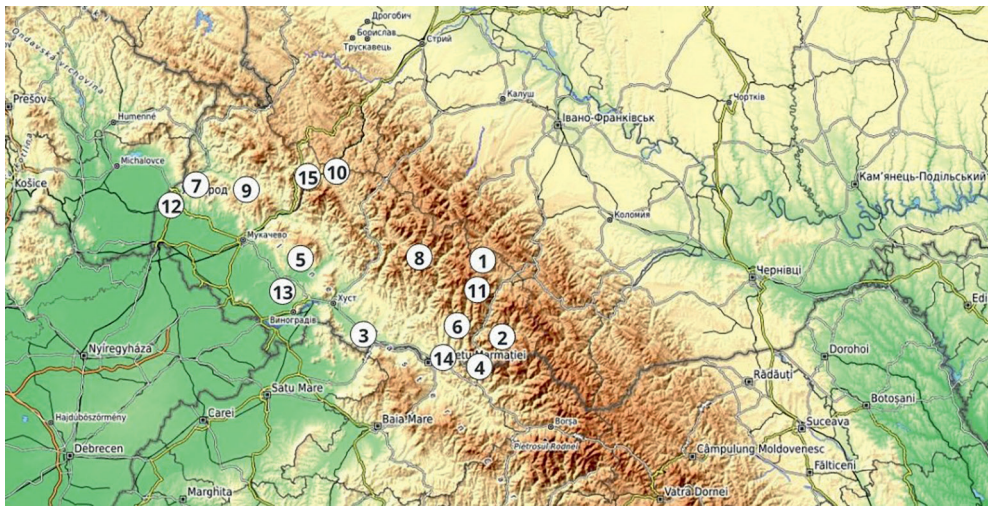
Apšinec' (Apshinets, polesí Apšinec; forest, 900–1200 m a.s.l.); 48.32°N, 24.22°E.

Bogdan (Bohdan; Bohdan u Rachova); 48.04°N, 24.36°E.

Buštino (Bushtyno; Buština); 48.05°N, 23.49°E.

Dilove (Dilove, Trebušany); 47.93°N, 24.17°E.

Īl'nicâ (Il'nytsya, Ilnice); 48.35°N, 23.08°E.



**Fig. 1.** - Localities mentioned in the text. 1 - Apšinec', 2 - Bogdan, 3 - Buštino, 4 - Dilove, 5 - Īl'nicā, 6 - Kobilec'ka Polāna, 7 - Nevic'ke, 8 - Nimec'ka Mokra, 9 - Poroškovo, 10 - Skotars'ke, 11 - Svidovec', 12 - Užgorod, 13 - Veliki Kom'āti, 14 - Velikij Byčkiv, 15 - Volovec'.

**Obr. 1.** Lokality uvedené v textu. 1 - Apšinec', 2 - Bogdan, 3 - Buštino, 4 - Dilove, 5 - Īl'nicā, 6 - Kobilec'ka Polāna, 7 - Nevic'ke, 8 - Nimec'ka Mokra, 9 - Poroškovo, 10 - Skotars'ke, 11 - Svidovec', 12 - Užgorod, 13 - Veliki Kom'āti, 14 - Velikij Byčkiv, 15 - Volovec'.

Kobilec'ka Polāna (Kobilets'ka Poliana, Kobyleckā Poljana); 48.06°N, 24.07°E.

Nevic'ke (Nevitskoye, Nevické u Užhorodu); 48.67°N, 22.38°E.

Nimec'ka Mokra (Nimetska Mokra, Německā Mokrā); 48.38°N, 23.83°E.

Poroškovo (Poroshkovo, Poroškovo); 48.67°N, 22.75°E.

Skotars'ke (Skotarskoye, Průsmyk Skotarski); 48.73°N, 23.27°E.

Svidovec' (Svydovets', Todiasko; mountain range, 1700 m a.s.l.); 48.27°N, 24.20°E.

Užgorod (Uzhhorod, Užhorod); 48.62°N, 22.30°E.

Veliki Kom'āti (Velyki Komjaty, Velké Komňaty); 48.23°N, 22.97°E.

