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OBSERVATIONS ON BIRDS IN NORTH EASTERN CHINA

ESPECIALLY THE MIGRATION
AT PEI-TAI-HO BEACH

I. GENERAL PART (1951)
AXEL M. HEMMINGSEN

II. SPECIAL PART (1968)
AXEL M. HEMMINGSEN
and J. A. GUILDAL

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With compliments from Dr. Axel M. Hemmingsen.

FOREWORD

SPECIALLY WRITTEN FOR THIS HONGKONG-BOUND VOLUME

He is fortunate indeed who can turn to advantage a mishap in life's adventure. Dr Axel M. Hemmingsen got stranded in North China when the Japanese, by their wanton attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, embroiled the whole Pacific region in World War II. As a Dane, though restricted in his freedom, he was not interned like the rest of us. He found comfort in the study of birds which keep the timeless tenor of their way while men go mad in fratricidal war.

Peitaiho Beach near Chinwangtao, where the Great Wall of China finally reaches the sea, has received the attention of other ornithologists. But never has a single man with such a rare combination of scientific knowledge and field experience been able to explore its bird population almost continuously for the better part of four years. Speaking as a bird lover who has spent more than twenty summers in this attractive seaside resort, I found in Dr Hemmingsen's "Observations" much that I missed and even did not think of looking for. His GENERAL PART (1951) especially has been a revelation of how much a well-trained scientist can see beyond the horizon of the non-professional.

That Dr Axel Hemmingsen should have dedicated his second volume to the late Dr George D. Wilder (1869-1946) is a fine tribute to a former worker in this field and a friend with whom I collaborated in writing *Birds of Northeastern China* (1938). It gave much pleasure to Dr Wilder's family and many friends.

In the GENERAL PART the reader will find valuable remarks on the effect on bird life of such factors as the physical features of land and sea, weather, temperature, season and so on. The chapter on "Birds in the Life of the Chinese People" makes fascinating reading with its notes on Methods of Capture, Trick Birds, Falconry, Cormorant Fishery, the Whistling Pigeons of Peking, Pigeons trained to thief Granaries, etc. with many half-tone illustrations by Hedda Hammer and others.

In the second SPECIAL PART (1968), we are on more common ornithological ground. Here Dr Hemmingsen, in systematic manner, summarizes the studies of his predecessors, and adds thereto his own observations. The latter are of great value for they cover the full 12-month year at Peitaiho in a more thorough-going manner than was possible to his predecessors.

In short the Author has filled in many gaps in our knowledge, already considerable on North China bird life. In several ways he has gone beyond that to produce a remarkable work which will find its place on the bookshelves of all bird lovers.

Dr Axel Hemmingsen's work has inspired the Hong Kong publishers, Vetch and Lee Limited, to bring out a new revised edition of *Birds of Northeastern China*, by Wilder and Hubbard (Peking 1938), and a book entitled *Adventures with Birds in North China*. The latter incorporates Dr Wilder's 'Migration Notes' which Dr

Hemmingsen lists in his bibliographies and some other hitherto unpublished papers of Wilder's on birds.

Northeast China is now well represented in English ornithological literature. The first intensive studies were by LaTouche at Chinwangtao, then by Wilder and Hubbard at Peking and Peitaiho, followed by Shaw's *Birds of Hopei Province*, and by Hemmingsen's two volumes modestly entitled "Observations".

The territory covered—along the 40th parallel which runs across the Peking Plain and the seacoast at Peitaiho and Chinwangtao—is a migration crossroad for the vast number of birds passing to and from their breeding grounds in Siberia and Kamchatka. The bird lover interested in these regions now has considerable material on which to base his studies.

