

Mongolia 8th -30th May 2018

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Local Tour Operator: Mongolica Co Ltd



Gorkhi-Terelj National Park ©KE

Timing the trip, preparations and introduction

Mongolia is a great place for A European birdwatcher to see some eastern vagrants rarely seen in Europe. Since Mongolia is a very large country (over 1,5 million square km), one has to choose where to go according to the species you want to see. We knew that it could be cold in May, especially in the mountains of Gorkhi-Terelj NP, but we were eager to see also birds on migration and some special species in their lekking time. So it was a rather easy decision to start our trip that early in May. That timing meant that we had to pack warm and wind proof clothing and sleeping bags along. The trip was planned according to our wishes which were fulfilled by our tour leader Bayanaa in great precision. We wanted to maximize the time spent birding and photographing, so camping outdoors as much as possible was an easy solution for us. We had only three hotel nights during the whole trip and the rest in tents.

Our trip had three main sections and biotopes: first part in the mountains and taiga forests of Gorkhi-Terelj NP, second part the wetlands west from Ulaanbaatar, third the vast plains, marshlands and lakes in the east close to China border.

Mongolica Co's excellent team was Bayanaa (tour leader), Davka (assistant guide), Uka (camp manager / cook). All three spoke english and all three were also biologists and birdwatchers, which was a big bonus for us. Drivers were Bilgee, who drove the first 3 days and Odkhuu, who replaced Bilgee after the Gorkhi-Terelj section and drove the rest of the trip.

Tue 8th – Wed 9th May, arrival - Gorkhi-Terelj NP. We flew from Helsinki with a 4 hours stop in Moscow to Ulaanbaatar where we landed at 6am (9th May). Team Mongolica was waiting for us at the Chinggis Khaan Airport. Our baggages were packed in to an UAZ, a 4WD minivan commonly used in the east. It was a small miracle that we all 7 persons and our gear could fit in the van. We headed right away towards the mountains of Gorkhi-Terelj National Park in the north. Driving through Ulaanbaatar wasn't much to see and of course not much birds to be seen, but the first Daurian Jackdaws were picked up on our list. Soon after we left the city behind, we saw the first raptors of the trip: Black Kites and Eastern Buzzards. Cinereous Vultures were the most common raptor species through the whole trip. When we arrived to the outskirts of Gorkhi-Terelj NP, we stopped for lunch and we also unpacked some of our gear (bins, cameras, proper clothing etc.). The only Crag Martin of the trip passed close by and Pine Buntings were singing. We made a short walk in the woods while Uka was preparing lunch. After lunch we headed further north and made camp on a hilly meadow close to taiga forests edge. We still had a couple hours before dark, so we explored the surrounding forest. A male Black-billed Capercaillie suddenly took flight ahead of us and Red-flanked Bluetails were singing. Delicious dinner and it was time to get some much needed sleep. It was getting quite cold, so extra clothing and sleeping bags weren't brought in vain.

Thu 10th May, Gorkhi-Terelj NP. In the night an Ural Owl was calling close by. Early morning wake up at 4am, well before sunrise. Before breakfast we headed in to the forest and crawled inside a rugged photo blind. This was the Black-billed Capercaillies' lekking spot. The males were still in tree tops waiting for the sun rise, but quite soon the first ones came on sight and the games were on. We counted a total of 10 lekking males and 2 females. The weather was crisp (ca.-10°C, no wind) – just perfect to observe and photograph this spectacular scene. When we headed back to the campsite, ca. 10 Red-throated Thrushes were foraging the meadows or singing in the tree tops. Red-flanked Bluetails were singing all over and some Olive-backed Pipits as well. A single male Black Grouse was in flight. After breakfast, we broke the camp down and drove along a river. We made some stops along the drive for a White-crowned Penduline Tit and for Daurian Jackdaws.

We had lunch on a scenic meadow by the river. We spent

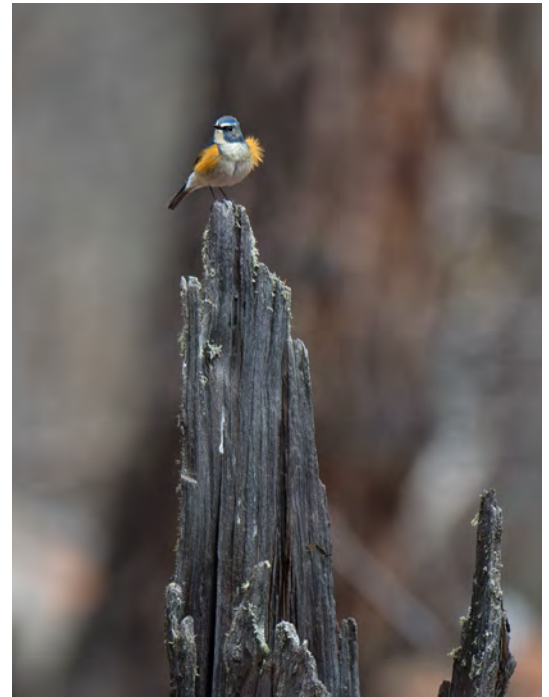


Black-billed Capercaillie ©IV

almost 4 hours here birding around. This place proved to be very productive. New, nice species were popping: 2 Daurian Partridges, 3 White-cheeked Starlings, the only Siberian Accentor of the trip was shortly on top a small brush, 2 Blyth's Pipits, 4 Godlewski's Buntings were cooperative, first Pallas's Reed Bunting for the trip.

Short drive and we made camp for the night. We had still some day light left, so it was well spent birding close by. Hill Pigeon, an adult Bearded Vulture and 2 Black Storks soared above us, an Eurasian Eagle Owl and a Little Owl were roosting on a cliff quite close. After dinner the normal evening rituals: checking lists and tea / coffee.

