

Mongolia 2025

Ornis Birding Expeditions





ORNIS

birding expeditions

25 May - 10 June 2025

Tour led by Julien Mazenauer



Two of the best Palearctic birding experiences! Seeing displaying Oriental Plovers and the mythical Black-billed Capercaillies at close range is an absolute must for every birder! (All images by Julien Mazenauer unless stated otherwise)

The second Ornis tour to Mongolia in spring was an ultimate success, with absolutely all specialties seen very well on this ever-improved itinerary! Birding amidst sensational scenery, out of the crowds and with nature just for ourselves, we travelled on a large loop around some of the most wonderful places of this planet. From the Boreal forests to the Altai Mountains and Gobi Desert, we covered every habitat and boasted an impressive total of 264 species. Without any doubts, the highlights were up to seven (!) displaying Black-billed Capercaillies a few meters away, several beautiful Oriental Plovers doing their weird "lunatic nightjar" display flights, finding a dozen of Relict Gulls on three different lakes and getting touching-distance views at Boon Tsagaan (hence avoiding the 1100km extra drive to the main breeding colony!) and a wealth of migrants culminating in the close study of a male Siberian Thrush and male Siberian Blue Robin, but also close sightings of Yellow-breasted, both "Steppe" and "Polar" Pallas's Reed Buntings. But birding the high elevation Khukh Lake was absolutely stunning too, with its wealthy population of scarce White-throated Bushchat, fabulous Asian Rosy Finches and calling Altai Snowcocks. Our stay in the Boreal forests allowed us several fantastic views of Ural Owls (it seems to be a really good year for them), and seeing several unconcerned males of the rare Pallas's Rosefinch. On our last full day of the tour, we had an amazing show of the localised Chinese Bush Warblers, freshly arrived from their wintering groups in south-east Asia, as well as some showy Lanceolated Warblers.

A changed flight saw all of us arriving in Mongolia a day earlier than expected, allowing some hours of extra pre-tour birding on the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar. We focused on patches of riverine vegetation bordering the Tuul River and were successful in finding our first Azure Tits (including a nest), several White-crowned Penduline Tits, a bunch of superb Long-tailed Rosefinches of the Siberian form (soon to be lumped with the Chinese ones) and migrants like a surprise Chestnut Bunting,



The fabulous Long-tailed Rosefinch put on a great show minutes after arriving!



A few Ural Owls were seen around our camps, definitely a good year for them!



We had fabulous looks at Relict Gulls on three different lakes (here at Buun Tsagaan), without having to drive a 1100km loop all the way west to the breeding site!



We witnessed a few fabulous "Sibes" fallouts, probably culminating in the observation of a female and this second-year male Siberian Thrushes!



Yellow-breasted Bunting found almost in a city center!



The very pale "Brandt's" Shore Lark is the commonest passerine in the steppe

Eyebrowed Thrushes and a large flock of Pacific Swifts. An introductory dinner with beers was much appreciated too!

We departed very early next morning eastwards with possibly what is one of the most spectacular birding experiences of the Old World. A short walk through a beautiful birch forest led us to what must have been the centre of a lekking arena of SEVEN huge males Black-billed Capercaillies, showing off at point-blank range for an hour! We could admire every single detail on these huge and beautiful birds and agreed it must certainly one of the best birding moments of our lives! Completely surreal to watch these beasts totally unconcerned less than 10 meters away. Walking around also gave us the first of many Red-flanked Bluetails, Arctic, Two-barred and Yellow-browed Warblers but also a nice male Hazel Grouse, sadly not showing long enough for the whole group. A displaying Swinhoe's Snipe was also much appreciated, as we could observe (on pictures mostly!) the diagnostical shape of the outer tail feathers (and of course the noise they produce). Nice males Pine Buntings were also quite a feat. We then settled off on a long drive towards Dalanzadgad. A short random stop to fix a tire was surprisingly productive, with a female Yellow-breasted Bunting and Pallas's Reed Bunting at a very small patch of habitat almost in the city centre of Zuunmod.

Exploration in the vast steppes after a great field lunch brought us our first fantastic Mongolian Larks and numerous "Brandt's" Shore Larks as well as Upland Buzzards, Steppe Eagles, another migrant nominate Pallas's Reed Bunting, and Siberian Rubythroat. We set up camp further south near a small plantation, which attracted lots of migrants such as a fine male Naumann's Thrush, Thick-billed Warbler, many Asian Brown, Dark-sided and Taiga Flycatchers, Common Whitethroat and Eurasian Sparrowhawk. A Little Owl calling next to our camp was also welcomed.



