



STARLING

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BIRD AND MAMMAL TOUR TO MONGOLIA WITH STARLING

21 Sep – 06 Oct 2019



From 21 September to 6 October 2019, STARLING guide Geert Beckers traveled to the Altai Mountains and vast steppes of eastern Mongolia with 7 participants. The focus was on the one hand finding some enigmatic mammal species of Central Asia and on the other hand fullest enjoy the autumn migration of birds from Siberia.

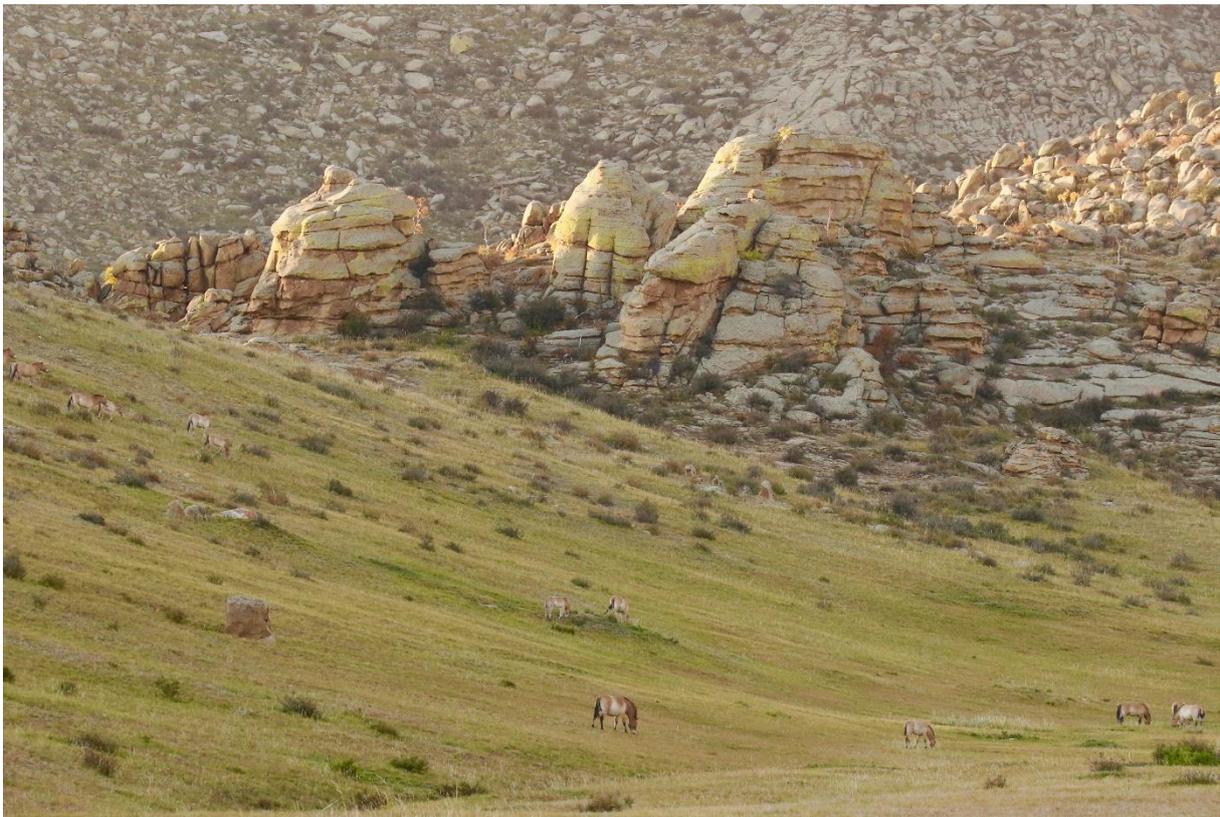
With a total of 169 observed bird species including all key targets that are still present at the destinations visited, and observations of 23 mammal species including 7 different individuals of Snow Leopards (*Panthera uncia irbis*), 3 Pallas's cats (*Otocolobus manul*) and one group Mongolian saiga (*Saiga tatarica mongolica*) all specialties of this tour were seen nicely.

Participants: Paul de Cnodder, Peter Symens, Frederik Willemys, Ruben Habraken, Ronald Jansen, Jan Frans Willem Smit & Lien Poelmans

22 September.

A night flight brought us from Moscow to Ulaanbaatar. We arrived in the early morning and were picked up by our local team. A short drive took us to the nearby Hustai national park where we slept in a tourist GER resort at the entrance of the park. Of course we immediately started exploring the park.

