

Mongolia - Birding in the Steppes of Genghis Khan

Naturetrek Tour Report

6 - 21 June 2016

Report compiled by Dave Mallon



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Summary

This was a new itinerary for Naturetrek. Over 180 species of birds were seen, the highlights including Asian Dowitcher, White-naped Crane, Kozlov's Accentor, Long-tailed Rosefinch, Yellow-breasted, Godlewski's and Pallas's Reed Buntings, Azure Tit and Oriental Plover. More important than the number of species was the quality of the sightings, with many of the most sought-after species providing excellent views.

The undoubted mammal highlight was a view of four Grey Wolves through the telescope lasting over an hour. Wolves are widespread in Mongolia, but very rarely seen, so such a prolonged sighting was a real privilege. Just as rare was the sighting of two Marbled Polecats hunting around pika colonies. There were also excellent sightings of Przewalski's Horse in Hustai National Park, the site of the first reintroduction of this species and proof that large animals, once extinct, can be successfully restored to the wild.

The weather was mixed, but the traditional tourist ger (tented) camps were comfortable and welcome after days in the field. Always in the background were the vast and varied landscapes - mountains, steppes, forests and lakes. The combination of outstanding wildlife and spectacular scenery provided a wonderful introduction to Mongolia's diversity.

Day 1

Monday 6th June

The tour started with flights from the UK. The full group finally met up in the transit lounge at Bishkek airport where the flight from Istanbul to Ulaanbaatar made a stop to refuel.

Day 2

Tuesday 7th June

Ulaanbaatar

Our flight left Bishkek just after sunrise and for three quarters of an hour we were treated to a superb view of the snow-covered Tien Shan mountains, crystal clear in the early morning sun - a great welcome to Central Asia. We landed at Ulaanbaatar (known universally as UB) around 11.30am. A few Pacific Swifts were seen above the airport buildings, and after straightforward immigration and customs formalities, we met our local guide Bayanaa, and two drivers. We were soon on our way into the city and to our hotel.

After a quick lunch, we set out through some bad traffic to a small area of rather unprepossessing wetlands and willow scrub to the west of the city. The main target here was the now very rare Yellow-breasted Bunting; until recently a common bird whose population has crashed dramatically. After a while a very smart singing male was located and everyone gained good views. White-headed Penduline Tit also showed well, including one by a nest. A pair of Swan Geese with two chicks and some common waterfowl were present on one of the lakes, including the first of many Ruddy Shelducks seen on the trip. A Black Stork, a handsome Citrine Wagtail, singing Asian Reed Warbler, Blyth's Pipits and Booted Eagle were also much appreciated. A small Siberian Wood Frog represented the herpetological interest. Dinner was taken at a traditional Mongolian restaurant.

Day 3

Wednesday 8th June

Ulaanbaatar to Hustai National Park

The day began with a mix of cloud, sun and occasional rain which became steady by late afternoon.

After an early breakfast we drove west to Hustai National Park. Negotiating the morning traffic gave views of a few Red-billed Choughs, which are city birds here! Beyond the city limits we entered rolling green steppe and were soon stopping to take a good look at an obliging Upland Buzzard. At another stop a little farther on we saw Mongolian Lark, Asian Short-toed Lark, Steppe Eagle and some Mongolian Gerbils scurrying in the fields. A Saker Falcon nest on an electricity pylon contained two chicks with a dead adult on the ground below, apparently electrocuted. We arrived at the ger camp next to the national park entrance in time for lunch.

An Amur Falcon flashed by as we were getting ready to leave on our afternoon drive, and we were soon stopping to watch a flock of vultures at a kill: maybe a young Red Deer, since a hind was standing very close and watching them intently. In all there were 20 Cinereous (Black) Vultures and four griffon-type vultures – one Griffon Vulture, one Himalayan Vulture and the other IDs debated – as well as two Golden Eagles and four Steppe Eagles. Some distant groups of Przewalski's Horses were also visible ahead.