Mongolian Lark, a common but ever beautiful and impressive species!

Rain overnight gave us hope of a fall-out and indeed it was obvious early morning that things had moved and arrived, with Dusky Warblers absolutely all over the place, more Thick-billed Warblers and Siberian Rubythroats, a cracking male Siberian Blue Robin (and also a female), Eyebrowed and an intergrade Dusky x Naumann's Thrush (as well as the same male Naumann's as yesterday), a few Pallas's Reed and Little Buntings, loads of Common Rosefinches and even a Chaffinch. Flycatchers were almost all gone though. Impressive Mongolian Larks displayed overhead, as did cool Pere David's Snowfinches and Asian Short-toed Larks. It was then time to move on southwards, and we stopped for lunch in a sparsely wooded valley, where we found our first Desert Wheatears, Isabelline Shrikes and 'Steppe' Great Grey Shrike. Some migrants like an Eyebrowed Thrush, Dusky Warblers and Dark-sided Flycatchers were also around but otherwise it was fairly quiet in the heat of the day. We made it in time to Dalanzgdag to visit a couple



The cool, minute Pere David's Snowfinch, which breeds in rodents holes!



White-crowned Penduline Tit

parks and garden, filled with Arctic, Two-barred and Yellow-browed Warblers, more Eyebrowed Thrushes and a flock of White-crowned Penduline Tits. An evening session outside of town yielded a stonking singing male Barred Warbler (the best Sylvia?!), two stunning males Citrine Wagtails, Amur Falcon and plenty of Isabelline and Brown Shrike.

Early next morning we visited a flat steppe area not too far from Dalanzagdag, but not before having a nice field breakfast, our first of several flocks of Pallas's Sandgrouse overhead and another great Barred Warbler encounter. We went further, and had an astonishing encounter with one of the top birds of the tour, displaying male Oriental Plovers! They would fly high up in the sky and get back to the ground in a petrel-like flight, or perhaps better called the 'lunatic nightjar' flight (as in the field guide!). We witnessed three fantastic displaying males (including one nest building) and also a female. A certain male came down ten (!) meters from us while we were laying on the



Seeing displaying Oriental Plovers is one of the musts in Mongolia!



A monster male Barred Warbler, certainly the most striking Sylvia warbler?

ground! It also kept chasing breeding plumage Greater Sand Plovers and Shore Larks, all that under our amazed gaze... What a sight! Lots of Pallas's Sandgrouse were seen drinking at a nearby pool, and it got even better when we visited a nearby plantation yielding a male Siberian Thrush (great find Nick)! The bird unfortunately wasn't in great shape and wouldn't flush no matter how close we were. Good luck continued at another plantation, despite the increasingly strong wind, with this time a female Siberian Thrush plus a single White's Thrush seen, Eurasian Golden Oriole as well as two Chestnut-flanked White-eyes (the 6th Mongolian record!), loads of Pallas's Leaf Warblers, many Dusky Warblers and a female Eurasian Golden Oriole (rare that far east). After lunch, we drove to our luxurious Ger Camp at the base of the Altai Mountains. An impressive setting of traditional huts in full comfort! We spent a couple hours walking the nearby hills, finding loads of goodies like Mongolian Finches, tame Grey-necked and Godlewski's



Mongolian Finch



Chinese Beautiful Rosefinch

Buntings, extremely tame White-winged Snowfinches (they would keep flying at our feet begging for food!), Rock Sparrows, our first spectacular Bearded Vultures and on the mammal side tons of Pallas's Pikas and Alashan Ground Squirrels plus a cool Halys Pit Viper being mobbed by a dozen birds.

