

# Mongolia - Birding in the Steppes of Genghis Khan

Naturetrek Tour Report

23 May - 7 June 2018



Przewalski's horse and foal by Rowan Hillson



Long-tailed Rosefinch, Tuul River by Alan Curry



Thick-billed Warbler Khanbogd by Alan Curry



Demoiselle Crane by Rowan Hillson

Report compiled by Alan Curry  
Images courtesy of Rowan Hillson & Alan Curry



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Tour participants: Alan Curry (leader), Odkhuu (local Guide) with six Naturetrek Clients  
Drivers, Baataar and Bilgee

## Summary

This was a hugely enjoyable tour, greatly enhanced by good weather, attractive ger-camp accommodation and the ever-helpful and friendly ground crew. With 175 species seen, the birds did not disappoint either, with most of the regional specialities making a welcome appearance. Highlights included prolonged views of a male Black-billed Capercaillie creeping along the forest floor, a Saker Falcon snatching prey from the ground only a few metres in front of the vehicle, dancing Wallcreepers in the Yolyn Am gorge, and sublime Azure Tits attending a nest hole along the Tuul River. Mammals were also well represented with Przewalski's Horse, two species of Gazelle, Siberian Ibex, Corsac Fox and Tolai Hare all proving group favourites. Add to the mix a constant backdrop of rolling horizons: whether they be forest, steppe or desert, they all ensured that this tour would not be easily forgotten!

### Day 1

Wednesday 23rd May

The tour began with flights from the UK to Ulaanbaatar via Istanbul, all thankfully nice and punctual with all our baggage arriving intact. A good start!

### Day 2

Thursday 24th May

We arrived in Ulaanbaatar in the late morning, after a relatively long but smooth journey, and soon met up with our local guide, Odkhuu, along with our two drivers, Baataar and Bilgee. We then loaded up our two vehicles in the airport car park, accompanied by some overhead Pacific Swifts, before embarking on the slow crawl out of the city bound for our first destination of the Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, a two-hour drive away to the north-east of the capital. The weather was hot and sunny as we eventually left the sprawling city suburbs behind and began travelling through a pleasant landscape of coniferous forested ridges and impressive rocky escarpments. We arrived at the Tumen Khaan Ger Camp, our base for the next three days, in good time for some welcome lunch.

After some much-needed downtime in order to get settled and recharge our batteries, we then undertook a short late-afternoon walk in the Larch forest behind the camp. The sun was still really beating down at this stage and not really conducive to birding, but we were still afforded excellent views of both Brown Shrike and Pine Bunting, while a calling Oriental Cuckoo evaded our best efforts to pin it down. All in all, not a bad start to our Mongolian adventure.

### Day 3

Friday 25th May

An early start was in order today, followed by a long drive to a distant area of Larch forest where we hoped to find our main priority, Black-billed Capercaillie, in a favoured lekking area. The sun was shining and a Siberian Rubythroat was singing from some dense scrub as we entered the forest. It was not long before we had our first encounter with our quarry as we inadvertently disturbed a male from a well-vegetated gully, which promptly vanished into the forest. Slow and stealthy progress through the pine trees produced an excellent series of

encounters, including prolonged views of two males creeping amongst the pines. Fortune was certainly on our side, with cracking views of a Black Woodpecker and an even better Ural Owl, moving from tree to tree. Add to the mix an almost constant soundtrack of singing Olive-backed Pipits and it all made for an excellent morning.