We then took a small track into 'Raptor Valley' occupied by a colony of Amur Falcons. A pair was seen in a tree close to where we stopped, and for the next three and a half hours as we walked through the grassy meadows and clumps of birch trees, these splendid little falcons were constantly present; flying and calling around us. The supporting cast was made up of Booted Eagle, Black Kite, and Eurasian Sparrowhawk, as well as Meadow Bunting and Pied Wheatear. There were also excellent views of several groups of Przewalski's Horses totalling more than 50, Red Deer and a Long-tailed Ground Squirrel which posed outside its burrow. We returned to camp around 6pm and heavy rain fell after dinner.

Day 4

Thursday 9th June

Hustai National Park

The weather today started grey and cloudy with a strong cold northerly wind. There was heavy rain in the late morning and evening. We had another 6am start and drove to the southern end of the park and the plains in the buffer zone where we soon located a distant group of Mongolian Gazelles. We drove round to get closer views, finding a Golden Eagle and a few Bar-headed Geese resting on a slope on the way. A picnic breakfast was taken in the shelter of a small valley with a line of Siberian Elms. A few late migrants were also sheltering in the trees including Thick-billed Warbler, Dusky Warbler and Asian Brown Flycatcher. The rain then fell hard, dampening any further sightings.

After an early lunch back at camp we drove to the Tuul river on the edge of the reserve, having good views of Siberian Marmot and Isabelline Wheatear on the way. A walk along the river and through the willow and tamarisk trees turned up a Crested (Oriental) Honey Buzzard, another Amur Falcon, Eurasian Spoonbill, Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler, and Common Terns of the black-billed *longipennis* form.

Day 5

Friday 10th June

Hustai to Ogii Nuur

We had a dull start to the day but the weather cleared by mid-morning and became very warm and sunny. After another early breakfast we headed back to the main road. The two Saker Falcon chicks were still in the nest and apparently thriving, so either one adult was succeeding in feeding them alone, or the dead bird was an intruder, not a parent.

The drive took us through rolling steppes, over two small passes, and down to a series of small lakes and wetlands. We soon found Eastern Spot-bill Duck, Red-crested Pochard, White-naped Crane and a very handsome male Eastern Marsh Harrier gliding over the back of the marsh. In the reeds, Bearded Reedlings showed well, as did Paddyfield Warbler, Asian Reed Warbler and Common Reed Bunting. Farther on were Bar-headed and Greylag Geese, Whooper Swan, Demoiselle and Common Cranes, and three smart Ruff in breeding plumage. It took the second of two thorough searches of the grass and low bushes in the drier lake margins to locate one our main target species – Pallas's Reed Bunting – eventually locating a pair and two more males and having satisfyingly good views of this regional speciality. At a third lake, the drivers fixed a large tarpaulin between the vehicles to provide shade for a picnic lunch, and here we found several Vega (Mongolian) Gulls, a Heuglin's Gull, Gull-billed Tern and Red-necked Phalarope. Several Siberian Toads were seen during the day too.

We arrived at our ger camp, on a bluff overlooking Ogii Nuur (lake), in the late afternoon. Rock Sparrows were seen around the camp buildings and there was plenty of time for a walk around camp in search of Pere David's Snowfinch. A pair was soon located and we all enjoyed good views of the very smart male and his mate.

Day 6

Saturday 11th June

Ogii Nuur

After a cool start with a cold breeze, the day became warm and sunny. We had our usual early morning start and set off round the south shore of lake, scanning occasionally. At the marshy western end where a small river flows in, we stopped for a longer scan. Here there were hundreds of White-winged Terns and various ducks including Common Pochard, Eurasian Wigeon and Common Goldeneye. A White-tailed Eagle was watched for a while, but Pallas's Fish Eagle proved elusive. We drove back to camp along the north shore, past a Bar-headed Goose on its nest a few metres up a low cliff, a couple of Mute Swans, and we were pleased to find a small flotilla of nine White-winged (Stejneger's) Scoters. Also two more Pallas's Reed Buntings flew by.