HUGH W. HUBBARD

Hong Kong, April 1969

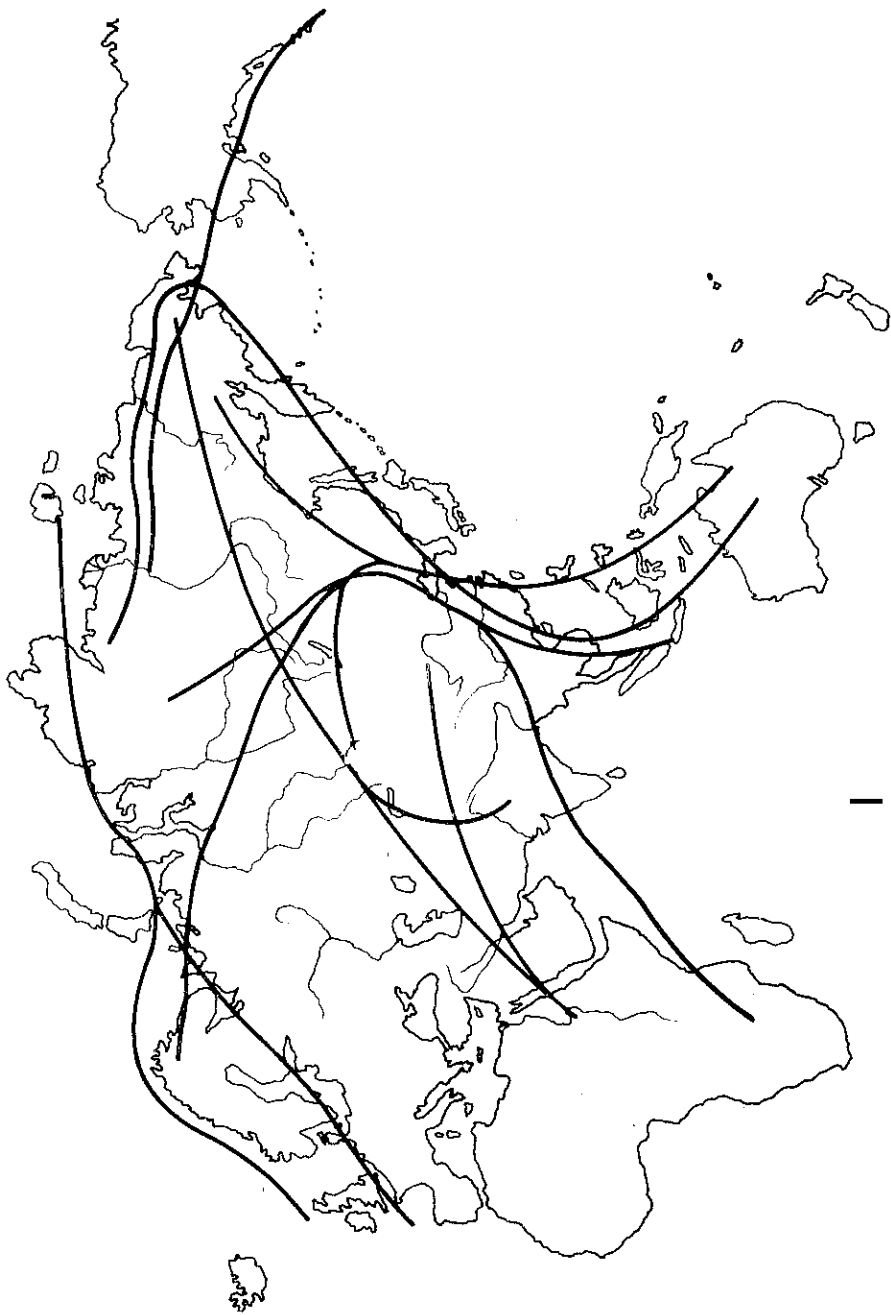
TWO BIRD MIGRATION MAPS

See overleaf

ADDENDA ET ERRATA

In addition to those which appeared in *Spolia zool. Mus. havn.* **11** (1951) page 15; **28** (1968) pages 11 and 314, and the loose-leaf *Supplementary Additions and Corrections* printed in Hong Kong (1968), here follow a few more to Vol. **28**.

- p. 9 1. 4 from foot. *For* 23, 630 *read* (JPRS 23, 630, 1964)
1. 4 from foot. *For* 1967 *read* second printing 1967
- p. 84 centred heading, 1. 2. *For* **Palus** *read* **Parus**
- p. 314 par. 3, l. 3. *After* DAVID *comma, and add* are mentioned.
- p. 315 after CHENG, T. H. (1955 and 1958), *insert* CHENG, T. H. (1967): *China's Economic Fauna—Birds*. Edited by CHENG TSO-HSIN. Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS: 23, 630, 1964). Washington, D.C., second printing 1967. English translation of *Chung-kuo chung-chi tung-wu chih—Niao-lei*, Science Publishing Society, Peking. First edition 1963



TWO BIRD MIGRATION MAPS

of the routes passing through North Eastern China. Redrawn with slight modifications by C. C. LEE.

The routes are with some exceptions used both in spring and autumn. They are to be considered merely as main directions, yet to be studied in detail, rather than as narrowly defined routes. Some of those derived from TUGARINOV are likely to virtually follow the coast line more closely than they do in the map. And his different maps in *Priroda* (1930) do not show exactly coinciding routes. Permissions to use these maps were obtained from the German and American Editors, respectively, of the following works from which the maps were taken. A.M.H.

A. J. TUGARINOV (1931): Die Wanderungen der nordasiatischen Vögel (The migrations of the North Asiatic birds). *Vogelzug* 2, 55-66, see also *Priroda* (Nature) 1930, No. 5, 507-543 (Russian).

2. *China's Economic Fauna: Birds*. Edited by CHENG TSO-HSIN 鄭作新, Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS: 23, 630, 1964), Washington, D.C., second printing July 1967, p. 30. (English translation of

Chung-kuo ching-chi tung-cu chih—Niao-lei
中國經濟動物誌鳥類. Science Publishing Society, Peking 1963. A second edition of this Chinese original appeared in Peking, 1968).

