

LOMONOSOV MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Biology



Pavel Kvartalnov

**BIRDS AND MAMMALS
OF ZVENIGOROD BIOLOGICAL STATION
IN WINTER**

Manual for international students

2nd edition

Moscow 2017

**BIRDS AND MAMMALS
of Zvenigorod Biological Station
in winter**

Pavel Kvartalnov

The aim of this booklet is to give introductory information about the diversity of birds and mammals active in winter months in forests, river valleys and near human settlements in area of Zvenigorod Biological Station of Moscow State University to a person unfamiliar with nature of European Russia. Mainly commonest animals are included whom someone can meet during short-term excursions. For a better identification a reader should use a more specialized literature.

Descriptions and sketches of birds and mammal and their traces are based on author's experience and on pictures in L. Svensson (2009) and A.N. Formozov (2006). Descriptions of bird calls are based on L. Svensson (2009) and C.M. Perrins (1979).

Transliterations of Russian names of birds and mammals are placed in square brackets.

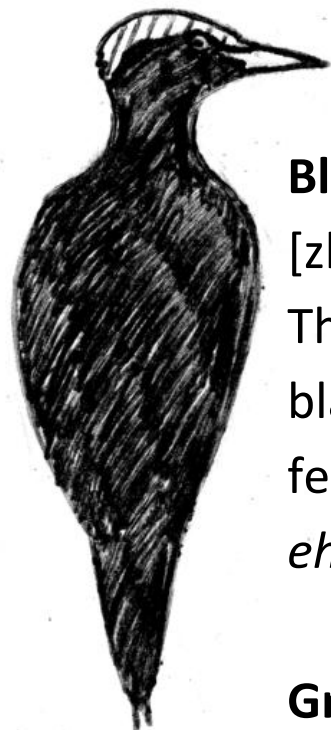
Literature

Formosov A.N. (2006). *[Naturalist's Guide]*. – Moscow: URSS.

Perrins C.M. (1979). *British Tits*. – London: William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd.

Svensson L. (2009). *Collins Bird Guide*. – London: Harper Collins Pub.

Woodpeckers family – Picidae



Black Woodpecker – *Dryocopus martius*

[zhelna]

The largest woodpecker, nearly crow-sized. All-black except red crown in males or red nape in females. Call a loud “krrück krrük krrük” or “kllii-eh”. Uncommon, mainly in forest.

Great Spotted Woodpecker –

Dendrocopos major

[bol'shoy pyostriy dyatel]

Commonest medium-sized woodpecker. Adult birds lack red crown, only male has red nape. Dark-red undertail feathers are characteristic. White patches on wings. Call a sharp “kick!”.



White-backed Woodpecker –

Dendrocopos leucotos

[belospinniy dyatel]

Uncommon, mainly in river valleys. Medium-sized, with white back, lacks white patches on wings. Rosy undertail feathers. Only male has red crown. Call “byück”.



Middle Spotted Woodpecker –

Dendrocopos (Dendrocoptes) medius

[srednii pyostriy dyatel]

Uncommon in forest. Undertail feathers rosy. All birds have red crown. Call a weak “kick”.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker –

Dendrocopos (Dryobates) minor

[maliy pyostriy dyatel]

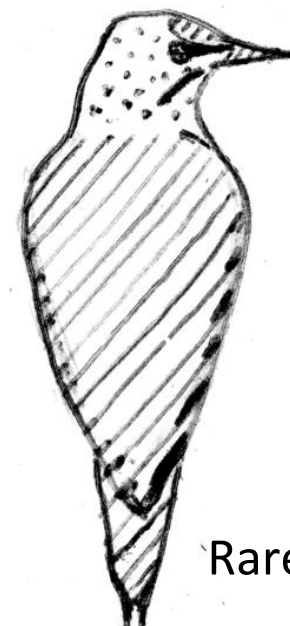
Small, often seen with titmice flocks. Only male has red crown. Call “kick”. Common.



Three-toed Woodpecker –

***Picoides tridactylus* [tryokhpaliy dyatel]**

Uncommon in forest. Small, lacks red in plumage. Male has yellow crown. Call a soft “bick”.



Green Woodpecker –

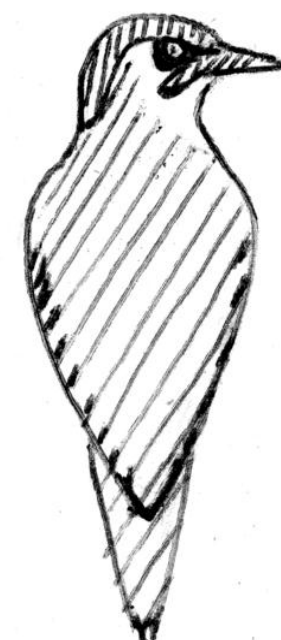
***Picus viridis* [zelyoniy dyatel]**

Rare. Bright-green with red crown.

Grey-headed Woodpecker –

***Picus canus* [sedoy dyatel]**

Rare. Green with grey head. Red forehead in male.

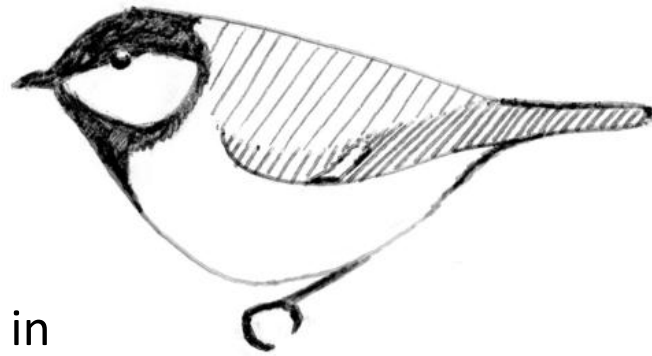


Titmice family – Paridae

Great Tit – *Parus major*

[bolshaya sinitsa]

Common in forest and near settlements, in winter usually in flocks. Yellow below and greenish above with pure-white cheeks. Male has large black patch on the belly. Calls “chink” and “cha-cha-cha”; basic song “teacher-teacher”.



Coal Tit – *Parus (Periparus) ater*

[moskovka]

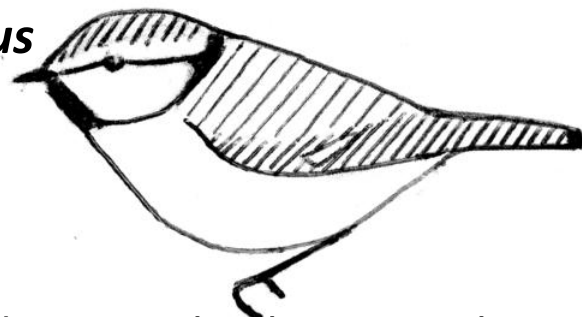
Common in flocks with other tits, sometimes in large migrating parties. Small, grayish-buff below, grey above. Has large bib and white nape. Tail short. Cheeks pure white. Call a thin “tsee-tsee-tsee”; song “teachoo-teachoo-teachoo”.



Blue Tit – *Parus (Cyanistes) caeruleus*

[lazorevka]

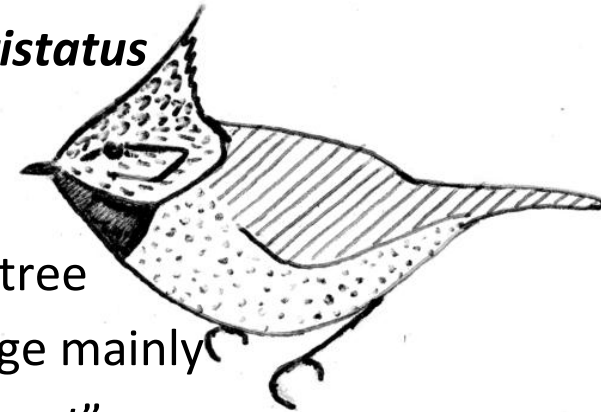
Common in river valleys and near settlements; in small groups or with other tits. Small, yellow below and greenish above, with blue cap and bluish wings and tail. Cheeks white. Call a thin “tsee-tsee” and a trill “tsee-tsee-tsu-tsuhuhuhuhu”.



