

Ryšánek's collection of birds from the High Tatras Mountains, Slovakia, from 1935–1938

Ryšánkova zbierka vtákov z Vysokých Tatier z rokov 1935–1938

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Abstract. *J. Ryšánek collected in 1935–1938 at Štrba, the High Tatras Mts, Slovakia, birds for the National Museum in Prague, Czechia. This collection, which includes 758 skins of 77 species, has not been published yet, although it represents a welcome addition to the knowledge of the avifauna of this part of the High Tatras Mts. The collected rarities include Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*) and Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*).*

Key words: *ornithology, history, faunistics, Slovakia*

Introduction

The avifauna of the Tatra Mountains has been studied since the 19th century (Matoušek 1961, Mošanský 1974, Kocian 1996, 1998, Kocian et al. 2010). First comparisons of historical and modern data indicate that the composition of the avifauna changed over time (Kocian 1998). Studies of long-term changes in faunal composition depend on reliable historical data (Mlíkovský 2009). Museum collections are a foremost source of historical and long-term datasets (Remsen 1995, Joseph 2011, Lister & Climate Change Research Group 2011). Here I report on an overlooked collection of birds made by J. Ryšánek in 1935–1938 in the region of Štrba, Poprad District, Slovakia (49.07°N, 20.07°E). The collection is deposited in the National Museum (NMP), Praha, Czechia. The identity of the collector remains unknown, but presumably he was hired by the NMP as a collector, because the NMP focused in the 1930s in building-up its collection of birds from the whole territory of the then Czechoslovakia. The NMP currently houses

758 skins of birds collected by Ryšánek, which provide significant data of the avifauna of the High Tatra Mountains in the 1930s.

Ryšánek collected birds for the NMP from June 1935 to September 1938, although his collecting effort considerably varied during that period (Table 1). Original collector's labels were preserved in most specimens. The locality was usually given as “Štrba”, as “Vysoké Tatry” or in German as “Hohe Tatra”. Ryšánek mostly did not list altitude if he gave “Štrba” as the locality, but he mostly added the altitude when he gave Vysoké Tatry or Hohe Tatra as the collection locality.

Ryšánek's collection is deposited in the NMP, where I re-identified all skins during 2004–2010. Below I list all wild birds supplied by Ryšánek to the NMP. Not listed are two cage birds and two birds from other parts of Slovakia (Bratislava and Žilina), where Ryšánek is also given as collector on museum labels attached to these specimens.

Abbreviations used: NMP – Národní muzeum, Praha (National Museum, Prague), s.d.

Table 1. Specimens collected by Ryšánek in the High Tatra Mountains.

Tab. 1. Kožky zbierané Ryšánkom vo Vysokých Tatrách.

Month / Year	1935	1936	1937	1938	?	Sum
1			43	6		49
2			41	18		59
3		42	1	65		108
4		4	1	12	2	19
5				28	3	31
6	1	32	38	5		76
7		51	34	1		86
8		72	27	2		101
9	46	37	19	1		103
10			14			14
11	53	15	3			71
12	6	17	2			25
?		3	7	2	4	12
Sum	106	273	230	140	9	758

– unknown date, VT – Vysoké Tatry Mountains. Altitudes are given after the locality name, e.g. VT-900 means ‘Vysoké Tatry Mountains, altitude 950 m a.s.l.’.

The following list is arranged systematically. The taxonomy and species sequence follows Kovalik et al. (2010). Numbers after each family and species name indicate number of specimens kept in NMP. The dates are given as DD.MM.YYYY. Unknown parts of the dates are replaced with „xx“ for days and months and with „xxxx“ for the years. For example, „xx.xx.1936“ means that the bird was collected on an unknown date in 1936. Each date refers to a specimens, if not specified otherwise. If more than a single specimen of a given species were collected on the same day, the number of specimens is given in parentheses after the date (i.e. „2x“ for two specimens). Notes and remarks are added where appropriate. Data on the distribution of bird species were derived from standard literature (Ferianc 1977, 1979, Šťastný et al. 1987, Danko et al. 2002).

Systematic list

Phasianidae (3)

Tetrastes bonasia (2): Štrba – 27.3.1936, 6.11.1937.