Fri 11th May, Gorkhi-Terelj NP. At 4am birds started to wake up and so did we. We made a 2 hours walk before breakfast with Bayanaa. We found a male Long-tailed Rosefinch with great photo opportunities (later found 4 more), a single Naumann's Thrush, a Dusky Thrush, more White-crowned Penduline Tits. Next camping site was made inside a boreal forest where Red-flanked Bluetails were singing. We had lunch and after that we had a very long walk in woods. The best sighting was a shortly seen Great Grey Owl, a shy individual. We had however great photo opportunities of Olive-backed Pipit, Red-flanked Bluetails, Nuthatches, Pallas's Leaf Warbler etc. Dinner was served at 5:30pm: chicken soup, pasta, grilled meat and potatoes. Updated our species lists and chatted till 9pm. The weather was getting chilly again. Kari's phone tracker confirmed that today we had walked 27 km – it surely felt like it and we fell asleep easily.



Red-flanked Bluetail ©KE

Sat 12th May, Gorkhi-Terelj NP – Ulaanbaatar – Tsagaan Nuur.

In the morning we heard an Eurasian Pygmy Owl calling. Wake up at 5:30am. Then we had a short 3 km walk in the woods, but found nothing special. A male Hazel Grouse was lekking close to our camp. After breakfast we headed back to the capital city Ulaanbaatar. Mandatory stop at the Chinggis Khaan monument for touristic photographs. In UB we stopped to make some grocery shoppings and had pizza for lunch. Back on the road with a new driver: Odkhuu was to be our driver from here on. We headed west on a paved road for ca. 200 km to a vast open lake area and made camp close to the lake Tsagaan Nuur and went birding right away. Lots of new species for the trip: 10 Bar-headed and 20 Swan Geese, 2 Eastern Marsh Harriers, 2 Upland Buzzards, 12 Demoiselle and 3 White-naped Cranes, 10 Long-toed Stints, 1 Asian Dowitcher, 1 Pin-tail Snipe, 30 Mongolian (Vega) Gulls, Asian Short-toed Lark was common. Surprisingly our first Yellow-browed Warbler for the trip was seen here. Eastern Yellow Wagtail was really common (it's nowadays treated as a species according to IOC). We walked back to the camp quite late, so we hurried with the birding lists while there was still some light left. Dinner in total darkness.



White-naped Crane ©MR

Sun 13th May, Tsagaan Nuur. We woke up 4:30am and walked around the lake surroundings for 4 hours. A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was feeding among the commoner waders. Morning's highlight was a flock of 4 White-winged Scoters seen in flight – quite far away though. After breakfast we walked in separate routes trying to cover as much terrain as possible. Globally treated as vulnerable Relict Gull is a nesting species here in Mongolia and 2 subadults were the first ones we saw. Pallas's Sandgrouses and Red-necked Stints were also the firsts for the trip. Ca. 30 Pale Martins were catching insects close to the shoreline.

It was getting rather windy now and we saw a huge dust cloud in the horizon coming closer. First we thought it's a sand storm, but no, it was a herd of ca. 1.000 horses galloping towards the lake – amazing sight. Bayanaa told us that many springs had been especially dry, so drinking water for the horses and wild animals are found sparsely. He also told that recent winters have been really cold, so the conditions for gazelles and horses had been really harsh and many animals had died in hunger and/or thirst. Corpses were a common sight everywhere and so vultures seemed to be happy and fat.

After lunch we drove to another lake close by. A small herd of 9 Mongolian Gazelles and a Corsac Fox were found enroute. The wind was still strong and dust was flying everywhere. It was difficult to find or photograph anything. Pere David's Snowfinch was a new for our trip.



Long-toed Stint ©IV

Mon 14th May, Tsagaan Nuur - Ugii Nuur. Early morning and we were out birding before 5am. Weather was partly sunny, no wind, +3°C. First we checked the shoreline and photographed Black-necked Grebes and waders. Bayanaa contacted us by walkie talkie – he had found an Eyebrowed Thrush of which we got some photos. After breakfast we broke the camp down and drove further west for a few hours to lake Ugii Nuur.

Right away to the shoreline for scoping the lake. Lots of waterfowl – ca. 20 White-winged Scoters, a single male Greater Scaup was a goodie, lots of Grebes (Great Horned, Slavonian and Black-necked) a single Pacific Golden Plover flew over us, 6 Asian Dowitchers and many species of Sandpipers were feeding in the shoreline.

After lunch Kari, Bayanaa, Davka and Uka walked 3 km east along the shoreline to narrow peninsula where they saw a single Siberian Crane. In the night wind was getting stronger again, but luckily it was rather calm in the morning. Isto and I stayed closer to camp. Isto was the luckiest of us, he spotted a young Pallas's Fish Eagle, which unluckily for the rest of us, was flying swiftly and disappeared before the rest of us could see it.

Tue 15th May, Ugii Nuur. Since we were now much more west than during the first days, sunrise was also later. It was 5:40 am when there was enough light for birding and photographing. First we checked the southern stretch of the lake, but soon Bayanaa informed us that there was a single male Falcated Duck and a Siberian Crane close to our camp. After photographing those for one hour or so we had breakfast and broke the camp down.

Thanks to the windy weather waterfowl were flying close by on the western side of the lake and we photographed White-winged Scoters etc. for a while. We continued towards a small series of lakes called Amii Nuur, where we walked around for an hour. Had lunch and drove up to a small village for some grocery shoppings. We returned to the southern side of Ugii Nuur and this time camp was set up further away from the lake. Two large eagles were flying high above us and we thought they were Pallas's, but no, they were 2 adult White-tailed Eagles. It was getting dark, so we went upriver to swim and wash, had supper, updated lists and hit the hay.