Crested Tit – *Parus (Lophophanes) cristatus*

[grenadyorka]

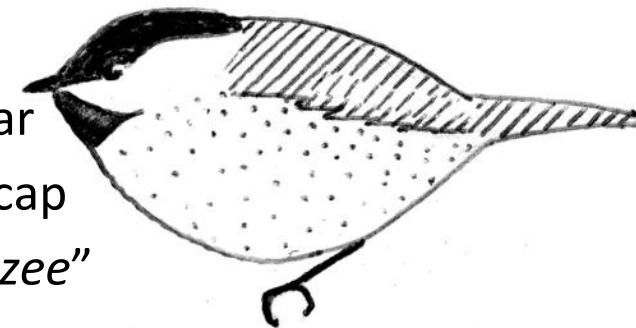
Uncommon in forest, usually in pairs with mixed-species flocks, in tree crones. Crest is always visible. Plumage mainly brownish. Call a characteristic “burrurret”.



Willow Tit – *Parus (Poecile) montanus*

[pukhlyak]

Common in flocks in forest and near settlements. Light grey with black cap and small black bib. Calls “zee-zee-zee” or harsh “tchay”.



Titmice from below



Great Tit
male



Coal Tit



Crested Tit



Willow Tit

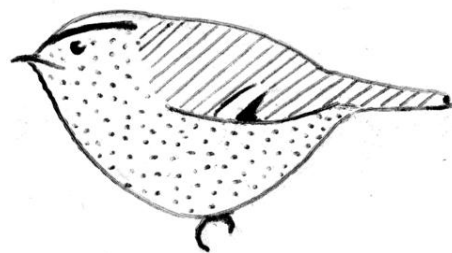


Blue Tit
male

Goldcrest – *Regulus regulus*

[korolyok] fam. Regulidae

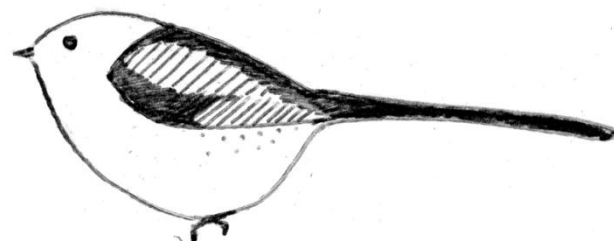
Smallest wintering bird. Greenish with yellow or orange stripe on the head. Common in forests in flocks, also with titmice. Call high-pitched “zree-zree-zree”.



Long-tailed Tit – *Aegithalos caudatus*

[opolovnik] fam. Aegithalidae

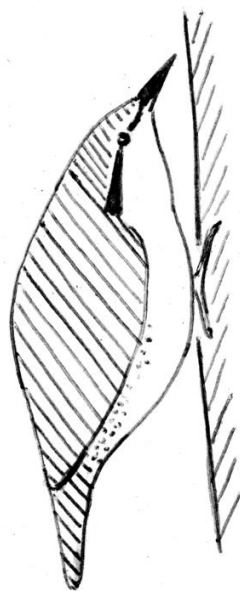
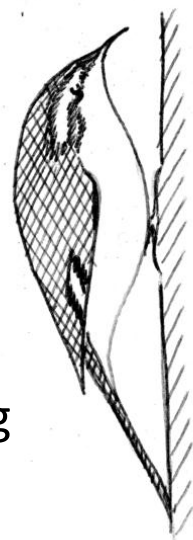
Small bird with very long tail. Common in river valleys, more rare in forest, in tight flocks, often with titmice. Calls sharp “eez-eez-eez” and “tsirrip” (in alarm).



Treecreper – *Certhia familiaris*

[pischukha] fam. Certhidae

Small bird grayish-brown above that search for food on trunks using tail for support. Bill thin. Call a strong “tüüt”. Rather inconspicuous.



Nuthatch – *Sitta europaea*

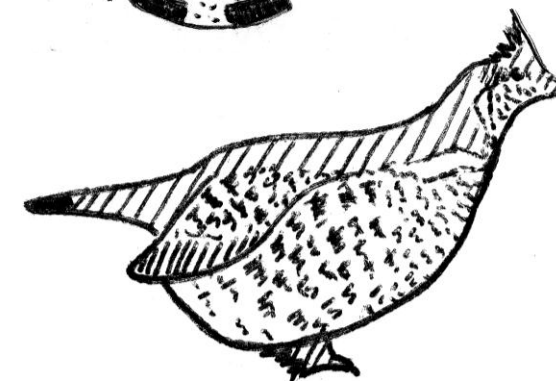
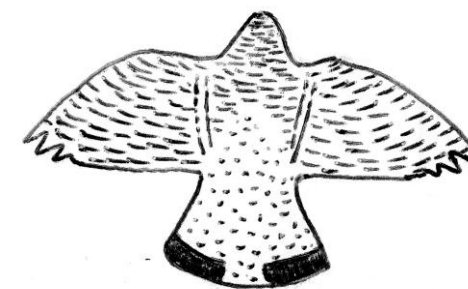
[popolzen'] fam. Sittidae

Common in forest, often joins to titmice flocks. Blue-gray above, with red-brown feathers under short tail. Very active. Calls loud and sharp “zit”, “ziit”, etc.

Hazel Grouse – *Tetrastes bonasia*

[ryabchik] fam. Tetraonidae

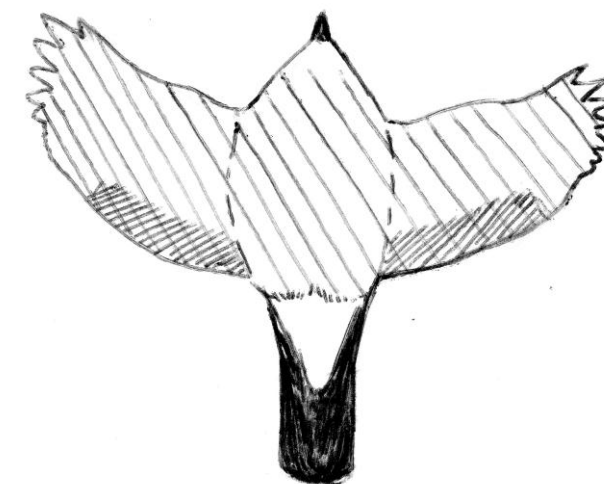
Rather small hen-like bird, usually seen flying up in forest with wing noise. Grey ramp. Song of fine notes “tsii-u-iih ti, ti-ti-ti-ti”.



Jay – *Garrulus glandarius*

[soyka] fam. Corvidae

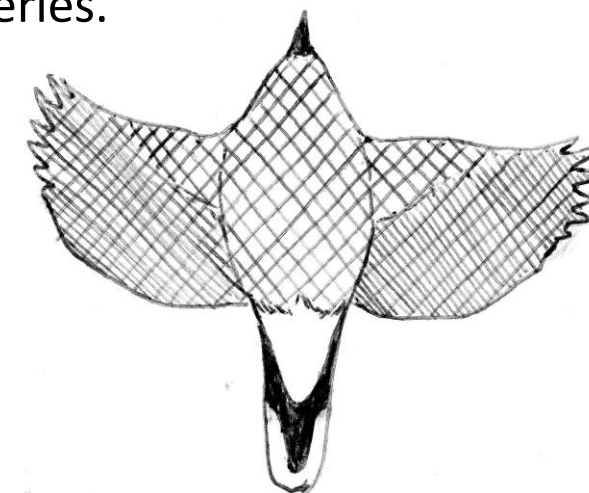
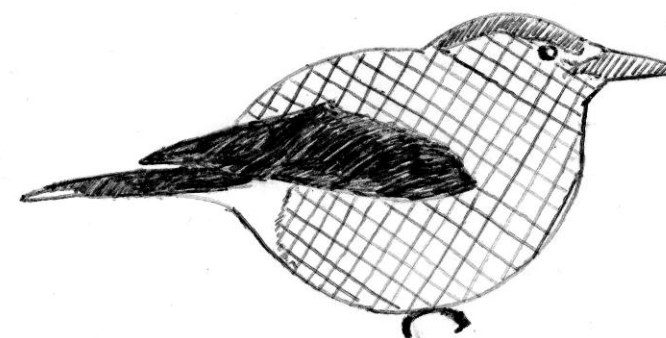
Common bird in forest and gardens. Plumage pinkish grey-brown. Rump pure white. Pale blue patch on wing. Call loud “kschaach!” or Goshawk-like “kya-kya-kya-...”