Note: Both skins are from adult males.

Perdix perdix (1): Štrba – 8.3.1936.

Accipitridae (27)

Pernis apivorus (1): Štrba – 29.6.1935.

Circus cyaneus (1): Štrba – s.d.

Buteo buteo (8): Štrba – xx.xx.1936, 11.10.1937, 18.10.1937, 19.10.1937, 24.10.1937, 29.10.1937, 21.3.1938, 23.3.1938.

Buteo lagopus (12): Štrba – xx.3.1938 (3x), 20.3.1938 (4x), 25.3.1938, 28.3.1938, 8.4.1938, 12.04.1938; VT-1000 – 2.12.1935. Remarks: Rough-legged Buzzard is a regular winter visitor in Slovakia in numbers fluctuating inter-annually (Ferianc 1977, Kropil & Danko 2002). Eleven specimens collected in March – mid April 1938 indicate that this species was particularly common at Štrba in that year.

Aquila pomarina (5): Štrba – 20.7.1936, 24.7.1936, 1.9.1936, 6.10.1937 (2x). Note: The bird of 1.9.1936 is a young taken on that day from a nest at Valcerová near Štrba.

Falconidae (5)

Falco tinnunculus (4): Štrba – 17.7.1937 (2x), 28.9.1937; VT-1100 – 20.9.1935.

Falco vespertinus (1): Štrba – 16.8.1936. Note: juvenile bird. Remarks: See also Štěpánek (1936). Red-footed Falcon breeds in lowland Slovakia (Ferianc 1977, Danko & Chavko 2002). The juvenile bird collected by Ryšánek at Štrba in mid August already might have been on migration.

Rallidae (2)

Crex crex (2): Štrba – 17.8.1936, 2.9.1936.

Scolopacidae (4)

Scolopax rusticola (2): Štrba – 18.4.1938, 21.4.1938.

Calidris canutus (1): Štrba – 22.8.1936. Remarks: See also Štěpánek (1936). Knot is a rare autumnal migrant in Slovakia (Ferianc 1977, Danko 2002).

Philomachus pugnax (1): Štrba – 21.03.1938.

Columbidae (1)

Columba palumbus (1): Štrba – 15.9.1936.

Cuculidae (3)

Cuculus canorus (3): Štrba – 13.8.1936,
26.8.1936, 9.7.1937.

Alcedinidae (1)

Alcedo atthis (1): VT-1000 – 13.11.1935.

Picidae (28)

Dendrocopos major (20): Štrba – 10.7.1936,
13.7.1936, 20.7.1936, xx.7.-8.1.1936,
15.8.1936, 21.8.1936, 26.6.1937, 3.7.1937
(2x), 6.7.1937, 13.7.1937, 21.7.1937,
28.11.1937, 4.1.1938, 6.2.1938, 8.3.1938,
20.3.1938, 30.3.1938; Štrba-1100 –
24.11.1935; VT – 17.5.1938.

Dryocopus martius (5): Štrba – 7.3.1936,
9.7.1936, 31.8.1936, 6.7.1937; VT –
17.11.1935.

Picus viridis (3): Štrba – 14.9.1936, 28.3.1938,
18.4.193x.

Laniidae (25)

Lanius collurio (24): Nižná Šuňava 25.5.1938;
Štrba – 10.6.1936, 14.6.1936, 13.7.1936,
14.7.1936, 24.7.1936, 26.7.1936, 2.8.1936,
3.8.1936, 6.8.1936, 13.8.1936, 14.8.1936,
1.9.1936, 5.9.1936, 9.7.1937, 31.7.1937,
1.8.1937 (2x); Štrba-1300 – 22.5.1938 (2x);
Važec-900 – 4.6.1938; VT – s.d., 15.5.1938;
VT-1000 – 23.9.1935.

Lanius excubitor (1): Štrba – 29.7.1937.

Corvidae (29)

Garrulus glandarius (18): Štrba – 12.7.1936,
14.7.1936, 18.7.1936, 19.7.1936, 26.7.1936,
13.8.1936, 14.8.1936, 15.8.1936, 24.8.1936,
26.8.1936, 4.9.1936, 7.9.1936, 14.9.1936,
xx.xx.1937 (4x), 2.7.1937.