With our picnic lunch being taken below an area of cliffs, we scoured the entrance of an Eagle-Owl nest cave, but the inhabitants were not on view today, leaving a diminutive and rather pallid Little Owl bouncing around the boulders as our token owl compensation. Just as we were leaving, a distant Saker Falcon appeared high over the cliffs, being mobbed by corvids but giving rather unsatisfactory views for all, soon to be followed by a memorable moment for those in the front vehicle, as presumably the same individual snatched a Ground Squirrel from the road, only a few metres ahead. Wow! As we began our long drive back to camp, brief stops to explore some the riverside scrub produced some great views of two pairs of Daurian Redstart and an obliging Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

## Day 4

Saturday 26th May

The day began with clear blue skies, a light ground frost, and a biting cold wind. The birding day started well, however, with a singing Wryneck around the camp. There were to be no long drives today, with the morning being spent in an area of riparian woodland close to Terelj village. The forest had a rather wintery feel to it and the birding appeared at times on the slow side but was punctuated by some quality sightings. Highlights included a surprise pair of Mandarin Ducks that gave some lovely close views, Oriental Turtle Dove, Red-throated Thrush, Taiga and Brown Flycatcher and perhaps best of all, a smart singing male Black-faced Bunting that performed admirably at close range.

Lunch was taken back at the Ger Camp, where I think it would be fair to say that the hot soup was gratefully received! After a couple of hours downtime, we elected to once again explore the adjacent Larch Forest, this time driving up to the top of a nearby ridge and slowly walking back down through the woods to the camp. The walk, although highly pleasant, proved pretty uneventful bird-wise and only really picked up in the vicinity of the camp where we once again encountered a pair of Brown Shrikes, Pine Bunting, Blyth's Pipits and an almost constant backdrop of calling Oriental and Common Cuckoos.

## Day 5

Sunday 27th May

Today we left Terelj on a beautiful warm sunny morning and, after a brief stop to enjoy the Hill Pigeons, Red-billed Choughs and Daurian Jackdaws around the village brick works, we embarked on the long drive bound for Hustai National Park. The journey basically involved re-tracing our route back to Ulaanbaatar and, after stopping at a local store to obtain a few essential supplies (fruit and chocolate), we headed West into an impressive landscape notably devoid of any trees. A large roadside gathering of Black Vultures squabbling over a cattle carcass proved highly photogenic, followed a short while later by an adult Saker feeding its chicks on a track-side power-pole nest. Unfortunately, the wind had really got up by this stage and the resulting swirling dust made things pretty intolerable.

Thus we arrived at Hustai in good time, and after enjoying a good lunch (and real coffee) at our Ger Camp situated at the park entrance, we set out to explore the reserve. Mammals tend to predominate here and, as well as great views of the Przewalski's Horses, we also encountered Mongolian Gazelle, Maral Deer, Tarbagan

Marmots and Red-cheeked Ground Squirrels. Birds were represented by hordes of Mongolian, Horned and Asian Short-toed Larks, as well as the ubiquitous Isabelline Wheatear. On returning to the Ger Camp however, perhaps the most impressive sighting of the day was a Demoiselle Crane fearlessly feeding on a soft piece of ground in front of the restaurant building, allowing some amazing photographic opportunities!

## Day 6

Monday 28th May

The day dawned beautifully calm and sunny, and we began with an early morning walk in a sheltered valley within Hustai NP. This gave up our first Amur Falcons and Hobby of the trip, along with a brief view of a pair of Daurian Partridges, female Siberian Rubythroat and an excellent, confiding, singing Siberian Meadow Bunting. Further down the valley in a wooded gully we found a collection of migrants including Dusky and Greenish Warbler, Taiga Flycatcher and a pair of Common Rosefinch.

After a good breakfast, we once again hit the road, with a long drive ahead to reach tonight's destination of Uggi Nuur. En route, we encountered a few interesting raptors including our first Golden Eagle of the trip and several Upland Buzzards. Stopping for our picnic lunch at Tsagaan Nuur, an interesting and attractive area of reed-fringed wetlands gave us a great selection of wildfowl and waders, an Eastern Marsh Harrier, two White-naped Cranes and a host of White-winged Black Terns.

