

A new subspecies of Pale Sand Martin, *Riparia diluta* (Sharpe & Wyatt), from the Altai and Middle Siberia (Aves: Hirundinidae)

V.M. Loskot

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Riparia diluta gavrillovi subsp. n. is described from the Altai and Middle Siberia.

V.M. Loskot, Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, Universitetskaya nab. 1, St.Petersburg 190034, Russia.

Gavrilov & Savchenko (1991) in a revision of Sand Martin, *Riparia riparia* (L.), from Kazakhstan and Middle Siberia restored the species status of Pale Sand Martin, *R. diluta* (Sharpe & Wyatt, 1893). They found also that the nominotypical subspecies, *R. d. diluta*, breeds in southern and south-eastern Kazakhstan. As compared with *R. d. diluta*, birds which "inhabit the foothills of the western Altai and further east to the middle parts of Lena River and Cisbaikalia are larger, with somewhat darker upperparts and a browner and wider chest-band". These authors suggested that northern birds belong to a separate subspecies, which, if it does not belong to the form *taczanowskii* Stegmann, 1925, should be given a name. Subsequently, Goroshko (1993) has shown that the subspecies *taczanowskii* belongs to *R. riparia* and not to *R. diluta*. My examination of six syntypes of *R. riparia taczanowskii* in the collection of Zoological Institute, St.Petersburg (ZISP) has confirmed this conclusion.

Hence, a scientific name should be given to the northern subspecies of *R. diluta* outlined but not named by Gavrilov & Savchenko (1991).

Riparia diluta gavrillovi subsp. n.

Holotype. ♀, ad, **Russia**, near Krasnoyarsk (56°03'N, 92°50'E), 4.VI.1908, A. Tugarinov (ZISP, 115877/10-924).

Paratypes. **Russia:** near Krasnoyarsk, 2 ♂, ad, 25.VI.1888, M. Kibort (ZISP, 115874), 23.V.1909, A. Tugarinov (ZISP, 115878/10-24); 2 ♀, ad, 10.VI.1888, M. Kibort (ZISP, 115875), 22.V.1908, A. Tugarinov (ZISP, 115883/10-924); 2 juv., 17.VIII.1911, A. Tugari-

nov (ZISP, 115879/10-924), 1.IX.1929, K. Judin (ZISP, 115880/2-930); Krasnoyarsk Terr., Minusinsk Distr., Abakan Steppe, juv., 25.VII.1899, M. Menzbier's coll. (ZISP, 115881); Irkutsk Prov., Nizhneudinsk, 3 juv., 16.VII.1901, P. Gorbarchuk (ZISP, 115870, 115871, 115872); S. Altai, Yuzhno-Chuyskiy Mts., Kyzyl-Chyn River valley, ♀, ad, 30.V.1974, I. Neufeldt (ZISP, 162614/434-974); **South Kazakhstan:** Badam River near Tchimbent (= Chimkent or Shymkent), ♀, ad, passing bird!, 15.V. N. Severzov (ZISP, 115888).

Description. As in other subspecies of *R. diluta*, sexual dimorphism in plumage coloration and dimensions is not developed. Adult birds (including holotype) are similar to *R. d. diluta*, but differ in the darker upperparts, especially back, rump, and tail coverts. Brown chest-band is also darker, wider and somewhat clear-cut. Martins in juvenile plumage ($n = 6$ from the vicinity of Krasnoyarsk, Abakan and Nizhneudinsk) have also noticeably darker upperparts and as a rule more intensely rufous margins on the tips of the upper wing coverts and on the outer webs and tips of tertials, as compared with the birds from SE Kazakhstan.

Length (mm). Holotype. Wing 103.4; tail 51.6; tail notch 6.3; tarsus 9.8; bill: from skull 9.6, from the forehead feathers 6.3, from nares 4.3; bill width on the level of forehead feathers 4.1. Museum specimens from Middle Siberia are larger than specimens from SE Kazakhstan: wing length ($\bar{x} \pm m$, mm) 103.3 ± 0.25 ($n = 85$), tail length 51.1 ± 0.26 ($n = 50$) against 99.7 ± 0.94 ($n = 10$) and 46.4 ± 0.72 ($n = 10$) respectively (Gavrilov & Savchenko, 1991, p. 40, table 3). The data on the wing length and body mass of live adults and yearlings also evidence that birds from Middle Siberia ($n = 234$) are

larger than those from SE Kazakhstan (n = 321) (Gavrilov & Savchenko, 1991, p. 39, table 2).

Gavrilov & Savchenko (1991) noted that safe determination of a subspecies on one specimen is not always possible. It should be added that in such a case the subspecies identification is possible only if the specimen is compared with carefully selected samples of birds in similar plumage.

Distribution. Northern part of species breeding area, from Kemerovo Province and foothills of the western Altai and further east to the middle parts of Lena River and Cisbaikalia, south up to the southern Altai and Tuva.

Etymology. The subspecies is named after Dr. E.J. Gavrilov, Institute of Zoology, Almaty, Kazakhstan, who was the first to note that specimens of *R. diluta* from SE Kazakhstan differ from those from Middle Siberia.

Remarks. Specimens of *R. diluta* from Transbaikalia are not represented in the collection examined and I could not check the differences between *R. d. gavrilovi* and *R. d. transbaykalica* Goroshko, 1993. It should be noted only that Goroshko (1993) has compared his material collected in SE Transbaikalia with birds from Middle Siberia (Kemerovo Province, Tuva, Angara River) identified by him as *R. d. diluta* (Loskot & Dickinson, 2001). According to Goroshko's description, *R. d. transbaykalica* is larger, has longer and wider bill, darker upperparts with reddish (not yel-

lowish) tint and brown (not grey) forehead, crown and ear-coverts.

Passing birds of *R. d. gavrilovi* subsp. n. are recorded from eastern Kazakhstan, foothills of western Tien-Shan (Gavrilov & Savchenko, 1991). A topotype of *R. diluta*, ♀, ad, collected by N. Severzov on May 15 on the Badam River near Chimkent (ZISP 115888) belongs undoubtedly to this subspecies.

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