Takhi also known as Przewalski's horses (*Equus przewalskii*) and Mongolian marmot (*Marmota sibirica*) were numerous and everywhere. We also saw groups of Altai wapiti (*Cervus canadensis sibiricus*). We were lucky enough to see small population of Mongolian gazelles (*Procapra gutturosa*) reside in the park and everyone enjoyed the first groups of Daurian Jackdaws, many migrating Hen Harrier, Eastern Buzzards and Larks. The majority of them were Mongolian, Horned and Sky lark but also some Asian short-toed larks. From migratory birds we saw large groups of Pine Bunting, some Little Bunting, a Eurasian Nuthatch (subspecies *asiatica*) that sat on a telephone pole in the middle of the steppe and the first of many Daurian Redstart and Yellow-browed Warbler. Finally, 2 Saker Falcons were excellent to see.



A typical landscape in Hustai National Park (photo: Geert Beckers)

23 September.

After breakfast we immediately set off. We let ourselves be led by the local mammal specialist that we had hired for this trip and at the first stopping place he chose, he immediately found two wolves (*Canis lupus chanco*)! Unfortunately, not everyone could pick up the wolves before they disappeared behind the ridge.

One of the target species given by Peter was Daurian partridge. Our only chance on this trip was in the Ulaanbaatar region. Our guide took us on foot to a nearby hills and it wasn't long before we heard the species call. After some playback a large group of Daurian partridges emerged and we had a beautiful and prolonged view. It was a fantastic walk! Breathtaking views and shrubs that were full of Siberian migratory birds. Most special was a White's Thrush that was flushed from a bush by a hunting Hawk and Saker Falcon! Other observed species were Pallas's leaf warbler, Meadow and Pine Buntings.

In the afternoon we moved to a hotel that was located in the Tuul river valley near Ulaanbaatar.



Some common mammals occur in Hustai NP. From top left. Altai wapiti, Takhi, Long-tailed ground squirrel, Pallas's pika and Mongolian marmot (photo: Bolormunkh)

24 September.

The wide and extensive Tuul river valley on the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar is a magnet for migratory birds and also has some local specialties. An ideal place to visit before our domestic flight to the west of Mongolia. Highlights were countless!



Azure tits are ALWAYS a highlight! (Photo: Geert Beckers)

For example, we saw a late female Amur Falcon, several local Long-tailed Rosefinch, Azure Tits, Azure-winged Magpie, White-crowned Penduline tit, White-cheeked Starling, a group of 9 Mandarin Ducks and a White-backed Woodpecker which was admired for a long time. The trees were full of Red-throated and Black throated Thrushes, Pallas's leaf warbler and we also noted few nice extras such as Black Stork and close observations of White-tailed Eagle and Booted eagle.

After a short flight, we arrived in the early afternoon in the vast desert steppes of western Mongolia on the edge of the Altai Mountains.



Towards evening we arrived at a Ger camp that was set up especially for us by a local family. They would become our hosts for the next four days

The evening was spent at the foot of this mountain in search of Mongolian Saiga.

We found a group of 6 and we took the time to carefully approach them without disturbing these rare antelopes and were able to beautiful view in the telescope.

The Mongolian Saiga are the only living descendants of the Pleistocene mammoth steppe saiga and therefore one of the oldest mammal species on our planet. Currently classified as Critically endangered, the species is threatened with extinction mainly due to poaching aimed at the horns for Chinese medicinal purposes but also due to climate change and habitat degradation.

In 2015, 200,000 or 40% of the Saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica tatarica*), in Kazakh was suddenly wiped out by unknown infection later confirmed to be a fatal blood poisoning which was caused by *Pasteurella multocida* type B bacteria.

Same fate struck again much smaller Mongolian Saiga sub species population during winter of 2016 and its population was reduced from about 14,000 to 4,000 due to a disease outbreak, goat plague (peste des petits ruminants).

25 September.

After a nice breakfast, before dawn, we left into the Altai mountains in search of the almost mythical snow leopard. Even before we had reached a suitable viewpoint, we were startled by a Pallas cat who walked right past our jeep, but unfortunately soon disappeared into the burrow of an Mongolian marmot.

We positioned ourselves at a point where we could scan over different valleys with our telescopes.