Soon it was time to hit the road again and, thanks to the sharp eyes of Otto, we were treated to two extended encounters with Corsac Foxes prowling the steppe, as we bounced our way towards our destination. We arrived at Uggi Nuur to be greeted by a fabulous, calm, sunny evening and rounded off the day perfectly with a nice slice of Linda's surprise multi-coloured birthday cake!

## Day 7

Tuesday 29th May

The morning started well, with a pair of Pere David's Snowfinch discovered feeding young in a mammal burrow close to the camp entrance.

After an early breakfast, we travelled along the southern shore of Uggi Nuur where we initially encountered a small flock of White-winged Scoter that gave us great views through the telescope. As we travelled west, the shoreline became much shallower and, as well as huge numbers of White-winged Black Terns, we found a large selection of passage shorebirds including Red-necked Phalarope and Curlew Sandpiper. The undoubted highlight, however, was the discovery of two Grey-tailed Tattlers, a scarce occurrence in this part of the world. Soon it was time to return to the Ger Camp for lunch but not before Baataar demonstrated his powers of vehicle recovery as he deftly towed his moribund colleague out of some soft glue-like mud.

After a good lunch back at the Ger Camp, it was back out again, this time travelling along the northern shore of the lake bound for Doitiin-tsagan Nuur. Stopping at a small shallow pool en route produced welcome sightings of both Swan Goose and Common Crane, before encountering a pair of Eastern Marsh Harriers observed displaying over the reed bed. Moving on to Doitiin-tsagan Nuur, we found it teeming with Whooper Swans and more White-winged Black Terns, shorebirds and wildfowl, along with a small bonus flock of fly-by Black-bellied Sandgrouse. Here, Baataar's trusty tow-rope was once again put to good use, this time rescuing some mud-

bogged campers from the lake shore; up until this stage, we had no inkling that we were actually travelling with Mongolia's equivalent of International Rescue!

## Day 8

Wednesday 30th May

Today was mainly a travelling day, but not before we found a few migrant warblers sheltering around the woodpile at the back of the camp, including a showy Pallas's, skulking Radde's and two Dusky Warblers. After an uneventful morning on the road when we seemingly had little better to do than ponder the limitless horizons, an extended lunch break was taken at Tsagaan Nurr, that proved nice and productive, with extended views of some close-range Horned Larks and Grey-headed Wagtails proving the highlight for some group members. However, in terms of rarity, these were easily surpassed by a group of five distant breeding-plumaged Relict Gulls, a highly valued regional speciality that unfortunately flattered to deceive out in the heat haze! Continuing on our journey, we arrived at our city centre hotel in Ulaanbaatar by early evening, allowing for some welcome downtime in the comforts of a hotel!

## Day 9

Thursday 31st May

Due to circumstances beyond our control, today's flight down to Dalanzadgad and the Gobi Desert was not scheduled until mid-afternoon, which gave us an unexpected leisurely morning around our city hotel. Thus, after a relatively smooth flight, we arrived in Dalanzadgad in the late afternoon, to be greeted by not only the blistering heat but also our friendly crew who had driven down with our vehicles and baggage overnight.

Soon we were on the road again, driving in a south-westerly direction across the desert, bound for our next overnight destination, in the foothills of the Gurvan Saykhan mountain range at the comfortable Kahnbogd Ger Camp. A short walk up the neighbouring dry canyon before dinner proved fairly quiet, with the only sightings of note being Eurasian Crag Martin, Brown Shrike, Mongolian Trumpeter Finch, Rock Sparrow and the omnipresent Isabelline Wheatear.

## Day 10

Friday 1st June

There was a mixed bag of weather today, with hot sun, strong winds and occasional dust storms. The morning was spent in the spectacular Yolyn Am valley where, despite carefully searching the high ridges from first light onwards, we were unable to locate any Ibex or Snowcock, although Himalayan Griffon Vulture, Lammergeier and Golden Eagle were all noted soaring high over the valley. The wonderfully scenic walk down to the gorge gave us a good selection of local passerine specialities, including Citrine Wagtail, White-winged Snowfinch, Beautiful Rosefinch and Brown Accentor, while the Mongolian endemic Koslov's Accentor also put in a good appearance, singing from the Juniper scrub on the valley sides. Best of all however, was a five-star performance by a couple of male Wallcreepers that were interacting on a low cliff face at the entrance to the gorge, giving some fabulous photographic opportunities in the process.

