



## EVGENIY NIKOLAEVICH PANOV 3 AUGUST 1936 – 5 AUGUST 2024

Evgeniy N. Panov was a prominent Soviet/Russian scientist, widely recognized for his significant contributions in the field of ethology, zoology, and ornithology. A Professor and Doctor of Biological Sciences, he dedicated approximately 45 years of his career to the A. N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution under the Russian Academy of Sciences. In 1993, he was awarded with the Russian Federation National Award for his groundbreaking studies on biosociality and communication in animals.

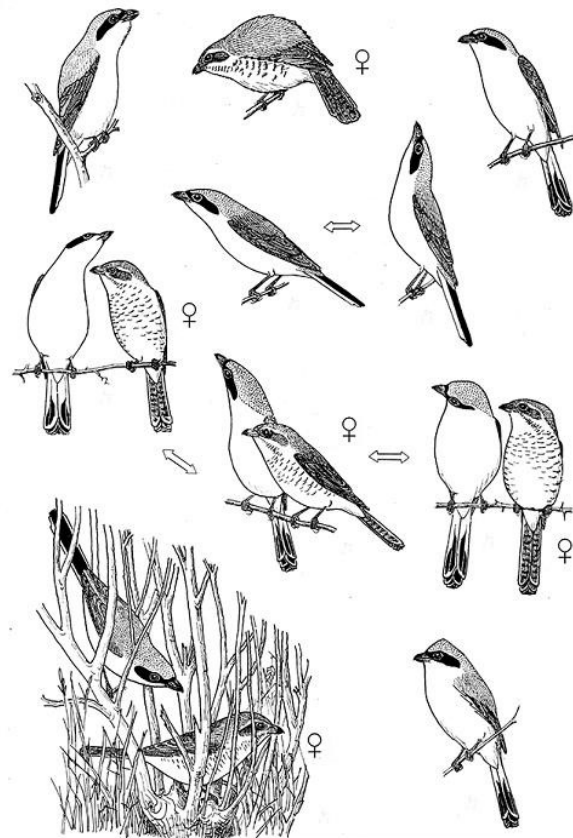
Evgeniy Panov was born in Moscow in 1936. He began his higher education in 1954 at the Faculty of Biology at Moscow State University, where he chose to specialize in vertebrate zoology. Over time, he developed a deep interest in ethology. For his Master's degree, he conducted research on the ecology and behavior of Little Ringed Plovers in the Oka Nature Reserve. Following this, he continued his ethological studies on waders in the Russian Far East (for his field sketches see <https://panov-ethology.ru/pictures>). It was in the southern part of Primorsky Krai, specifically in the Kedrovaya Pad Nature Reserve, that his lifelong passion for shrikes began. His first publication on shrikes, in 1964, focused on the three species of shrikes (Brown, Tiger and Bull-headed Shrike) present in his study area.

Over the years, Evgeniy Panov undertook numerous expeditions to the Caucasus, Caspian Sea, and various regions of Central Asia, including deserts, steppes, and mountains. These expeditions led to a wealth of publications on comparative ethology, ecology, hybridization, bioacoustics, and more of wheatears, shrikes, gulls, and other bird species, as well as reptiles (mountain agamas), mammals, and even insects. Panov authored approximately 400 scientific publications, including over 20 books and monographs.

Among his notable works are books dedicated to shrikes, including “*Die Würger der Paläarktis*” (1983, 1996) and “*The True Shrikes (Laniidae) of the World. Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution*” (2008 – in Russian, 2011 – in English). His latest monograph on shrikes consolidates critical information on all 34 species of true shrikes occurring in Eurasia, Africa and North America. This comprehensive work covers evolutionary history, body size and plumage coloration, foraging behavior, breeding biology, ecology and distribution, signaling behavior and vocalizations, molt, and hybridization of closely related species. The book also addresses current molecular studies on shrikes.

In addition to being an exceptionally skilled observer and interpreter of bird behavior, Evgeniy Panov was also a talented artist. His high-quality, self-made drawings served as an invaluable tool in his studies. His artistic talent allowed him to illustrate many of his articles and books with professional level black-and-white sketches and drawings, enriching his scientific publications with visual representations of his observations.

Evgeniy Panov inspired generations of students and researchers. His work will be remembered for pioneering



### Европейский жулан *Lanius collurio*

A plate - excerpt, dedicated to the Red-backed Shrike behavior, from the monograph “*Die Würger der Paläarktis*” (1983, 1996).

new directions in science and advancing existing ones, as well as for his profound insights into animal and human behavior (Indeed, his latest four books are dedicated to human nature!).

Evgeniy Nikolaevich Panov died on 5 August 2024, just two days after his 88 birthday.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am most grateful to Jevgeni Shergalin who helped by sending various sources of information about Prof. Panov's life and work, as well as contacts of his students, now renowned scientists.

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Between late 1991 and 1993, I worked to persuade Evgeniy Panov to attend the 1st International Shrike Symposium at Archbold Biological Station in Florida. It was a challenging time for those in Eastern Europe and Soviet Russia due to the disintegration of the Iron Curtain. We secured funding to enable as many researchers as possible, including Evgeniy, to participate, provided they submitted a manuscript before the conference to demonstrate their commitment.

Evgeniy encountered difficulties understanding the Western scientific publishing process, including editing and peer review. It took extensive discussions to explain these concepts, which was a learning experience for both

of us—me gaining insight into the Soviet perspective and Evgeniy learning about Western scientific practices.

His participation was a highlight of the symposium; he was warmly received and made close friends, especially with Tony Harris from South Africa. On the final day, as he prepared to leave, Evgeniy asked me to take soft drink cans from the conference for his daughters. He returned to Russia with a suitcase full of them.

Reuven Yosef  
Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Eilat Campus

**Photos:** Evgeniy interacting with shrikeologists at the 1<sup>st</sup> International Shrike Conference, Archbold Biological station, Florida, U.S.A.

With Mrs Jan Woolfenden (back to picture) and Prof. Lucia Liu Severinghaus (Taiwan)

With Igor Gorban (Ukraine)



With Dr. Jack Tyler (U.S.A)







With Prof. Przemyslaw Busse and Barbara Diehl (Poland) back to camera, Dr. Reuven Yosef (Israel), Prof. Evgeniy Panov (Russia), Petras Kurlavicius (Lithuania)



With (L-R) Petras Kurlavicius (Lithuania), Prof. Uriel Safriel (Israel), Tony Harris (South Africa), Prof. Evgeniy Panov (Russia), Dr. John Fitzpatrick (U.S.A).