

JOSEF MUSÍLEK'S COLLECTION OF CANADIAN BIRDS IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUM, PRAHA, CZECH REPUBLIC

Jiří Mlíkovský

Department of Zoology, National Museum, Václavské náměstí 68, 115 79 Praha 1, Czech Republic

Josef Musílek (1885-1941) was a Czech ornithologist who – as a soldier of the Czechoslovak Army – crossed Asia on the Trans-Siberian Railway and visited Canada on his return-way from Asia to Europe (see Musílek 1924, 2006, Šteidler 1937, Lemberk & Mlíkovský 2006). He reached Canada on 21 June 1920 in Vancouver and left it on 21 July 1920 in Halifax. He crossed Canada by train, but he spent most of time in the military camp in Valcartier (he wrote Valcartiers) at the city of Quebec, Quebec Province, where he stayed from 27 June to 18 July 1920 (see Šteidler 1937, Musílek 2006, Lemberk & Mlíkovský 2006).

During his stay at Valcartier, Musílek observed and collected birds and bird eggs (Musílek 1924, Mlíkovský 2004, 2006). His collection of birds and bird eggs from Asia and Canada was obtained by the National Museum (Národní muzeum; NMP) in Praha, Czech Republic, from Musílek's daughters Hana Bendová and Ilona Michálková in 1961 (see also Mlíkovský 2004, Mlíkovský & Stýblo 2006). It bears accession number 86/1961. A list of his collection of Canadian birds, which has never been published so far, is presented below. All specimens were identified by the present author.

The nomenclature and the sequence of taxa follow Dickinson (2003). Inventory numbers are listed in brackets (all bear a prefix 'P6V').

The work was supported, in part, by the grants of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic Nr. DE06P04OMG008 and MK00002327201.

Localities

Lucerne, British Columbia, Canada [52.87°N, 118.55°W]

Valcartier, Quebec, Canada [46.88°N, 71.48°W]

Systematic list

Scolopacidae

Actitis macularius: Valcartier 08.07.1920 [ad. ♂; 014595].

Picidae

Picoides villosus: Valcartier 11.07.1920 [juv. ♂; 014681].

Tyrannidae

Tyrannus tyrannus: Valcartier 06.07.1920 [004776].

Vireonidae

Vireo olivaceus: Valcartier 02.07.1920 [♂; 014683], 08.07.1920 [♂; 014684].

Bombycillidae

Bombycilla cedrorum: Valcartier 06.07.1920 [ad. ♂; 014700], 08.07.1920 [ad. ♂; 014701].

Hirundinidae

Hirundo rustica: Valcartier 13.07.1920 [juv.; 004774].

Alaudidae

Eremophila alpestris: Valcartier 15.07.1920 [ad. ♂; 014445].

Parulidae

Dendroica striata [*Dendroica vigorsii*]: Valcartier 11.07.1920 [ad. ♀; 014687]. Musílek (1924) erroneously identified this specimens as a juvenile *Dendroica vigorsii* (= *Dendroica pinus*).

Dendroica tigrina: Valcartier 12.07.1920 [ad. ♂; 014686].

Dendroica palmarum: Valcartier 13.07.1920 [juv.; 014688].

Geothlypis trichas: Valcartier 06.07.1920 [ad. ♂; 014689], 01.07.1920 [ad. ♀; 014690]. Musílek (1924: 231) stated that he collected the female on 2 July, but his original label attached to the specimen bears a date 1 July.

Wilsonia pusilla: Lucerne 22.06.1920 [♂; 014691], Valcartier 08.07.1920 [F ; 014692].

Emberizidae

Melospiza georgiana: Valcartier? [ad.; 103308]. I found in Musílek's collection this unidentified and unlabeled specimen, which was not mentioned by Musílek (1924).

Spizella passerina: Valcartier 08.07.1920 [ad. ♀; 014682], 10.07.1920 [juv.; 103307].

Poecetes gramineus: Valcartier 04.07.1920 [014685].

Discussion and conclusions

Josef Musílek's collection of Canadian birds deposited in NMP contains 20 specimens from 15 species, which were obtained by Musílek between 22 June and 15 July 1920 at Lucerne and at Valcartier (see also Musílek 1924, Mlíkovský 2006). All registered species are well known to occur in the regions of collection (cf. Godfrey 1966, Cyr 1995, Gauthier & Aubry 1995).

Souhrn

Sbírka Josefa Musílka uložená v Národním muzeu v Praze obsahuje 20 exemplářů z 15 druhů ptáků, které Musílek získal během své cesty Kanadou v roce 1920. Pro bližší údaje o Musílkově cestě viz Šteidler (1937), Musílek (2006) a Lemberk & Mlíkovský (2006); k jeho ornitologické činnosti v Kanadě viz Musílek (1924) a Mlíkovský (2006).

Literature

Cyr A., 1995: Atlas saisonnier des oiseaux du Québec. Sherbrooke: Presses de l'Université de Sherbrooke, viii + 712 pp.

Dickinson E.C., ed., 2003: The Howard and Moore Complete checklist of the birds of the world. 3rd ed. London: Christopher Helm, 1039 pp.

Gauthier J. & Aubry Y., eds., 1995: Les oiseaux nicheurs du Québec. Québec: Service Canadien de la Faune, xviii + 1295 pp.

Lemberk V. & Mlíkovský J., 2006: Život ornitologa Josefa Musílka (1885-1941) [The life of ornithologist Josef Musílek]. In: Mlíkovský J. & Lemberk V. (eds.): Josef Musílek – český ornitolog a legionář na Sibiři [Josef Musílek – Czech ornithologist and legionary in Siberia]: 7-24. Pardubice: Východočeské muzeum. [In Czech.]

Musílek J., 1924: Ornith. pozorování z okolí Quebecu, (vých. Kanada) [Ornith. observations from the vicinity of Quebec, (eastern Canada)]. Věda Přírodní 5: 156-159, 227-232. [In Czech.]

Mlíkovský J., 2004: Oologická sbírka Josefa Musílka (1885-1941) v Národním muzeu v Praze [Oological collection of Josef Musílek (1885-1941) in the National Museum in Praha]. In: Vanková J. (ed.): Panurus 14: 53-65. Pardubice: Východočeské muzeum. [In Czech.]

Mlíkovský J., 2006: Ornitologické působení Josefa Musílka v Kanadě [Ornithological activity of Josef Musílek in Canada]. In: Mlíkovský J. & Lemberk V. (eds.): Josef Musílek – český ornitolog a legionář na Sibiři [Josef Musílek – Czech ornithologist and legionary in Siberia]: 177-179. Pardubice: Východočeské muzeum. [In Czech.]

Šteidler, F. 1937: Pěší pluk 9. Karla Havlíčka Borovského [Infantry 9 of Karel Havlíček Borovský]. Praha: Naše záloha, 487 pp. [In Czech.]