After a late lunch back at the Ger Camp and a bit of downtime, we then set out to search for Oriental Plovers on the plains to the north of the camp. With the wind still blowing hard and airborne dust predominating, it proved fairly hard going, with only one of the vehicles connecting with three brief and distant sightings of this regional speciality.

## Day 11

Saturday 2nd June

A strong and cold northerly wind dominated for most of the day, leading to afternoon dust storms out on the plains. We had another early start in Yolyn Am but alas the Altai Snowcock refused to play ball; however, in contrast to yesterday, great views were to be had of Siberian Ibex along a low ridge above the access road. After breakfast we visited another fantastically scenic valley, this time at Mukhar Shivert, a short distance to the east of Yolyn Am, where we were treated to sustained close views of several Barred Warblers as well as welcome Godlewski's Bunting, Beautiful Rosefinch and Mongolian Trumpeter Finch.

After lunch we again braved the dust storms out on the plains but, unfortunately, Oriental Plover eluded us, with compensation coming in the form of good views of a Greater Sand Plover and four Pallas's Sandgrouse, our first encounter of the tour.

## Day 12

Sunday 3rd June

It was a much calmer and benign day, with hot sun and clear skies throughout. The day started well with a few passerine migrants amongst the few scattered trees around the Ger Camp, including Taiga Flycatcher, Pallas's Warbler and, best of all, two Thick-billed Warblers.

After breakfast it was time to embark on the long and at times tortuous drive down to Khanogeryn Els which would take most of the day. Our main target species en route was Henderson's Ground Jay and we were fortunate to have two encounters, both of which involved good views of a pair, each time running between isolated clumps of vegetation on the desert floor. Pallas's Sandgrouse also enlivened the journey, with several small groups close to the road.

Lunch was taken in a scenic canyon where we set up our picnic table in the cool shadow of some high cliffs, while Chukar Partridges descended to drink in the stream in front of us. The final leg of the drive passed through some stony desert where several brief encounters with Mongolian Gazelle and Tolai Hare were warmly received. Two pairs of Greater Sand Plovers, both with small chicks further enhanced the drive. By late afternoon we finally reached the comforts of the excellent Gobi Eberdene Ger Camp where after enjoying a good evening meal we enjoyed the sunset over the impressive distant sand dunes from the restaurant roof with a cool beer in hand. Very nice indeed!

## Day 13

Monday 4th June

Another very hot day in the making, with the first few hours spent exploring the nearby Saxaul Forest, situated near the base of the extensive dune system, before the heat became way too uncomfortable. Fortune was on our side today as we quickly located two of the Saxaul key target species. Firstly, a Steppe Grey Shrike gave us some great views, perched on top of a small bush, quickly followed by a double: a smart male Saxaul Sparrow that was clearly nesting in the base of a huge occupied Long-legged Buzzard nest. Up on top there were at least four buzzard chicks in the nest, visibly panting in the increasing heat, with an attentive adult keeping a close eye on proceedings from on top of a nearby dune. By mid-morning it was time to begin the long drive back to Dalanzadgad, enlivened by occasional sightings of Goitered Gazelle and an impressive Saker Falcon perched on

top of a roadside mound. Arriving in Dz in good time, we checked into our comfortable hotel and over our evening meal, once again pondered the absence of lamb on the menu in this land of so many sheep!

## Day 14

Tuesday 5th June

Today was much cooler and mainly overcast. We took an early morning flight from Dalanzadgad to Ulaanbaatar and arrived at our hotel, which was rather nicely situated amongst an attractive area of riparian woodland along the Tuul River on the west side of the city, well in time for lunch.