Pica pica (2): Štrba – 21.3.1938; VT –
27.11.1935.

Nucifraga caryocatactes (7): Štrba – 5.12.1937,
16.9.1937, 18.9.1937, 11.3.1938, 28.8.1938,
3.9.1938; Štrba-1100 – 30.9.1935.

Corvus cornix (2): Štrba – 5.3.1936; VT-900
– 27.9.1935.

Bombycillidae (4)

Bombycilla garrulus (4): Štrba – 8.11.1935,
12.3.1938, 13.3.1938; VT – 14.12.1935.

Paridae (147)

Poecile palustris (2): Štrba – 3.12.1936; VT-
1100 – 25.11.1935.

Poecile mantanus (9): Štrba – 12.3.1936,
6.9.1936, 20.11.1936, 14.12.1936,
14.3.1938, 18.3.1938, 29.3.1938; VT –
21.1.1937; VT-1000 – 17.11.1935.

Periparus ater (33): Štrba – 4.3.1936, 7.3.1936,
20.3.1936, 20.11.1936, 22.11.1936,
21.1.1938, 1.2.1938, 6.2.1938, 7.2.1938,
23.2.1938, 25.2.1938 (3x), 1.3.1938,
4.3.1938 (2x), 5.3.1938, 7.3.1938, 9.3.1938,
11.3.1938, 12.3.1938, 21.3.1938; VT –
18.1.1937, 25.1.1937, 28.1.1937, 9.2.1937,
18.2.1937; VT-1000 – 19.9.1935, 26.9.1935,
16.11.1935, 22.11.1935, 30.11.1935,
2.12.1935.

Lophophanes cristatus (86): Štrba – 4.5.xxxx,
9.3.1936, 11.3.1936, 16.3.1936, 17.3.1936,
18.3.1936, 21.3.1936, 23.3.1936, 21.7.1936,
24.7.1936, 25.7.1936, 18.8.1936, 6.9.1936,
8.9.1936, 13.9.1936, 17.11.1936, 18.11.1936,
21.11.1936, 21.2.1937, 17.6.1937,
22.8.1937, 26.8.1937, 28.8.1937, 2.1937,
4.9.1937, 16.1.1938, 31.1.1938, 2.2.1938,
7.2.1938, 21.2.1938, 25.2.1938 (2x),
6.3.1938 (2x), 11.3.1938 (2x), 12.3.1938
(2x), 13.3.1938 (3x), 14.3.1938, 15.3.1938,
16.3.1938 (2x), 20.3.1938, 29.3.1938;
VT – 18.1.1937 (3x), 25.1.1937 (4x),
28.1.1937 (3x), 5.2.1937, 9.2.1937 (2x),
13.2.1937 (3x), 18.2.1937 (2x); VT-900 –
8.5.1938, VT-1000 – 12.9.1935, 14.9.1935
(2x), 18.9.1935, 19.9.1935, 20.9.1935,
24.9.1935, 21.11.1935 (3x), 26.11.1935,
29.11.1935, 16.9.1937, 20.12.1937; VT-
1200 – 19.11.1935, 15.9.1935 (2x); VT-
19.11.1935.

Parus major (3): Štrba – 29.1.1938, 3.2.1938,
21.3.1938.