Nutcracker – *Nucifraga nucifraga*

[kedrovka] fam. Corvidae

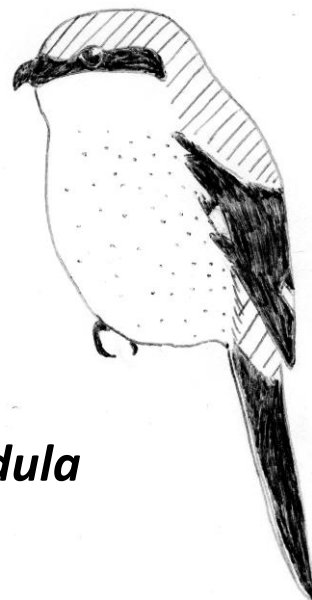
Uncommon in forest. Dark brown with white spots. Rump dark. Call loud “krrrreh”, usually in series.



Great Grey Shrike – *Lanius excubitor*

[seriy sorokoput] fam. Laniidae

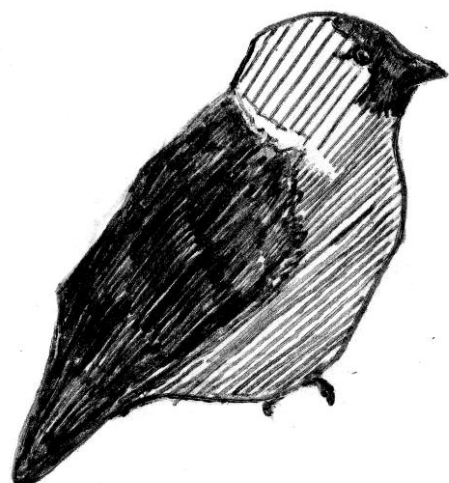
Rare, in winter usually in river valley or in fields. Solitary. Wings with white patches. Usually silent.



Jackdaw – *Corvus monedula*

[galka] fam. Corvidae

In groups or flocks in villages, common. Rather small, blackish. Call “kya”, usually in series.



Rook – *Corvus frugilegus*

[grach] fam. Corvidae

Uncommon in winter, usually in company with Crows and Jackdaws. Size of Crow, black. Old birds have pale bill. Call “gra gra grah...”



Magpie – *Pica pica*

[soroka] fam. Corvidae

Common in river valleys and in human settlements. Black and white, with long tail. Call “tsche-tsche-tsche-tsche”.



Raven – *Corvus corax*

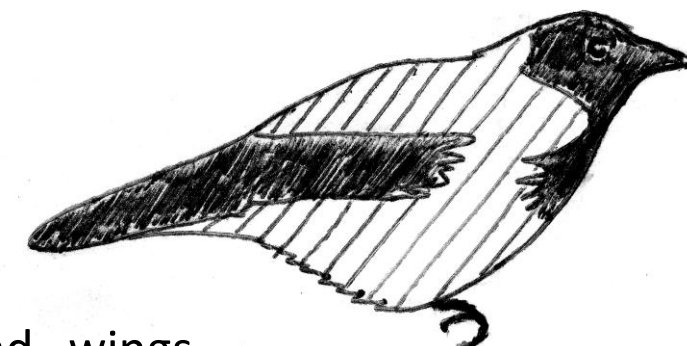
[voron] fam. Corvidae

Large, wholly black. Common but usually solitary or in pairs. Call a loud “korrp”.

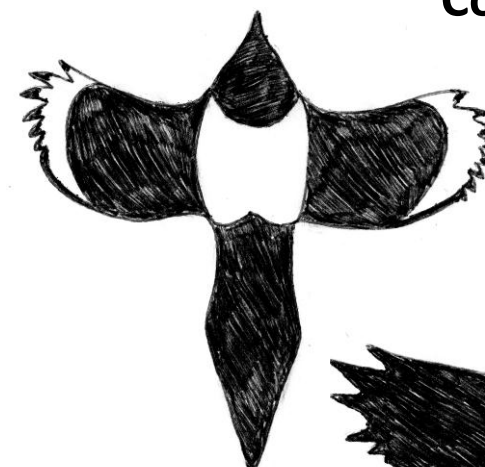
Hooded Crow – *Corvus cornix*

[seraya vorona] fam. Corvidae

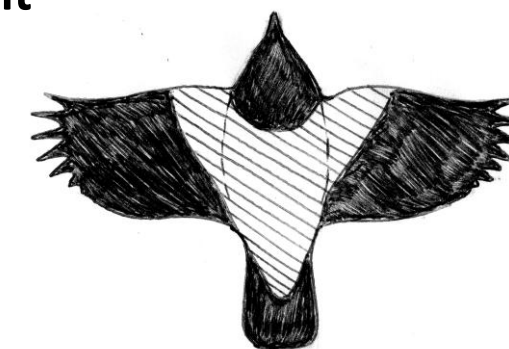
Common near human settlements. Usually in groups or flocks. Grey with black head, wings and tail. Call “kraah kraah kraah”.