We spent an enjoyable morning birding the Yolyn Am (Valley of the Vultures) but in very strong wind, which luckily didn't prevent us from finding birds. First were a pair of really showy Kozlov's Accentors - a Mongolian near-endemic - as well as some nice Brown Accentors and a few Siberian Ibexes in the cliffs. After breakfast we walked inside a stunning gorge where we easily found nice Chinese Beautiful Rosefinches, Twites, lots of displaying Blyth's Pipits and the highlight a great male Wallcreeper feeding in some sheltered crevices, showing its amazing wing pattern- what a unique bird! After that great hike and seeing lots of Himalayan and some Bearded Vulture



The near-endemic Mongolian Accentor showed very well for us at Yolyn Am



One of the most unique Palearctic birds - a sublime male Wallcreeper!

overhead, we moved on into the desert. Lunch en-route at an extensive plantation gave us yet another Eurasian Golden Oriole and Booted Eagle and a fine adult male Taiga Flycatcher. It was then time for one another much awaited encounter, and after some time spent scanning the vast, sparsely vegetated and stony plains, Paul shouted and we all got great looks at the great Mongolian Ground Jay! We followed a pair for quite some time and observed some cool behaviour of these miniature roadrunners - one individual kept collecting and burying wild almonds (of *Amygdalus pedunculata*) into the ground, likely for the harsh seasons to come (like most jays do!). A Goitered Gazelle was also a nice find, and dozens of Pallas's Sandgrouses were seen - it seems to be a very good year for them. We settled camp inside a scenic gorge, surrounded by Mongolian Finches, Common Rock Thrushes and Bearded Vultures overhead and enjoyed some beers after such a successful, yet relaxed day!

We woke up to the songs of Chukars, Pied Wheatears, Godlewski's and Grey-necked Buntings and even found a migrant Long-eared Owl in about the only tree of the whole canyon. An active Bearded Vulture nest was also appreciated. We paid another visit to the Ground Jays and were delighted to find a very cooperative bird, again burying nuts into the ground a few meters away! A nearby plantation was almost devoid of birds except for a migrant female Black-naped Oriole, but the stream next to it was attracting dozens of Pallas's Sandgrouse. Thanks to some recent rains, the whole desert was blooming with Irises making it a tremendous sight! An Onager and some more Goitered Gazelles were spotted while we approached the legendary Khongoryn Els, an immense dune system in the middle of the Gobi Desert. We checked-in in a nearby Ger Camp and went to look for Asian Desert Warbler, which took some time but Simon released the pressure by finding a territorial male – thanks mate! A ruin nearby was the breeding grounds of at least three pairs of nice Saxaul Sparrows and a few Rock Sparrows. After lunch we visited a wetland at the base of



One of many Pallas's Sandgrouse seen on most days!



We had a great time watching Ground Jays hide almonds in the ground!



Mongolian Ground Jay again - what a unique and striking genus!



Grey-necked Bunting



Godlewski's Bunting



Desert Wheatear



Asian Desert Warbler



Bearded Vultures were a regular sight throughout our stay in the Altai mountains



A fine male Saxaul Sparrow (and one of the ugliest animals as background!)



Demoiselle Crane was seen many times in the steppe

the dunes and spent a couple hours looking at Long-toed and Temminck's Stints, a single Tufted Duck, White-winged Tern and some more. Overall it was pretty quiet so we called it a day and went back to enjoy a great dinner.

Next day was mostly a travel day to get to Kholboolj Nuur as early as possible, but we did a couple stops en-route for breakfast and lunch. Flocks of up to several hundreds of Pallas's Sandgrouse during the whole day was certainly a sight to behold! We found an active nest of Saker Falcon while having breakfast, but also a roosting Little Owl on the same cliff. We arrived at Kholboolj in the afternoon, in time for an enjoyable birding session. Not a lot was going on, very few waders and gulls were present, but it was nevertheless a good change from the previous days. Six showy Pallas's Grasshopper Warblers were a nice treat (especially for Paul!), as was a drake Baikal Teal (finally for Cagan!) and lots of more widespread birds like Whooper Swans, Swan, Bar-headed and middendorffii Taiga Bean Geese, Demoiselle and Common Cranes, twenty splendid adult Pallas's Gulls, hundreds of White-winged Terns, Long-toed, Little and Temminck's Stints, Curlew and Marsh Sandpipers, Steppe and Booted Eagles. The scenery was fabulous and having White-winged Terns hunting overhead while having dinner was just amazing!