Velikij Byčkiv (Velykyy Bychkiv, Kuzy u V. Bočkova); 47.98°N, 24.02°E.

Volovec' (Volovets, Volovec); 48.72°N, 23.18°E.

### Systematic list of species

#### **Garganey *Spatula querquedula***

Buštino (ad. ♂, 20.03.1935, Jirsík; P6V-100746).

#### **European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria***

Veliki Kom'āti (♂, 01.12.1935, Danihelka; P6V-101378).

#### **Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago***

Veliki Kom'āti (1935, Danihelka; P6V-101605).

#### **Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos***

Apšinec' (♂, 06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-003267); Apšinec' (♀, 06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-003266); Il'nytsya (23.04.1938, Kotek; P6V-101424).

#### **Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus***

Veliki Kom'āti (no date, Danihelka; P6V-003444).

#### **Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata***

Volovec' (no other data; P6V-100674).

**Black Stork *Ciconia nigra***

Zakarpattia (ad., 1933, Zeman; P6V-042924).

**Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea***

Velikiye Komnyaty (no date, VD; P6V-100491).

**European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus***

Veliki Kom'ati (2 specimens, both 13.09.1934, Danihelka; P6V-100914 and 100915).

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus***

Apšinec' (♀, 06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-100967); Apšinec' (5 pull., all 06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-100971, 100972, 100973, 100974 and 100975).

**Eurasian Goshawk *Astur gentilis***

Il'nytsya (juv. 03.01.1936, Kotek; P6V-101000); Veliki Kom'ati (1936, Danihelka; P6V-100995); Veliki Kom'ati (juv., 02.1935, Danihelka; P6V-100998); Veliki Kom'ati (juv. ♀, 24.08.1937, Danihelka; P6V-101004); unknown locality (2 ad., 12.1934, Pokorný; P6V-101002 and 101005).

**Red Kite *Milvus milvus***

Poroškovo (1936, Špaček; P6V-003659).

**Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus***

Il'nytsya (24.04.1938, Kotek; P6V-100894); Veliki Kom'ati (03.12.1936, Danihelka; P6V-100893).

**Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo***

Il'nytsya (2 specimens, both 20.04.1938, Kotek; P6V-100829, 100858); Il'nytsya (2 specimens, both 22.04.1938, Kotek; P6V-100836 and 100845); Užgorod (02.12.1935, unknown collector; P6V-100849); Veliki Kom'ati (juv., 07.1934, Danihelka; P6V-100855).

**Western Barn Owl *Tyto alba***

Veliki Kom'ati (1934, Danihelka; P6V-102317).

**Eurasian Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium passerinum***

Dilove (1933, Rambousek; P6V-003802); Nimec'ka Mokra (♀, 03.03.1938, Špaček; P6V-102272).

**Long-eared Owl *Asio otus***

Veliki Kom'ati (1934, Danihelka; P6V-3903).

**Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus***

Veliki Kom'ati (04.1934; ad.; P6V-102260).

**Ural Owl *Strix uralensis***

Buštino (♀, 28.04.1931, Plachetka; P6V-001785); Nevic'ke (juv., 07.1935, Peprný; P6V-102312); Nimec'ka Mokra (27.12.1937, Špaček; P6V-102280); Veliki Kom'ati (07.03.1938, Danihelka; P6V-108852).

**Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker *Picoides tridactylus***

Nimec'ka Mokra (15.01.1938, Mokřý; P6V-102868).

**Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocoptes medius***

Veliki Kom'ati (27.12.1937, Danihelka; P6V-102869).

**Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major***

Apšinec' (6.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-003255); Veliki Kom'ati (12.02.1934, Danihelka; P6V-102955); Velikij Byč'kiv (1930, Komárek; P6V-108706).

**White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos***

Apšinec' (2 specimens, both 06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-003253 and 003254); Velikij Byčків (ad. ♀, 1933, Komárek; P6V-108693).

**European Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis***

Skotars'ke (♂, 12.1934, Pokorný; P6V-102917).

**Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus***

Velikì Kom'āti (27.12.1937, Danihelka; P6V-102877); Velikì Kom'āti (15.01.1938, Danihelka; P6V-102893); Velikij Byčків (♀, 05.1931, Komárek; P6V-102888).

**Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor***

Poroškovo (08.03.1936, Špaček; P6V-105011); Velikì Kom'āti (26.11.1936, Danihelka; P6V-104996).

**Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius***

Apšinec' (no date, Štěpánek; P6V-003256); Užgorod (24.09.1936, Peprný; P6V-104037).

**Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica***

Velikì Kom'āti (2 specimens, both 30.12.1935, Danihelka; P6V-103240 and 103241); Velikì Kom'āti (15.01.1938, Danihelka; P6V-103238).

**Northern Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes***

"Subcarpathian Ruthenia" (01.1936, Špaček; P6V-103149).

**Western Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula***

Velikì Kom'āti (2 specimens, both 15.01.1938, Danihelka; P6V-103930 and 103931).

**Rook *Corvus frugilegus***

Velikì Kom'āti (2 specimens, both 15.01.1938, Danihelka; P6V-103161 and 103175).

**Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix***

Velikì Kom'āti (2 specimens, both 13.12.1937, Danihelka; P6V-103210 and 103211).

**Northern Raven *Corvus corax***

Kobilec'ka Polâna (no date, Komárek; P6V-002810).

**Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus***

Velikì Kom'āti (♀, 07.01.1936, Danihelka; P6V-43414).

**Coal Tit *Periparus ater***

Apšinec' (06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-104763).

**Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris***

Velikì Kom'āti (27.02.1935, Danihelka; P6V-107567).

**Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita***

Apšinec' (2 specimens, 06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-044847 and 044848).

**Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla***

Apšinec' (2 ♂♂, 06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-044587 and 044588); Apšinec' (♀, 06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-044586).

**Common Whitethroat *Curruca communis***

Apšinec' (06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-044701).

**Goldcrest *Regulus regulus***

Velikì Kom'āti (18.03.1935, Danihelka; P6V-045111).

**Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes***

Apšinec' (2 specimens, both 06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-043455 and 043456); Velikì Kom'āti (15.01.1938, Danihelka; P6V-43461).

**Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea***

Apšinec' (2 specimens, both 06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-104871 and 104872).

**Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris***

Velikì Kom'āti (27.02.1935, Danihelka; P6V-104944).

**Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris***

Velikí Kom'áti (18.03.1935, Danihelka; P6V-105161).

**Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos***

Apšinec' (juv., no date, Štěpánek; P6V-003265).

**Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus***

Apšinec' (no date, Štěpánek; P6V-003264); Velikij Byčkiv (ad., 05.1931, Komárek; P6V-108532).

**Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus***

Apšinec' (♂, no date, Štěpánek; P6V-003257), Apšinec' (♀, no date, Štěpánek; P6V-003258), Apšinec' (5 juv., no date, Štěpánek; P6V-003259, 003260, 003261, 003262 and 003263); Apšinec' (pull., no date, Štěpánek; P6V-043829); Velikij Byčkiv (1930, Komárek; P6V-108524), Velikij Byčkiv (05.1931, Komárek; P6V-043827).

**European Robin *Erithacus rubecula***

Apšinec' (2 specimens, both 06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-043492 and 043493).

**Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros***

Apšinec' (ad. ♂, 06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-043647); Apšinec' (specimen, 06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-043648).

**White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus***

Apšinec' (4 specimens, all 06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-043426, 043427, 043428 and 043429); Buštino (11.02.1937, Špaček; P6V-043425); Īl'nicâ (18.02.1938, Kotek; P6V-043430); Velikij Byčkiv (ad., no date, Komárek; P6V-108494).

**House Sparrow *Passer domesticus***

no locality (♀, 04.01.1936, unknown collector; P6V-105482).

**Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris***

Svidovec' (06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-043462).

**Dunnock *Prunella modularis***

Apšinec' (2 specimens, both 06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-043476 and 043477); Velikij Byčkiv (1930, Komárek; P6V-043463).

**Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea***

Apšinec' (5 ad. ♂♂, all 20.06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-043286, 043287, 043288, 043290 and 043292); Apšinec' (ad. ♀, 20.06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-043291); Apšinec' (2 juv., both 20.06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-043289 and 043293); Velikij Byčkiv (ad. ♂, 05.1931, Komárek; P6V-043281); Velikij Byčkiv (juv., no date, Komárek; P6V-108493).

**White Wagtail *Motacilla alba***

Apšinec' (ad. ♀, 06.06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-43238).

**Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis***

Apšinec' (6 specimens, all 06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-043314, 043315, 043316, 043317, 043318 and 043319).

**Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta***

Apšinec' (4 specimens, all 06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-043385, 043386, 043387 and 043388); Bogdan (08.10.1930, unknown collector; P6V-043384).

**Eurasian Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs***

Apšinec' (07.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-107458).

**Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla***

Velikì Kom'āti (01.12.1935, Danihelka; P6V-107394); no locality (1935, Danihelka; P6V-107393).

**Eurasian Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula***

Apšinec' (4 ♂♂, 17.06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-107669, 107670, 107671 and 107672); Velikì Kom'āti (2 ♂♂, both 27.02.1935, Danihelka; P6V-107674 and 107675); Velikì Kom'āti (♂, 13.12.1937, Danihelka; P6V-107673); Velikì Kom'āti (♀, 13.12.1937, Danihelka; P6V-107739).

**Common Linnet *Linaria cannabina***

Velikì Kom'āti (♂, 05.01.1938, Danihelka; P6V-107037).

**Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra***

Apšinec' (2 ♂♂, both 06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-106057 and 106058).

**Eurasian Siskin *Spinus spinus***

Apšinec' (3 specimens, 06.1937, Štěpánek; P6V-107286, 107287 and 107288).

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I thank Tetána Korniienko for comments on the manuscript.

---

**REFERENCES**

- Gill F., Donsker D. & Rasmussen P. (eds) 2024: *IOC World Bird List (v14.2)*. DOI: 10.14344/IOC.ML14.1.
- Grabar A. 1931: Ptastvo Podkarpatskoj Rusi (Avifauna Carpathorossica). *Podkarpatska Rus'* 8: 153–162, 181–188, 198–212.
- Grabar A. 1932: Ptactvo na Podkarpatské Rusi. In: *Sbornik Zemské muzejní společnosti v Užhorodě*. Zemská musejní společnost pro zemi Podkarpatoruskou, Užhorod: 59–86.
- Hušek J. 2021: Ornitologická sbírka Karla Plachetky v Národním muzeu. *Orlické hory a Podorlicko* 28: 3–10.
- ISO 1995: *Transliteration of Cyrillic Characters into Latin Characters – Slavic and non-Slavic Languages (ISO 9:1995)*. ISO, Genève.
- Káda Z. 1971: Ornitolog Karel Plachetka a jeho sbírka. *Acta Musei Richmoviensis* 1: 1–56.
- Komárek J. 1942: *Lovy v Karpatech*. Čin, Praha.
- Lucas A. M. & Lucas P. J. 2014: Natural history “collectors”: exploring the ambiguities. *Archives of Natural History* 41: 63–74.
- Lugovoj A. E. 1997: O rabote A. A. Grabara “Pticy Podkarpatskoj Rusi”. *Berkut* 6: 90–102.
- Lugovoj A. E. 2004: O pticah Podkarpatskoj Rusi (Zakarpat'â) v knige Ū. Komareka “Ohota v Karpatah”. *Berkut* 13: 127–130.
- Mišanin V. 2022: Naučnye i naučno-populárnye izdaniâ o Podkarpatskoj Rusi 1919–1938 godov. Kratkij istoriografičeskij obzor. *Paginae Historiae* 30: 607–620.
- Strautman F. I. 1963a: *Pticy zapadnyh oblastej USSR*. Vol. 1. Izdatel'stvo L'vovskogo universiteta, L'vov.
- Strautman F. I. 1963b: *Pticy zapadnyh oblastej USSR*. Vol. 2. Izdatel'stvo L'vovskogo universiteta, L'vov.

Došlo 2. září 2024, přijato 23. září 2024.

Received 2 September 2024, accepted 23 September 2024.