

Mongolia 2023

Ornis Birding Expeditions



Black-billed Capercaillie; We had fantastic views of several displaying males! (all images by Daniel López-Velasco)



ORNIS

birding expeditions

21st May - 6th June 2023

Tour led by Daniel López-Velasco

Participants: Friedemann Arndt, Brad Hacker, Rob Hunt &
María José Valencia



The ultimate Mongolian Ground Jay!

Our epic trip through one of the wildest and most beautiful countries in the world was not only extremely successful in terms of birds seen, but also a wonderful adventure. We recorded 240 species on this tour, including almost all the hoped-for targets, as well as several unexpected species. Many Siberian specialties that only occur as "dream" vagrants in the Western Palearctic were also a feature of this trip. Amongst the highlights, being literally surrounded by SEVEN displaying male Black-billed Capercaillies, just a few meters from us, while their songs echoed through a remote taiga forest, was certainly an unforgettable experience. An incredible afternoon and morning at Boon Tsagaan Nuur, with thousands of birds in view all times, and no less than 110 species seen, including Falcated Duck, Stejneger's Scoter, Swan Goose, "wild" Mute Swan, adult Relict Gull, adult Pallas's Fish Eagle, Saker Falcon, Swinhoe's Snipe, Asian Dowitcher, Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler and a male Yellow-breasted Bunting, amongst many others, was really Mongolia birding at its best. Displaying Oriental Plovers in the Gobi were also much appreciated, as were the numerous falls of "sibes", ranging from smart Siberian Rubythroats, to many phylloscopus warblers, flycatchers, buntings and thrushes all out in the open. Our morning at the very scenic high-altitude Khukh lake, with several White-throated (Hodgson's) Bush Chats, singing Altai Snowcocks, confiding sushkini Asian Rosy Finches, Guldenstadt's Redstarts and a Wolverine (!) was also memorable.

Other great birds seen very well included Tundra and Taiga Bean Geese, Hazel Grouse, Lammergeier, Amur Falcon, White-naped and Demoiselle Cranes, the second Pectoral Sandpiper for Mongolia, Red-necked Stint, Pallas's Gull, Pallas's Sandgrouse (interestingly, all non-extinct birds named after Pallas were seen on the tour), Eurasian Eagle Owl, Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker, Mongolian Lark, Blyth's Pipit, Kozlov's Accentor (Mongolia's only endemic bird), Eversmann's Redstart, Two-barred, Asian Desert, Lanceolated, Paddyfield and Thick-billed Warblers, Azure Tit, White-crowned Penduline Tit, Wallcreeper, Henderson's (Mongolian) Ground Jay, Naumann's, Dusky, Red-throated, White's and Eyebrowed Thrushes, Saxaul Sparrow, Daurian Jackdaw, Godlewski's, Black-faced, Little, Pine and Pallas's Reed Buntings (of the two subspecies, *lydiae* and *nominata*), Mongolian Finch, Siberian Long-tailed, Chinese Beautiful and Pallas's Rosefinches, and much more.



The most-wanted Relict Gull !



Adult Pallas's Fish Eagle



Oriental Plover in full breeding plumage !



Azure Tit



Siberian Rubythroat

Our Mongolia tour combines world-class birding with a real travel experience, away from the crowds, in some of the most spectacular landscapes on Earth. We wandered for 16 days through the endless steppes, deserts and semi-deserts, wetlands, lakes, taiga forests and high mountains of the country, experiencing all kinds of weather, while enjoying great food. The camping was fantastic thanks to an exceptional crew, and our guide Boogii did an amazing job too.

Our tour began early in the morning at Ulaan Baatar Airport, the capital of Mongolia. Upon arrival we transferred to a willow and poplar shrubbery along the Tuul river, which was teeming with migrants due to the very bad weather and snow from the last couple of days. The trees and bushes were alive with birds, that included Brown Shrike, Pallas's Leaf Warbler, Dusky Warbler, (Siberian) Lesser Whitethroat, Azure-winged Magpie, smart Azure Tits, White-crowned Penduline Tit, White-cheeked Starling, Eyebrowed, Dusky, Naumann's – and plenty of hybrids between the two – Thrushes, Siberian Rubythroat, Taiga Flycatcher, Daurian Redstart, Amur (Stejneger's) Stonechat, Olive-backed Pipit, Brambling and Siberian Long-tailed Rosefinch, amongst others. Overhead, we noted a male Amur Falcon and many Black Kites of the lineatus subspecies, sometimes split as Black-eared Kite. After a tasty lunch we headed straight to Terelij NP, where we arrived in the late afternoon. While our crew set up our camp, we did some birding that gave us Daurian Jackdaw, Eurasian Hobby and several Pine Buntings.