Wed 16th May, Ugii Nuur – Hustai Nuruu NP. Damn, it was windy and the morning was really cold. We woke up at 4:40am and walked close to the lake. Our goal was to see and photograph Pallas's Sea Eagles - no success. Had breakfast at 8:15 and drove around the lake for 3 hours, but found nothing special. It was still rather windy (>10m/s) and chilly (close to ±0°C). We tried hard to find something to photograph, but no luck. A local fisherman had brought some fish for us and Uka prepared a delicious meal of it. Had lunch and broke the camp down and drove a few hours towards east to Hustai National Park. Camp was set up close to a river just outside the NP. A really beautiful site. In the evening we heard Black-capped Night Herons calling and saw and photographed some in flight – it's a rare species in Mongolia. Weather was getting better (+15°C, no wind).

Thu 17th May, Hustai Nuruu NP – Ulaanbaatar. Woke up at 4:40am and up birding 5:00am. Now we saw some more Black-capped Night herons (2 ad, 4 2cy). Found a Bar-headed Goose's nest on a tree. A Saker falcon was harrasing Rooks' nesting colony without luck. After breakfast we drove around the Hustai Nuur NP where we had some good sightings and photo opportunities: 3 Golden Eagles, 2 Meadow Buntings. Przewalski's Horse is the only really wild horse (some regard it as a species). It was one time supposed to be extinct in the wild, but now it has been reintroduced to it's native habitat here in Mongolia. We managed to see a couple of them. Other mammal species seen here were Long-tailed Ground Squirrel, Daurian Pika and Brandt's Vole. Back to the main road. En route we stopped to watch a well known nesting Saker Falcon pair.

We drove to the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar where we stopped for changing crews. Bayanaa, Davka, Uka and Odkhoo started right away a 700 km drive towards east. For Isto, Kari and me this would be our first hotel night of the trip. But first we had lunch and then went birding



Siberian Crane ©KE



White-winged Scoter ©MR



Meadow Bunting ©MR



Przewalski's Horses ©KE



Siberian Blue Robin ©MR

to a water treatment plant close by. We didn't find anything special and after 2 hours we went to our hotel. Now we had plenty of time to upload photos to our laptops, recharge batteries etc.

Fri 18th May, Ulaanbaatar – Choilbalsan – Herlen River.

We had late breakfast at 8am, packed our things and to the airport for domestic flight Ulaanbaatar – Choilbalsan. We had to pay some extra for our overweight luggages. Hunnu Air's flight was on time and after 1,5 hours flight we arrived at Choilbalsan airport. Bayanaa and the rest of the crew were already waiting for us and Uka had prepared a full lunch for us which we ate close to the airport. On the road again, but this time we had only a short drive east to Herlen River where our next camp was set up. Weather was completely different than on previous days in the west: temperature was +30°C and mild wind. We went right away birding along the river for 3 hours. Spring was now really coming and we had some good sightings: 2cy male Siberian Blue Robin, 4 Yellow-breasted Buntings and 2 Yellow-browed Buntings. Blyth's and Richards Pipits were singing over the fields. Had dinner, updated our lists and called it a day.



Yellow-breasted Bunting ©MR

Sat 19th May, Herlen River (Choilbalsan) - Menen Steppe.

Wake up at 4am. Weather was nice: +10°C, 1-2 m/s S, sunny. We had a really good morning walk with Bayanaa and Davka for nearly 5 hours. A Grey Nightjar took flight in front of us, our first Siberian Rubythroat of the trip was singing on the other side of the river, a Dark-sided Flycatcher was feeding in the bushes, a Grey-headed Lapwing flew above us. Bayanaa saw a female Yellow-throated Bunting. Back to the camp where we had breakfast at 9am. Bayanaa and Odkhuu drove back to Choilbalsan for some shoppings and we walked around birding and looking for new photo opportunities. Quite soon Bayanaa and Odkhuu came back and everything was stuffed inside the car again. Now we were heading east towards the vast Menen Steppe. It's the largest plain area in Mongolia covering more than 5.000 km². After one hour or so our car started giving weird



Fixing a broken gearbox ©MR

"klonk" sounds – damn, it was the gearbox. Couldn't imagine a worse scenario than to loose the gearbox in the middle of nowhere. But our driver Odkhuu could do miracles – a real life McGyver. It took some 4 hours to dismantle the transmission and take the gearbox out, make the reparations and put everything back, fill the oils etc. But it was done and the car worked well for the rest of our trip. We had of course lunch while waiting and walked birding around the steppe. A Horned Lark's nest was close by. Wind was now picking up and had even some light rain showers. On the road again or should I say on the tracks. There are no real roads in Menen Steppe. There are maybe ten or so car tracks side by side, some wear out and drivers make new ones. We were still quite far from our detination, the Buir Lake and so we decided to set up our camp because it was getting dark. We birdied the surroundings. Pere David's Snowfich was nesting close to our camp, ca. 20 Pallas's Sandgrouses were flying around mostly in pairs. Had dinner before sunset at 7:45pm and updated the lists.



Isto and the vast Menen Steppe ©MR

Sun 20th May, Menen Steppe – Buir Nuur.

Isabelline Wheatears started singing at 3am in the darkness. Woke up at 4:30am, cloudy weather but luckily the wind had died out. Kari and Isto stayed in the camp till there was enough light for photographing the nesting Pere David's Snowfinch. I walked quite a long route southwards and found a lekking male Oriental Plover. Got some photos of him in flight. I walked back to the camp where we had breakfast at 7am. We broke the camp down and drove back to the Oriental Plover spot, but sadly he had disappeared. We continued eastwards with a short stop at the border checkpoint. Our destination, Buir Nuur is located at the eastern corner of Mongolia and because Mongolia has a 60 km buffer line before the actual border, one has to have special permission to get there. Bayanaa had acquired the permissions beforehand so everything went smoothly. Enroute we counted a total of 94 Pallas's Sandgrouses and soon we found some Oriental Plovers on the ground. We had a few stops for photographing them. After a few hours drive we were at Buir Nuur. Quite soon we found a 3cy Glaucous Gull amongst commoner gulls, which was to our knowledge the second record in Mongolia – true rarity. The lake system was full of birds and so many new species were added to our list. We concentrated on photographing close to our camp. Soon the wind was picking up again and it started raining. We had lunch behind the car and had a short siesta because of the rain. The rain stopped and we were out birding again. Kari and Isto found a Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler, but as usual it wasn't cooperative for photos. Today was Kari's birthday so our evening program was a special one. After dinner we found out why Bayanaa had went shopping yesterday, he had bought a cream cake for Kari! Cake with whisky and vodka was a tasty combination. We still managed to update our lists and called it a day at 10pm.



