



*Long-eared Hedgehog (Munkhnast Dalannast)*

# MONGOLIA

**MAY 19 – JUNE 6, 2018**

**LEADER:** MUNKHNAST DALANNAST and JÁNOS OLÁH

Mongolia is a very special country with amazing landscape, long and fascinating history and very special wildlife. The enormous, landlocked country of Mongolia is the 19th largest and the most sparsely populated fully sovereign country in the world. Its size is just over 1.5 million square kilometers but this is larger than the combined areas of Germany, France and Spain. Wedged between Russia and China with a population of three million, however, makes life very different in every aspect. On our 19 days long and mostly off-road odyssey, we wandered through the wide and wild steppes, deserts, semi-deserts, mountains, marshes and taiga of Genghis Khan and recorded a total of 224 species of birds and an outstanding 30 mammal species!

## SYSTEMATIC LIST OF MAMMAL SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

No	English and Scientific name	Sites visited and Comments
1	Mountain Hare <i>Lepus timidus</i>	Just two were seen in the north
2	Tolai Hare <i>Lepus tolai</i>	Several were seen
3	Daurian Pika <i>Ochotona dauurica</i>	A few seen at night in Hustai NP and one at daylight
4	Pallas's Pika <i>Ochotona pallasii</i>	Very common in the Gobi-Altai and seen in the Khangai too
5	Long-eared Hedgehog <i>Hemiechinus auritus</i>	We saw two at our Ger camp near Khongoryn Els and one later
6	Mongolian Jerboa <i>Stylodipus anderwsi</i>	A few seen near Boontsagaan Lake
7	Three-toed Jerboa <i>Dipus sagitta</i>	Fairly widespread and about 25 seen
8	Gobi Jerboa <i>Allactaga bullata</i>	A single individual was identified near Khongoryn Els
9	Siberian Jerboa <i>Allactaga sibirica</i>	The most common jerboa on the tour, about 50 seen
10	Brandt's Vole <i>Lasiopodomys brandtii</i>	Very common at Sangiin Dalai lake
11	Mid-day Gerbil <i>Meriones meridianus</i>	Just one was seen and identified with the white claws
12	Mongolian Gerbil <i>Meriones unguiculatus</i>	Fairly commonly encountered, especially in the Gobi-Altai
13	Mongolian Silver Vole <i>Alticola semicanus</i>	One was seen in the Barig Mountain
14	Mongolia Marmot <i>Marmota sibirica</i>	Common and widespread. Conspicuous in Hustai NP
15	Eurasian Red Squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	Both grey and black morphs were seen in the Khenty Mountain
16	Red-cheeked Ground Squirrel <i>Spermophilus erythrogenys</i>	Just a few observations in semi-deserts
17	Long-tailed Ground Squirrel <i>Spermophilus undulatus</i>	Many sightings of this prairie dog like critter
18	Alashan Ground Squirrel <i>Spermophilus alashanicus</i>	Just two were seen at Ikh Bogd Mountain
19	Corsac Fox <i>Vulpes corsac</i>	A family party was seen at Sangiin Dalai lake
20	Red Fox <i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Three sightings in the tour
21	Grey Wolf <i>Canis lupus</i>	One was seen on our last night in Gorkhi – Terelj NP
22	Marbled Polecat <i>Vormela peregusna</i>	Fantastic looks of this stunner on our way to Gobi-Altai
23	Steppe Polecat <i>Mustella eversmanni</i>	One seen in the Jalman Valley in the north. Interesting data!
24	Pallas's Cat <i>Otocolobus manul</i>	One was spotlighted in Yolyn Am in the Gobi-Altai
25	Przewalski's Horse <i>Equus ferus przewalskii</i>	About 70 of these re-introduced horses were seen in the Hustai NP
26	Red Deer <i>Cervus elaphus</i>	Several showed well in Hustai NP
27	Siberian Ibex <i>Capra sibirica</i>	About 10 were seen in the Gobi Altai
28	Goitered Gazelle <i>Gazella subgutturosa</i>	A total of twelve were seen in the Gobi desert
29	Argali <i>Ovis ammon</i>	Just seven were observed in Yolyn Am in Gobi-Altai
30	Mongolian Gazelle <i>Gazella gutturosa</i>	Several sightings, about 100 seen altogether





*Marbled Polecat with a Mongolian Gerbil catch (János Oláh)*



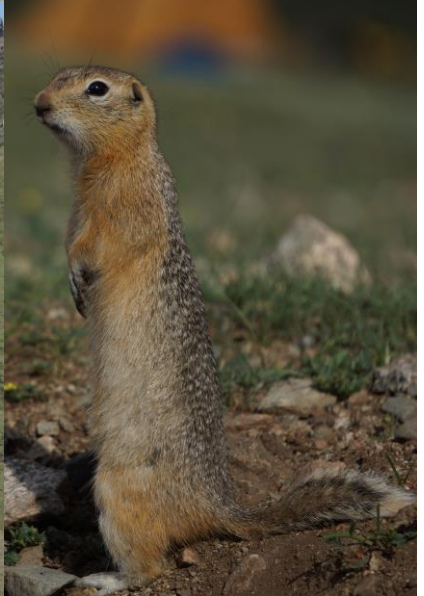
*Gobi Jerboa (top left), Siberian Jerboa (top right, bottom left) and Three-toed Jerboa near Khongoryn Els (János Oláh)*





*Przewalski's Horse (top left), Daurian Pika (top right), Mongolian Marmot (bottom left) and Mongolian Gerbil (János Oláh)*





*Brandt's Vole (top left), Midday Gerbil (top right), Red Deer (bottom left) and Long-tailed Ground Squirrel (Munkhnast Dalannast)*





*Pallas's Pika (top) at Yolyn Am and Andrew's Jerboa near Boontsagaan Lake – look at the fat-deposits on the tail, a good ID feature as well (János Oláh)*



*Siberian Ibex in the Gobi-Altai Mountains (János Oláh)*