

## Birds and their conservation in Rason Special Economic Zone, Democratic People's Republic of Korea

### Dear Editors

Forktail 33 included a paper on the birds of the Rason Special Economic Zone in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (Moore 2017), which provided details on the first formal bird surveys of this area. In the discussion of source material for comparative purposes, the author states 'Based on our review of easily-accessible literature, predominantly Tomek (1999,2002) and Science & Technology (2011) ...'. The phrase 'easily-accessible' is notable, for the Tomek papers are in *Acta Zoologica Cracoviensia* while the Science and Technology paper is in Korean (which the author NM speaks). However, a paper in English published in the Korean Journal of Ornithology on Bird Records from the Rajin-Sonbong Free Economic and Trade Zone; Democratic People's Republic of Korea (Edwards *et al.* 2003), i.e. exactly the same area as Moore's survey area, is completely overlooked. This paper draws together opportunistic records made by the authors (separately) during visits to the area in 1996, 1997 and 2001, as well as providing a discussion of the conservation issues relevant to that period. Four species recorded in this paper are not included in the checklist given in Appendix 1 to Moore (2017), specifically Japanese Robin *Larvivora akahige*, Rufous-tailed Robin *L. sibilans*, Bluethroat *Cyanecula svecica* and Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica* (listed as Sooty Flycatcher). A number of records for species that Moore (2017) lists as scarce in his Appendix 1 are also included, such as Swan Goose *Anser cygnoid*,

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*, Snowy-browed Nuthatch *Sitta villosa* and Eurasian Siskin *Spinus spinus*, but none of these accounts provides any evidence contrary to Moore's abundance estimates. As far as is known, Edwards *et al.* 2003 is not available online, but should any reader be interested, a hard copy (or a pdf version) can be supplied from the contact details below.

### References

- Edwards, P. J., Pertwee, N. & Garland, P. (2003) Bird records from the Rajin-Sonbong Free Economic and Trade Zone; Democratic People's Republic of Korea. *Korean J. Ornithol.*: 10: 25–50.
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