Oriental Plovers ©MR

Mon 21st May, Buir Nuur. Woke up at 4:15am. We all went separate ways with walkie talkies on. Bayanaa and Davka found a new species for Mongolia: Eurasian Oystercatcher. Kari had also heard it's distinctive call, but unluckily Isto and I were too far away out of the range of walkie talkies. After breakfast we all walked SE to the next lake. Enroute we saw 4 Lesser Sand Plovers on their nesting grounds and counted a total of 9 Relict Gulls. Back to the camp and we drove a few kilometers to a new place, where the camp was set up again in a bushy area on the other side of Buir Lake. Weather was sunny, +27°C, 5-7 m/s SE. We did a short birding walk to a river mouth where Little Terns were catching fish. Mandatory visit to the nearest check-point station. It was rainy and we rested a little while in our tents. Lists were updated this time inside the car and went to sleep at 8:40pm. Rain continued and stopped at 2am

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We did a short birding walk to a river mouth where Little Terns were catching fish. Mandatory visit to the nearest check-point station. It was rainy and we rested a little while in our tents. Lists were updated this time inside the car and went to sleep at 8:40pm. Rain continued and stopped at 2am



Long-tailed Rosefinch ©MR



Black-faced Bunting ©KE

Tue 22nd May, Buir Nuur – Khalkh Gol.

Woke up before 4am and walked all together checking the promising bushy area. Isabelline Wheatear was a new one for the trip, Bayanaa found a singing male Siberian Rubythroat. Black-faced Bunting seemed to be the most numerous species here. Long-tailed Rosefinches and Oriental Reed Warblers were singing as well. A Black-browed Reed Warbler was seen shortly. The camp was broken down till 9am and we headed towards further east. In a small village we stopped for grocery shoppings and had lunch in a small restaurant. After a longish check point visit we drove to Khalkh Gol plantation where the camp was set up amongst higher trees. A really beautiful place with lots of smaller bushes and also open ground.

First short walking tour produced a female Yellow-rumped Flycatcher. Amur falcons were nesting here, at least 20 individualas seen in a short time. Kari heard and saw a male Siberian Thrush. Ca. 10 Azure-winged Magpies were flying around.



Siberian Rubythroat ©MR

Wed 23th May, Khalkh Gol. Cold and clear night. Roofs of our tents were frosty when we woke up. Morning walk before breakfast produced Mongolia's second Ashy Minivet. It was first seen in flight calling repeatedly as usual, but landed and stayed in the high tree area for the whole day. Breakfast at 9am and out birding again. Kari found a Chinese Pond Heron in flight and thanks to our walkie talkies, also I managed to see it. I found a confident male Siberian Rubythroat and Kari photographed a male Yellow-rumped Flycatcher. Back to our camp where we had lunch and on the road again. We made a stop for a known nesting place of Chinese Grey Shrike (5 pull). Drove further for a while and our camp was set up by a river with lots of trees and bushes around – birdy place again. We walked in separate ways just to cover more of that bushy area. I saw an adult type Greater Spotted Eagle in flight and Kari found and photographed a Laughing Dove flying over the fields nearby (the first ever seen in the eastern parts of Mongolia). Today we got 15 new species to our list. After sunset we heard a Red Deer bellowing close by.



Ashy Minivet ©MR



Yellow-rumped Flycatcher ©KE

Thu 24th May, Khalkh Gol – Ikh Tashkai Nuur. Woke up 4:30am, +4°C, sunny, calm. Breakfast was planned to be at 7:30am and right after that we were supposed to move ahead, so we packed our gear in advance before our morning walk. Bayanaa and Davka called soon via walkie talkies that they had found Chestnut-eared Buntings from the fields. We all went there and found altogether 3 singing males. At 9am we were on the road and stopped to photograph Grey-headed Lapwings. Now we headed southwards across steppe to Okh Tashkai Nuur. Went right away birding and walked close to the reedbeds for 2 hours. After lunch we went birding again and now we found 3 male Japanese Reed Buntings. Davka was scoping the vast plains and found 2 Hooded Cranes. Counted a total of 8 Japanese Quails singing close by.

Fri 25th May, Ikh Tashkai Nuur. Up early as usual at 4:15am. Now we walked ENE to a next lake. Bayanaa noticed a Wolf jogging towards us maybe 1 km away. We stood still and watched it coming closer and closer until it was only ca. 50 meters away from us. It stopped and turned around when we moved a bit. Intimidating and nice moment anyways.



Wolf ©MR

It was a rather windy day. I saw a 2cy Pallas's Fish Eagle gliding in tailwind very low and fast. It disappeared behind a mound. Some more Japanese Reed Buntings were found (6 males and 2 females) so the total count of them was now 16 ind. This species is a new breeding species in Mongolia and the numbers are now rising here in the east.

We returned to our camp at 8am for breakfast and broke the camp down. Ikh Tashkai Nuur contains quite many small or medium sized lakes, otherwise it's open steppe. We drove clockwise around the lake system stopping here and there. First lake produced a Little Gull - again a rare find. Several other lakes were searched and with nice sightings as well: a male Greater Scaup and a white-bellied subspecies of Black-faced Bunting, 3 Terek Sandpipers were the only ones seen on our whole trip.

One hour walk was made around a bushy area: 1 Short-eared Owl, 1 Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler, 3 Dusky Warblers and a lot of Richard's Pipits. Checked 3 more lakes and had lunch by an observation tower. We checked 2 more lakes before the camp was set up. It had been a long day so after a short walk through the reedbeds, we stayed at the camp and had a few cold beers. Luxury life I'd say.