Following a late breakfast, we drove out to explore a series of small wetlands in the Orkhon valley. A dozen Pied Avocets were nesting on an island in a shallow scrape. Further on, a larger lake and reeds provided a good venue for a picnic lunch. A large group of Black-tailed Godwits was examined carefully, and a couple of Marsh Sandpipers foraged daintily in the pools along with Common Redshanks and Black-winged Stilts. Common and Demoiselle Cranes were seen too, but the biggest surprise was an Eastern Cattle Egret showing its breeding plumes; only the fourth record of this species for Mongolia! We walked round this lake in search of Asian Dowitcher but did not locate any, though it was a pleasant walk through drifts of pink primulas and with more good views of the main species.

A short stop was made at the small district centre to collect a few supplies and enjoy an ice cream and sea-buckthorn flavoured ice lollies, before moving on to a final set of three lakes. Slavonian Grebe and Red-crested Pochard showed well and then, at last, Bayanna located a superb pair of Asian Dowitchers in breeding plumage which we were all able to see really well. On the way back we paused again by the delta at the head of the lake where we found Caspian Tern and another White-tailed Eagle, but Pallas's Fish Eagle again evaded us. We reached camp just before 8pm.

Day 7

Sunday 12th June

Ogii Nuur – Harhorin - Ulaanbaatar

After a cool grey start, the weather remained cloudy throughout the day. We followed yesterday's route along the south side of the lake then turned south up the valley, stopping to scan from high points. Three Black Storks and some cranes were seen, and a Corsac Fox popped out of its hole for a moment then went straight back in again. Before long we arrived at Harhorin, the former capital of the Mongol Empire. Little now remains except the partly restored Erdene Zuu monastery. We took a guided walk round the temples while the cars underwent some minor work. It was fascinating to see these remnants of Mongolia's former Tibetan Buddhist culture. Harhorin is one of Mongolia's main tourist attractions and a good tarmac road leads through the steppes all the way to UB. There were a few Amur Falcons and Upland Buzzards on the telegraph poles on the way and we arrived at the hotel around 7pm.

Day 8

Monday 13th June

Ulaanbaatar - Tuul Valley - South Gobi

Most of the day was spent birding in the Tuul River valley outside UB. In riverine woods and clearings we found our first Daurian Jackdaws, saw White-cheeked Starling carrying food to the nest, and had close views of a pair of immaculate Azure Tits. Amur Falcon, Booted Eagle and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker were also seen among a number of other species. Two handsome drake Mandarin Ducks, very rare migrants here, provided a nice bonus.

Returning to the willow scrub visited on the first day, we set about a thorough search for Long-tailed Rosefinch. Two singing birds gave us a lead and we managed to get several glimpses of a male and a female, all rather fleeting until a gorgeous pink and strawberry-red male posed on the edge of a bush to give all of us excellent views.

We caught the evening flight to Dalan Dzagdad, the main town in South Gobi province, for the first of six nights in the Gobi. It was unusually grey and cool on arrival following 10 days of rain, and the mountains were obscured by cloud. It took about 45 minutes to reach our ger camp, situated on the lower slopes of the Gurvan Saikhan mountains.

Day 9

Tuesday 14th June

Gurvan Saikhan and Yolyn Am

In the morning, low cloud enveloped our camp so plans for the mountains were abandoned and instead we drove down to the plains below in search of Oriental Plover. The vast dry plains stretching away to the distant

Chinese border were much greener than usual, thanks to the recent rain, and locating a single rare bird can be a daunting task. A patient search in the vehicles and on foot produced one possible sighting that could not be confirmed. Eventually a bird gave good but brief views to one vehicle and then more distant ones to the other, its white head bobbing up and down in the grass. A continued search eventually located a second bird, this time much more obliging, so we were able to watch at length and admire the very smart plumage of this much sought-after regional endemic. Three Greater Sand Plovers also gave good views. There were lots of Horned Larks and the by-now familiar Cinereous Vulture and Upland Buzzard also made an appearance.