Vista from the mountain over the surrounding desert depression! (photo: Geert Beckers)

After half an hour, Peter found a wolf on a distant valley flank. This was received with great enthusiasm since the wolves from a few days before were not observed by everyone. While we were studying the wolf, suddenly there was interaction with a second wolf. At least we thought so. One wolf walked away and second was followed by most telescopes. The other .. however, was not a wolf but a snow leopard! We witnessed a wolf that had came upon the prey of a snow leopard and was chased away by this powerful cat. It wasn't long before the snow leopard moved out of the sight. We enjoyed the wolf for a while and discussed a plan to get closer to the snow leopard.

From this point we also saw many Altai Argali (*Ovis ammon ammon*) and various Siberian ibex (*Capra sibirica hagenbecki*) and Pallas's Pika (*Ochotona pallasii*) were numerous.

Our two local spotters left on horseback in search of the snow leopard while we moved through the mountains to another vantage point where we stayed in contact with walkie-talkies.

After some drive we arrived at a another vantage point. Paul took the time to study the Mongolian marmots a little better. Suddenly I hear him asking an intriguing question whether marmots are also walking? I asked if I can look through his telescope and saw a large Pallas's cat walking up the slope! This was really exceptional and after the first fleeting observation everyone, albeit from a considerable

distance, can follow this beautiful feline undisturbed for a long time. The second Pallas's cat of the day! While we followed the Pallas's cat, Ronald suddenly shouts: "snow leopard"!!! This is crazy for words. A large male snow leopard walks into the telescope image together with the Pallas cat. The Pallas cat is clearly uncomfortable and disappears into a marmot burrow. After walking very slowly and standing motionless on the side of open mountain top for about half an hour, the Snow Leopard lay down in front of big rock where we can watch it all day. With a few participants we walk closer from ridge to ridge on foot and we inform the others via walkie-talkie about a good viewpoint where they can connect with the jeeps.



Snow leopards are incredibly well camouflaged. Since we had an excellent view by our telescope, to reduce the disturbance, we didn't try to approach the snow leopards too closely (photo: Geert Beckers)

Meanwhile, the local spotters have also relocated the first snow leopard we had seen it with the wolf. Everyone had the choice for which snow leopard they want to go and one group decided to give it a try to see the first snow leopard and rest of us remained at our spot continue watching second snow leopard. Eventually both groups had a wonderful sighting of undisturbed snow leopards foraging and walking on the rocks until 4 pm. End of a first indescribable day!

26 September.

After a hearty breakfast, with the first light, we are on our way to a viewpoint where our local team has found a snow leopard 'nest' in recent weeks. After a few hours of searching we found a female snow leopard, perfectly camouflaged on the rocks. It took us a while until we see the four grown up cubs playing in the grass below her.

Peter, on the other hand, was searching the avifaunistic target species of the mountains and three Altai Snowcock foraging on the same mountain top where the snow leopards were resting. Other birds high in the mountains were hundreds of Rock Sparrows, a group of >100 White-winged Snowfinch, Bearded Vulture and Himalayan griffons, Hill Pigeons, a group of Père David's Snowfinches, 2 Gldenstdt's redstart, female and male Pied Wheatear.

By the afternoon, everyone was fully satisfied with prolonged Snow leopard observations and decided to do some birding. After lunch we drove down to lower valleys with scattered shrubs and willow groves looking for migratory birds. Among other things, we saw many Eversmann's redstarts, an eastern Black-redstart, Bluethroat, Goldcrest, Northern Wheatear, Siberian Stonechat, Orange-flanked Bluetail, Hume's leaf Warbler, Siberian Chiffchaff and many Brown Accentors.



A male Evermann's redstart is one of the many migrants present in the Altai Mountains during this period (Photo: Geert Beckers)

27 September.

The group decided to shift our attention to some enigmatic bird species that are typical of the central Asian desert steppe below our base camp. We started walking and after a while we saw a couple of Mongolian Groundjay. It takes a while for these sneaky birds to show themselves nicely to everyone. Furthermore, enjoying hundreds of Pallas's Sandgrouse that can be admired both from sitting on the ground and in large groups flying past!



We are lucky to see thousands of steppe shrikes in large groups in the desert steppe (photo: Geert Beckers)



We manage to find a group of Pallas's Sandgrouse foraging on the ground (photo: Frederik Willemyns)

We also saw few smaller groups of Goitered Gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa*) in this mountain foothills area.

