Two Sighting Records of the Black-capped Kingfisher (*Halcyon pileata*) on Oshima Ooshima Island in Hokkaido, Northern Japan

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Oshima Ooshima Island (41°30' N, 139°22' E), an uninhabited volcanic island, is located in the neritic waters of the Sea of Japan about 50 km off the southwest coast of Hokkaido. The island is 8.39 km² in area, and 16 km in coastal length. Three prominent peaks, Mt. Era (737 m), Mt. Kiyobe (722 m), and Mt. Kanpo (648 m), are present.

On 29–30 May 1993, one Black-capped Kingfisher was observed at Aidomari, a small inlet located in the southwest part of Oshima Ooshima Island. It was seen feeding on the rocky shore and resting on top of rocks and on the middle terrace of rocky cliffs (Fig. 1-A). On the third day, the bird disappeared.

A Black-capped Kingfisher carcass was also found in a col at an elevation of about 600 m between Mt. Kiyobe and Mt. Era on 25 June 1994 (Fig. 1-B). The bird died probably due to exhaustion during its northward migration since there were no external injuries. Judging from the decaying condition of the Black-capped Kingfisher, it died probably a month before it was found. It measured 65.0 mm in culmen length, 126.7 mm in wing length, 15.1 mm in tarsus length, and 85.2 mm in tail length.

Until now, twelve sighting records of the Black-capped Kingfisher (*Halcyon pileata*) have been reported in Hokkaido: Lake Shikaribetsu in October 1964 (Yamada 1989) and on 3 June 1966 (Kiyosu 1980), Lake Shinonome in June 1965 (Yamada 1989), Aza Kutsugata on Rishiri Island on 28 May 1971 (Kiyosu 1980) and on 9 June 1993 (Anon. 1993), Hinode Town in Muroran City on 10 May 1986 (Yamada 1989), Teuri Island on 14 May 1985 (Terasawa 1986), Onishika in Kodaira Town on 29 May 1987 (Yamada 1989), Aza Yamagaru in Hamatonbetsu Town on 15 June 1973 (Yoshida unpubl. data),

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Fig. 1. Black-capped Kingfishers observed on Oshima Ooshima Island.

A: Resting on the middle of a cliff on 29 May 1993. B: A carcass found at an elevation of 600 m on 25 June 1994 (Specimen No. 9401 of the Samani Provincial Museum).

Sorachi District during May–June 1979 or in 1980 (detailed sighting date and place are unknown, but the third author examined the preserved skin specimen), Oshima Ooshima Island on 29–30 May 1993 (present study) and on 25 June 1994 (present study).

The earliest and latest sighting dates within all of the calendar years were 10 May at Muroran City and October at Lake Shikari-betsu, respectively. Six sighting records were reported along the Japan Sea coast of the western side of Hokkaido, one along the Pacific coast of the northeast side of Hokkaido, one along the Okhotsk coast of the northeast side of Hokkaido, and the remaining four in the inland of Hokkaido. The northernmost sighting records were on Rishiri Island, in May 1971 and in June 1993. One of the northward migration routes of the Black-capped Kingfisher may be an island-to-island route from Oshima Ooshima Island, via Okushiri and Teuri Islands, to Rishiri Island.

In southern Japan, the Black-capped Kingfisher was regularly seen in early summer

from the Ryukyu Islands in Okinawa Prefecture, via Tsushima Island in Nagasaki Prefecture, to Hegura Island in Ishikawa Prefecture (Brazil 1991). Furthermore, nesting holes of the bird were found on Tsushima Island, where eggs were present (Kanouchi 1986, Kanouchi unpubl. data), and at Gotsu City in Shimane Prefecture in July 1983, where copulation and food loading behaviors were seen (Ohata 1983). However, these nesting holes have not been used again since the first observation of the nesting holes at the above two sites.

At present, the Black-capped Kingfisher still can not be categorized as a summer visitor, due to insufficient sighting records. However, the bird in Japan seems not to be a non-breeding vagrant, as described by Forshaw and Cooper (1985). More information is needed to determine the distribution and migration patterns of the bird in Hokkaido and the rest of Japan.

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北海道、渡島大島で観察されたヤマショウビン二例

北海道、渡島大島の北風泊で1993年5月29-30日に一羽のヤマショウビンが観察された。海岸に面した岩の上で索餌したり、崖の途中で休息したりしていた。

もう一羽は、1994年6月25日に清部岳（標高722m）と江良岳（標高737m）の鞍部（標高約600m）で死体として発見された。死後約一ヶ月を経過していると考えられた。

北海道におけるこれまでのヤマショウビンの発見例は12例有り、このうち6例が日本海沿岸域、1例が太平洋沿岸域、1例がオホーツク海沿岸域、そして4例が北海道の内陸部であった。特に日本海沿岸域で

は、渡島大島で2例、鬼鹿で1例、天売島で1例、利尻島で2例であることから、渡島大島-(奥尻島)-天売島-利尻島に至る飛び石づたいの北上渡り経路があるのではないかと考えられた。

近年の日本での本種の観察としては、沖縄での越冬例、そして対馬や島根県での巣穴の発見と繁殖行動の観察例が知られているものの、なおわが国における本種の分布や渡りの特性を確定するには北海道も含めて情報が不足している。

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