After this, with our vehicles and ground crew in the process of undertaking the long drive up from Dz, we took the opportunity to visit the enormous, impressive and extremely shiny Chinngis Khan statue that guards the eastern approaches to Ulaanbaatar. Although it proved quite a long drive (let's face it, everyone was well used to long drives by now!) it also proved well worth it, as the statue contains within a small museum of Mongolian culture which gave some interesting insights into Mongolia's turbulent past. The observation platform that is located within the horse's head also gave us some significant panoramic views of the area, including in the distance the Larch-covered ridges of Terelj which we had successfully visited at the beginning of the tour.

## Day 15

Wednesday 6th June

It was another cool and overcast day, with light rain at times. Our final birding day of the tour began with a walk around the woodland in the vicinity of the hotel, and even though it was our final day, there were still several species that we had yet to catch up with. Azure-winged Magpie was high on the agenda and it did not take long before we encountered several of these, much to the delight of Nico. Next up was the much-desired Azure Tit, and after a couple of brief vocal encounters, an adult disappearing into a crevice in a tree with a mouthful of food gave us exactly what we were hoping for.

It was here that we gathered straight after breakfast, and over the next half hour with our scopes trained on the crevice from a respectful distance, we were treated to repeated views of the adults frequently returning to feed their hungry young. Job done! For the next couple of hours, we slowly meandered through the woodland picking up most of the local residents, including several White-cheeked Starlings, Red-throated Thrush, glimpsed Hawfinches (much to the frustration of Nico this time) and best of all, a stunning pair of Long-tailed Rosefinch that posed to perfection. We then moved along the river to a nearby area of industrial wasteland that contained several large ponds. Here we found a large concentration of regular wildfowl that was spiced up with breeding Whooper Swan, Demoiselle Crane and 'Longipennis' Common Terns. Soon it was time to return to the hotel for lunch but not before Baataar (aka Thunderbird Five) performed his most outlandish rescue yet, as he pulled a firmly stuck cow from a quagmire with his trusty tow rope, an action that had to be seen to be believed!

After an extended lunch break that would never win any awards for speed of service, the group then fragmented a little, with some electing to visit a local cashmere outlet while the hard core had a final wander around the local woodland, before visiting an enjoyable local restaurant in the centre of Ulaanbaatar for our final evening meal.



## Day 16

Thursday 7th June

We had an early start today as we headed for the airport to begin the long haul back to the UK and beyond, after what had been a truly great trip. We never quite got around to nominating the 'bird of the trip' but for the 'word of the trip' there was only one clear contender – memorable!

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Brown Flycatcher by Alan Curry



Pallas's Sandgrouse by Rowan Hillson



Toad-headed Agama by Rowan Hillson



Steppe Grey Shrike by Alan Curry



## Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	May - June													
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Swan Goose	<i>Anser cygnoides</i>						1								4
2	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>					3									
3	Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>					3	20	2							
4	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>					2	150	2							2
5	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>					9	✓	✓							
6	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>		6	2	6	50	✓	✓			2	2	8	20	4
7	Mandarin	<i>Aix galericulata</i>			2											2
8	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>					25	✓	✓							120
9	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>					20	✓	✓							2
10	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>					30	✓	✓							15
11	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>					2	2								1
12	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>					2	✓								1
13	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>					10	10	10							
14	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>					2									2
15	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>					15	20								100
16	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>						50								120
17	White-winged Scoter	<i>Melanitta deglandi</i>						60	15							
18	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>						4								2
19	Common Merganser (Goosander)	<i>Mergus merganser</i>		3											2	3
20	Black-billed Capercaillie	<i>Tetrao urogalloides</i>		6												
21	Chukar Partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>								✓	2		10			
22	Daurian Partridge	<i>Perdix dauurica</i>					2									
23	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>						2								4
24	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>					6									
25	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					15									
26	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>					3	2								
27	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>					10	60	10							2