Corvidae birds in flight



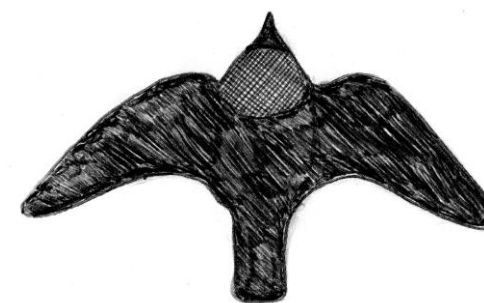
Magpie



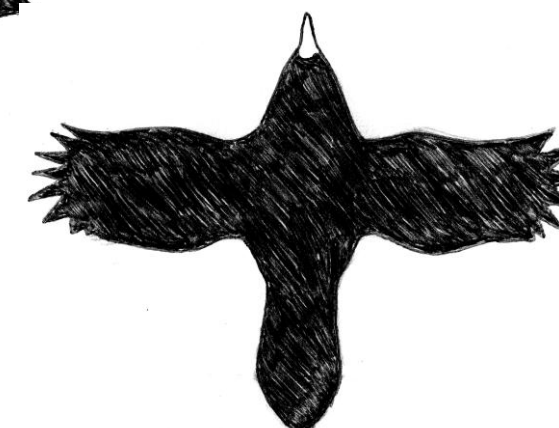
Hooded Crow



Raven



Jackdaw

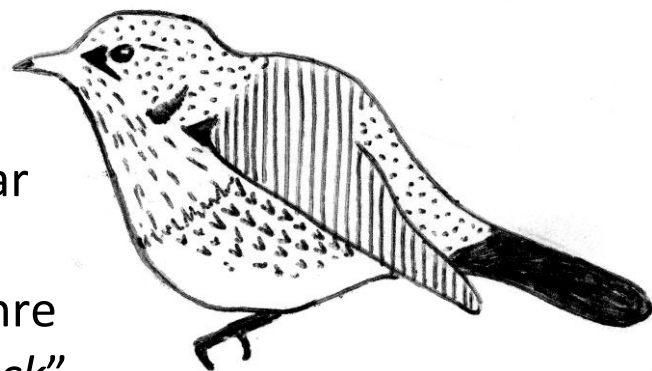


Rook

Fieldfare – *Turdus pilaris*

[ryabinnik] fam. Turdidae

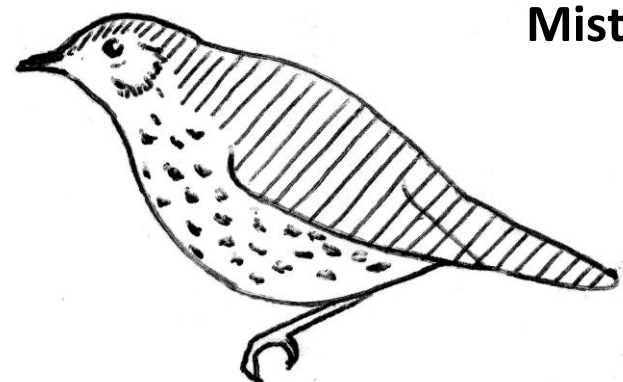
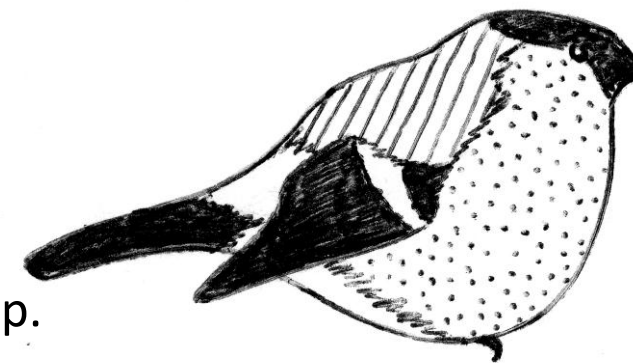
Common in river valleys and near human settlements, usually in flocks. Grey head and rump. Ochre breast. Call “schack-schack-schack”.



Bullfinch – *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

[snegir'] fam. Fringillidae

Common bird, usually in parties. Male pinkish-red, female grayish-buff. White rump. Call a fluiting “plüit”.



Mistle Thrush – *Turdus viscivorus*

[deryaba] fam. Turdidae

Rare, solitary bird, in forest or river valleys. Best identification by call – a dry rattle “zer’r’r’r’r’r”.



Waxwing – *Bombycilla garrulus*

[sviristel'] fam. Bombycillidae

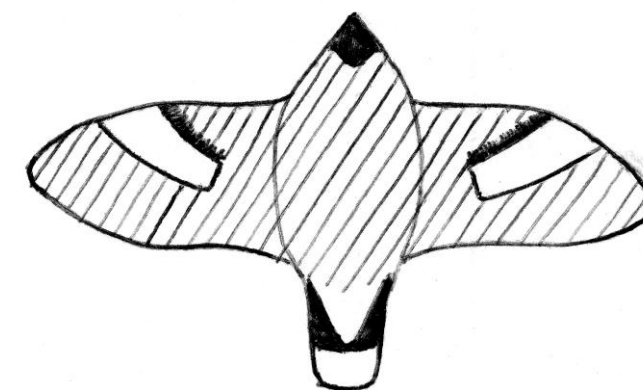
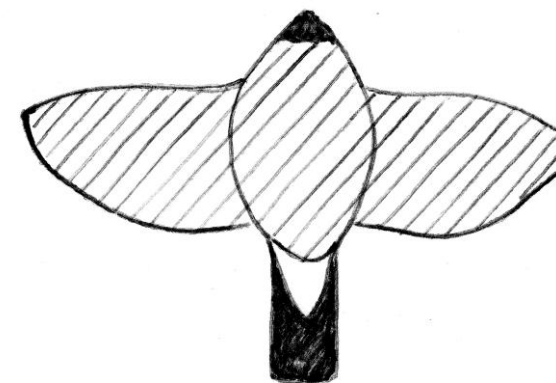
Common, in forest or near human settlements, in parties. Reddish-buff plumage; yellow tail-tip, yellow and white on wing. Call “sirrrrr”.



Hawfinch – *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

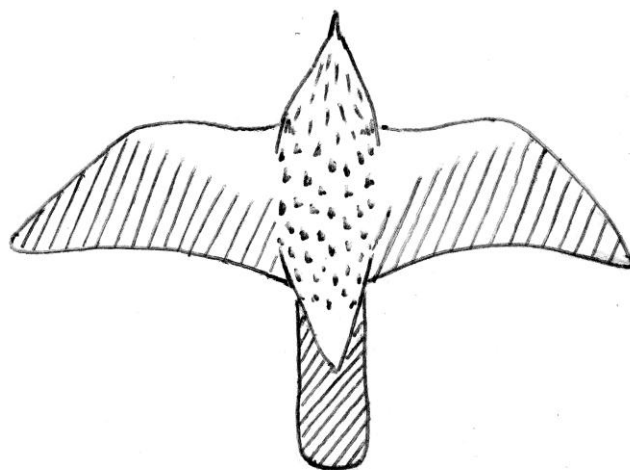
[dubonos] fam. Fringillidae

Rare, solitary bird, near human settlements. Rather big finch, plumage rusty-brown and buff. Broad white wing-band. Call a sharp “pix!”

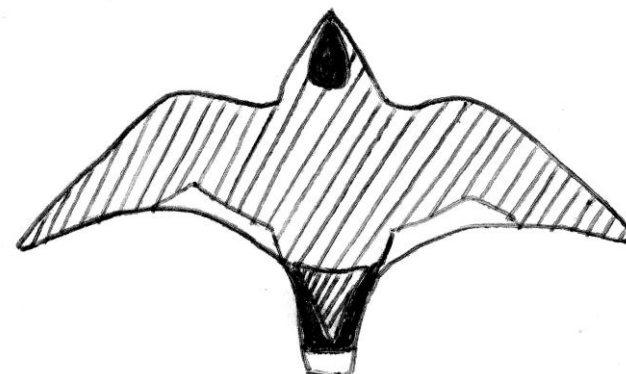


Bullfinch

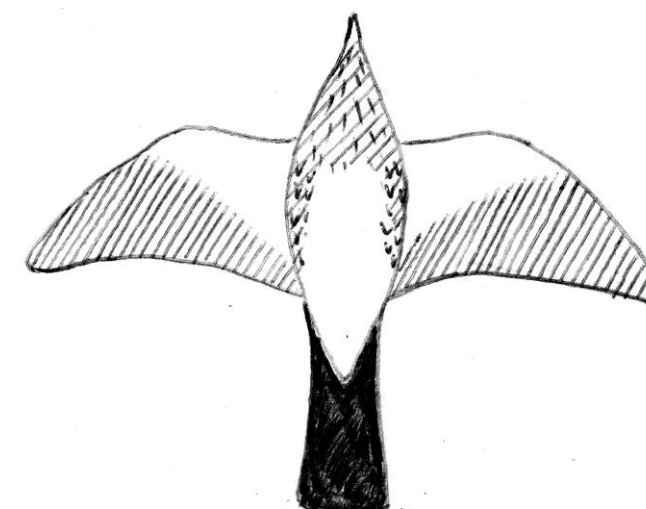
Hawfinch



Mistle Thrush



Waxwing



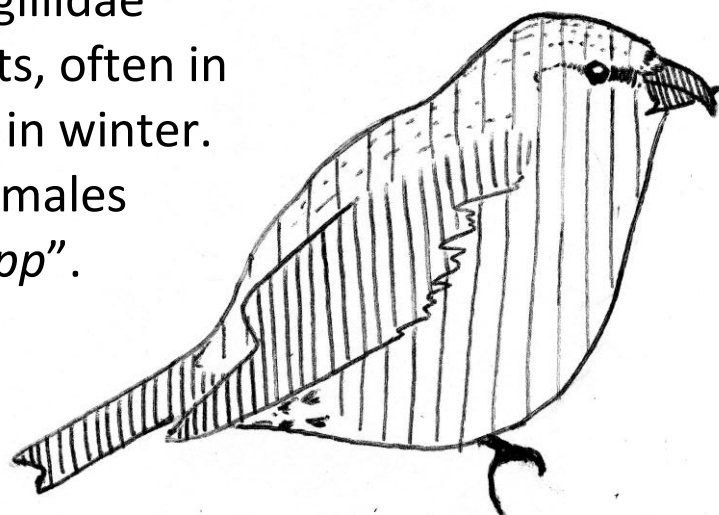
Fieldfare

Common Crossbill – *Loxia curvirostra*

[klyost-yelovik] fam. Fringillidae

Common in conifer forests, often in parties. Sometimes sings in winter.