Japanese Reed Bunting ©MR

Sat 26th May, Ikh Tashkai Nuur – Buir Nuur. In the middle of the night (around 00:30-01:30am) we heard a wolf howling many times. Woke up at 4am and the usual morning walk. Bayanaa and Davka found an Oriental Reed Warbler and a Black-browed reed Warbler. Isto and Kari tried to photograph Terek Sandpipers found yesterday. After breakfast we broke the camp down and headed back to Buir Nuur where we were around midday. Huge amount of White-winged Black Terns and Red-necked Stints were catching mosquitos over the steppe. Staggering counts: ca 20.000 W-w B-terns and 10.000 R-n Stints was our estimation and those were only the local ones.



White-winged Black Terns ©MR

Waterfowl were found in good numbers and also some interesting species: 112 Relict Gulls, 45 Falcated Ducks and the 3cy Glaucous Gull was still here. We walked around photographing the massive flocks of terns and stints and had lunch at 3:30pm. Pretty soon it started raining. Luckily it was also quite windy so we could photograph using the car as a shade. Tents were set up side by side behind the car and we all took a nap. Rain continued and the wind was blowing even stronger. We had dinner inside the tents and the lists were updated in the car. Still raining - better hit the hay.

Fri 27th May, Buir Nuur – Menen Steppe - Choilbalsan. The rain had stopped during the night and wind died out. I went for a swim at 3am. Others woke up at 4:15am. Bayanaa and Davka stayed



Relict Gull ©MR

close to the camp while Kari checked the bushes of the western side lake and I walked around the eastern "small" lake. Falcated Ducks were numerous: 400+ ind. mainly in 2 big flocks were flying and/or swimming at the smaller lake. 250+ Asian Dowitchers were roosting. Breakfast at 7am and on the road again towards the famous Menen Steppe. Enroute we found and photographed 12 Oriental Plovers and 20 Pallas's Sandgrouses. After a stop for picnic lunch we drove west to Choibalsan where we accommodated at Kherlen Hotel. Time to freshen up, reload batteries etc. We had a nice dinner at the hotel's restaurant.



Pallas's Sandgrouse @MR

Sat 28th May, Choibalsan – Herlen River - Ulaanbaatar. In the morning we checked the parks close by our hotel starting at 4:30am. Some nice photo opportunities because birds were really tame here in the city. Arctic Warblers are late migrants and they were the most dominant warbler species now. Two-barred and Dusky Warblers were also found in good numbers. Hawfinches were flying in big flocks; we estimated more than 1.000 individuals. 7 Oriental Honey Buzzards were soaring low – seemed to be continuing their migration after resting overnight in the high trees of the park. After breakfast and grocery shoppings we headed to Herlen River. Camp was set ca. 2 km south from the place we were camping 10 days ago. This was to be our last real birding day of the trip. Yellow-breasted Buntings were singing – at least 10 males. Chinese Bond Heron flew over the river and Pacific Swifts were on migration. Best found of the day was a Rufous-tailed Robin which only I, Bayanaa and Davka managed to see. Dinner was a special one: traditional Mongolian style baked meat and vegetables – really tasty. It was time to pack our gear for the domestic flight back to Ulaanbaatar and say good bye to our hosts. Our plane's departure time was delayed and was actually 11:30pm so it was rather late before we were sleeping at our hotel in Ulaanbaatar.



Oriental Honey Buzzard @MR

Sun 29th May, Ulaanbaatar. Woke up at 7am and had breakfast at the hotel. Bayanaa had arranged us a guide and a driver so we headed NE from the city towards the mountains. We walked around a nice looking valley which was bordered by boreal forest. A Thick-billed Warbler was singing close to a small river, Siberian



Davka (standing left) and Uka Odkhuu (left), Markku, Isto, Bayanaa and Kari @KE

Rubythroats and a single Oriental Cuckoo were singing. Had lunch at the Research Center close by and back to the hotel. It was rather hot outside so we had a couple of beers but soon went out birding again.

A couple new species were added to our list: a pair of Mandarin Ducks and Spot-billed Ducks. Tried to photograph nesting Hoopoes and Azure-winged Magpies. It was still hot, so we decided to get back to our hotel for dinner and called it a day.

Mon 30th May, Ulaanbaatar – Finland (home). Early wake up at the hotel and after breakfast to the airport. Flight to Helsinki via Moscow.

Summary

Total amount of species seen on our trip was staggering 255. Best ones shortly: European Oystercatcher (1st for Mongolia), Glaucous Gull (2nd), Ashy Minivet (2nd) Rufous-tailed Robin (3rd), Chinese Grey Shrike (2nd confirmed nesting), Little Gull, Black-crowned Night Heron, 16 ind. of Japanese Reed Bunting, a new nesting population of Chestnut-eared Buntings, massive gatherings of Red-necked Stints (10.000) and White-winged Black Terns (20.000) at Ugii Nuur.

SPECIES LIST:

Anatidae		
Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>	
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	
Swan Goose	<i>Anser cygnoides</i>	
Tundra Bean Goose	<i>Anser serrirostris</i>	Ugii Nuur 2, Buir Nuur 1
Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Ugii Nuur 1, Ikh Tashkai Nuur 2
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Ugii Nuur 3, Buir Nuur 4
Tundra Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	Ugii Nuur 2, Buir Nuur 1
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Ugii Nuur >150
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	
Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	29.5. a pair in Ulaanbaatar
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	
Falcated Duck	<i>Anas falcata</i>	27.5. Buir Nuur >400
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	
Eastern Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas zonorhyncha</i>	29.5. a pair in Ulaanbaatar
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	15.5. Ugii Nuur 35
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	
Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	14.5. Ugii Nuur 1 male ; 25.5. Ikh Tashkai Nuur 1 male
White-winged Scoter	<i>Melanitta deglandi</i>	15.-16.5. Ugii Nuur >100
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	21.5 Buir Nuur 2, and 4 26.5.
Phasianidae		
Hazel Grouse	<i>Tetrastes bonasia</i>	Gorkhi-Terelj a pair
Black-billed Capercaillie	<i>Tetrao urogalloides</i>	10.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 10/2 lekking
Black Grouse	<i>Lyrurus tetrix</i>	Gorkhi-Terelj a pair
Daurian Partridge	<i>Perdix dauurica</i>	10.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 2
Japanese Quail	<i>Coturnix japonica</i>	24.5. Ikh Tashkai Nuur 8
Podicipedidae		
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	21.5. Buir Nuur 2
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	20.5. Buir Nuur 20
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	20.5. Buir Nuur >1.000
Horned Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	14.5. Ugii Nuur 20
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	14.5. Ugii Nuur ≥50
Ciconiidae		
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	10.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 2
Threskiornithidae		
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Some seen in lake areas
Ardeidae		
Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	24.-26.5. Ikh Tashkai Nuur / song heard
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	16.-17.5. Hustai Nuruu 6; 24.5. Ikh Tashkai Nuur 2

Chinese Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola bacchus</i>	22.5. Khalkh Gol 1; 28.5. Herlen River 1
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	
Phalacrocoracidae		
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	
Pandionidae		
Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	14.5. Ugii Nuur 1
Accipitridae		
Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	10.5.and 11.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 1
Crested Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	28.5. Choibalsan 7; a few elsewhere
Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	relatively common
Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga clanga</i>	23.5. Ikh Tashkai Nuur 1 ad-type
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	total: 16 ind.
Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	total: 13 ind.
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	15.5. Ugii Nuur 2; 17.5. Hustai Nuruu 3
Japanese Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter gularis</i>	23.5. Khalkh Gol 1
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	total: 6 ind.
Eastern Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus spilonotus</i>	commonest in the east
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	13.5. Tsagaan Nuur 1; 15.5. Ugii Nuur 1
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	coomonest raptor
Pallas's Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>	14.5. Ugii Nuur 2cy; 25.5. Ikh Tashkai Nuur 2cy
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	14.5. Ugii Nuur 1 subad; 15.5. Ugii Nuur 2ad
Upland Buzzard	<i>Buteo hemilasius</i>	2 nests found
Eastern Buzzard	<i>Buteo japonicus</i>	max day 15ind. 16.5. Ugii Nuur
Rallidae		
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	
Gruidae		
Siberian Crane	<i>Grus leucogeranus</i>	14.-16.5. Ugii Nuur 1; 26.-27.5. Buir Nuur 1
White-naped Crane	<i>Grus vipio</i>	12-13.5. Tsagaan Nuur 5; 15-16.5. Ugii Nuur 2
Demoiselle Crane	<i>Grus virgo</i>	
Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	
Hooded Crane	<i>Grus monacha</i>	24-25.5. Ikh Tashkai Nuur 2-3
Haematopodidae		
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	21.5. Buir Nuur 1 (new species for Mongolia)
Recurvirostridae		
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	
Charadriidae		
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	
Grey-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus cinereus</i>	19.5. Herlen River 1; 24.5. Khalkh Gol 2
Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	19.5. Herlen River 1; 26.5. Buir Nuur 1
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	
Lesser Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	21.5. Buir Nuur 6
Oriental Plover	<i>Charadrius veredus</i>	19-21.5. Menen Steppe max 9; 27.5. Menen Steppe 12
Scolopacidae		
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	

Ruff	Calidris pugnax	
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Calidris falcinellus	13.5. Ugii Nuur 1; 21.5. Buir Nuur 3; 27.5. Buir Nuur 2
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Calidris acuminata	13.5. Ugii Nuur 1; 14.5. Ugii Nuur 3; 20.5. Buir Nuur 1
Curlew Sandpiper	Calidris ferruginea	
Temminck's Stint	Calidris temminckii	max: 14.5. Ugii Nuur ≥250
Long-toed Stint	Calidris subminuta	max: 15.5. Ugii Nuur ≥100
Red-necked Stint	Calidris ruficollis	max: 26-27.5. Buir Nuur ≥10.000
Sanderling	Calidris alba	max: 26-27.5. Buir Nuur ≥100
Dunlin	Calidris alpina	21.5. Buir Nuur 6; 26.5. Buir Nuur 7; 27,5, Buir Nuur 3
Little Stint	Calidris minuta	20-21.5. Buir Nuur
Asian Dowitcher	Limnodromus semipalmatus	max: 15.5. Buir Nuur ≥250
Jack Snipe	Lymnocyptes minimus	12.5. Tsagaan Nuur 1
Pin-tailed Snipe	Gallinago stenura	a few Tsagaan Nuur 12-13.5. and in the east
Common Snipe	Gallinago gallinago	
Terek Sandpiper	Xenus cinereus	25.5. Ikh Tashgai Nuur 4; 26.5. Ikh Tashgai Nuur 3
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	
Laridae		
Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	max: 26.5. Buir Nuur ≥250
Little Gull	Hydrocoloeus minutus	25.5. Ikh Tashgai Nuur 1
Relict Gull	Ichthyaeetus relictus	max: 26.5. Buir Nuur 112 ind.
Glaucous Gull	Larus hyperboreus	20.5. and 26.5. Buir Nuur 1 3cy
Vega Gull (Mongolian Gull)	Larus vegae	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Larus fuscus	27.5. Buir Nuur 2 ssp. Heuglini
Gull-billed Tern	Gelochelidon nilotica	max: 21.5. Buir Nuur 10
Caspian Tern	Hydroprogne caspia	max: 27.5. Buir Nuur 6
Little Tern	Sternula albifrons	21.5. Buir Nuur 5
Common Tern	Sterna hirundo	
Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybrida	max: 22.5. Buir Nuur 30
White-winged Tern	Chlidonias leucopterus	max: 26-27.5. Buir Nuur ≥20.000
Black Tern	Chlidonias niger	20.5. Buir Nuur 10; 27.5. Buir Nuur 10
Pteroclididae		
Pallas's Sandgrouse	Syrrhaptes paradoxus	max: 20.5. Menen Steppe 94
Columbidae		
Rock Dove	Columba livia	
Hill Pigeon	Columba rupestris	
Stock Dove	Columba oenas	21.5. Khalkh Gol 1
Oriental Turtla Dove	Streptopelia orientalis	common in the east
Eurasian Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	23.-24.5. Khalkh Gol ; 29.5. Ulaanbaatar 1
Laughing Dove	Spilopelia senegalensis	23.5. Khalkh Gol 1
Cuculidae		
Oriental Cuckoo	Cuculus optatus	23-24.5. Khakh Gol 1; 29.5. Ulaanbaatar 1
Common Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	
Strigidae		
Eurasian Eagle-Owl	Bubo bubo	10-11.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 1; 19.5. Herlen River 1; 23.5. Khalkh Gol 2
Ural Owl	Strix uralensis	9.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 1; 10.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 2 singing

