

The Hermit Ibis (*Geronticus eremita*) in Moravia in Gallaš's manuscript

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Abstract: J. H. A. Gallaš (1756-1840) mentioned in his manuscript the occurrence of *Corvus eremita* L. in Moravia. Mlíkovský (2007) says incorrectly that Hudeček & Hanák (2004) had stated it was a discovery from the 19th century. We have not written anything of this sort. Nevertheless, the author of his text persists on its potential occurrence in the 18th century. The species *Corvus eremita* L. (= *Geronticus eremita*) has been taken as made-up and non-existent since the beginning of the 19th century but its application in relation to the species *Corvus graculus* L. (= *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) was overcome in Europe at the end of the 19th century.

Key words: *Geronticus eremita*, *Corvus eremita* L., Moravia, Czech Republic, existence, 18 and 19th century, incorrectly interpreting, historical ornithology

Gallaš's note to Moravian territory

The occurrence of the Hermit Ibis (*Geronticus eremita* (Linnaeus, 1758)) in central Europe reached up to Austria, southern Germany, Hungary, Switzerland and Moravia (for example Bauer & Glutz von Blotzheim 1966). J. H. A. Gallaš (1756-1840), Moravian polymath, military physician and writer (biography see Šmídek 1877, Hanuš 1895, Indra 1931, Kirnerová 2011, Spáčilová 2012) recorded the species *Corvus eremita* L. in Moravia already in 1822. Present: "inhabit in Smolna (right Smolno) and Radíkov Mountain in local parts" (in present time, Skutil 1936, Hudec et al. 1955, Hudec 1994). Smolno (east from source the Odra River, defunct village, not Smolna hill, as mistake said Mlíkovský 2007) and Radíkov Mountain (in environs rocks and vicinity ruin of the castle) locate in Nížký Jeseník Mts., in East Sudeten. If he started writing his manuscript in the 18th century is not known. Nevertheless, he certainly dedicated himself, apart from other hobbies, also to natural science already in the 18th century (Skutil 1936). Gallaš's manuscripts comprise news from East Moravia for to end 18. and beginning 19th century (Anonymus 1939). He recorded the given species in its scientific ("*Corvus eremila* L.", right "*Corvus eremita* L.") 1/ and Czech names ("hawran lesnj"). Not "lesní", as incorrectly said Mlíkovský (2007). Historical name to deduce of the name "*Corvus sylvaticus*" and "der Waldrabe" (Shaw & Stephen 1809: 382, Bertau 2014: 32-35) correctness Gallaš's identification possibly verify according to Tomsas & Dobrovský (1791: 807) and Jungmann (1836: 193, 301), present 's Czech name "krkawec lesnj". The Raven (*Corvus corax* Linnaeus, 1758) have as "hawran krkawec". Our observations concern Gallaš's record only marginally, our focus is on the authentic observation of *Corvus eremita* L. by F. W. Schmidt in the Giant Mountains in Bohemia, in West Sudeten (Hudeček & Hanák 2004).

The History of the Hermit Ibis in Europe

The species *Corvus eremita* L. had been questioned in literature since the end of the 18th century and at the beginning of the 19th century it was completely removed; its scientific and trivial names were added as synonyms to the species *Corvus graculus* L. (= *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*). In European bird lists from the 19th century the species *Corvus eremita* L. is missing (Meisner & Schinz 1815, Koch 1816, Latham 1822, Naumann 1822, Anonymus 1824).

Only at the end of the 19th century this species was re-discovered for Europe (Rothschild *et al.* 1897, von Lorenz 1898, Kleinschmidt 1899). In literature it is history described very well (Pegoraro 1996, Albus 2013). Probably extinct in Europe as before the end of the 18th century (Rothschild *et al.* 1897, Fischer-Sigwart 1902, Schmiedeknecht 1906, Kněžourek 1906-1907). In 19th century is still of the Hermit ibis in technical literature always mention it (Walther 1800, Campe 1810, Fuchs 1824, Funke & Lippold 1824).

Discussion

Mlíkovský (2007) neglected the literary history of this species in the 19th century (connection two existing species) and made the conclusion that there was no historic evidence for the occurrence of the Hermit Ibis on the territories of the Czech and Slovak Republics, Poland and Slovakia. But he did not explain what evidence is should have been especially when the description of the species (firstly *Upupa eremita* L., later *Corvus eremita* L.) was made based only on written testimonies and pictures (Linnaeus 1758, 1766, Gmelin 1789, Rothschild 1902, Fatio 1905). Do not sources and printed literature count as evidence? Historical written source not to be proof? Mlíkovský (2007: 179, 182-183) says we had (through of Hudeček & Hanák 2004) "resurrected" a completely uncorfimed Gallaš's report. In his opinion we said that Gallaš had discovered the Hermit Ibis between 1791-1822, i. e. in the 19th century, which is completely untrue. We absolutely do not write about its occurrence in the 19th century but we do not exclude its potential occurrence in the 18th century (Hudeček & Hanák 2004: 53). 2/ The application of *Corvus eremita* L. in relation to *Corvus graculus* L. is completely improbable (Gallaš would have recorded the species *Corvus graculus* L., not *Corvus eremita* L.; he also does not write about its accidental coming here but about its settlement) as well as the occurrence of the Red-billed Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* (Linnaeus, 1758)) in the Nízky Jeseník Mts. 3/ Already Naumann (1822: 117) and Gloger (1833: 22, see Komárek 2007) pointed out that the occurrence of the Red-billed Chough in the Giant Mountains was improbable because of the small area of this mountain range. In the past the Red-billed Chough was never seen in Moravia (Kux *et al.* 1955).

Notes

1/ Reason: probably the readability of the text "eremita" and "eremila" in the old prints (for example <https://books.google.cz/books?id=H9sTAAAAQAAJ>)

2/ Literal text: "Inasmuch as, that Gallaš (repetitively) permanently i lived in Hranice from year 1791, can to come or about record to 18th century".

3/ Yet in Gallaš's and Naumann's time, Fuchs (1824) in textbooks said species *Corvus eremita* L., detailed description.

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