We woke up before dawn, under freezing temperatures, and drove to a forest higher up. We then walked for a few minutes and all of a sudden started hearing the display song of the mythical Black-billed Capercaillie. We approached it carefully and eventually found a singing male on the snow, allowing for great views. One of the most-desired of all Palearctic birds in all its glory, Wow! After a few minutes, the bird disappeared, and we carried on walking, hoping for more. And oh boy did we get more... We eventually entered what seemed to be the center of the lekking area, and for the next two hours were treated to an incredible show of up to 7 male capercaillies in full display, including some fearless ones that approached us to within 5 meters. Simply mind-blowing, and one of the best-ever birding experiences for all of us. Very happy with our success, we walked back to our vehicles, where coffee was



Black-billed Capercaillie scenery !



Siberian passerines galore! Siberian Long-tailed Rosefinch



Naumann's Thrush



Dusky Warbler



Pallas's Leaf Warbler



Pallas's Gull with Asian Dowitchers

awaiting. And not only that, but also 3 more capercaillies, feeding on the ground next to our cars. Incredible! We then had a proper breakfast, and afterwards, considering how well we had seen our target, started driving south towards Dalanzadgad, one day ahead of schedule. We did a small detour and spent an hour in a forest where we secured excellent views of a pair of Hazel Grouse. In the late afternoon we stopped to camp in an area with some bushes that usually attracts migrants. And surely, quite a few migrants were present, including Arctic Warbler, several *lydiae* Pallas's Reed and Little Buntings, Blyth's Pipits and Asian Short-toed Larks. Impressive Mongolian Larks were also common here, and we enjoyed superb views of these massive and very striking larks.

Plenty of new migrants arrived overnight, and these included Thick-billed Warbler and Hume's Leaf Warbler, as well as many Dusky and Pallas's Leaf Warblers and Taiga Flycatchers. We carried on south, seeing Hill Pigeon on the way, and eventually arrived to Dalanzadgad in time for lunch. The weather quickly deteriorated during the afternoon, with a major sandstorm



Blyth's Pipit

You don't get such good views of Hazel Grouse everyday!



going through. A short break before the heavens opened gave us excellent views of a cracking White's Thrush and some White-crowned Penduline Tits in a nearby plantation.

A vast steppe area, home to Oriental Plovers, was our next destination in the early morning. However, we experienced horrendous weather that lasted for several hours, which wasn't helpful. Nevertheless, we managed to find a soaking wet male Oriental Plover. We had lunch at a tourist camp, and then visited a couple of plantations once the weather improved. Good numbers of migrants were seen, including Dark-sided and Asian Brown Flycatchers, Red-throated Thrush and Isabelline Shrike. In the late afternoon we enjoyed several exquisite Oriental Plovers doing their crazy, pterodroma Petrel-like display flight near our camp. A great way to finish the day!

We headed towards the impressive Yolyn Am the following day. Yolyn Am is a deep and narrow gorge in the Gurvan Saikhan Mountains. The valley is named after the Lammergeier, which is called Yol in