We returned to camp for lunch. The weather had improved so we set off into the mountains. Gurvan Saikhan means 'Three Beauties' and refers to a line of three mountains situated at the eastern end of the Gobi Altai range. Together these constitute the Gobi Gurvan Saikhan National Park, and one of its main attractions is the Yolyn Am (Lammergeier Valley) ravine in the Eastern Beauty mountain. The drive in was very scenic through the foothills to the national park entrance, where some large petrified tree trunks reminded us of the rich geological treasures of this region. Descending the valley, we came across our first Ibex, Red-cheeked Ground Squirrel and many Pallas's Pikas – guinea pig sized relatives of the hares and rabbits. Not long after starting the walk from the car park down into the gorge the rain began, hindering views. We reached the point where ice blocks the gorge – remaining all through the summer – before turning back, but the weather did not make viewing easy. There were poor or partial views of Brown Accentor, Kozlov's Accentor, Wallcreeper and Sulphur-bellied Warbler, and a few pikas including a pure white individual, before we returned to camp for dinner.

Day 10

Wednesday 15th June

Yolyn Am

Today we made a dawn return to Yolyn Am. It was cold and clear and a temperature inversion produced a hard frost in the lower valley around the car park, leading to a very chilly scan of the surrounding ridges for Altai Snowcock. A climb of a few hundred feet to the top of a small hill gave a far more expansive view of the ridges on both sides of valley and some welcome warmth in the rising sun. No snowcock could be picked out despite intensive scanning, and the lack of any calling birds was a hint that they were elsewhere.

As the sun struck the slopes behind us, dozens of pikas appeared outside their holes. Darting among them was a Marbled Polecat, with its unmistakable black, white and orange-brown coat. This is a very rarely observed species, and the sighting would normally have been the highlight of the day, but it was overshadowed. Another animal moving on a distant ridge turned out to be a Grey Wolf and better views through the telescope soon showed that there were in fact four of them. We were able to watch them for over an hour as they rested on a sunny slope, stretching, yawning, and scratching occasionally before they eventually moved off over the ridge - a fantastic sighting. Two Red Foxes were hunting not far from the wolves and another Marbled Polecat was seen on the way back to the car park, and breakfast.

We retraced our route of yesterday, following the gorge down to the ice, but this time in warm and sunny conditions. We had excellent views of three local specialities; Beautiful Rosefinch, Kozlov's Accentor and Sulphur-bellied Warbler, and poorer ones of Godlewski's Bunting. The morning also produced a few Saker Falcons, Common Cuckoo, Himalayan Vulture and Golden Eagle. On the way back to the car park a couple of Alashan Ground Squirrels, another species with a very restricted range, were seen as well as a beautiful Scarce

Swallowtail butterfly. The lunch break was enlivened by close-up views of many White-winged Snowfinches seeking crumbs, and several Pallas's Pikas and Mongolian Gerbils scurrying around the edges of the car park.

In the afternoon we set off up a tributary valley in another search for the elusive Altai Snowcock. Unfortunately, we were not successful, but we did have more views of Ibex, Kozlov's Accentor, and Beautiful Rosefinch. It was a lovely hike too, to nearly 7,000 feet, with terrific views across the Gobi Altai range and the aromatic scent of juniper in the warm sun.

Day 11

Thursday 16th June

Yolyn Am to Hongoryn Els

Today was fine and hot for a long and scenic day's drive with several stops. We began by passing through the gap between Eastern and Middle Beauty mountains, onto the southern side. We stopped briefly at Bayan Dalai district centre where we saw our first Desert Wheatear. The recent heavy rain had made the main track in the valley bottom difficult, so we opted for a higher route along the base of the mountains. On the way we saw another Ibex and found Henderson's Ground Jay, a Gobi speciality, and Common Rock Thrush.

We descended to the valley floor, startling a Goitered Gazelle on the way. A short stop at a shallow lake and grassy wetland produced a Great Egret, 12 Eurasian Spoonbills, Demoiselle Crane, a couple of snipe of indeterminate species, another Citrine Wagtail and Eurasian Skylark. Two Tolai Hares were flushed as we walked through the long grass and a Long-eared Hedgehog was discovered sheltering at the base of a large grass tussock.

