



*Miscellaneous*

***Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tseno Petrov and the Modern Bulgarian Ornithology - A bio-bibliography of an Honored Bulgarian Ornithologist on Occasion of his 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***

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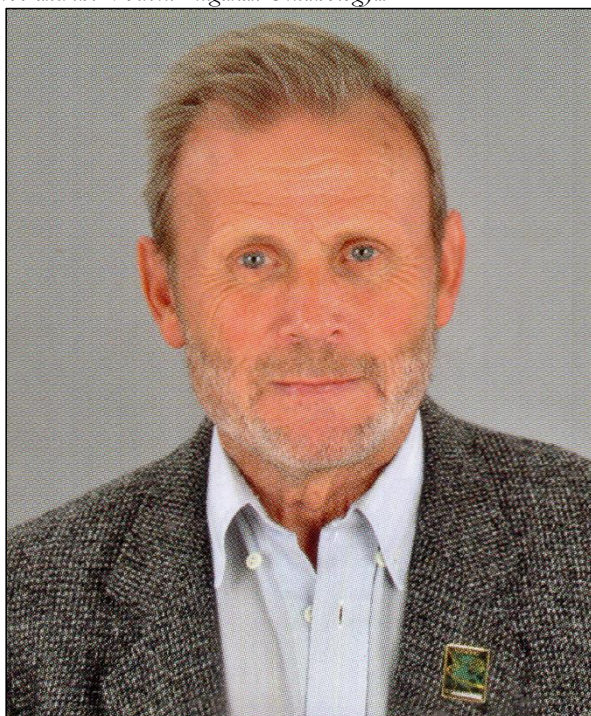
**Abstract.** An attempt has been made to collect and summarize the entire scientific work of the ornithologist Associate Professor Dr. Tseno Hristov Petrov - a long-time curator at the Natural History Museum in the city of Plovdiv. For the first time, the complete bibliography of his works is presented, containing 202 titles, mainly of publications in specialized scientific editions, published in the period 1970-2022. Brief biographical data on the scholar are also presented. The publication is on the occasion of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Key words:** ornithology, Bulgarian science, Natural History Museum in Plovdiv, Birds of the Balkans, Birds of Sredna Gora Mts.

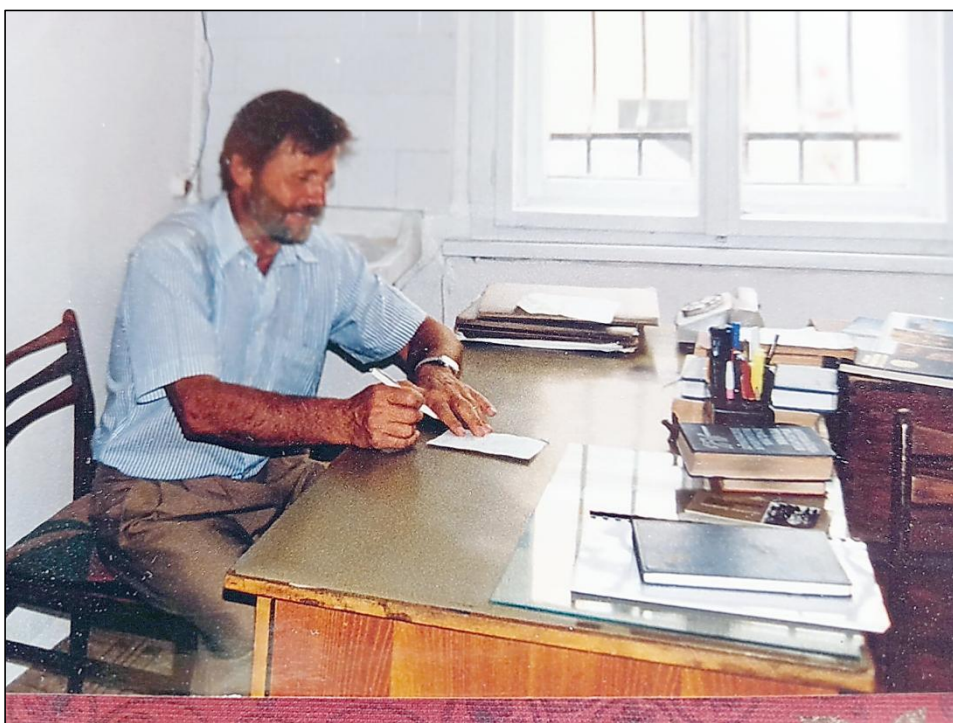
Tseno Hristov Petrov (Fig. 1) was born on May 19, 1943 in town of Karlovo. His father, Hristo Petrov, was a priest and suffered from the "people's democratic" government, which was established in Bulgaria after September 9, 1944 with the support of the Soviet occupation troops.