- Cyanistes caeruleus* (14): Štrba – 6.3.1936, 21.11.1936, 16.12.1936; VT – 18.1.1937 (2x); VT-1000 – 14.11.1935 (2x), 16.11.1935, 17.11.1935, 18.11.1935, 20.11.1935, 23.11.1935; VT-1100 – 13.11.1935, 22.11.1935.
- Alaudidae (14)**
Galerida cristata (6): Štrba – 5.3.1937; VT – 28.1.1937, 13.2.1937; VT-900 – 25.9.1935, 2.12.1935; VT-1000 – 19.11.1935.
Lullula arborea (2): Štrba – 26.7.1936, 17.3.1938.
Alauda arvensis (6): Štrba – 9.6.1936, 24.6.1936, 18.7.1936, xx.xx.1937, 12.7.1937; Mengusovce-850 – 5.6.1938.
- Hirundinidae (5)**
Hirundo rustica (5): Štrba – 1.8.1936, 3.8.1936, 18.6.1937, 7.7.1937, 8.7.1937.
- Aegithalidae (21)**
Aegithalos caudatus (21): Štrba – 15.3.1936, 19.3.1936, 22.11.1936, 5.12.1936, 6.12.1936 (2x), 14.3.1938 (3x), 15.3.1938, 16.3.1938, 31.3.1938, 24.3.1938; VT – 25.1.1937 (3x), 5.3.1938; VT-1000 – 16.11.1935, 19.11.1935, 24.11.1935; VT-1100 – 27.11.1935.
- Phylloscopidae (15)**
Phylloscopus trochilus (3): Štrba – 23.8.1937; VT-900 – 15.9.1935, 27.9.1935.
Phylloscopus collybita (11): Štrba – 28.3.1936, 31.3.1936, 3.6.1937, 13.6.1937, 21.7.1937 (2x), 1.9.1937, 5.9.1937, 6.9.1937; Lučivná-750 – 16.5.1938; VT-1100 – 24.9.1935.
Phylloscopus sibilatrix (1): Štrba – 3.8.1937.
- Acrocephalidae (3)**
Acrocephalus palustris (3): Štrba – 9.6.1937, 15.6.1937, 18.6.1937.
- Sylviidae (3)**
Sylvia curruca (3): Štrba – 30.8.1936, 1.9.1937 (2x).
- Regulidae (18)**
Regulus regulus (18): Štrba – 3.3.1936, 5.3.1936, 9.3.1936, 4.12.1936, 18.1.1937, 28.1.1938, 11.3.1938; VT – 18.1.1937 (2x), 25.1.1937 (3x), 5.2.1937 (2x); VT-1100 – 30.11.1935; VT-1300 – 25.9.1935 (2x).
- Troglodytidae (3)**
Troglodytes troglodytes (3): Štrba – 16.6.1937, 22.7.1937, 24.8.1937.
- Sittidae (1)**
Sitta europaea (1): Štrba – 3.11.1937.
- Certhiidae (37)**
Certhia familiaris (37): Štrba – 7.3.1936, 18.3.1936, 19.8.1936, 20.8.1936, 1.9.1936, 6.9.1936, 17.11.1936 (2x), 18.11.1936, 22.11.1936, 13.12.1936, xx.xx.1938, 10.2.1938, 25.2.1938, 6.3.1938, 11.3.1938; VT – 18.1.1937, 25.1.1937 (4x), 28.1.1937, 5.2.1937 (4x); VT-1000 – 16.9.1935, 18.9.1935, 30.9.1935, 22.11.1935, 25.11.1935, 29.11.1935, 30.11.1935; VT-1100 – 22.11.1935.
- Sturnidae (4)**
Sturnus vulgaris (4): 7.3.1936, 16.6.1937, 19.4.1938, 20.4.1938.
- Turdidae (26)**
Turdus viscivorus (11): Štrba – 23.3.1936, 10.7.1936, 11.7.1936, 26.7.1936, 7.8.1936, xx.xx.1937, 4.10.1937, 13.10.1937, 25.10.1937, 20.3.1938; VT-1000 – 20.11.1935.
Turdus philomelos (9): Štrba – 6.6.1936 (2x), 7.6.1936, 11.6.1936, 13.7.1936, 25.7.1936, 26.7.1936, 13.8.1936, 9.6.1937.
Turdus pilaris (4): Štrba – 12.7.1937, 23.10.1937; VT – 9.2.1937; VT-1200 – 23.11.1935.
Turdus merula (1): Štrba – 1.9.1936.
Turdus torquatus (1): Štrba – 22.3.1936.
- Muscicapidae (87)**
Erithacus rubecula (13): Štrba – 26.3.1936, 16.6.1936, 18.7.1936, 15.8.1936, 19.8.1936, 9.9.1936, 17.9.1936, 24.4.1937, 25.7.1937,