The route then took us back up to the hills where we found a shaded rock overhang in a small valley to have lunch. A walk up the valley gave excellent views of Godlewski's Bunting, Common Rock Thrush and lots of Mongolian Finches as well as Eurasian Crag Martin and Common Rosefinch.

After lunch, a short drive took us to another small, shallow valley in pretty red clay hills where a Little Owl was seen perched on a low outcrop. A one and a half hour walk produced excellent views of Henderson's Ground Jay. Also a Goitered Gazelle, three Tolai Hares and Isabelline Shrike were seen.

The final sector of the day comprised a very pretty drive with silvery feather grass glinting in the late afternoon sun in the foreground, backed by the long line of the Khongoryn Els sand dunes and black mountains beyond, reaching camp in time for dinner and a 'Golden Gobi' beer.

Day 12

Friday 17th June

Hongoryn Els

Today was warm and sunny. A Long-eared Hedgehog was seen snuffling around the shower block in the early morning. We made our way to a shallow river and pools at the base of the huge dunes, seeing an Asian Desert Warbler on the way. Flocks of Pallas's Sandgrouse flying in to drink formed the main highlight and we also saw Southern Grey Shrike. A short drive took us to the edge of a grove of open saxaul trees. A smart Saxaul Sparrow showed well next to our vehicle and a pair feeding a young bird were seen later during a walk through the trees. The walk also turned up Long-legged Buzzard on a nest, Great Gerbil, and Gobi Racerunner lizard. Two plants

were prominent: clusters of the dark brown 'candles' of Desert Thumb (*Cynomonium songaricum*) and tall Desert Broomrape (*Cistanche deserticola*), both of them parasitic on saxaul trees. In the wet grassy margins across the river was a Black-crowned Night Heron, another rarity with less than 10 previous records for Mongolia. A flock of Northern Lapwings and the ever-present Ruddy Shelducks were also seen.

In the afternoon we drove to some abandoned buildings which held a couple of Lesser Kestrels, Little Owl and Blue Hill Pigeon. We paid a visit to the ger of one of the local camel herders and enjoyed a refreshing taste of lightly fermented camel milk 'airag' and local tea with camel's milk. A couple of Demoiselle Cranes flew over later and the camp contained many little Gobi Toad-headed Agamas, darting over the sand and curling their tail to show the white underside - a distraction display to predators.

Day 13

Saturday 18th June

Hongoryn Els to Bayanzag (Flaming Cliffs)

We left the sand dune camp after breakfast and drove through the outlying spurs of Western Beauty mountain, sparkling in the light of the rising sun, and round to the northern side. We took a couple of hours to explore a small valley. A Godlewski's Bunting was singing by the entrance, and Cinereous Vulture, Saker Falcon, Common Rock Thrush, Pied Wheatear and many Mongolian Finches were also seen. Four female Ibex with four young on a low ridge seemed unconcerned by our presence and provided an excellent viewing opportunity. A climb to the top of a small hill revealed fine views across the mountains.

The drive then took us down past a group of grazing Goitered Gazelles to the huge plains below. At a lunch stop under the shade of some trees on the edge of a district centre we found our first Crested Larks and an Asian Brown Flycatcher. We arrived at camp near the red sandstone cliffs of Bayanzag mid-afternoon.

A short drive took us to another and more extensive saxaul woodland where we saw Great Gerbil close up by its burrow, several Isabelline Shrikes and more tall broomrapes. An interesting looking desert pool held only Common and Ruddy Shelducks. This location is a major palaeontological site, made famous in the 1930s by Roy Chapman Andrews when his team discovered the first fossil dinosaur eggs. It was fascinating to scratch around in the sand and turn up several fragments of dinosaur bones (all replaced, as it is strictly forbidden to remove or to export any of these!). A short night drive found another Tolai Hare and a close-up view of a Gobi Jerboa.