In the afternoon we visit the only location with river and trees in this spacious area. It was a GREAT birdwatching among hundreds of migratory birds. We saw dozens of Hume's leaf warbler, Siberian chiffchaff, Pallas's leaf warbler, Taiga Flycatchers, Azure tit, Rosy Starling, Isabelline Shrike, Siberian Stonechat, Little Bunting, Oriental Turtle dove, Citrine Wagtail... Highlights were, however, our first Siberian Accentors and two Black-throated Accentors. That tastes like more!



Black-throated Accentors were one of the highlight species in the west! (Photo: Geert Beckers)

28 September.

Today we visited a large piece of private land where bushes alternate with grassy areas and cultivated fields. An international team of ringers has a ringing station here. On arrival, the buntings were flying around our ears in large numbers! We visited the ringers who have just held two Black-throated Accentors and a Paddyfield Warbler. They told us an intriguing story of a small nightjar that they observed daily on a stony plain on the edge of the adjacent mountains. They have also succeeded in ringing one of them and collected DNA sample. It naturally aroused the interest of everyone! While watching birds we head in the direction of the biotope. It is full of birds. Hundreds of Hume's warbler, Siberian Chiffchaff, Pine Buntings, Evermann's Redstart, Black and Red-throat Thrushes make up the

main part. Other nice species are Pallas's Grasshopper warbler, Dusky Thrush, Olive-backed Pipit, Gldenstdt's Redstart, Godlewski's and Meadow Bunting, Hoopoe and Spotted flycatcher.



A Dusky Thrush was present in a large group of Red and Black-throat thrushes (photo: Geert Beckers)

We saw a young Red-headed Bunting in a group of Pine Bunting. A first observation for this part of Mongolia!



Record shot of the Brown-headed Bunting (photo: Geert Beckers)

The afternoon was spent entirely on search for the nightjar. After hours of vain search, Jan and I finally encountered a nightjar. The bird is very flighty but viewed well before landing quite close behind a cairn. Everyone was called in and with a group we flushed the bird again and saw it well. End of a successful day!

Later we received a news that as a result of DNA analysis of 1 out of 5 birds the Ringing Station sampled, the small nightjar was concluded to be a European nightjar (*C.e.plumipes*) subspecies that occur in Eastern Tien Shan mountain (North west China and West and South western Mongolia).



Red-throated thrushes can be studied well and numerous throughout the journey (photo: Geert Beckers)

29 September.

Our time in the west was unfortunately over, although we could have had a good time here if we stayed even longer. Before the return flight we made a stop at a big steppe lake where thousands of water birds were present. Highlights in this bird opulence are a Dalmatian Pelican, Pallas's Gull, Common Cranes, Bearded Reedling, Pallas reed Bunting and Eastern marsh Harrier. End of a very successful first part of the trip! After a short flight, we are back in the capital and we spent the night in a luxurious GER resort on the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar. Some of us directly scanned southern hills covered by birch forest from our gers and found a group of Siberian Roe Deer (*Capreolus pygargus*) consisting 7 individuals.

30 September.

Around our Ger camp we recorded our only Brandt's Jay (the very striking subspecies *brandti*). After a full breakfast we traveled on to the steppes of eastern Mongolia. Along the way we encountered many Steppe Eagles, Cinereous Vultures and a Merlin. Highlight was a beautiful Corsac fox hunting Brand't voles by the road (*Vulpes corsac*).



Corsac fox was fairly common during our trip in the east (Photo: Geert Beckers)



Steppe eagles allowed excellent examinations several times a day (photo: Frederik Willemyns)

01 October.



Naumann's Thrush was one of the personal highlights of the trip! (photo: Geert Beckers)

The first morning was filled in search of migratory birds in the vicinity of our Ger camp. It was simply impressive with species such as Japanese quail, Japanese Sparrowhawk, Chinese Grey Shrike, big flocks of Oriental Greenfinch, Lapland Longspur, Siberian Wagtail (*M.a.ocularis*), Naumann's, Dusky, Red-throated and Black-throated Thrushes, Rustic Bunting, Little Bunting, Black-faced Buntings, Oriental Turtle Dove, Long-eared Owl, Blyth's Pipit and many Siberian Accentors.



In the afternoon we made our first attempt for Pallas cat without a result. However, we recorded our only Radde's Warbler and beautiful sightings of Saker Falcon that are very common in this region.