Next morning we birded the same stretches of the lake, some birds departed overnight but there were also some arrivals like a male Stejneger's Scoter, a male Falcated Duck spotted by Paul, Ferruginous Duck and a flock of 14 wild Mute Swans plus Western Marsh Harrier, Caspian and Gull-billed Terns. No signs of any special gull unfortunately, so we moved on westwards towards the bigger Buun Tsagaan Nuur. A stop by a reedbed before reaching the lake itself was surprisingly productive, with multiple Baillon's Crakes and Little Bitterns in full view, several Great Reed, Pallas's Grasshopper and Paddyfield Warblers lurking in the reeds and the icing on the cake a vagrant male



Beautiful, cryptically-patterned Pallas's Sandgrouse pair - one of many observed at length!

Baer's Pochard, a Critically Endangered species having declined dramatically in recent years! We studied this one carefully to make sure he was not a partial hybrid, and were satisfied in the end! We also saw our first Horned Grebes (side-by-side with Black-necked Grebes), Whiskered Terns, displaying males Eastern Marsh Harriers (we saw both Eastern and Western today, and a few intermediate birds - they do hybridise in this part of their ranges). We arrived in time at Boon Tsagaan Nuur to spend some hours looking at gulls, but unfortunately still didn't luck upon the most-wanted gull (for now). Huge concentrations of White-winged Terns (about 2000 individuals chasing insects close to the surface) was an amazing sight, as were many full adult Pallas's Gulls!

We woke up to increasingly strong winds (up to 80 km/h), making the whole day a bit more challenging. We spent a lot of time scanning the shore from various places, but first witnessed a fallout of migrants in some bushes next to our camp, with several Hume's, Pallas's, Yellow-browed, Greenish and Dusky Warblers freshly arrived. After a couple hours of scanning, I finally laid eyes on a very distant gull feeding with Black-headed Gulls - a bit too distant at first - and could identify it when it took off: Relict Gull!!! We approached and watched first a single breeding plumage adult Relict from quite a distance, but got closer and closer, hour after hour, until the bird was only a few meters away, allowing absolutely unbeatable views! It would feed unconcerned right next to us, joined by three other individuals at some point, would go roost with the Pallas's Gulls - a truly fantastic birding time side by side with one of the rarest gull on the planet! This great moment effectively saved us from driving the 1100km loop to the breeding lake (which we could have done if need be, there is always flexibility on our tours)! Literally thousands of other birds were seen in the process, including hundreds of Swan and Greylag Geese (all with goslings), some cool waders like Pectoral Sandpiper (less than ten documented records in Mongolia), an adult male



The first Relict Gull we found!



The most beautiful Pallas's Gull



One of a few Relict Gulls found at Buun Tsagaan!

Red-necked Phalarope, our first Eastern Yellow Wagtail (of the breeding macronyx race), Richard's Pipit and a lone Western House Martin.

This morning, the compound was filled with Hume's Leaf Warblers, our first Spotted Flycatchers and also an Oriental Turtle Dove but also a cool Asian Badger running in the steppes behind our camp. Literally the first thing we saw on the beach was an adult Relict Gull again! Two other adults joined, as well as a second calendar year bird. We also found what appears to be the first nesting Brown-headed Gulls for Mongolia near a Black-headed Gull colony. Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler was new for us here, as was a Peregrine of most likely a northern origin. After breakfast, we visited the northern part of the delta, seeing Pectoral Sandpiper, a displaying Common Snipe and almost thirty beautiful breeding plumage Asian Dowitchers! The remainder of the day was spend exploring



An impressive immature Pallas's Fish Eagle flying above Buun Tsagaan lake



Asian Dowitcher - we saw up to 28 of these beauties!

the southern stretches of the lake, and as soon as we stopped the car Bogi found us an impressive immature Pallas's Fish Eagle sitting on a log on the shoreline! A huge beast that flew right over us after a few minutes. Really not much was going on otherwise - it's been an extremely quiet year for migrant waders here - so we retraced our track to the delta where we spent the last couple hours. One more (or the same) Relict Gull was seen, as well as Greater White-fronted Goose and some others. At dusk, an adult Rosy Starling (found by Abu) popped up out of nowhere near our camp to roost in one of the bushes of our compound - a good surprise! What a stay it has been at Boon Tsagaan!

We left the lake early next morning towards the higher elevation site of Khuk Nuur. On the way, we watched another beautiful displaying Oriental Plover and the cute Corsac Fox. A short stop at a very small plantation was incredibly productive,



We got absolutely epic views of a few Pallas's Grasshopper Warblers, usually quite a skulking bird!