Male mainly brick-red, females yellowish-green. Call “glipp”.



Siskin – *Carduelis (Spinus) spinus*

[chizh] fam. Fringillidae

Common, in parties or large flocks, feeds mainly in tree crones. Small; wings dark with contrasting yellow markings. Male mainly greenish-yellow, female grayish-green. Call “tluih”.

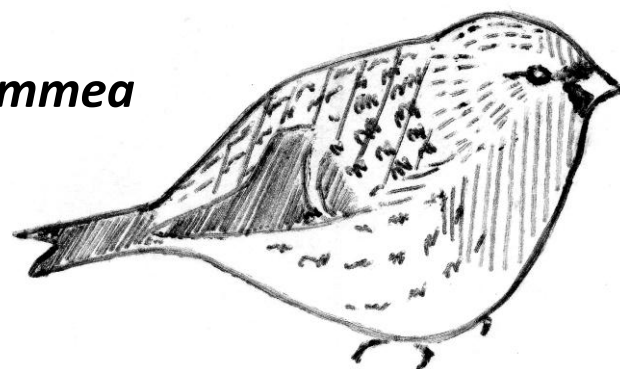


Redpoll – *Carduelis (Acanthis) flammea*

[chechyotka] fam. Fringillidae

Common, in parties or large flocks, often with Siskins. Small, in appearance and behaviour like Siskin, but no green or yellow in plumage.

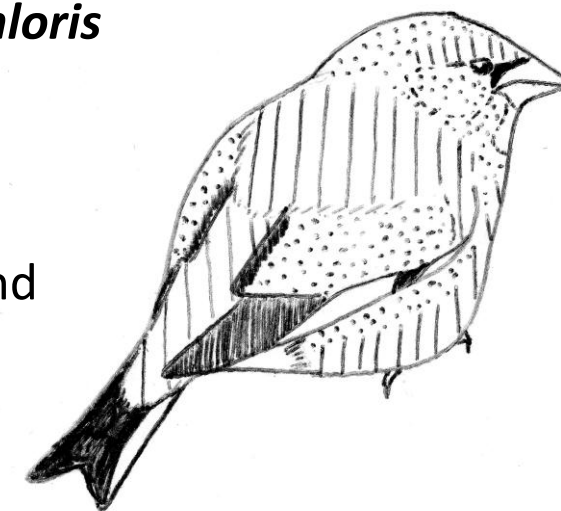
Greyish, with red forecrown. Male with red breast. Call Siskin-like “jüitt” and repeated “chett-chett-chett”.



Greenfinch – *Carduelis (Chloris) chloris*

[zelenushka] fam. Fringillidae

Common in villages, solitary or in small groups. Plumage mainly grey-green. Yellow on primaries and tail. Usual calls unmusical “dschrüüüuh”, also clear trill “tuy-tuy-tuy-tuy-tuy”.



Goldfinch – *Carduelis carduelis*

[schegol] fam. Fringillidae

Common in parties, mainly in river valley. Small, with red “face”, bright yellow wing-bars. Calls musical “tickelitt”.

Tree Sparrow – *Passer montanus*

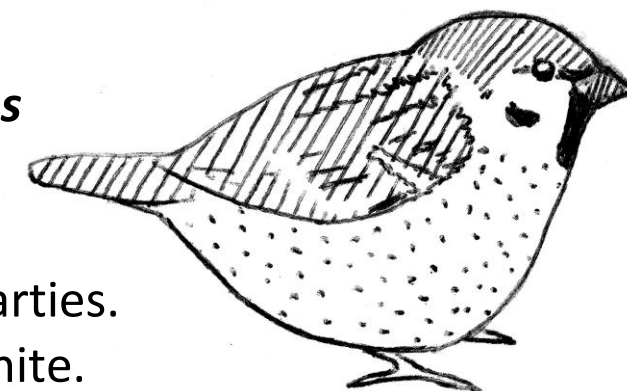
[polevoy vorobey]

fam. Ploceidae

Common in villages, usually in parties.

Head red-brown, cheeks pure white.

Call “tsuwitt”.

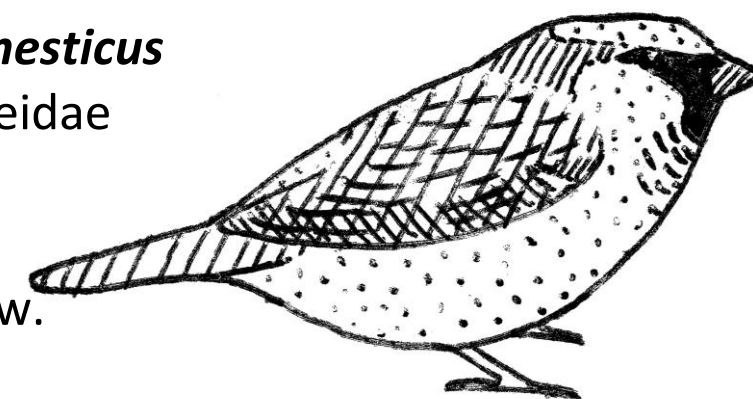


House Sparrow – *Passer domesticus*

[domoviy vorobey] fam. Ploceidae

Common near humans. Grey crown in male. Female dirty brown above and dusky below.

Call “chilp chev” etc.



Owls family – Strigidae

Ural Owl – *Strix uralensis*

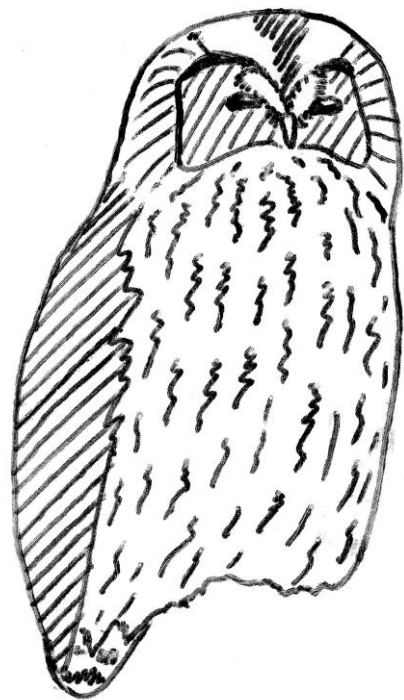
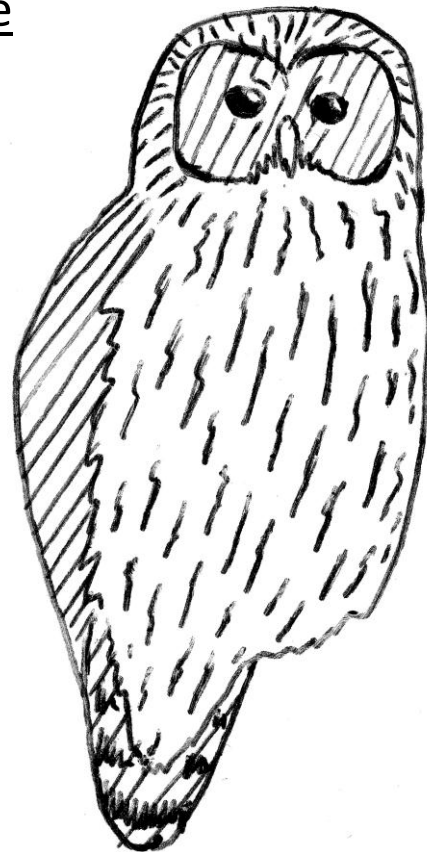
[dlinnokhvostaya neyasyt']

Fairly large owl, uncommon in forest.

