



## The dating of *Ornitologičeskij Věstnik*", a Russian ornithological journal (1910-1918)<sup>1</sup>

Jiří Mlíkovský

Department of Zoology, National Museum, Václavské náměstí 68, CZ-115 79 Praha 1, Czech Republic;  
e-mail: jiri\_mlikovsky@nm.cz

**Abstract.** The dates of publication of all issues of the *Ornitologičeskij Věstnik*" (1910-1918) are listed.

**Key words.** Dating, ornithological journals, historical ornithology, Russia.

### INTRODUCTION

The *Ornitologičeskij Věstnik*" was an important Russian ornithological journal, published in Moscow from 1910-1918. It was edited and published by Grigorij Ivanovič Polákov (1876-1939), a significant Russian ornithologist (Konstantinov & Šiškin 1999), from 1910-1917, while the last issue was edited by Mihail Aleksandrovič Menzbir (1855-1935). The journal contains descriptions of numerous new taxa and the dating of its parts is thus of considerable interest.

The journal was published under the name *Орнитологический Вѣстникъ*. This name is transliterated into the Latin script as *Ornitologičeskij Věstnik*", following the currently valid transliteration standard ISO 9:1995 (adopted in Russia as GOST-2002). After the spelling reform of the Russian language in 1918, the journal title is transcribed as *Орнитологический Вестник*, i.e. *Ornitologičeskij Vestnik* (transliterated according to the ISO 9:1995 = GOST-2002 systems).

Volumes 1-7 of the *Ornitologičeskij Věstnik*" had a French (*Messenger Ornithologique*) and a German (*Ornithologische Mitteilungen*) subtitles. In volume 8, the German subtitle was replaced with an English subtitle (*Ornithological Review*). Due to this, this journal has been often cited in non-Russian literature under its French or German subtitle (often abbreviated as "Mess. orn." or "Orn. Mitt.").

Four issues per year were published as a standard, but issues 3+4 of volume 2, and issues 3+4 of volume 8 were combined. The pagination of volumes 1-3 was somewhat confusing, because contents and pages with advertisements were sometimes paginated,

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1 urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:8B15F7A8-042F-4BE0-B6FF-975954A6E32C

sometimes not. However, no scientific papers are influenced by this pagination system. No notable pagination problems occurred in volumes 4-8.

## DATING

The date of publication of each issue was included in the end matter, usually, though not always, inserted between the last page with “scientific” contents and the first page with advertisements. Dickinson (2011) tabulated these dates, but overlooked that most dates used in the journal are Julian (“Old-Style”) dates and presented them as Gregorian (“New-Style”) dates. Thus, his table of publication dates of the *Ornitologičeskij Věstnik* is largely incorrect.

In issues 1-2 of the volume 1, the day-dates are given as “1/14 [month]”, which Dickinson (2011) misinterpreted as “1–14 [month]”. However, the notation means that the issue was published on 1 [month] of the Julian calendar = 14 [month] of the Gregorian calendar (see Mlíkovský 2010 for a comparison of Julian and Gregorian calendars). In all subsequent issues, the dates were given in the Julian calendar only, which is clearly indicated there in both Russian (“ст. ст.” [= “st. st.”]) and German (“a. St.”). In the first two issues of volume 8, the German text was replaced with an English text. Dickinson (2011) overlooked the Russian and German explanations and accordingly listed all these dates as from the Gregorian calendar, but correctly listed the dates for the first two issues of volume 8, where the explanation was given in English.

Corrected dates of publication of each issue of *Ornitologičeskij Věstnik* are given in Table 1. Exact date of publication is missing for the double-issue 3-4 of volume 8. This double-issue was edited by Mezbir, who explained the circumstances of this change in a preface (“Отъ редакциѣ”) published on an unpaginated leaf and inserted after the front matter of the double-issue. He said that Polâkov’s deteriorating health did not allow him to continue editing and publishing *Věstnik* and that he (Menzbir) agreed to edit the remainder of volume 8. He signed this preface on 2 April 1918 (Julian calendar) = 15 April 1918 (Gregorian calendar), which is the not-before date for the publication of this double-issue.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Konstantinov V.M. & Šiškin V.S., 1999: Grigorij Ivanovič Polákov, 1876-1939 [Grigorij Ivanovič Polákov, 1876-1939]. – In: Flint V.E. & Rossolimo O.L. (eds.): Moskovskie ornitologi [Moscow ornithologists]: 361-374. Moskva: Izdatel'stvo Moskovskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta.

**Tab. 1. Dates of publication of *Ornitologičeskij Věstnik*" (1910-1918). See text for explanation. Date-OS = date in Julian calendar (as given in the journal); Date-NS = date in the Gregorian calendar (recalculated). Issues which were published later than in the scheduled year are printed in bold.**

Volume	Issue	Pages	Year	Date-OS	Date-NS
1	1	1-72	1910	1 Mar	14 Mar
1	2	73-156	1910	1 May	14 May
1	3	157-244	1910	25 Sep	8 Oct
1	4	245-304	1910	4 Dec	17 Dec
2	1	1-82	1911	22 Jan	4 Feb
2	2	83-211	1911	8 Jun	21 Jun
2	3/4	212-375	1911	15 Oct	28 Oct
3	1	1-97	1912	11 Feb	24 Feb
3	2	99-196	1912	21 Apr	4 May
3	3	197-260	1912	10 Oct	23 Oct
3	4	261-330 + [i-vi]	1912	20 Dec	<b>2 Jan 1913</b>
4	1	1-80	1913	5 Mar	18 Mar
4	2	81-134	1913	4 May	17 May
4	3	135-242	1913	4 Nov	17 Nov
4	4	243-389	1913	<b>18 Jan 1914</b>	<b>31 Jan 1914</b>
5	1	1-102	1914	12 Mar	25 Mar
5	2	103-163	1914	21 May	3 Jun
5	3	165-241	1914	17 Sep	30 Sep
5	4	243-309	1914	8 Nov	21 Nov
6	1	1-86	1915	10 Jan	23 Jan
6	2	87-206	1915	19 Mar	1 Apr
6	3	207-269	1915	8 Oct	21 Oct
6	4	271-318	1915	25 Nov	8 Dec
7	1	1-68	1916	26 Jan	8 Feb
7	2	71-131	1916	2 Apr	15 Apr
7	3	139-200	1916	20 Oct	2 Nov
7	4	203-264	1916	15 Dec	28 Dec
8	1	1-70	1917	22 Apr	5 Mar
8	2	73-142	1917	29 Apr	12 May
8	3/4	143-213	1917	<b>&gt;2 Apr 1918</b>	<b>&gt;15 Apr 1918</b>