A saker falcon has just hit a prey! (photo: Geert Beckers)



Sunset on the steppes. The rocks form key part of Pallas's cat habitat.

02 October.

The weather has changed completely today. The pleasant late summer weather that we had throughout the trip has given way to an icy northern wind and temperature dropped around freezing.



Windproof valleys are suitable for Pallas cat AND migratory birds! (photo: Geert Beckers)

We saw large groups of Mongolian gazelles, but we still failed to find a Pallas's cat. The cold front brought large numbers of Orange-flanked Bluetails and many Siberian Accentors with a nice sighting of three Eagle Owls.



Siberian Accentor is a regular migrant and winter visitor in Mongolia (Photo: Geert Beckers)



Orange-flanked Bluetail is one of the most common species in the east this time of the year! (Photo: Geert Beckers)

03 October.

The weather was still very inclement but we kept looking for our target species! After morning search around surrounding steppe, we received a message via the walkie talkies that our local spotters had observed two Pallas's cats. Despite the harsh cold, these men set off every morning from five o'clock to look for Pallas's cat. Once we have arrived at the location they had found one, hiding under a stone.



The Pallas's cat felt at ease resting under a lot of rocks (photo: Geert Beckers)

We decided to keep an eye on the rocks from a distance and wait until she starts hunting again. The time passed by steadily and makes way for a setting autumn sun. Around 4 p.m. the Pallas's cat lurks around for a while and half an hour later she sits down nicely out in the open near the rock for a while observing its surrounding.

Usually, Pallas's cat are crepuscular, hides during daylight and emerges from its hide in the dusk for hunting and cover distance during the night and return to safe place in the dawn.



Once she leaves the rock we admired for a long time while she sneaks through the grass.



This beautiful sighting of Pallas's cat was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the trip (photo: Frederik Willemyns)

In the evening sun, a nice large group of Taiga Bean Geese (subspecies *middendorffii*) flew over us rushing to the south from cold. In the evening, we went for a brief spotlighting session and it resulted a few Siberian Jerboas (*Allactaga sibirica*). The temperature was too low and it wasn't best timing to go for a Spotlighting to find other nocturnal mammals.



Jerboa's are a cross between a mouse and a kangaroo and very tame (photo: Geert Beckers)



Our GER camp in the midst of the vast grassland steppes of Mongolia (Photo: Geert Beckers)

04 October.

After a cold and clear night, we are once again focusing on birds. All bushes were full! Newly arrivals, large groups of thrushes flew around us, along with many Red-throated Thrushes, few Dusky Thrushes and a minimum of three Naumann's Thrushes were seen. At some point six species of buntings were foraging almost together on one slope. In addition to many Pine Buntings, we see at least 2 Rustic Buntings, a Pallas's reed Bunting and many Little buntings, Black-faced Buntings and Meadow Buntings.



Rustic buntings were observed on several days. Often in the company of other buntings

Bluetails, Daurian Redstart, Siberian Accentors, Pallas's leaf Warbler, Yellow-browed Warblers Eurasian Siskin and Upland Buzzards were everywhere. New for the list were an Isabelline Wheatear, a Great spotted Woodpecker and a Buff-bellied pipit (*Anthus rubescens japonicus*). A couple of Saker Falcons focused on the hundreds of migratory birds that newly arrived in the valley.



In the afternoon we made a nice trip through the less grazed parts of the steppes. These quieter and less disturbed (by nomads) areas are preferred by the Mongolian gazelles. In total we observed >800 and in addition, Frederik found a big surprise. A female Great Bustard of the eastern subspecies *dybowskii* foraged right by the road. A recent genetic analysis suggest this subspecies to be splitted as a separated species. A nice end to the second part of the journey.



A migrating female Great Bustard was a real surprise! (photo: Frederik Willemyns)



A Mongolian gazelle herd roams free in the vast eastern grasslands of Mongolia! (photo: Bolormunkh)

05 October.

Today we traveled back to the capital. Along the way we stopped by the steppe lakes of Gun Galuut briefly. The lakes were full of water birds with various interesting species among them. A large number of Swan geese and Bar-headed geese were foraging actively along with an adult Lesser White-fronted Goose in a group of Greater White-fronted geese. Apparently, the latter two are much rare to find in this country. Lesser White-fronted Goose was a lifer for our guide!