Grey with quite long tail.

Regularly seen in daylight.

Song “wo-ho..... woho uhwo-ho”.



Tawny Owl – *Strix aluco*

[seraya neyasyt']

Middle-size owl. Common in forest but rarely seen in daylight. Grey with short tail. Song “hoooouh.....ho, ho'ho'ho'hoooouh”.

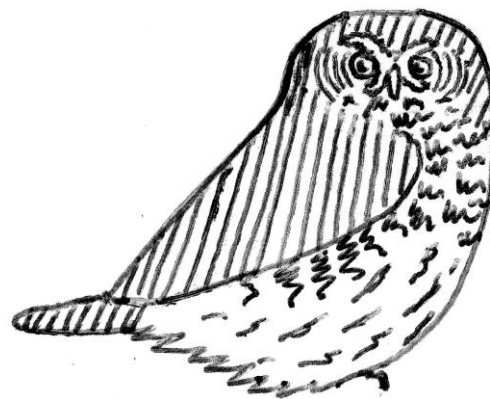
Pygmy Owl – *Glaucidium passerinum*

[vorob'iniy sychik]

Common in forest and in river valleys. Small, grey-brown above.

False “face” on hindneck.

Silent in winter.



Hawks family – Accipitridae

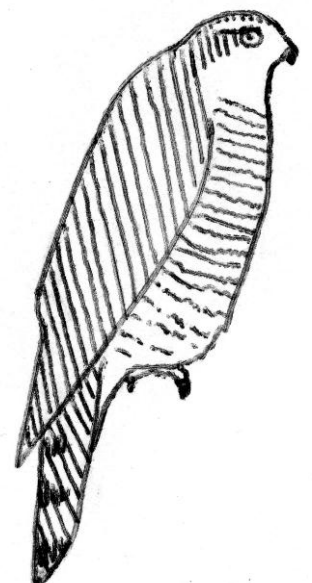
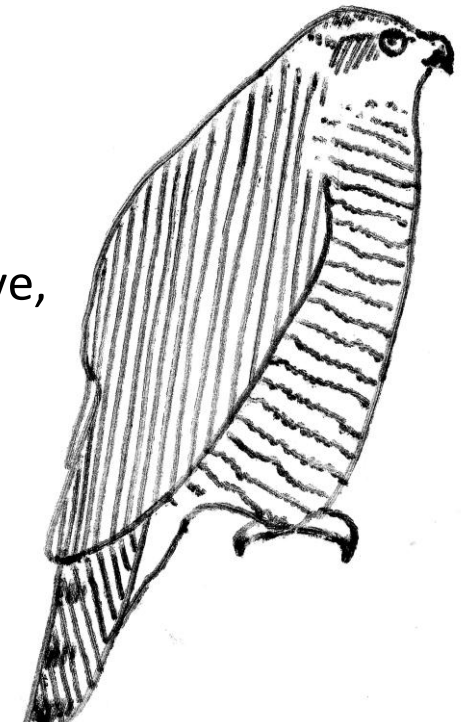
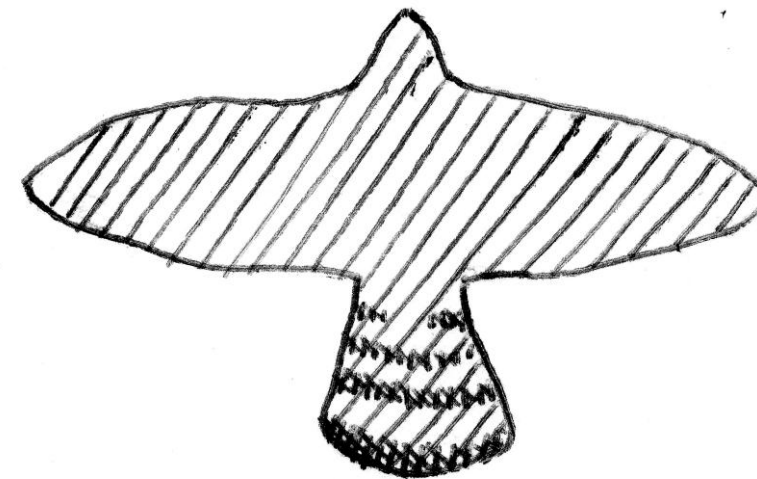
Goshawk – *Accipiter gentilis*

[yastreb-teterevyatnik]

Uncommon in forest. Large hawk.

Wings fairly long. Male bluish-gray above, size of Hooded Crow. Female slate-grey above, larger than Hooded Crow.

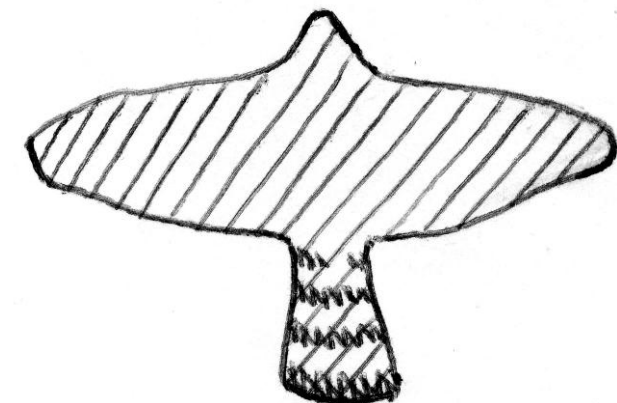
Silent in winter.



Sparrowhawk – *Accipiter nisus*

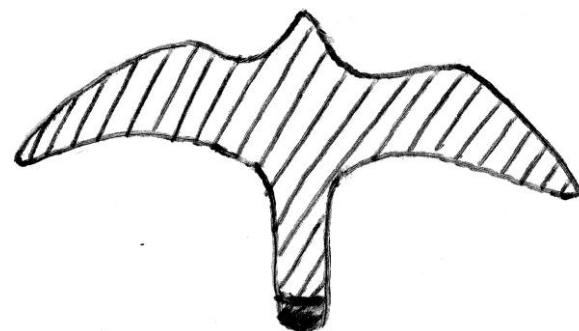
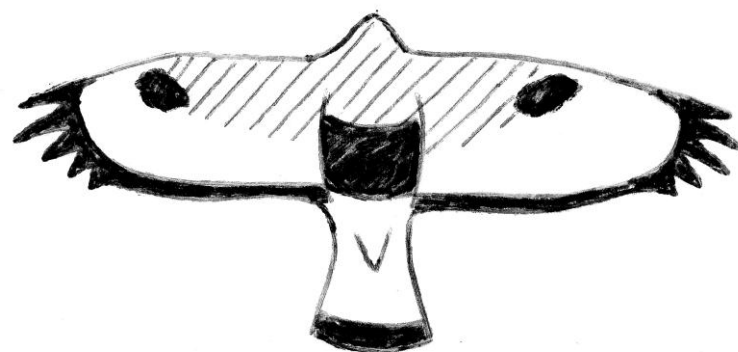
[yastreb-perepelyatnik]

Common in forest and in river valleys. Wings more rounded than in Goshawk. Slate-grey above. Male rufous on breast, smaller than Hooded Crow. Female size of Hooded Crow. Silent in winter.



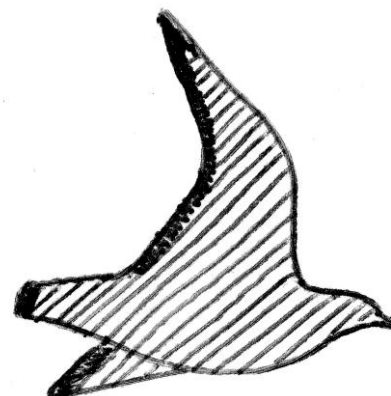
Rough-legged Buzzard – *Buteo lagopus*

[zimnyak] fam. Accipitridae
Rare, can be seen searching
for voles over fields. White
tail with dark terminal band.
Call “piiiay”.