Pallas's Rosefinch



Red-throated Thrush



Pallas's Reed Bunting in the snow



Pine Bunting



Olive-backed Pipit singing in the snow

Mongolian, hence the name is often translated to Valley of the Vultures or Valley of the Eagles. On the way we had good views of our first Pallas's Sandgrouse of the tour. Once in the canyon, we went for an easy and very enjoyable hike. Watching a stunning Wallcreeper taking a long bath in a stream merely 5 meters away from us was definitely a trip highlight! The rather unassuming endemic Kozlov's Accentor was quickly spotted, next to several smart Brown Accentors. Very tame White-winged Snowfinches were admired at length, and we also found some Mongolian Finches, Chinese Beautiful Rosefinches, Twites and Godlewski's Buntings. Brad also photographed an adult male Red-throated Thrush. Overhead, a couple of Lammergeiers made some close passes, together with some Himalayan and Cinereous Vultures and a single Golden Eagle. After lunch we started heading west, stopping en route to look for the sought-after Henderson's Ground Jay at some promising habitat. And sure enough, after a bit of searching we eventually found one of these bizarre-looking birds, which performed at length. Some Great Grey Shrikes of the pallidirostris subspecies, usually called Steppe Grey Shrike, were found nearby. We camped in a small canyon where Pied Wheatear, Common Rock Thrush, Grey-necked Bunting and a Thick-billed Warbler, as well as a group of Siberian Ibex, were seen. A night drive proved rather quiet, with some Red Foxes and a Siberian/Gobi Jerboa.

A small pond with scattered bushes next to our camp was home to Long-toed and Temminck's Stints, allowing for great comparison views, Citrine Wagtail, Eurasian Hoopoe and a skulking Paddyfield Warbler found by Brad. Nearby, another Henderson's Ground Jay showed superbly. We continued our journey west, and by mid-morning we arrived to the famous Khongoryn Els sand dunes, also known as the "Singing Sands". Here, it didn't take long to find a pair of very cooperative Asian Desert Warblers. The remnants of the odd saxaul forest are the preferred habitat of the smart Saxaul Sparrow, and after some time we enjoyed great views of a pair of this localized species. A flock of Greater Sand Plovers was found in a small wetland, while a Long-legged Buzzard and some Demoiselle Cranes flew by. After lunch at the base of the dunes, we started our long drive towards Kholboolj lake. In the late afternoon we found a good place to camp, just by



Saxaul Sparrow

a stream that hosted no less than 53 migrant Citrine Wagtails.

An early morning visit to a well-known prehistoric cave yielded a roosting Eurasian Eagle Owl as well as some breeding Lesser Kestrels. We arrived at the lake just before lunch, and then spent the afternoon birding along the shoreline. There were lots of birds, and highlights included our first Asian Dowitchers and Pallas's Gulls of the trip, a Pectoral Sandpiper (apparently the second documented record for Mongolia!), a smart Red-necked Stint next to many Little Stints, Pacific Golden Plovers in their beautiful breeding plumage, many Bar-headed and both Tundra and Taiga Bean Geese amongst the Greylag Geese, Whooper Swans, Ruddy and Common Shelducks, Red-crested Pochards, Gull-billed, Caspian and Common Terns and much more.

More or less the same species were seen the next morning, and we also added Tundra Swan to our ever-growing list. Scanning through the Black-headed and Mongolian (Vega) Gulls present didn't produce the hoped-for Relict Gull. It was then time to head



White-winged Terns in stunning scenery!



A smart Pacific Golden Plover in breeding plumage

towards Boon Tsagaan Nuur, where we arrived just in time to have lunch. We hadn't finished our meal when Brad asked me about a gull in the distance. I looked in the scope and was very happy to see a cracking Relict Gull. We got closer and enjoyed good scope views of this very rare species that is getting harder and harder to find on these lakes in recent years. In fact, all other groups that visited Boon Tsagaan around the same time as us missed it. Lots of shorebirds were present in the puddles and along the shoreline, including plenty of Broad-billed Sandpipers, some Terek Sandpipers and more Asian Dowitchers. The river mouth attracted lots of Pallas's Gulls, as well as a couple of scarce Brown-headed Gulls, while overhead a most-wanted adult Pallas's Fish Eagle gave incredible views. A nice Saker Falcon scared away a lot of waterbirds, and sheer numbers of White-winged Terns, with some Black and Whiskered Terns mixed in, were flying around all over the place. Many Pale Martins hawked for insects, together with pekinensis Common and Pacific Swifts. It was true heaven! Several Ferruginous Ducks were seen, including a male with obvious and contrasting white flanks that looked like a Baer's Pochard x Ferruginous Duck hybrid. Three more Tundra Swans were found here, and we decided to drive to a distant sandpit where what looked like a (the same one?) Relict Gull was roosting. And sure enough, the Relict was there, giving frame-filling scope views next to some Black-headed Gulls. Fantastic! But even better was finding a very cooperative male Yellow-breasted Bunting in the same spot - a Critically Endangered species that sadly has become very, very rare here in Mongolia, and elsewhere, in recent times, due to illegal trapping during migration and in the wintering grounds. What a great day it had been!