- 9.8.1938; VT-900 – 1.6.1937; VT-1100 – 17.9.1935, 27.9.1935.
- Phoenicurus ochruros* (19): Štrba – 14.6.1936, 18.7.1936, 1.8.1936 (2x), 14.8.1936, 26.8.1936, 27.8.1936, 3.8.1936, 4.8.1936, 3.9.1936, 23.6.1937, 3.8.1937, 3.9.1937, 20.4.1938; VT-900 – 14.9.1935, 30.9.1935; VT-1000 – 17.9.1935, 23.9.1935.
- Phoenicurus phoenicurus* (1): Štrba – 2.5.xxxx.
- Saxicola rubetra* (32): Štrba – s.d., 10.6.1936, 13.6.1936 (2x), 14.6.1936, 15.6.1936, 11.7.1936 (2x), 12.7.1936, 15.7.1936, 17.7.1936, 26.7.1936, 1.8.1936, 5.8.1936, 6.8.1936, 10.8.1936 (3x), 15.8.1936, 19.8.1936, 23.8.1936, 24.8.1936, 25.8.1936, 29.8.1936, 5.9.1936, 3.8.1937, 22.8.1937, 25.8.1937; VT – 14.5.1938, VT-800 – 9.5.1938, VT-900 – 21.9.1935; VT-950 – 22.5.1938.
- Oenanthe oenanthe* (9): Štrba – 11.6.1936, 28.6.1936, 15.7.1936, 19.7.1936, 7.8.1936, 29.8.1936, xx.xx.1938; Štrbské pleso – 5.6.1938; VT-900 – 8.5.1938.
- Monticola saxatilis* (1): Štrba – 1.8.1937. Note: juvenile bird. Remarks: This record indicates breeding at Štrba in 1937.
- Muscicapa striata* (12): Štrba – 15.7.1936, 13.8.1936, 16.8.1936, 17.8.1936 (2x), 18.8.1936, 20.8.1936, 13.6.1937, 22.6.1937, 24.6.1937, 26.7.1937, 21.7.1937.
- Cinclidae (11)
- Cinclus cinclus* (11): Lučivná-800 – 23.5.1938, 26.5.1938; Štrba – 13.3.1936, 2.8.1937, 28.9.1937, 15.10.1937, 15.7.1938; VT – xx.xx.1937, 8.5.1938; VT-900 – 12.5.1935; VT-1000 – 15.11.1935.
- Passeridae (4)
- Passer montanus* (4): Štrba – 8.12.1936; VT-900 – 1.12.1935; VT-1000 – 16.11.1935, 29.11.1935.
- Prunellidae (1)
- Prunella modularis* (1): Štrba – 21.4.xxxx.
- Motacillidae (62)
- Motacilla cinerea* (11): 4.9.1936, 21.7.1937, 1.8.1937, 2.8.1937 (2x), 3.8.1937 (3x), 26.8.1937, 3.5.1938, 4.6.1938; VT-1000 – 18.9.1935.
- Motacilla alba* (31): Štrba – 26.3.1936, 30.3.1936, 4.4.1936, 8.6.1936, 14.7.1936 (2x), 5.8.1936, 10.8.1936, 13.9.1936, 6.2.1937, 7.6.1937, 14.6.1937, 16.6.1937 (2x), 27.6.1937, 29.6.1937, 8.7.1937, 9.7.1937, 19.7.1937, 20.7.1937, 21.7.1937, 5.8.1937, 26.8.1937, 27.9.1937, 4.10.1937, 23.4.1938; Štrba-900 – 25.5.1938, 31.5.1938 (2x); VT-900 – 20.9.1935, 26.9.1935.
- Anthus trivialis* (20): Štrba – 3.6.1936 (2x), 7.6.1936, 11.6.1936, 13.6.1936, 18.6.1936, 20.6.1936, 13.6.1937, 28.6.1937, 24.7.1937, 31.7.1937, 12.5.1938, 18.5.1938; VT-800 – 10.5.1938; VT-1100 – 22.9.1935, 29.9.1935.
- Fringillidae (122)
- Fringilla coelebs* (20): Štrba – 29.3.1936, 3.4.1936, 19.6.1936, 12.7.1936, 23.7.1936, 24.7.1936, 26.7.1936, 4.8.1936, 10.9.1936, 9.6.1937 (3x), 10.6.1937, 14.6.1937, 1.5.1938, 6.5.1938; Štrbské pleso-1300 – 2.6.1938; VT-900 – 16.9.1935; VT-1000 – 24.11.1935, 27.11.1935.
- Serinus serinus* (4): Štrba – 14.8.1936, 5.7.1937, 19.7.1937; Štrba-950 – 20.5.1938.
- Carduelis chloris* (2): Lučivná-950 – 19.5.1938; Štrba – 12.6.1936.
- Carduelis spinus* (3): Štrba – 8.9.1936, 17.6.1936, 18.6.1936.
- Carduelis carduelis* (13): Štrba – 15.6.1936, 3.9.1936 (2x), 13.9.1936, 24.6.1937, 6.7.1937, 24.8.1937, 26.8.1937, 2.9.1937, 28.3.1938; VT – 18.2.1937; VT-1000 – 18.9.1935, 28.9.1935.
- Carduelis flammea* (2): Štrba – 25.2.1938 (2x).
- Carduelis cannabina* (18): Štrba – 11.3.1936, 16.3.1936, 21.3.1936, 4.4.1936 (2x), 10.6.1936, 12.6.1936, 15.6.1936, 17.7.1936, 22.8.1936, 28.8.1936, 17.6.1937, 3.7.1937, 2.5.1938; Štrba-950 – 26.5.1938; VT-900 – 24.9.1935; VT-1000 – 14.9.1935, 17.9.1935.
- Loxia curvirostra* (32): Štrba – 25.11.1936 (2x), 16.7.1936, 23.7.1936, 25.7.1936, 16.8.1936, 17.8.1936, 30.8.1936, 31.8.1936 (2x), 2.9.1936 (2x), 7.9.1936, 26.6.1937; VT – 25.1.1937 (2x), 28.1.1938 (6x), 13.2.1937 (4x), 5.2.1937, 9.2.1937 (3x), 18.2.1937.