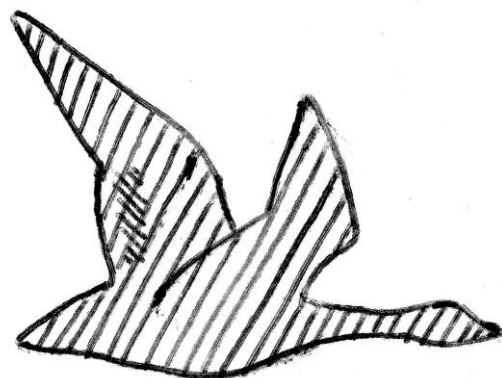
Kestrel – *Falco tinnunculus*

[pustel'ga] fam. Falconidae
Rare. Small falcon. Grey-brown
below. Searches for voles over
fields. Silent in winter.



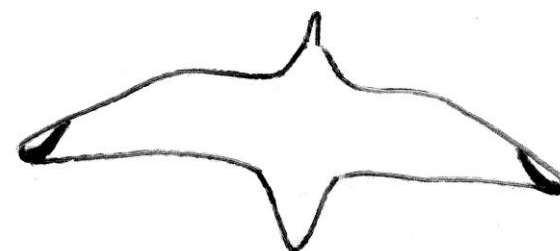
Feral Pigeon – *Columba livia*

[siziya golub'] fam. Columbidae
Common near human settlements.
Only pigeon or dove wintering
in the region. Usually silent.



Mallard – *Anas platyrhynchos*

[kryakva] fam. Anatidae
Large duck, rare on movements
between unfrozen water bodies.
Call “rhaeb”.



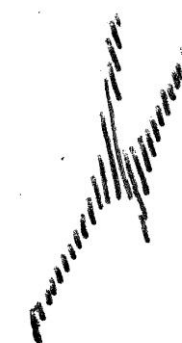
Common Gull – *Larus canus*

[sizaya chayka] fam. Laridae
Rare on movements between unfrozen water bodies.

Bird footprints



Hazel Grouse



Great Spotted Woodpecker



Tawny Owl



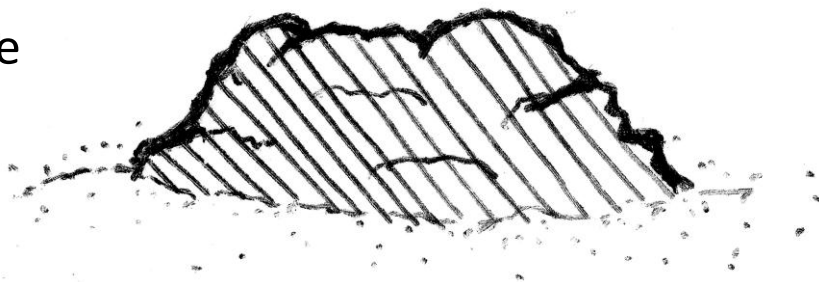
Magpie

Order Insectivora

European Mole – *Talpa europaea*

[krot] fam. Talpidae

Common in fields, forests and in river valley. Active in winter but mainly under earth. Only molehills can be seen over snow cover.



Shrews – fam. Soricidae

Small terrestrial mammals with long tails. Active under snow. Usually walk or run by hops on snow surface.

Eurasian Water Shrew – *Neomys fodiens*

[kutora]

The largest species, lives mainly along streams and rivers in forests.

Common Shrew – *Sorex araneus*

[obyknoennaya burozubka]

Common in different stations.

Pygmy Shrew – *Sorex minutus*

[malaya burozubka]

Uncommon in forests.



Order Rodentia

Microtus voles – fam. Cricetidae

Small terrestrial hamster-like mammals with short tails. Active under snow. Usually walk on snow surface, can use short hops.

Common Vole – *Microtus arvalis*

[obyknoennaya polyovka]

Common, mainly in fields.

Southern Vole – *Microtus levis*

(syn.: *Microtus rossiameridionalis*)

[vostochnoyevropeyskaya polyovka]

Common, mainly near human settlements.

Tundra Vole – *Microtus oeconomus*

[polyovka-ekonomka]

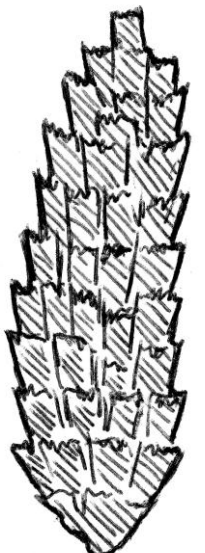
Inhabits wet meadows, flood plains.

Bank Vole /Red-Backed Mouse/ – *Myodes glareolus*

(syn.: *Clethrionomys glareolus*)

[ryzhaya polyovka] fam. Cricetidae

Small, mainly terrestrial rodent, not rarely uses snow surface, where run by hops. Tail is not as long as in mice. In forests and near humans. Eats spruce seeds from cones.



Order Rodentia



Water Vole /Water Rat/ –

Arvicola amphibius

(syn.: *Arvicola terrestris*)

[vodyanaya krysa] fam. Cricetidae

Resembles true rat in size and appearance. Inhabits banks of rivers and ponds. Common.

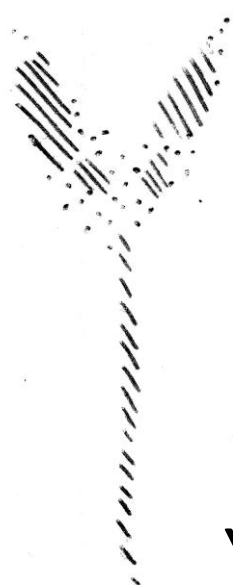
Brown Rat – *Rattus norvegicus*

[seraya krysa] fam. Muridae

Inhabits human settlements.

Mice – fam. Muridae

Fairly small rodents with long tails, mainly terrestrial, not rarely use snow surface for feeding. Run by long hops.



Ural Field Mouse – *Apodemus uralensis*

[lesnaya mysh']

Common in forests.

Striped Field Mouse – *Apodemus agrarius*

[polevaya mysh']

Common in river valleys, forest edges, gardens.

Yellow-necked Mouse – *Apodemus flavicollis*

[zheltogorlaya mysh']

A large mouse. A recent invader, inhabits riverside forest.

Order Rodentia

House Mouse – *Mus musculus*

[domovaya mysh'] fam. Muridae

Common in human settlements.

Harvest Mouse – *Micromys minutus*

[mysh'-malyutka] fam. Muridae

Common in river valleys, traces are rarely seen in winter. One can find only abandoned nests built on grass stems.

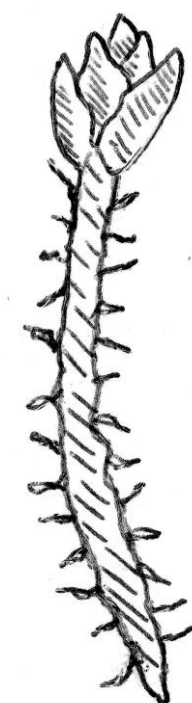


Squirrels – fam. Sciuridae

Red Squirrel – *Sciurus vulgaris*

[belka]

Common in forests and gardens. Arboreal, but often hops on snow surface. Digs out acorns and nuts from under snow. Eats spruce seeds from cones.



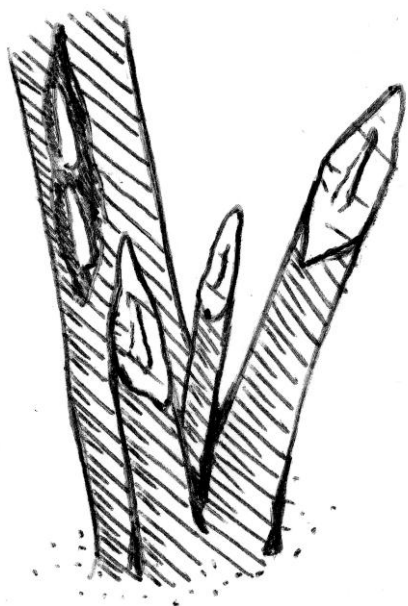
Siberian flying squirrel –

***Pteromys volans* [letyaga]**

Common in forests, but strictly arboreal and nocturnal, so animals and their traces are rarely seen.