In 1968, he completed his higher education at the Faculty of Biology of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski". From 1968 to 1970, he worked as a teacher at the Secondary Polytechnic School in the town of Laki. He joined the Natural History Museum in Plovdiv in 1970, where he was appointed as a curator (Fig. 2), and in 1973 he took the position of junior research fellow (assistant professor). In 1983, he defended his PhD thesis on the topic: "Ornithological studies in Sredna Gora Mts". He obtained his habilitation in 1988 as a senior research associate (associate professor).

With his activity, he contributes enormously to the renovation of the funds and expositions of birds and mammals in the museum in Plovdiv. As a scientific consultant, he also helps in the construction of the museum exposition in the village of Cherni Osam (Regional History Museum - Lovech).



**Fig. 1.** Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tseno Petrov.



**Fig. 2.** Dr. Tseno Petrov at his office at the Natural History Museum in Plovdiv.

Tseno Petrov's scientific work is remarkable. He is the author of over 200 publications, half of which were published in specialized scientific editions. He has participated with over 20 reports in national and international forums (Fig. 3). He has participated also in dozens of field expeditions and research projects.



**Fig. 3.** Dr. Tseno Petrov as a participant of the Congress of BirdLife in Malaysia.

Dr. Petrov authored scenarios of dozens documentary TV popular-science films and radio-programs, mainly on environment conservation thematics (Mirkov, 2009).

It is visible that, most of his professional career was spent at the Natural History Museum in the city of Plovdiv, where he worked as a full-time ornithologist. From his first years at the museum, Ts. Petrov clearly stated his orientation towards the study of nesting biology and the distribution of birds in Southern Bulgaria. He thoroughly researched in ornithological terms such vast territories in the country as Sredna Gora, Dobrostanski Ridge (Asenovgrad District) and the "Karadzhov Kamak" locality in the Rhodope Mountains, the Western Rhodope Mountains, etc.

His first scientific publication ("On the biology of the bee-eater", 1973) is still a model for field studies of birds in Bulgaria.

Dr. Tseno Petrov's main contributions to ornithology are primarily in the field of ornithofaunistics of Southern Bulgaria, as well as in the ecology and biology of rare and protected bird species (Boev, 2022). His research on the white stork, the falcons, the imperial eagle, the oystercatcher and the stone curlew in Bulgaria occupies a significant part of his studies.



With his active nature conservation activity, Dr. Tseno Petrov stands among the most eminent Bulgarian conservationists. At least 10 nature protected territories have been declared after his scientifically grounded proposals for protection:

(1) National Landmark "Donkinata Gora" - nesting site of a pair of Imperial eagles - State Gazette, No. 35 /04.05.1979;

(2) Protected Area "Chinar Dere" - preservation of the natural site of eastern sycamore in the vicinity of the village of Topolovo, Plovdiv region - State Gazette, No. 105/ 1995;

(3) Protected Area "Anathema" – conservation of 24 species of protected plants and 7 species of protected animals in the vicinity of Asenovgrad - State Gazette, No. 112/2004;

(4) Protected Area "The 12 Pedunculate Oaks" - preservation of the nest site of 46 pairs of Gray herons in the area "Terena", in the land of the village Panicheri, Hisar municipality. State Gazette, No. 17 /27.02.1981;

(5) Protected Area "Field of Greek Juniper" - preserves Greek juniper in the vicinity of the village of Bachkovo, Plovdiv region. State Gazette, No. 6 / 2004;

(6) Protected Area "Vran Kamak" - preservation of a rock phenomenon in the surroundings of the village of Petrich, Panagyurishte region. State Gazette, No. 69/04.08.1995;

(7) Natural landmark "Slivovdol Waterfall" - preservation of a waterfall on the territory of State Hunting Farm "Lucky". State Gazette.

(8) Protected Area rock complex "Karadzhov Kamak" - preserves a rock phenomenon and habitat of protected animal species in the vicinity of the village Mostovo, neighbourhood Ryakata, Asenovgrad municipality. State Gazette No. 81/2003;

(9) Protected Area "Belintash" - preserves a rock phenomenon and protected animal species in the vicinity of the village of Sini Vrah, Asenovgrad region. State Gazette, No. 6/2004;

(10) Extension of the "Lale Bair" Protected Area - preservation of habitat of the Rhodope tulip in the vicinity of Asenovgrad. State Gazette, No. 11/2004.

Ts. Petrov is one of the co-founders of the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (Fig. 4) and become one of its presidents (1997-2000) (Fig. 5). He authored essays of a number of bird species for the first (Botev & Peshev, 1985) and second (Golemansky, 2011) editions of the Bulgarian Red Data Book and the Atlas of breeding birds in Bulgaria (Iankov, 2011) (Fig. 6).

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**Fig. 4.** Dr. Tseno Petrov among the co-founders of the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, Biological Faculty of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", 06.06.1988.



**Fig. 5.** Dr. Tseno Petrov as president of the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds.



**Fig. 6.** Dr. Tseno Petrov as a participant of the Second Red Data Book edition in Bulgaria meeting.

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