A fine male White-throated Bush Chat



Male Willow Grouse

with two Red-throated and a White's Thrushes, three showy Pallas's Grasshopper Warblers, Siberian Blue Robin (rare that far west), a Stock Dove (Mongolia lifer for Abu!), up to seven Thick-billed Warblers (including five sitting together in a short tree), two Ortolan and a Black-faced Bunting and a wealth of Phylloscopus warblers. We arrived at Khukh Nuur in the evening, just in time for Paul to scope some distant Altai Snowcocks! A short walk around camp produced a cracking male Eversmann's Redstart, several "Polar" Pallas's Reed Buntings, some Gldenstdt's Redstarts and Altai Accentors far away in the cliffs. An active Saker Falcon nest, with two adults on show, was appreciated too. We also found an incubating Bar-headed Goose in an old Saker nest, high up in a cliff - what a journey the fledglings will have to accomplish to get to the water!

We woke up to brilliant weather, and some very close pairs of sushkini Asian Rosy Finches, what a distinctive taxon this is! A long vigil didn't produce close Snowcocks, but we saw more Eversmann's and Gldenstdt's Redstarts (the latter unfortunately always very high up on the cliffs), a few Altai Accentors in the slopes, a single Tree Pipit, Common Rock Thrush and some more. After breakfast we moved on to a higher elevation site, where we quickly found ourselves surrounded by some stunning males (and females) White-throated Bush Chats, in their glorious plumage, just wow! A very unique and rare chat indeed. Many Blyth's and blakistoni Water Pipits were displaying around, and we found a surprise and cooperative pair of Willow Grouse. The male would keep calling at us, before we noticed the female hiding by some rocks five meters away! Great moments! We decided to check more cliffs for Snowcocks but to no avail. We actually ended up walking all the way back to camp - a stunning walk amidst some truly sensational scenery! - Golden and Steppe Eagle overhead, as well as about half a dozen Siberian House Martins. After dinner, I finally scoped four much-awaited Altai Snowcocks not too far above our camp, giving good looks much to everyone's delight!



A beautiful male Asian Rosy Finch, of the paler "sushkini" subspecies



White-throated Bush Chat pair

There seem to have been an arrival of migrant with a female Yellow-breasted Bunting found by Abu next to the camp, Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler, Thick-billed Warblers and lots of Phylloscopus everywhere in bushes.

We woke up to the magical calls of Altai Snowcocks and indeed there was at least three individuals showing very well in the scope! We finally picked up a close and cooperative Guldenstadt's Redstart, and finally Nick found a pair of Altai Accentors a few meters away, completing the whole set of great birds of Khukh Nuur. What a mega stay it has been! We moved on northwards, seeing a few Saker Falcons, Steppe Eagles and Upland Buzzards at close range, but lost a bit of time because of a flat tire caused by a piece of bone (that can only happen in Mongolia!). We got to our campsite late afternoon, and it didn't take long before we found a stunning male Pallas's Rosefinch, a rather localised breeder in Mongolia! Dozens of Red-throated Thrushes, Red-flanked Bluetails, Bramblings, Pine Buntings, both Two-barred and Greenish Warblers side-by-side (and several tricky, intermediate individuals) plus many Hume's and Yellow-browed Warblers and some nice sibirica Eurasian Nuthatches and their entire white belly. A night walk after dinner with some of the group was ultimately rewarding with fabulous views of a huge Ural Owl, for about as long as we wanted, what a mega beast!! Back at the camp, I was surprised to stand face-to-face with three Wolves just a few hundred meters from our tents. Unfortunately, they ran downslope before anyone else could lay eye on them, probably scared away by the sudden movement in the camp!

We spent a few hours in the same forest patch next morning, seeing more Pallas's Rosefinches (including a few males down to mere meters!) and luckily found the sublime Ural Owl roosting for everybody, constantly harassed by a crowd of Thrushes and Warblers! A Eurasian Three-toed and a Black Woodpecker were also seen briefly. We left this fabulous Boreal forest behind



Altai Accentor



A nice Saker Falcon



We had an absolutely epic time with this male Pallas's Rosefinch, jewel of the Boreal forests!



A major highlight of this trip was having multiple great looks at Ural Owls, including this roosting individual being mobbed by Red-throated Thrushes!