Day 14

Sunday 19th June

Bayanzag – Dalan Dzadgad - Terelj

We had rain overnight and early in the morning but it soon cleared to become warm and sunny. It took about three hours to drive back to Dalan Dzadgad over more green steppe and past a dozen Golden Eagles and Himalayan Vultures perched on the ground – presumably there was a kill nearby. Two Daurian Starlings in plantations near the airport were a pleasant surprise, some way west of their normal range, and a Siberian Rubythroat was heard but not seen. From the airport in Ulaanbaatar we drove round the city and north-east into the forested hills to Terelj - a marked contrast with the Gobi. Our camp was high up the valley and there was time after arrival to take a short walk. Pine Bunting, Daurian Redstart, and Common Buzzard were seen by the camp and Greenish Warbler and a black Red Squirrel in the forest.

Day 15

Monday 20th June

We had another early start and a long drive past a huge silver statue of Chinggis Khan and back north up another valley deep into the Khentei Mountains National Park, the southernmost part of the Siberian 'taiga'. A long walk through the beautiful larch forest sadly failed to turn up our main target, Black-billed Capercaillie, despite a thorough search, but we did come across a Northern Goshawk on its nest, and saw Arctic Warbler, Greenish Warbler, Hodgson's Tree Pipit, a pair of Red-throated Thrushes, a Red-flanked Bluetail carrying food and White-backed Woodpecker. Mammal interest was provided by a couple of Siberian Chipmunks and later a Wood Lemming, running up and down a series of runways on the forest floor, right at our feet.

The route back ran along the river with willow scrub and many large 'mole' hills made by Steppe Zokors (a subterranean rodent). It was still too early for the main flowering season but the valley and forest were full of patches of the beautiful orange globe-flower *Trollius ledebourii*. A Eurasian Hobby flashed by, Daurian Jackdaws were all around, another Little Owl perched on a cliff, and farther on two large fluffy Eurasian Eagle-Owl chicks peered out of their nest cave.

The vehicles were able to ford the Terelj river close to camp and we spent our final walk in nice riverine woodland with tall poplar trees. Here were Eurasian Nuthatch (the pale *asiatica* form), Grey-headed Woodpecker, Scarlet Rosefinch, Taiga Flycatcher, Grey Wagtail, and Daurian Redstart nesting in a stump. Back to camp and a post-dinner search of the thick bushes near camp enabled one member of the group a glimpse of the highly skulking Chinese Bush Warbler.

Day 16

Tuesday 21st June

We had heavy overnight rain which continued through the morning. After a final breakfast it was time to head back down the Terelj Valley and around Ulaanbaatar to the airport and the long flight home via Istanbul. We left with abiding memories of Mongolia's superb wildlife, the vast open Mongolian steppe and its nomadic inhabitants, glistening lakes, southern Gobi Desert and the southern fringes of the Boreal Forest.

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Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only; S = sign)

	Common name	Scientific name	June													
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Swan Goose	<i>Anser cygnoides</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓								
2	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>				✓										
3	Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓								
4	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>				✓	✓									
5	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>					✓	✓								
6	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>				✓	✓	✓					✓			
7	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
8	Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>							✓							
9	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓					✓		
10	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>				✓	✓									
11	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓				✓
12	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>				✓	✓									
13	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>				✓										
14	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				✓	✓									
15	Eastern Spot-bill Duck	<i>Anas zonorhyncha</i>				✓										
16	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>				✓	✓									
17	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				✓	✓									
18	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>				✓	✓		✓							
19	White-winged Scoter	<i>Melanitta deglandi</i>					✓									
20	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>				✓	✓									
21	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>			✓				✓							✓
22	Chukar Partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>									H	H		✓		
23	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	✓				✓									
24	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>					✓									
25	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					✓									
26	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	✓						✓							
27	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>			✓	✓	✓					✓	✓			
28	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓								