Spruce cone eaten by Red Squirrel

Order Rodentia



European Beaver – *Castor fiber*

[bobr]

Active in winter, but only traces of summer and autumn feeding can be seen on river banks.

Order Lagomorpha



Snow Hare /Mountain Hare/ –

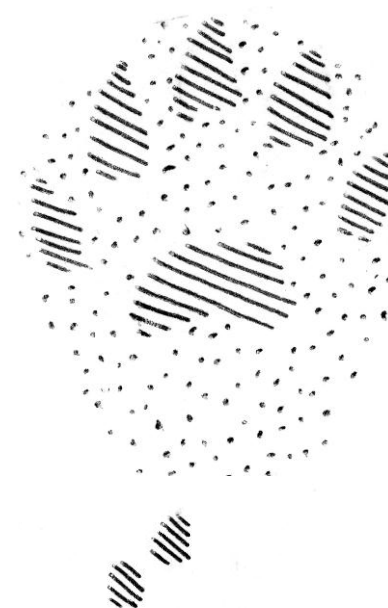
Lepus timidus [zayats-belyak]

Common in forest. Traces are more compact and paws imprints are wider than in Brown Hare. Runs by long leaps. White in winter.

Brown Hare /European Hare/ –

Lepus europaeus [zayats-rusak]

Inhabits fields and forest edges. Common. Greyish-brown in winter.



Order Carnivora, fam. Mustelidae

Small carnivorous mammals with long body and short legs. Traces with paired imprints of right and left paws are common.

European Pine Marten –

Martes martes [lesnaya kunitsa]

Common in forests. Arboreal, but often uses snow surface. Quite large. Brown above, with white breast.

European Polecat /Forest Polecat/ –

Mustela putorius [chyorniy khor']

Traces as large as that of Marten, but Polecat is terrestrial, inhabits mainly villages and fields. Dark-brown with whitish spots on head.

American Mink – *Neovison vison*

[amerikanskaya norka]

Introduced species that replaced indigenous European Mink (*Mustela lutreola*). Little smaller than Marten, inhabits banks of rivers and ponds. Black with small white chin.

Stoat /Ermine/ – *Mustela erminea* [gornostay]

Common in fields and forest edges. Small. White in winter, with black tip of the tail.

Least Weasel – *Mustela nivalis* [laska]

Common in forests and villages. Smaller than a stoat. Often hunts under snow. White in winter.



Order Carnivora



Dog – *Canis (lupus) familiaris*

[sobaka] fam. Canidae

Traces of domestic and feral dogs are common in Zvenigorod biological station area.



Red Fox – *Vulpes vulpes*

[lisitsa, lissa] fam. Canidae

Uncommon in forests and in fields. Imprints of paws in winter are more round than in dogs. Tracks are linear.



Domestic Cat – *Felis (sylvestris) catus*

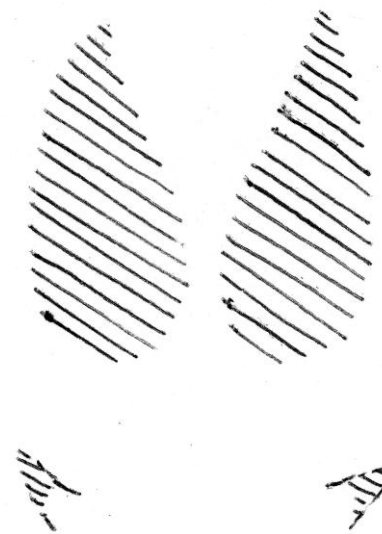
[koshka] fam. Felidae

Traces of domestic and feral cats are common near human settlements and in fields.

Eurasian Lynx – *Lynx lynx* [rys'] fam. Felidae

Rare in forests. Typical cat paws imprints, although large.

Order Artiodactyla



Wild Boar – *Sus scrofa*

[kaban] fam. Suidae

Common in forests. Often in groups. Foot imprints are large and generally wider than in Elk. Imprints of dew claws are usually visible.



Elk /Moose/ – *Alces alces*

[los'] fam. Cervidae

Common in forests, solitary or in small groups. Foot imprints are large, generally more narrow than in Wild Boar. Imprints of dew claws are rarely seen.

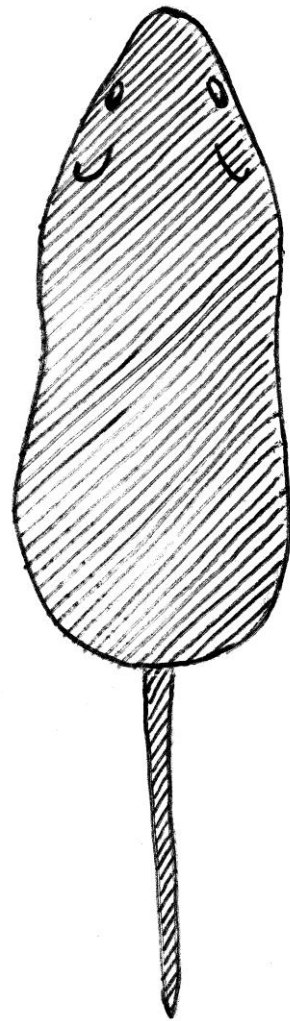
Roe Deer – *Capreolus capreolus*

[kosulya] fam. Cervidae

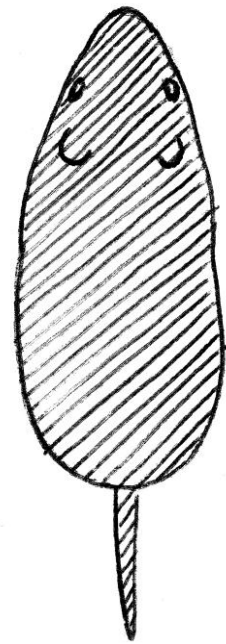
Uncommon in Zvenigorod biological station area, in forest and in fields. Foot imprints are relatively small.

Small mammals

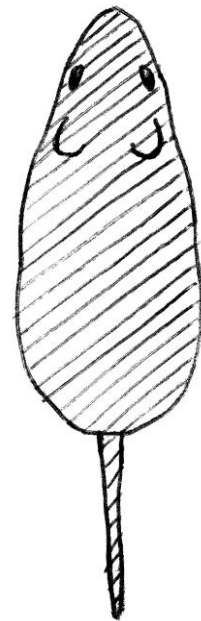
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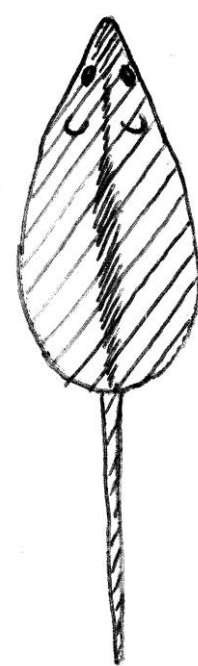
Water Vole



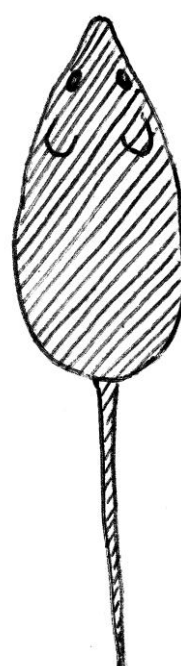
Common Vole



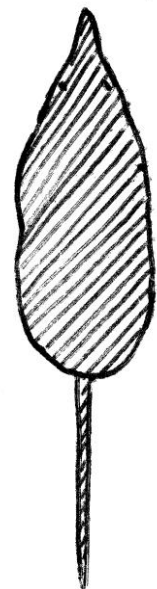
Bank Vole



Striped Field Mouse



Ural Field
Mouse



Common Shrew



Pygmy Shrew