Red-throated Thrushes were a common sight in the Boreal forests



Seeing many males Pine Buntings was a real delight too!

us after breakfast, and had lunch in yet another great patch. A Booted Eagle was seen chasing an immature White-tailed Eagle away, and we saw some more Pallas's Rosefinches, a very cooperative Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker, several pairs of flighty Eversmann's Redstarts plus some great singing male Siberian Rubythroats.

We spent most of next day driving eastwards towards Ulaanbataar, but did some early morning birding around Tsetserleg, with a bunch of Long-tailed Rosefinches as highlight. The drive was punctuated by loads of Mongolian Larks, Upland Buzzards, Steppe Eagles and we also paid a visit at a large Western House Martin colony. At Ogii Nuur, we were lucky to find yet another Relict Gull, together with a Slender-billed Gull! A few new birds to our ever-growing list were added, like a nice White-naped Crane, five Smews including a stunning male and a Terek Sandpiper. We reached our campsite near Bayan Nuur in the evening, just in time to find yet another adult Relict Gull! And also to scan the reedbeds and get good looks at two Brown-cheeked Rails and a few Paddyfield Warblers.

Next morning, scoping the lake produced another three Relict Gulls (including a second calendar year bird) – luck was definitely on our side with that species this year! Little and another locally rare Slender-billed Gull were seen too, as well as more Brown-cheeked Rails and Oriental Reed Warblers in the reedbeds. A Whimbrel was a good addition too, like a pair of White-naped Cranes and their three chicks. We moved on to Ulaanbataar, where a lunch stop gave us looks at a single male Mandarin Duck, a recent coloniser from further east. Azure Tits and Long-tailed Rosefinches were seen again too, before we moved to Terelij National Park. From our campsite in the heart of a beautiful Boreal forest, we didn't walk five minutes before standing face-to-face with another magnificent Ural Owl in broad daylight! And seconds later I heard our main target here, Chinese Bush Warbler, freshly back on their breeding ground. It



A rather cooperative Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker. They have paler flanks here than further west.



White-naped Crane pair with one of their three chicks!

didn't take long before it showed very well to everyone, what a success after only 30 minutes on site! Some celebratory beers were much appreciated for our last night camping.

We woke up in freezing cold temperatures to the song of White's Thrush and revisited the bush warbler slope. We were treated to mega views of birds singing completely unconcerned in the open, a true spectacle even for such a drab bird. We walked further and got great looks at Lanceolated Warblers, as well as Black-faced Buntings, more Long-tailed Rosefinches and sublime males Citrine Wagtails. It was then time for a final and fabulous lunch in the forest, prepared by our expert crew. The food really has been outstanding and very varied throughout this trip, a huge thanks to our professional cook! We said goodbye and thanks to the crew and to Abu, without who the trip would never have been the same. Thanks for all your knowledge and help mate! And thanks to Bogi for his great logistical skills and flexibility. Back to Ulaanbataar we made it through the reasonable traffic in time for warm showers, beers and a final epic dinner at a local hot pot!

Half of the group flew back home next morning, whereas the others continued on the Siberian Crane extension for a couple more days. They had a fabulous stay in the east, with some great Siberian Crane sightings but also numerous White-naped and Hooded Cranes, Grey Nightjars, multiple Japanese Quails, Azure-winged Magpies, several beautiful singing male Yellow-breasted Buntings, plus also Meadow and Chestnut-eared Buntings. But most surprisingly, one lucky member of the group flushed a tiny dotted crane with white trailing edge on the wings, the global mega Swinhoe's Rail!!! So, all-in-all, an exceedingly successful extension!

We spent a few hours in the same forest patch next morning,



Male Eversmann's Redstart, a tricky species to photograph well



Lanceolated Warbler



Chinese Bush Warbler in full song - the grand finale of this amazing tour!



Siberian and White-naped Cranes seen on the extension! (Bolormunkh Erdenekhuu)



Mongolian Ground Jay in habitat



Gobi Desert in full bloom! (Bolormunkh Erdenekhuu)

Species List

(Country endemic taxa marked with *)

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*
Greylag Goose *Anser anser rubrirostris*
Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides*
Taiga Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*
Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*
Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*
Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*
Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*
Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*
Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*
Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*
Baikal Teal *Sibirionetta formosa*
Garganey *Spatula querquedula*
Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*
Gadwall *Mareca strepera strepera*
Falcated Duck *Mareca falcata*
Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope*
Eastern Spot-billed Duck *Anas zonorhyncha*
Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*
Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*
Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*
Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*
Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*
Baer's Pochard *Aythya baeri*
Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*
Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*
Stejneger's Scoter *Melanitta stejnegeri*
Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula clangula*
Smew *Mergellus albellus*
Common Merganser *Mergus merganser merganser*
Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*
Hazel Grouse *Tetrastes bonasia sibiricus*