Great Grey Owl	<i>Strix nebulosa</i>	11.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 1
Eurasian Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>	12.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 1
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	10.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 1
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	seen or heard in 4 places
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	24.5. Ikh Tashgai Nuur 2
Caprimulgidae		
Grey Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus jotaka</i>	19.5. Herlen River 1
Apodidae		
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	max: 28.5. Herlen River ≥100 on migration
Pacific Swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	max: 28.5. Herlen River ≥50 on migration
Upupidae		
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	
Picidae		
Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	10.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 1 singing
Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>	9.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 3; 10.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 1
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>	seen on 5 days
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	9.-11.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 4
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	9.-11.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 4
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>	11.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 1
Falconidae		
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	seen on 6 days; max 16.5. Ugii Nuur 6 ind.
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	seen on 13 days
Amur Falcon	<i>Falco amurensis</i>	seen on 10 days; max: 23.5. Khalkh Gol 20 ind. Nesting colony
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	22-24.5. Khalkh Gol breeding pair
Saker Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>	10.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 1; 17.5. Hustai Nuruu 3; 23.5. Khalkh Gol 1; 25.5. Ikh Tashgai Nuur 1
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	15.5. Ugii Nuur 1; 20.5. Buir Nuur 1
Campephagidae		
Ashy Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus divaricatus</i>	22-23.5. Khalkh Gol 1 male
Laniidae		
Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	seen on 12 days; max: 27.5. Menen Steppe-Choibalsan
Isabelline Shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>	22-23.5. Khalkh Gol 1; 28.5. Choibalsan 1
Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	11.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 1
Chinese Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius sphenocercus</i>	23.5. Khalkh Gol a breeding pair; nest with 5 pullus
Oriolidae		
Black-naped Oriole	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>	23.5. Khalkh Gol 1
Corvidae		
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	9.-11.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 4; 29.5. Ulaanbaatar 1
Azure-winged Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cyanus</i>	22-24.5. Khalkh Gol 10; 29.5. Ulaanbaatar 10
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	
Daurian Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus dauuricus</i>	
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	
Bombycillidae		
Bohemian Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	23.5. Khalkh Gol 1
Paridae		
Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>	9.-12.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 20+
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	12.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 1

Willow Tit	Poecile montanus	9.-12.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 30+
Azure Tit	Cyanistes cyanus	23.-24.5. Khalkh Gol 12 ; 29.5. Ulaanbaatar 8
Great Tit	Parus major	9.-12.5. Gorkhi-Terelj ca. 10; 29.5. Ulaanbaatar 5
Remizidae		
White-crowned Penduline Tit	Remiz coronatus	seen on 8 days; max 11.5. Gorkhi-Terelj ≥10 ind.
Panuridae		
Bearded Reedling	Panurus biarmicus	seen on 4 days; max: 22.5. Khalkh Gol ≥20 ind.
Alaudidae		
Eurasian Skylark	Alauda arvensis	max: 26.5. Buir Nuur 120
Horned Lark	Eremophila alpestris	seen on 7 days
Asian Short-toed Lark	Alaudala cheleensis	max: 13.5. Ugii Nuur ≥100
Mongolian Lark	Melanocorypha mongolica	commonest in the east; max 26.5. Menen Steppe-Buir Nuur 261 ind.
Hirundinidae		
Sand Martin	Riparia riparia	seen on 15 days
Pale Martin	Riparia diluta	13.5. Tsagaan Nuur 30 ind.
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	seen on 18 days
Eurasian Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne rupestris	9.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 1
Common House Martin	Delichon urbicum	seen on 9 days; max 16.5. Ugii Nuur 10 ind.
Phylloscopidae		
Yellow-browed Warbler	Phylloscopus inornatus	seen on 6 days
Pallas's Leaf Warbler	Phylloscopus proregulus	seen on 8 days
Radde's Warbler	Phylloscopus schwarzi	max 19.5. Herlen River 6 ind.
Dusky Warbler	Phylloscopus fuscatus	seen on 11 days; commonest phylloscopus warbler
Common Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita	11.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 1, 24.5. Khalkh Gol 1; 27.5. Choibalsan 1
Two-barred Warbler	Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus	seen on 6 days; max 28.5. Choibalsan 30 ind.
Arctic Warbler	Phylloscopus borealis	18.5. Herlen River 3; 28.5. Choibalsan 30
Acrocephalidae		
Oriental Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus orientalis	seen on 5 days; max 22.5. Buir Nuur 6 ind.
Black-browed Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus bistrigiceps	seen on 4 days
Thick-billed Warbler	Iduna aedon	23.5. Khalkh Gol 1; 29.5. Ulaanbaatar 1
Locustellidae		
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler	Locustella certhiola	20.5. Buir Nuur 1; 24.5. Ikh Tashgai Nuur 1; 25. and 26.5. Ikh Tashgai Nuur 5
Lanceolated Warbler	Locustella lanceolata	10.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 1 sp; 25.5. Ikh Tashgai Nuur 5; 28.5. Herlen River 1
Sylviidae		
Common Whitethroat	Sylvia communis	29.5. Ulaanbaatar 3
Sittidae		
Eurasian Nuthatch	Sitta europaea	9.-12.5. Gorkhi-Terelj max day: ≥20
Certhiidae		
Eurasian Treecreeper	Certhia familiaris	9.-12.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 3
Sturnidae		
White-cheeked Starling	Spodiopsar cineraceus	seen on 6 days; max: 21.5. Buir Nuur 15 ind.
Daurian Starling	Agropsar sturninus	11.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 1 sp; 20.5. Buir Nuur 2
Turdidae		
Siberian Thrush	Geokichla sibirica	22.5. Khalkh Gol 1 male (singing and seen)
Eyebrowed Thrush	Turdus obscurus	13.5. Tsagaan Nuur 2; 15.5. Ugii Nuur 2; 16.5. Ugii Nuur 1; 28.5. Choibalsan 1
Red-throated Thrush	Turdus ruficollis	10.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 10
Naumann's Thrush	Turdus naumanni	10.5. Gokghi-Terelj 1 sp; 11.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 1
Dusky Thrush	Turdus eunomus	11.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 1