We also found Whooper Swans, a group of 4 Tundra Swans, small flocks of Pacific Golden Plovers, Spotted Redshank and among the colorful sandpipers, there was a Temminck's Stint. Ronald finally saw two more Baikal teal in a group of ducks but the group flew up before the rest gets the species in sight.

In the evening we all had a good farewell dinner together and enjoyed a warm shower before flying back home..



Our group at the end of a successful journey (photo: Frederik Willemyns)

Observed species:

Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides* **Vulnerable (VU)**
Taiga Bean Goose *Anser fabalis* - *ssp middendorffii*
Greylag Goose *Anser anser*
Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*
Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* **Vulnerable (VU)**
Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*
Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus* - *ssp bewickii*
Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*
Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*
Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*
Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*
Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*
Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*
Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*
Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*
Baikal Teal *Anas formosa* - *NC - Not seen by myself*
Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*
Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*
Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* **Vulnerable (VU)**
Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*
Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*
Smew *Mergellus albellus*
Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*
Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*
Altai Snowcock *Tetraogallus altaicus*
Chukar Partridge *Alectoris chukar*



Daurian Partridge *Perdix dauurica*
Japanese Quail *Coturnix japonica* **Near-threatened (NT)**
Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*
Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*



Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* **Vulnerable (VU)**

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Bearded Vulture *Gypaetus barbatus* **Near-threatened (NT)**

Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus* **Near-threatened (NT)**



Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis* **Endangered (EN)**

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis*

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus*

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*



Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

- *ssp lineatus*

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Upland Buzzard *Buteo hemilasius*

Eastern Buzzard *Buteo japonicus*

Great Bustard *Otis tarda* **Vulnerable (VU)**

- *ssp dybowskii*

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

Common Crane *Grus grus*

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* **Near-threatened (NT)**

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Pallas's Gull *Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus*

Vega Gull *Larus vegae*

- *ssp mongolicus*

Pallas's Sandgrouse *Syrrhaptes paradoxus*

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Hill Pigeon *Columba rupestris*

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Eurasian Eagle-Owl *Bubo bubo*



Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Common Nighthawk *Caprimulgus europaeus plumipes*

- NC - Possibly this subspecies

Common Swift *Apus apus* - NC

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos*

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis*

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug* **Endangered (EN)**

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*



Chinese Grey Shrike *Lanius sphenocercus*



Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

- *ssp brandtii*

Azure-winged Magpie *Cyanopica cyanus*

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*

Henderson's Ground Jay *Podoces hendersoni*



Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Daurian Jackdaw *Coloeus dauuricus*

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Northern Raven *Corvus corax*

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

Azure Tit *Cyanistes cyanus*

Great Tit *Parus major*

White-crowned Penduline Tit *Remiz coronatus*

Bearded Reedling *Panurus biarmicus*

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

Mongolian Lark *Melanocorypha mongolica*



Asian Short-toed Lark *Alaudala cheleensis*
Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*
- *ssp tristis*



Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*
Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*



Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*



Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*

Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola*

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

European Nuthatch *Sitta europea asiatica*



White-cheeked Starling *Spodiopsar cineraceus*



Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus*
Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*
White's Thrush *Zoothera aurea*
Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis*



Red-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis*
Naumann's Thrush *Turdus naumanni*
Dusky Thrush *Turdus eunomus*
Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*
Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*
Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*



Photo: Frederik Willemyns

Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla*



Eversmann's Redstart *Phoenicurus erythronotus*

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus aureus*



Güldenstädt's Redstart *Phoenicurus erythrogastrus*
Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*
Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*
Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*



Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*



Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*
Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*
White-winged Snowfinch *Montifringilla nivalis*
Pere David's Snowfinch *Pyrgilauda davidiana*
Siberian Accentor *Prunella montanella*
Brown Accentor *Prunella fulvescens*
Black-throated Accentor *Prunella atrogularis*
Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*
Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*
White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*
- *ssp personata*
- *ssp baicalensis*
- *ssp ocularis*
Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii*
Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*
Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*
- *ssp japonicus*



Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*
Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*
Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*
Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*
Mongolian Finch *Bucanetes mongolicus*
Long-tailed Rosefinch *Carpodacus sibiricus*



Oriental Greenfinch *Chloris sinica*



Twite *Linaria flavirostris*
Eurasian Siskin *Spinus spinus*
Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos*



Godlewski's Bunting *Emberiza godlewskii*
Meadow Bunting *Emberiza cioides*



Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*
Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*
Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps*
Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala*



Pallas's Reed Bunting *Emberiza pallasii*



Common Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*
Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus*

Total number of birds: 169



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