Pyrhula pyrrhula (27): Štrba – 19.3.1936, 30.8.1936, 10.9.1936, 13.9.1936, 14.9.1936, 16.9.1936, 9.9.1936 (2x), 26.1.1937 (2x), 9.6.1937 (2x), 30.8.1937 (2x), 1.9.1937, 2.9.1937, 5.9.1937, 6.9.1937, 15.10.1937, 5.3.1938 (2x), 22.4.1938 (2x), 23.4.1938; VT – 14.5.xxxx; VT-1000 – 28.11.1935; VT-1100 – 25.11.1935.
Coccothraustes coccothraustes (1): Štrba – 3.8.1937.

Emberizidae (44)

Emberiza citrinella (44): Štrba – 8.11.1935, 17.11.1936, 7.12.1936, 8.12.1936, 11.12.1936, 12.12.1936, 15.12.1936, 16.12.1936 (2x), 2.3.1936, 16.3.1936, 19.3.1936, 25.3.1936, 28.3.1936, 8.6.1936, 23.7.1936 (3x), 26.7.1936, 2.8.1936, 29.8.1936, 15.2.1937, 20.2.1937, 22.2.1937, 23.2.1937, 24.2.1937, 9.3.1938, 10.3.1938; Štrba-900 – 27.5.1938; VT – s.d., 25.1.1937, 9.2.1937 (3x), 18.2.1937; VT-900 – 19.9.1935, 21.9.1935 (2x), 12.11.1935, 25.11.1935, 26.11.1935, 27.11.1935, 28.11.1935, 30.11.1935.

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Súhrn

V rokoch 1935 – 1938 zbieral J. Ryšánek vo Vysokých Tatrách v oblasti Štrby vtáky pre Národné múzeum v Prahe. Táto zbierka, ktorá číta 758 kožíek 77 druhov vtákov, dotiaľ nebola publikovaná. Ryšánkova zbierka predstavuje vítaný príspevok k poznaniu tejto časti Vysokých Tatier. Medzi zaujímavé nálezy patrí sokol kobcovitý (*Falco vespertinus*) a pobrežník hrdzavý (*Calidris canutus*).

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