

Records of Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) in Provideniya, Providensky District, Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, Russia.

by Christophe Gouraud

During two calls at Provideniya - the administrative center of Providensky District, Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, Russia, to get clearance on the ship from the Russian authorities I observed several Eurasian tree sparrows (40 on the 17 September 2015 and 8 on the 9 September 2016, full checklist available at <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S25473286> and <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S32223163>, respectively). Although I could not take any picture, I observed the birds at a very close range (few meters only) and for long minutes so I am certain about the identification.

Provideniya is located at 64°25' N / 173°13' W and therefore is about 1300 km northeast of the known range of the species (Brazil 2014:446, del Hoyo & Collar 2016:732 and Summers-Smith 2017). This place is rather rarely visited and birding trip reports nearly inexistent.

Beside the two observations reported herein, I could not find any other record of this species that far North except the one from Roy and Lorraine Ingleston on the 21 June 2010, also at Provideniya (number of birds unspecified, see the checklist at <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S6682432>).

As the three observations mentioned here were made during the summer, I do not know if this population is present the whole year around in Provideniya or if it migrates further south for winter. If so, maybe this population is mixing at winter with resident birds on the known range and is therefore undetected.

According to the range of the 11 different subspecies recognized in *Passer montanus* the Provideniya's population belongs most likely to the nominate one.

#### References:

Brazil, M. (2014) - Birds of East Asia. Helm Field Guides. Bloomsbury, Christopher Helm. 528 p.

del Hoyo, J. & Collar, N. J. (2016) - HBW and BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World. Volume 2: Passerines. Lynx Edicions. 1013 p.

Summers-Smith, D. (2017) - Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D.A. & de Juana, E. (eds.). *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/60946> on 10 July 2017).