



THE THRUSH NIGHTINGALE'S (*LUSCINIA LUSCINIA*) NEST IN KARELIA, NORTH-WEST RUSSIA, IN 2014

Maria Matantseva, Sergey Simonov

Institute of Biology, Karelian Research Centre, Russian Academy of Sciences; Pushkinskaya Str., 11, Pertozavodsk, 185910, Russia

✉ M. Matantseva, e-mail: MariaMatantseva@gmail.com

Abstract. The Thrush Nightingale (*Luscinia luscinia*) is a not numerous species in the region, living here at the northern periphery of its breeding range. The recent data on its breeding in Karelia are sporadic and usually based on the registrations of anxious birds. We found a Thrush Nightingale's nest with 4 eggs in South Karelia (60°45'N; 32°48'E) in June 2014.

Key words: species range, breeding, nest site selection, nest material, eggs.

Гнездо обыкновенного соловья (*Luscinia luscinia*) в Карелии, Северо-Западная Россия, в 2014 г. - М.В. Матанцева, С.А. Симонов. - Беркут. 23 (2). 2014. - 26.06.2014 г. найдено жилое гнездо вблизи орнитологического стационара «Маячино» (60° 45' N, 32° 48' E). В нем была кладка из 4 насиженных яиц. Гнездо птицы построили в непосредственной близости (менее 2 м) от кузницы большого пестрого дятла. При посещении гнезда 30.06 оно оказалось разоренным дятлом. В стенке гнезда обнаружен обрывок пластикового шпагата.

Ключевые слова: ареал вида, гнездование, выбор места гнездования, гнездовой материал, яйца.

The Thrush Nightingale (*Luscinia luscinia*) is a not numerous species in Karelia living here at the northern periphery of the range, and therefore requiring of special control. According to the data presented in publications of 1980–1090s (Zakharova, Yakovleva, 1988; Zimin et al., 1993), the possible border of these birds' breeding range in this region reached 63° N, and it did not change significantly during the following decades (Sazonov, 2011). Currently in Karelia the singing males are regularly noted, however, the information about the reproduction is relatively rare (Sazonov, 2011) and not always confirmed by the findings of nests. Often the breeding of Nightingales is assumed on the basis of records of birds during the breeding season and specifics of their behaviour (Mikhaleva, 2013; Bublichenko, Bublichenko, 2014).

In June 2012 we have also watched an alarmed individual in the outskirts of Petrozavodsk city (61° 50' N, 34° 13' E), but the nest was not found. 26.06.2014 we found a Thrush

Nightingale's nest in South Karelia (South-Eastern Ladoga region), near the ornithological station Mayachino (60° 45' N, 32° 48' E), where nests of this species had not been found before. The closest place of such found nests is the outskirts of the Ladoga ornithological station in the Leningrad region (60° 40' N, 32° 56' E) (Noskov et al., 1981). There were 4 eggs in the nest. It was constructed in close proximity (less than 2 m) from a Great Spotted Woodpecker's (*Dendrocopos major*) forge located in a stump at the height of 80 cm. When the nest was visited 30.06.2014 it was ravaged by a woodpecker (empty eggs, specific round holes in the shell).

In general, the nesting parameters were typical for this species (Ryabitsev, 2001). The nest was located in dense thickets of willows, bird cherry trees and undergrowth of alders with a pronounced herbaceous layer of moderate density (grasses, bedstraw, dandelion, strawberry) on the shore of the Ladoga lake, on land, in the coastal base of the beach ridge, and was



a pretty deep thick-walled cup made from dry leaves, grass and small roots. Some synthetic materials were found in the wall of the nest (a piece of plastic twine). Eggs were dark olive-brown. Photos of the nest were made.

Data on the specifics of the nest construction were included in the analyzed material on the grant of President of Russian Federation for state support of young Russian scientists – candidates of sciences, project № МК-3599.2015.4.

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