We woke up to dark skies and strong winds which made birding somewhat difficult. It seemed lots of birds had departed overnight, although there were still good numbers of many species, and we still added some to our list, including a nice male Falcated Duck, first picked out by Friedemann, a flock of Stejneger's Scoters, a Swinhoe's Snipe, found by Mariajo and confirmed by the analysis of outer tail feathers on photos, a showy Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler and an interesting House Martin which showed features of both Western and Asian. Having done so well here, we decided to start driving towards the remote Khukh lake, located in the Khangai mountains, today. We saw several Saker Falcons, Upland



Bar-headed Geese



The sought-after White-throated (or Hodgson's) Bush Chat



White-throated Bush Chat again!

Buzzards and Pere David's Snowfinches on the way, until we found a suitable place for camping, just before it started snowing.

We arrived to the high elevation Khukh lake just before midday. We went for a walk in the afternoon, and soon found one of our main targets, the rare White-throated (Hodgson's) Bush Chat, first found by Rob. Although it is sometimes seen on its wintering grounds in the terai of India or Nepal, few birdwatchers have observed it on its breeding grounds, so watching several pairs of this attractive saxicola amidst some very impressive scenery was a real highlight. A singing male Pallas's Reed Bunting, of the nominate subspecies, was found, as well as some Altai Accentors. It then started snowing heavily and winds got very strong, so we decided it was time to head back to camp, hoping for better weather tomorrow morning.

We woke up to clear skies, and went straight to the base of some nearby cliffs, where it didn't take long to find several pairs of Altai Snowcocks. Magical moments! Nearby, we found fresh footprints of what seemed to be a very large Wolverine, and kept scanning the ridges in case we got lucky... Meanwhile, we saw a couple of flighty pairs of the little known sushkini subspecies of Asian Rosy Finches, but none obliged. We carried on walking, seeing some more White-throated Bush Chats as well as a couple of beautiful Guldenstadt's Redstarts, until I spotted the hoped-for Wolverine, a really bulky individual with a striking two-toned coloration, running hyena-style on the snow, along the upper ridge. Unfortunately, it soon disappeared behind it, never to be seen again. Interestingly, another group saw the same individual on the other side of the mountain in the afternoon. An active nest of Saker Falcons was seen in the same area, and finally, after a lot of searching, we enjoyed terrific views of a single rosy finch. Tired, but very happy with our sightings, we returned to our campsite, where we enjoyed a terrific dinner. Weather deteriorated in the afternoon, so we decided to stay around the camp.

It snowed during the night, and it was really cold when we left our tents. Outside, a beautiful white landscape greeted us. Given we had seen all of our targets, we agreed on leaving the mountains -and hopefully the bad weather!- behind, and started driving north,



Some well-camouflaged Altai Snowcocks!



The sadly critically endangered Yellow-breasted Bunting



Eversmann's Redstart in scenery!

back to the main road. A very productive stop at some larch forest gave us a very unexpected pair of breeding Pallas's Rosefinches - a species that is usually never seen on spring tours to Mongolia -. And next to them, a pair of Eversmann's Redstarts was much appreciated too. Red-flanked Bluetails and Red-throated Thrushes were particularly common, and we also found a drumming Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker, some Eurasian Nuthatches and a singing Tree Pipit, next to several Olive-backed Pipits. A cute Siberian Chimpunk was seen here too. We camped in a very nice, forested valley, where we found yet two more pairs of Pallas's Rosefinches, as well as a Northern Shrike, two male Oriental Cuckoos fighting with each other and a pair of Siberian Stonechats. Habitat looked good for Ural Owl, but in spite of a lot of trying, none were seen or heard.

Next day was mostly a travelling day, although we did some birding in the afternoon. Highlights included a roosting Eurasian Nightjar, a pair of Blyth's Pipits, a singing male Oriental Cuckoo and a Two-barred Warbler. Sleeping in the bed of a hotel room and taking a hot shower felt very good too!