Muscicapidae		
Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata	28.5. Choibalsan 2
Dark-sided Flycatcher	Muscicapa sibirica	seen on 5 days; max 23.5. Khalkh Gol 5 ind.
Asian Brown Flycatcher	Muscicapa dauurica	seen on 4 days; max 28.5. Choibalsan ≥30 ind.
Siberian Blue Robin	Larvivora cyane	18.5. Herlen River 1 male; 19.5. Herlen River 1/1; 28.5. Herlen River 1 male
Rufous-tailed Robin	Larvivora sibilans	28.5. Herlen River 1 female
Bluethroat	Luscinia svecica	25.5. Ikh Tashgai Nuur 1
Siberian Rubythroat	Calliope calliope	seen on 6 days; max 22.5. Khalkh Gol 10 ind.
Red-flanked Bluetail	Tarsiger cyanurus	9.-12.5. Gorkhi-Terelj ≥50 ind.
Yellow-rumped Flycatcher	Ficedula zanthopygia	22-24.5. Khalkh Gol 10; 26.5. Buir Nuur 1
Taiga Flycatcher	Ficedula albicilla	seen on 11 days
Common Redstart	Phoenicurus phoenicurus	9.-11.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 3; 14.5. Ugii Nuur 1
Daurian Redstart	Phoenicurus aureus	seen on 8 days; max 10.5. Gorkhi-Terelj ≥20 ind.
Stejneger's Stonechat	Saxicola stejnegeri	seen on 4 days
Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe	seen on 9 days
Isabelline Wheatear	Oenanthe isabellina	seen almost daily; commonest wheatear
Pied Wheatear	Oenanthe pleschanka	9.-11.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 3; 16.5. Ugii Nuur 1
Passeridae		
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	common in villages and cities
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus	common in villages and cities
Rock Sparrow	Petronia petronia	13.5. Tsagaan Nuur 1; 15.5. Ugii Nuur 10 16.5. Ugii Nuur 5
Pere David's Snowfinch	Pyrgilauda davidiana	seen on 7 days
Prunellidae		
Siberian Accentor	Prunella montanella	10.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 1
Motacillidae		
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	
Olive-backed Pipit	Anthus hodgsoni	
Red-throated Pipit	Anthus cervinus	14.5. Ugii Nuur 2
Buff-bellied Pipit	Anthus rubescens	16.5. Ugii Nuur 1
Water Pipit	Anthus spinoletta	13-15.5. Ugii Nuur 9
Fringillidae		
Hawfinch	Coccothraustes coccothraustes	22.5. Khalkh Gol 1; 23.5. Khalkh Gol 140; 28.5. Choibalsan ca. 1.000
Mongolian Finch	Bucanetes mongolicus	13.5. Tsagaan Nuur 5; 14.5. Ugii Nuur 7; 15.5. Ugii Nuur 2
Common Rosefinch	Carpodacus erythrinus	18-19.5. Herlen River 1; 28.5. Herlen River 5; 29.5. Ulaanbaatar 6
Long-tailed Rosefinch	Carpodacus sibiricus	11.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 5, 21.5. Buir Nuur 1; 22.5. Buir Nuur 20; 23.5. Khalkh Gol 6; 24.5. Khalkh Gol 5
Twite	Linaria flavirostris	14.5. Ugii Nuur 2
Red Crossbill	Loxia curvirostra	10-12.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 3
Eurasian Siskin	Spinus spinus	9.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 1
Calcariidae		
Lapland Longspur	Calcarius lapponicus	13.5. Tsagaan Nuur 15; 14.5. Ugii Nuur 2
Emberizidae		
Pine Bunting	Emberiza leucocephalos	9.-11.5. Gorkhi-Terelj ≥20
Godlewski's Bunting	Emberiza godlewskii	10.5. Gorkhi-Terelj 4
Meadow Bunting	Emberiza cioides	17.5. Hustai Nuruu 2 males

Chestnut-eared Bunting	<i>Emberiza fucata</i>	24.5. Ikh Tashgai Nuur 3 males
Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	seen on 11 days
Yellow-browed Bunting	<i>Emberiza chrysophrys</i>	18.5. Herlen River 2; 19.5. Herlen River 5
Yellow-throated Bunting	<i>Emberiza elegans</i>	19.5. Herlen River 1 female
Yellow-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza aureola</i>	seen on 5 days; max 28.5. Herlen River ≥ 20 ind.
Black-faced Bunting	<i>Emberiza spodocephala</i>	seen on 13 days
Pallas's Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza pallasi</i>	seen on 13 days
Japanese Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza yessoensis</i>	23.5. Ikh Tashgai Nuur 2; 25.5. Ikh Tashgai Nuur 10; 26.5 Ikh Tashgai Nuur 6
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	seen on 8 days