	Common name	Scientific name	June														
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
29	Great Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>				H											
30	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>												✓			
31	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>											✓				
32	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>						✓									
33	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				✓	✓										
34	Crested (Oriental) Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus orientalis</i>			✓												
35	Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>								✓	✓	✓					
36	Himalayan Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>		✓						✓	✓	✓				✓	
37	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		✓	✓												
38	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
39	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	✓	✓						✓							✓
40	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
41	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
42	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		✓												✓	✓
43	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>															✓
44	Eastern Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus spilonotus</i>				✓	✓	✓									
45	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
46	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					✓	✓									
47	Upland Buzzard	<i>Buteo hemilasius</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			
48	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>											✓				
49	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>														✓	
50	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	✓			✓	✓										
51	White-naped Crane	<i>Grus vipio</i>				✓		✓									
52	Demoiselle Crane	<i>Grus virgo</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
53	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>				✓	✓										
54	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	✓			✓	✓										
55	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				✓	✓										
56	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				✓	✓					✓	✓				
57	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	✓		✓		✓										
58	Oriental Plover	<i>Charadrius veredus</i>								✓							
59	Greater Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>								✓		✓	✓				
60	Asian Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i>					✓										

	Common name	Scientific name	June														
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
61	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>				✓	✓										
62	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>					✓						✓				
63	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>	✓			✓	✓		✓				✓	✓			
64	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>				✓	✓										
65	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>					✓										
66	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				✓											
67	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>							✓								✓
68	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>				✓											
69	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>				✓											
70	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				✓	✓	✓									
71	Vega Gull	<i>Larus vegae mongolicus</i>				✓	✓	✓									
72	Heuglin's Gull	<i>Larus heuglini</i>				✓											
73	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>					✓										
74	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>				✓	✓										
75	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								✓
76	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>					✓										
77	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓					✓				
78	Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrrhaptes paradoxus</i>												✓	✓		
79	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>												✓			✓
80	Hill Pigeon	<i>Columba rupestris</i>												✓		✓	
81	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>			✓				✓								
82	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>							✓			✓		✓			
83	Oriental Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus optatus</i>															H
84	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓
85	Eurasian Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>															✓
86	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>												✓			✓
87	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓						✓		
88	Pacific Swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓
89	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓							✓	✓
90	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>							✓								
91	White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>															✓
92	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>														H	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	June															
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
93	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>												✓				
94	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓					✓	
95	Amur Falcon	<i>Falco amurensis</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓								
96	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		✓		✓	✓										✓	
97	Saker Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>		✓		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			
98	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>			✓													
99	Isabelline Shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>		✓									✓	✓	✓	✓		
100	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>												✓				
101	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓				✓			✓	✓
102	Henderson's Ground Jay	<i>Podoces hendersoni</i>												✓				
103	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓
104	Daurian Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus dauuricus</i>								✓							✓	✓
105	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>								✓								
106	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓		✓					✓							✓	✓
107	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
108	Azure Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>								✓								
109	Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>																✓
110	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>																✓
111	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>								✓								✓
112	White-crowned Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz coronatus</i>	✓															
113	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>				✓												
114	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>						✓						✓				✓
115	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>														✓	✓	
116	Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
117	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>												✓				
118	Asian Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella cheleensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
119	Mongolian Lark	<i>Melanocorypha mongolica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓							
120	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>								✓								
121	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓								✓
122	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>									✓	✓	✓					
123	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓			✓	✓				✓	✓						
124	Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>			✓											✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	June														
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
125	Pallas's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>			✓												
126	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>														✓	✓
127	Arctic Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>															✓
128	Sulphur-bellied Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus griseolus</i>									✓	✓			✓		
129	Oriental Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus orientalis</i>	✓			✓											
130	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>				✓											
131	Thick-billed Warbler	<i>Iduna aedon</i>			✓												
132	Chinese Bush Warbler	<i>Locustella tacsanowskia</i>															✓
133	Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella certhiola</i>		✓					✓								
134	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>													✓		
135	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		✓							✓	✓					
136	Asian Desert Warbler	<i>Sylvia nana</i>												✓			
137	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>		✓	✓										✓	✓	
138	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>														✓	✓
139	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>									✓	✓					
140	White-cheeked Starling	<i>Spodiopsar cineraceus</i>							✓								✓
141	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>				✓											
142	Daurian Starling	<i>Sturnus sturninus</i>														✓	
143	Red-throated Thrush	<i>Turdus ruficollis</i>															✓
144	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>			✓										✓		
145	Siberian Rubythroat	<i>Calliope calliope</i>														H	
146	Red-flanked Bluetail	<i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i>														H	✓
147	Taiga Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>															✓
148	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>									✓	✓					
149	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>			✓												✓
150	Daurian Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus aureus</i>														✓	✓
151	Common Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>										✓		✓			
152	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
153	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
154	Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>										✓	✓				
155	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
156	Saxaul Sparrow	<i>Passer ammodendri</i>											✓				