We visited Ugi Nuur the following morning, although it proved rather quiet. Good numbers of Common Goldeneyes were seen, and we also added Horned and Black-necked Grebes and Black-throated Diver to our list. In the afternoon we arrived to Bayaan lake, where a couple of pairs of White-naped Cranes were a wonderful sight. We tried for rails and crakes in the reeds, to no avail. A flock of Falcated Ducks amongst Eurasian Wigeons and Gadwalls was seen well, while several displaying Asian Dowitchers were also found. Overhead, Eastern Marsh Harriers gave great views.

In the early morning we enjoyed great views of singing Paddyfield and Oriental Reed Warblers, Bearded Tits and Common Reed Buntings just outside of our tents, while not far from there we also found a pair of Lydiae Pallas's Reed Buntings. After breakfast we hit the road again, heading east towards another sector of Terelij NP. We went past UB, realizing how much the city had grown in recent years, and eventually reached our destination in the late afternoon. We checked the best site for Chinese Bush Warbler, but none had arrived yet.

We spent the morning visiting several bush warbler territories, but it was clear that none were present. In fact, it seems this year the bird arrived even later than usual. However, several male Lanceolated Warblers had arrived overnight, and proved very obliging, much to Rob's delight! Supporting cast included singing Yellow-browed Warblers, Siberian Rubythroats and Pine Buntings. We heard Black and Grey-headed Woodpeckers, and saw our only "white-headed" Long-tailed Tits of the trip. Another, higher, area of forest was visited, but things were quiet there. It was then time to have our last lunch of the tour, and afterwards we headed back to our hotel in the outskirts of UB, where the tour ended the following morning.

All in all an unforgettable trip to a fantastic country. I can't wait to be back!



Pallas's Sandgrouse



Displaying Asian Dowitcher !



Tremendous Gobi Desert scenery

Species list

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*
Greylag Goose *Anser anser*
Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides*
Taiga Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*
Tundra Bean Goose *Anser serrirostris*
Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*
Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus*
Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*
Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*
Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*
Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*
Garganey *Spatula querquedula*
Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*
Gadwall *Mareca strepera*
Falcated Duck *Mareca falcata*
Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope*
Eastern Spot-billed Duck *Anas zonorhyncha*
Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*
Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*
Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*
Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*
Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*
Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*
Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*
Stejneger's Scoter *Melanitta stejnegeri*
Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*
Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*
Hazel Grouse *Tetrastes bonasia*
Black-billed Capercaillie *Tetrao urogalloides*
Altai Snowcock *Tetraogallus altaicus*
Chukar Partridge *Alectoris chukar* (HO)
European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*
Common Swift *Apus apus*

Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus*
Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus optatus*
Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*
Pallas's Sandgrouse *Syrrhaptes paradoxus*
Rock Dove *Columba livia*
Hill Pigeon *Columba rupestris*
Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*
Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*
Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*
White-naped Crane *Antigone vipio*
Demoiselle Crane *Grus virgo*
Common Crane *Grus grus*
Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*
Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*
Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*
Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*
Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*
Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*
Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*
Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*
Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus*
Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*
Ruff *Calidris pugnax*
Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*
Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*
Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*
Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*
Little Stint *Calidris minuta*
Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*
Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*
Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
Relict Gull *Ichthyaetus relictus*
Pallas's Gull *Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus*
Vega Gull *Larus vegae*
Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*
Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*
Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*
White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*
Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*
Black-throated Loon *Gavia arctica*
Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Great Egret *Ardea alba*
Bearded Vulture *Gypaetus barbatus*
Himalayan Vulture *Gyps himalayensis*
Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*
Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*
Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*
Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*
Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*
Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*
Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*
Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus*
Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*
Black Kite *Milvus migrans*
Pallas's Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*
Upland Buzzard *Buteo hemilasius*