	Common name	Scientific name	May - June													
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
28	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>						4	1							
29	Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier)	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>									1					
30	Himalayan Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>									6	6				
31	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>											1			
32	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>				11	✓	1	10		✓	10		1		
33	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	1	1												
34	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>		2	1	1										
35	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>					2				1					
36	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>										1				
37	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>						1								
38	Eastern Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus spilonatus</i>				1		5								
39	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	5	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					1	6	✓
40	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>						2								
41	Upland Buzzard	<i>Buteo hemilasius</i>				4	4	✓	✓		2	1				
42	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>												2		
43	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	2	1	3		1									
44	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>					30	✓								
45	White-naped Crane	<i>Grus vipio</i>					2									
46	Demoiselle Crane	<i>Grus virgo</i>				3	2	80	2		1	4	2	5	2	
47	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>						20								
48	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>					15	✓	✓							
49	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>						50	20							
50	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>					20	✓	✓							
51	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>					50									
52	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>					✓	1				1				
53	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>						3	3							
54	Greater Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>									2	1	3			
55	Oriental Plover	<i>Charadrius veredus</i>									3					
56	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>						200								
57	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>					1									
58	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>					4									
59	Grey-tailed Tattler	<i>Tringa (Heteroscelus) brevipes</i>					2									

	Common name	Scientific name	May - June													
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
60	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>						50	✓							4
61	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>					2		2							
62	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>					10		1							
63	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			2				1							
64	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>						2	4							
65	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>						7								
66	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>							12							
67	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>							1							
68	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>							50	10						
69	Relict Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus relictus</i>								5						
70	Vega Gull	<i>Larus vegae mongolicus</i>							20							
71	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>						1								
72	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	2			1			100	1					2	20
73	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>						1								
74	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>						100	500	200						2
75	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>						5								
76	Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrrhaptes paradoxus</i>										4	10	10		
77	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
78	Hill Pigeon	<i>Columba rupestris</i>		2	1	4										
79	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>			1											
80	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>														6
81	Oriental Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus optatus</i>	✓	✓	4	✓										
82	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	✓	10	6	✓		✓			2	1			✓	✓
83	Ural Owl	<i>Strix uralensis</i>		1												
84	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>		✓												
85	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>		1												
86	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>						3						2	2	6
87	Pacific Swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	✓	1		3				10		3	3	2	6	10
88	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		1				2	1					1		4
89	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>			1	✓										
90	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>		1												
91	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			1											1

	Common name	Scientific name	May - June													
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
92	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>		2												
93	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>			✓											
94	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>		2												
95	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>			1	1									1	1
96	Amur Falcon	<i>Falco amurensis</i>					3									
97	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>					1									
98	Saker Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>		2		1								1		
99	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	2		2		3	1		1						
100	Isabelline Shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>									1	1	1			
101	Steppe Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius pallidirostris lahtora</i>											3			
102	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		1												
103	Azure-winged Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cyanus</i>													2	10
104	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓								✓	✓
105	Henderson's Ground Jay	<i>Podoces hendersoni</i>										4				
106	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓
107	Daurian Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus dauuricus</i>	1	✓	✓	✓									✓	✓
108	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>													✓	✓
109	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	✓								✓	✓
110	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	1	1	✓	4	1	2	4		4	2		1		
111	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>		1												
112	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>	2	10	✓											
113	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		2	✓	1										10
114	Azure Tit	<i>Cyanistes cyanus</i>														8
115	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	1	10			✓	✓	✓							
116	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>												2		
117	Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>				50	✓		5	4	✓	✓	✓	✓		
118	Asian Short-toed Lark	<i>Alaudala cheleensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
119	Mongolian Lark	<i>Melanocorypha mongolica</i>				50	✓	✓	✓							
120	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>					10	30	✓							
121	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>				4		50	✓					2		
122	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>								1	6	20	3			
123	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>					10		✓		1	1				

