斑背大尾莺鄱阳湖繁殖亚群初报

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斑背大尾莺(Locustella pryeri)为远东鸟种, 主要分布于日本和中国, 零星见于俄罗斯极东部、蒙古国东部、朝鲜和韩国, 被视为易危鸟种(VU)[1~3]。以往中国鸟类学界多以种名 Megalurus pryeri 称之, 并将该种的中国种群全部视作汉口亚种(sinensis)[4~10]。据记载, 斑背大尾莺在我国东北地区和华北北部有繁殖, 但数量有限[2,4,5,11]。

斑背大尾莺为体型甚小的湿地鸟类, 体长约 13 cm, 略具苍白色眉纹, 上体棕褐色而具明显的近黑色纵纹, 尾长而呈楔形, 多生活在近水的苇地、草地、或草丛间。

斑背大尾莺作为越冬鸟见于鄱阳湖区已早有定论[2,4,5]。2002~ 2003 年间, 我们于夏季在鄱阳湖区发现有斑背大尾莺的活动, 2004 年开始观察到有成鸟引领幼鸟学习飞行, 初步判断斑背大尾莺在鄱阳湖区有繁殖。2007 年, 在 WWF2China 物种保护小额基金的支持下, 于 5 月中旬至 6 月上旬对鄱阳湖南部的斑背大尾莺进行初步调查, 所涉地域包括新建、南昌、余干、波阳四县, 发现斑背大尾莺在这一区域内广泛分布。

调查发现, 斑背大尾莺于繁殖季节在鄱阳湖湖区主要活动于南荻、苔草和水草混生的无水浸滩地, 营编织巢于草丛下部近地约 30 cm 以下处, 汛期相当一部分区域为湖水浸淹, 如果是年汛期早于 7 月中旬来临, 将对斑背大尾莺的繁殖造成极为不利的影响。另一方面, 我们发现于夏季在这一特殊湖泛区生境下极少有其他鸟种存在, 从而使得鄱阳湖斑背大尾莺在湖泛区其密度远高于滨湖区。

一个值得注意的现象是, 在黑龙江扎龙保护区对斑背大尾莺繁殖生物学的系统研究曾报道该种的满巢卵数为 5~ 6 枚[11], 上海崇明岛所发现的一巢有 6 只雏鸟[12], 我们在鄱阳湖区所找见的一巢同样也是 6 只雏鸟。

2007 年 5 月 11~ 15 日采用车载 GPS 与手持 GPS 结合定位的方法对鄱阳湖战备湖湖泛区周边地带和公路两侧共计约 440 hm^2 草地生境下的斑背大尾莺做逐日数量统计, 结果为 1 238、1 158、1 092、1 015 和 960 只, 5 日之内平均每日所见数量减少 51.615%, 我们认为这是大部分斑背大尾莺当时正处在由求偶炫耀期向筑巢孵卵期的转化时段。

考虑到我们统计结果中目击炫耀雄鸟的比例至少占 2/3, 故仅在这一面积下的斑背大尾莺其数量已达 600 繁殖对以上。这一密度不仅远高于以往所报道的该种在扎龙和崇明岛的繁殖群体密度, 且在总数量上也已超出上述两地所发现数量的总和[11,12]。

抽样估算表明在鄱阳湖区南部湖区新建、南昌、余干、波阳四县繁殖的斑背大尾莺, 群体数量当至少不会低于 5 000繁殖对。

近年来, 在对生物物种的受胁状况进行评估时, 相当广泛地使用了亚群(Subpopulation)这一概念, 以细化某一特定物种的地域性群体。依据世界自然保护联盟物种生存委员会(IUCNPSSC)所推荐使用的物种受胁等级评判标准(Criteria, Version 3.1.4)中的名词解释和界定, / 亚群(Subpopulation)系指种群内出于地理上或其他原因的隔绝群体, 群体间少有个体的或遗传上的交流(典型情况是每年有一个或更少的个体或配子成功迁转)0。据此, 斑背大尾莺在自然界当存在 3 个已知相对固定的繁殖亚群, 即日本亚群、中国东北亚群和鄱阳湖亚群, 以鄱阳湖亚群为最大。对于新近在上海崇明岛发现的斑背大尾莺繁殖群体[11], 虽有一定数量, 但发现时间甚短, 能否视其为独立繁殖亚群尚有待时日的检验。

斑背大尾莺鄱阳湖繁殖亚群的发现和确认, 彻底改变了以往所认知的斑背大尾莺的繁殖分布格局, 斑背大尾莺的受胁等级亦当因此而被重新评估。

斑背大尾莺的背部多具纵纹而非横斑, 故当使用 Locustella pryeri 种名时其中文名还是改称纹背蝗莺为好。(封

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Preliminary Report on the Poyang Lake Breeding Subpopulation of the March Grassbird in Jiangxi of Central South China

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The March Grassbird (Locustella pryeri), a Vulnerable Far East bird, used to be treated under the genus Megalurus and considered with small population breeding in Japan and in the northeastern part of China and mainly wintering around the Poyang lake, N Jiangxi of the central south mainland China, with all the birds in China considered of the subspecies sinensis[1~10].

In summer season of 2002- 2003, some March Grassbirds were noticed occurring around the Poyang lake, then, in 2004, adult birds were observed feeding the juveniles and leading them to fly, showing that that grassbird might also be a breeder around the lake. In 2007, under the support by WWF2China Species Small Grant, a survey was carried out, mainly from mid2May to mid2June, to the four counties, i. e., Xinjian, Nanchang, Yugan, and Boyang, of the southern part of Poyang lake and found the bird widely spread at the four localities.

March Grassbirds at Poyang are found mostly inhabiting in low lakeshore grasslands and nesting in grasses lower than 30 cm from the ground, and the area might be well flooded when the water lever goes higher, so, if the flooding season of the year comes earlier than mid2July, it may greatly affect the breeding of the bird. Whereas, since almost no other birds could be found in this specific habitat in the breeding season, density of the grassbird in this area is much higher than counted in the non2flooded areas around the lake.

According to the studies on the bird in Zhalong NNR in NE China, the clutch size of the bird is 5- 6 eggs (nest number= 38)[11], the one nest found on Chongming island near Shanghai is with 6 nestlings[12], and the one nest we found at Poyang lake is also with 6 nestlings.

Census work undertaken on May 11- 15 to a grassland area, about 440 hectares in total, of the surroundings of Zhanbei lake as well as sides of the road is of a result of 1 238, 1 158, 1 092, 1 015, and 960 birds of each day respectively, showing an average decreasing rate of 5l615% per day implying the birds in the area might be in a transition of periods from mating display to nesting and incubating.

In considering the fact that over 2P3 of the birds counted are those displaying males, it might hence be properly calculated of over 600 breeding pairs of the bird existing in that area, a density much higher than the birds reported at Zhalong of NE China and on Chongming island near Shanghai[11, 12]. And, an estimate based on the results of our survey to more areas at the above2mentioned four localities yields up to 5 000 breeding pairs of the bird occurring in the south part of Poyang lake.

The March Grassbird might be therefore considered being of three breeding subpopulations, in Japan, in NE China, and around Poyang lake of the central S China, and the latter the largest. For those birds quite recently found nesting on Chongming island at the river mouth of Yangtze[12], if they can be treated as a separate breeding subpopulation is still to be further confirmed.

The new finding of the Poyang subpopulation of the bird might be to bring with it a remarkable change to the knowledge and understanding on the whole breeding range of the March Grassbird, and the status of threat of the bird might hence be re2assessed.

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