Eastern Buzzard *Buteo japonicus*
Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*
Eurasian Eagle-Owl *Bubo bubo*
Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*
Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dryobates minor*
Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*
Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius* (HO)
Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus* (HO)
Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*
Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*
Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis*
Merlin *Falco columbarius*
Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*
Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug*
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*
Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*
Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*
Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*
Azure-winged Magpie *Cyanopica cyanus*
Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*
Mongolian Ground Jay *Podoces hendersoni*
Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*
Daurian Jackdaw *Coloeus dauuricus*
Rook *Corvus frugilegus*
Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*
Northern Raven *Corvus corax*
Coal Tit *Periparus ater*
Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*
Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*
Azure Tit *Cyanistes cyanus*
Great Tit *Parus major*
White-crowned Penduline Tit *Remiz coronatus*
Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*
Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*
Mongolian Lark *Melanocorypha mongolica*
Asian Short-toed Lark *Alaudala cheleensis*
Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*
Pale Martin *Riparia diluta*
Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
Siberian House Martin *Delichon lagopodum*
Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*
Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*
Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*
Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*
Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*
Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*
Two-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus*
Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*
Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*
Thick-billed Warbler *Arundinax aedon*
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Helopsaltes certhiola*
Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata*
Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*
Asian Desert Warbler *Curruca nana*
Common Whitethroat *Curruca communis*
Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*
Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria*
White-cheeked Starling *Spodiopsar cineraceus*
White's Thrush *Zoothera aurea*
Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*
Red-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis*
Dusky Thrush *Turdus eunomus*
Naumann's Thrush *Turdus naumanni*
Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*
Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica*
Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica*
Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope*

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*
Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla*
Eversmann's Redstart *Phoenicurus erythronotus*
Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*
Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus aureus*
Güldenstädt's Redstart *Phoenicurus erythrogastrus*
Common Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*
White-throated Bush Chat *Saxicola insignis*
Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*
Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*
Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*
Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*
Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*
Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*
White-winged Snowfinch *Montifringilla nivalis*
Pere David's Snowfinch *Pyrgilauda davidiana*
Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*
Saxaul Sparrow *Passer ammodendri*
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
Altai Accentor *Prunella himalayana*
Brown Accentor *Prunella fulvescens*
Kozlov's Accentor *Prunella koslowi*
Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*
Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis*
Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*
Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*
White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*
Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*
Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii*
Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*
Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*
Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*
Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*
Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Mongolian Finch *Bucanetes mongolicus*
Asian Rosy Finch *Leucosticte arctoa*
Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*
Chinese Beautiful Rosefinch *Carpodacus davidianus*
Siberian Long-tailed Rosefinch *Carpodacus sibiricus*
Twite *Linaria flavirostris*
Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*
Eurasian Siskin *Spinus spinus*
Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos*
Godlewski's Bunting *Emberiza godlewskii*
Grey-necked Bunting *Emberiza buchanani*
Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*
Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*
Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala*
Pallas's Reed Bunting *Emberiza pallasi*
Common Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Red-cheeked Suslik *Spermophilus erythrogenys*
Long-tailed Ground Squirrel *Urocitellus undulatus*
Gobi Jerboa *Allactaga bullata*
Brandt's Vole *Lasiopodomys brandtii*
Mongolian Clawed Jird *Meriones unguiculatus*

Mammals

Long-eared Hedgehog *Hemiechinus auritus*
Corsac Fox *Vulpes corsac*
Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*
Wolverine *Gulo gulo*
Siberian Roe Deer *Capreolus pygargus*
Siberian Ibex *Capra sibirica*
Goitered Gazelle *Gazella subgutturosa*
Mongolian Gazelle *Procapra gutturosa*
Mountain Hare *Lepus timidus*
Tolai Hare *Lepus tolai*
Daurian Pika *Ochotona dauurica*
Northern Pika *Ochotona hyperborea*
Pallas's Pika *Ochotona pallasi*
Mongolian Marmot *Marmota sibirica*
Eurasian Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris*
Alashan Ground Squirrel *Spermophilus alashanicus*



Mongolia is a great place to connect with the unique Wallcreeper!



Isabelline Shrike



Saker



Brown Shrike



Steppe Eagle



Oriental Plover



Greater Sand Plover



Red-flanked Bluetail



Another Demoiselle Crane



Lammergeier



Long-toed Sting



Nice flight shot of Swinhoe's Snipe!



Pied Wheatear



White's Thrush displaying its striking under-wing pattern



Citrine Wagtail



Asian Rosy Finch (sushkini ssp)



White-naped Crane



Our tented camps for part of the trip!





Mongolia is about birding amidst sensational sceneries!



**Thanks to the whole group for your participation and enthusiasm !
See you next time !**

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