Black-billed Capercaillie *Tetrao urogalloides urogalloides*
Altai Snowcock *Tetraogallus altaicus*
Chukar Partridge *Alectoris chukar*
European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*
Common Swift *Apus apus pekinensis*
Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus pacificus*
Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus optatus*
Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*
Pallas's Sandgrouse *Syrrhaptes paradoxus*
Rock Dove *Columba livia*
Hill Pigeon *Columba rupestris rupestris*
Stock Dove *Columba oenas*
Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*
Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*
Brown-cheeked Rail *Rallus indicus*
Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus chloropus*
Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*
Baillon's Crane *Zapornia pusilla*
White-naped Crane *Antigone vipio*
Demoiselle Crane *Grus virgo*
Common Crane *Grus grus*
Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus cristatus*
Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus auritus*
Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis nigricollis*
Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*
Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola squatarola*
Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*
Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius curonicus*
Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*
Oriental Plover *Anarhynchus veredus*
Greater Sand Plover *Anarhynchus leschenaultii leschenaultii*
Kentish Plover *Anarhynchus alexandrinus alexandrinus*
Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata orientalis*

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*
Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*
Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala*
Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago gallinago*
Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*
Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
Common Redshank *Tringa totanus ussuriensis*
Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres interpres*
Ruff *Calidris pugnax*
Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*
Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*
Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*
Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*
Sanderling *Calidris alba*
Little Stint *Calidris minuta*
Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*
Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*
Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*
Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*
Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida hybrida*
Black Tern *Chlidonias niger niger*
White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*
Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*
Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*
Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*
Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
Brown-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus*
Pallas's Gull *Ichthyaeetus ichthyaeetus*
Relict Gull *Ichthyaeetus relictus*

Mongolian Gull *Larus mongolicus*
Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*
Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*
Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia leucorodia*
Little Bittern *Botaurus minutus*
Great Egret *Ardea alba alba*
Eastern Cattle Egret *Ardea coromanda*
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*
Bearded Vulture *Gypaetus barbatus barbatus*
Himalayan Vulture *Gyps himalayensis*
Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*
Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*
Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis nipalensis*
Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos kamtschatica*
Japanese Sparrowhawk *Tachyspiza gularis sibirica*
Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus nisosimilis*
Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus*
Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus*
Black Kite *Milvus migrans lineatus*
Pallas's Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*
White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla albicilla*
Upland Buzzard *Buteo hemilasius*
Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus rufinus*
Little Owl *Athene noctua*
Long-eared Owl *Asio otus otus*
Ural Owl *Strix uralensis*
Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops epops*
Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla chinensis*
Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker *Picoides tridactylus*
Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major brevirostris*
White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos (HO)*
Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius martius*
Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus jessoensis (HO)*
Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*
Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis*
Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo subbuteo*
Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug*
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*
Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*
Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*
Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor pallidirostris*
Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus isabellinus*
Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*
Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius brandtii*
Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*
Mongolian Ground Jay *Podoces hendersoni*
Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*
Daurian Jackdaw *Coloeus dauuricus*
Rook *Corvus frugilegus pastinator*
Carriion Crow *Corvus corone orientalis*
Northern Raven *Corvus corax kamtschaticus*
Coal Tit *Pariparus ater ater*
Willow Tit *Poecile montanus baicalensis*
Azure Tit *Cyanistes cyanus yenisseeensis*
Great Tit *Parus major*
White-crowned Penduline Tit *Remiz coronatus stoliczkae*
Bearded Reedling *Panurus biarmicus*
Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*
Crested Lark *Galerida cristata magna*
Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris brandti*
Mongolian Lark *Melanocorypha mongolica*
Asian Short-toed Lark *Alaudala cheleensis*
Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*
Pale Martin *Riparia diluta diluta*
Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
Western House Martin *Delichon urbicum meridionale*
Siberian House Martin *Delichon lagopodum*