	Common name	Scientific name	June													
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
157	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓						✓	
158	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
159	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓					
160	White-winged Snowfinch	<i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>								✓	✓					
161	Pere David's Snowfinch	<i>Pyrgilauda davidiana</i>				✓										
162	Brown Accentor	<i>Prunella fulvescens</i>								✓	✓					
163	Kozlov's Accentor	<i>Prunella koslowi</i>								✓	✓					
164	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				✓										
165	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	✓				✓					✓	✓			
166	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>													✓	✓
167	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓							✓
168	Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>		✓	✓											
169	Blyth's Pipit	<i>Anthus godlewskii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
170	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>													✓	✓
171	Mongolian Finch	<i>Bucanetes mongolicus</i>								✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
172	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>										✓				✓
173	Himalayan Beautiful Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus pulcherrimus</i>								✓	✓					
174	Long-tailed Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus sibiricus</i>							✓							
175	Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>								✓						
176	Pine Bunting	<i>Emberiza leucocephalos</i>													✓	✓
177	Godlewski's Bunting	<i>Emberiza godlewskii</i>										✓		✓		
178	Meadow Bunting	<i>Emberiza cioides</i>		✓												
179	Pallas's Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza pallasi</i>				✓	✓									
180	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>				✓										
181	Yellow-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza aureola</i>	✓													

Mammals

1	Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>													✓	
2	Steppe Zokor	<i>Myospalax aspalax</i>														S
3	Tarbagan (Mongolian) Marmot	<i>Marmota sibirica</i>		✓	✓											
4	Red-cheeked Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus erythrogenys</i>								✓						
5	Alashan Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus alashanicus</i>								✓	✓					

	Common name	Scientific name	June														
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
6	Long-tailed Ground Squirrel	<i>Urocitellus undulatus</i>		✓												✓	✓
7	Siberian Chipmunk	<i>Tamias sibiricus</i>															✓
8	Gobi Jerboa	<i>Allactaga bullata</i>														✓	
9	Wood Lemming	<i>Myopus schisticolor</i>															✓
10	Mongolian (Gerbil) Jird	<i>Meriones unguiculatus</i>		✓													
11	Midday Gerbil	<i>Meriones meridianus</i>									✓						
12	Great Gerbil	<i>Rhombomys opimus</i>											✓	✓			
13	Pallas's Pika	<i>Ochotona pallasi</i>									✓	✓					
14	Tolai Hare	<i>Lepus tolai</i>			✓							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
15	Long-eared Hedgehog	<i>Hemiechinus auritus</i>										✓					
16	Common (Grey) Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>										✓					
17	Corsac Fox	<i>Vulpes corsac</i>							1								
18	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>										✓					
19	Marbled Polecat	<i>Vormela peregusna</i>										✓					
20	Przewalski's Horse (Takhi)	<i>Equus ferus przewalskii</i>		✓													
21	Maral (Red Deer)	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>		✓													
22	Goitered Gazelle	<i>Gazella subgutturosa</i>										✓		✓			
23	Mongolian Gazelle	<i>Procapra gutturosa</i>			✓												
24	Siberian Ibex	<i>Capra sibirica</i>									✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	

Reptiles & Amphibians

1	Siberian Toad	<i>Bufo raddei</i>				✓							✓				
2	Siberian Wood Frog	<i>Rana amurensis</i>	✓			✓											
3	Variiegated Toad-headed Agama	<i>Phrynocephalus versicolor</i>										✓	✓	✓			
4	Mongolian Racerunner	<i>Eremias argus</i>				✓	✓										
5	Gobi Racerunner	<i>Eremias przewalski</i>											✓				