	Common name	Scientific name	May - June													
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
124	Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>					1	1	2							1
125	Radde's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>							1							
126	Pallas's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>							1				2			
127	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>		✓	1											
128	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>					1									
129	Thick-billed Warbler	<i>Arundinax aedon</i>											2			
130	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>										4				
131	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		1	1											
132	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>									1	1				
133	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		2	1											
134	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>									2	2				
135	White-cheeked Starling	<i>Spodiopsar cineraceus</i>		10												30
136	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>														2
137	Red-throated Thrush	<i>Turdus ruficollis</i>			2											1
138	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>			1							1				
139	Siberian Rubythroat	<i>Calliope calliope</i>		1			1									
140	Taiga Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>			1		1						1			
141	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>										2				
142	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>			1											
143	Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus aureoreus</i>		4	8											
144	Common Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>										2				
145	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		1		✓						1	1		2	
146	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
147	Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>											1	4		
148	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>					10			1	2	2	4	2		
149	Saxaul Sparrow	<i>Passer ammodendri</i>												1		
150	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	1			✓							1			
151	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	1		3	✓	✓	✓	✓	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
152	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>						3	1	1		4	2			
153	White-winged Snowfinch	<i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>									10	10				
154	Pere David's Snowfinch	<i>Pyrgilauda davidiana</i>						20	1							
155	Brown Accentor	<i>Prunella fulvescens</i>									2					

	Common name	Scientific name	May - June													
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
156	Kozlov's Accentor	<i>Prunella koslowi</i>										1				
157	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>					4			6						
158	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>										2				
159	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	1		2											
160	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	1	✓	✓				1		1		1		2	✓
161	Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>					2			1						
162	Blyth's Pipit	<i>Anthus godlewskii</i>			3	6	1				1					
163	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>		10	1											
164	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>													1	2
165	Mongolian Finch	<i>Bucanetes mongolicus</i>								1		3				
166	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>		1	1	✓	2						3	1		
167	Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus pulcherrimus</i>									2	1				
168	Long-tailed Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus sibiricus</i>														2
169	Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>										2				
170	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>									3					
171	Pine Bunting	<i>Emberiza leucocephalos</i>	1		2	2										
172	Godlewski's Bunting	<i>Emberiza godlewskii</i>										2	1			
173	Meadow Bunting	<i>Emberiza cioides</i>					2									
174	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>				1										
175	Black-faced Bunting	<i>Emberiza spodocephala</i>			1											

## Mammals

1	Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>			1											
2	Tarbagan (Mongolian) Marmot	<i>Marmota sibirica</i>				✓	✓									
3	Red-cheeked Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus erythrogenys</i>				✓	✓									
4	Long-tailed Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus undulatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓									
5	Alashan Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus alashanicus</i>									2					
6	Brandt's Vole	<i>Lasiopodomys brandtii</i>				✓	✓	✓								
7	Mongolian (Gerbil) Jird	<i>Meriones unguiculatus</i>									2	6				
8	Great Gerbil	<i>Rhombomys opimus</i>												1		
9	Pallas's Pika	<i>Ochotona pallasii</i>									4	1				
10	Tolai Hare	<i>Lepus tolai</i>									2		1			



	Common name	Scientific name	May - June													
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
11	Corsac Fox	<i>Vulpes corsac</i>					2									
12	Przewalski's Horse (Takhi)	<i>Equus ferus przewalskii</i>				16	24									
13	Maral (Red Deer)	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>		✓		15	50									
14	Goitered Gazelle	<i>Gazella subgutturosa</i>											3	20		
15	Mongolian Gazelle	<i>Procapra gutturosa</i>				74								5		
16	Siberian Ibex	<i>Capra sibirica</i>											12	1		



Wallcreeper by Alan Curry



Dorian Jackdaw by Alan Curry