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei humei*
Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*
Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*
Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus fuscatus*
Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*
Two-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus*
Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus*
Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*
Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*
Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis*
Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola agricola*
Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*
Thick-billed Warbler *Arundinax aedon*
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Helopsaltes certhiola*
Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata lanceolata*
Chinese Bush Warbler *Locustella tacsanowskia*
Barred Warbler *Curruca nisoria*
Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*
Asian Desert Warbler *Curruca nana*
Common Whitethroat *Curruca communis rubicola*
Chestnut-flanked White-eye *Zosterops erythropleurus*
Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*
Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria nepalensis*
Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris daurica*
White-cheeked Starling *Spodiopsar cineraceus*
Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus*
Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*
White's Thrush *Zoothera aurea aurea*
Siberian Thrush *Geokichla sibirica*
Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*
Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*
Red-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis*
Naumann's Thrush *Turdus naumanni*
Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica sibirica*
Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica dauurica*

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata mongola*
Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope calliope*
Siberian Blue Robin *Larvivora cyane cyane*
Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla*
Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*
Eversmann's Redstart *Phoenicurus erythronotus*
Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*
Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus phoenicurus*
Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus aureus aureus*
Güldenstädt's Redstart *Phoenicurus erythrogastrus grandis*
Common Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*
White-throated Bush Chat *Saxicola insignis*
Amur Stonechat *Saxicola stejnegeri*
Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*
Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*
Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti deserti*
Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*
Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia brevirostris*
White-winged Snowfinch *Montifringilla nivalis groumgrzimaili*
Pere David's Snowfinch *Pyrgilauda davidiana*
Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*
Saxaul Sparrow *Passer ammodendri*
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus domesticus*
Altai Accentor *Prunella himalayana*
Brown Accentor *Prunella fulvescens dahurica*
Kozlov's Accentor *Prunella koslowi*
Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis*
Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*
Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea cinerea*
White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*
Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*
Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii*
Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis trivialis*
Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni yunnanensis*
Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta blakistoni*
Eurasian Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs coelebs*
Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*
Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes coccothraustes*
Mongolian Finch *Bucanetes mongolicus*
Asian Rosy Finch *Leucosticte arctoa sushkini*
Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*
Chinese Beautiful Rosefinch *Carpodacus davidianus*
Siberian Long-tailed Rosefinch *Carpodacus sibiricus sibiricus*
Pallas's Rosefinch *Carpodacus roseus roseus*
Twite *Linaria flavirostris altaica*
Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*
Eurasian Siskin *Spinus spinus*
Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos leucocephalos*
Godlewski's Bunting *Emberiza godlewskii godlewskii*
Grey-necked Bunting *Emberiza buchanani neobscura*
Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*
Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*
Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*
Chestnut Bunting *Emberiza rutila*
Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala spodocephala*
Steppe Pallas's Reed Bunting *Emberiza pallasii lydiae*
Polar Pallas's Reed Bunting *Emberiza pallasii pallasii*

MAMMALS

Grey Wolf *Canis lupus*
Corsac Fox *Vulpes corsac*
Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*
Asian Badger *Meles leucurus*
Onager *Equus hemionus*
Moose *Alces alces americanus*
Eastern Roe Deer *Capreolus pygargus*
Siberian Ibex *Capra sibirica*

Goitered Gazelle *Gazella subgutturosa*
Tolai Hare *Lepus tolai*
Alpine Pika *Ochotona alpina*
Daurian Pika *Ochotona dauurica* (HO)
Pallas's Pika *Ochotona pallasi*
Siberian Chipmunk *Eutamias sibiricus*
Tarbagan Marmot *Marmota sibirica*
Eurasian Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris*
Alashan Ground Squirrel *Spermophilus alashanicus*
Long-tailed Ground Squirrel *Urocitellus undulatus*
Gobi Jerboa *Allactaga bullata*
Brandt's Vole *Lasiopodomys brandtii*

REPTILES

Halys Pit Viper *Gloydius halys*
Secret Toedhead Agama *Phrynocephalus mystaceus*
Gobi Racerunner *Eremias przewalskii*
Mongolia Racerunner *Eremias argus*

AMPHIBIANS

Mongolian Toed *Strauchbufo raddei*



Yet another Ural Owl! This time even in the sun



Two of a flock of 30! Bearded Reedlings



Siberian Rubythroat in full song



"Polar" Pallas's Reed Bunting (nominate ssp)



"Steppe" Pallas's Reed Bunting (lydiae ssp), soon to be split



Brown Accentor



Another beautiful male Pine Bunting



Halys Pit Viper



Fabulous scenery at Buun Tsagaan Nuur



Our camp at Kholboolj Lake (Bolormunkh Erdenekhuu)



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

www.ornis-birding.com/tours/mongolia