

Mongolia's Snow Leopards

Naturetrek Tour Report

16th – 27th August 2023



Pallas's Sandgrouse



Saiga Antelope



Amur Falcon



Snow Leopard

Tour report by Tom Mabbett, photos by Brain Clasper unless otherwise stated



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Summary

We enjoyed a truly special range of sightings as we stayed in breathtaking locations to explore this wild, vast country. In the Altai Mountains, we were blown away by a fabulous adult Snow Leopard one evening and then another adult with three young animals interacting at close quarters for a prolonged period topping it all! We also enjoyed Wolf, Pallas's Cat and Saiga Antelope among many other mammals. Birding along the way produced a great range of specialities including Azure Tit, Pallas's Sandgrouse, Henderson's Ground Jay and Altai Snowcock. It is a truly incredible place to stay in the mountains with a first-class team to enable a sighting of the once near mythical Snow Leopard to become a distinct possibility.

Day 1

Wednesday 16th August

Today was a travel day for most of the group, flying out of Heathrow to Istanbul and then overnight to Ulaanbaatar. In Istanbul some of us saw at least five Red-backed Shrikes, a few Swallows and Yellow-legged Gulls along with England women beating Australia in the football. We met two of the group who had flown the day before directly from Edinburgh and we were on our way.

Day 2

Thursday 17th August

We landed into Ulaanbaatar at around 7.30am and stepping out of the airport, a Black Kite was the first bird while on the way to the hotel we stopped for a super Amur Falcon on wires with a few Cinereous Vultures circling.

We skirted around the bustling capital city and were soon at our hotel, very close the Tuul River with some excellent habitat surrounding us. Before lunch we went out for a lovely walk enjoying a great range of species. A cracking male Lesser Spotted Woodpecker showed well, a calling White-crowned Penduline Tit flew over us and Green Sandpipers were flying up from the river channel here with a couple of Snipe flying up too. The second one we had views of and was a Pin-tailed Snipe. Amur Falcons were dive bombing a Black Kite and Brown Shrikes were all over the place. We must have seen at least 25 birds. Next to a garden, a flock of around eight cracking Azure Tits showed well for us. We also found an Asiatic Grass Frog and some butterflies.

Back at the hotel, we enjoyed lunch and had some time to relax. At four we went back out for a walk from the hotel and although quieter this afternoon, we enjoyed more Azure Tits with Grey Wagtail and Common Sandpiper on the river and a huge number of Black Kites with at least 200 circling together. Around the hotel grounds we found Lesser Whitethroat and Arctic Warbler while at least two pale phase Booted Eagles were well found amongst the Black Kites. Some of the group also seeing a singing Long-tailed Rosefinch and Durian Jackdaws.

We enjoyed dinner and ran through our sightings together before getting some much-needed sleep.

Day 3

Friday 18th August

We went for a pre-breakfast walk at 7am and enjoyed more Azure Tits and Black Kites, with a few Choughs seen and we had an Asian Brown Flycatcher and Nuthatch in the scope. We enjoyed breakfast and it was then time to head for the airport and our flight to Khovd with the mountains awaiting us.

After a smooth flight we landed and drove into Khovd for lunch. Scores of Black Kites all around of course. After lunch it was time to set off to the Ger camp in the mountains. What a brilliant journey across these vast open lands with snow-capped peaks and vast lakes around us. On the way, some of us saw a Black-tailed Gazelle and further on, we all jumped out as a Saiga Antelope was spotted. Around 200m at first, we got the scope up and had some nice views before it moved away. Later we realised there was two and it looked like a young animal nearby. Also here we saw Isabelline Wheatear, Hoopoe and a super Asian Desert Warbler, doing exactly as it shows in the book, using the shade of the small bushes and following the wheatears. Cracking.

Arriving at camp, we were all blown away with the incredible views and settled in to our cosy gers before enjoying dinner after another excellent day. What a place!

Day 4

Saturday 19th August

After breakfast and no news from the spotters in the mountains, we went on a superb walk up the valley just above the camp. What an excellent walk it was with so much to look at and stunning scenery. Mongolian Finches, Greenish Warblers, Lammergeiers, Golden Eagles, Snow Finches, Grey-necked Buntings, Hill Pigeons, Rock Thrushes, Upland Buzzards, Saker Falcons and many more. We also noted our first Pallas's Pikas today and also Large-eared Mountain Voles collecting food for the winter ahead.

After lunch we crossed over to a mountain valley further from camp. Here we scanned the mountains and found two groups of Siberian Ibex and lots of Chukar Partridge. A pair of Lammergeiers gave spectacular views and there were lots of Common Rosefinches with three young Cuckoos also seen. It was soon time to retrace our steps and after seeing a Little Owl, we were soon back at camp after some expert driving across this vast, rugged landscape! Everyone enjoyed a great shower today, and we had dinner and then went for a wander with the spotlight and thermal with some jerboas bouncing around camp

Day 5

Sunday 20th August

With again no more news from the trackers of a Snow Leopard for us to attempt to see, we went to a wetland site which comprised of a small (in Mongolian terms) lake, lined with reed beds and muddy margins. It was alive with birds here and we enjoyed scanning the lake and went on a short walk along the shore. There were lots of Pochard and Red-crested Pochard on the water with a single White-headed Duck close in. Ruddy Shelducks, a single Bar-headed Goose, a family of Whooper Swans (two adults with five young), both Black and White-winged Black Tern over the water, Marsh Harriers drifting by and a pair of summer plumaged Black-throated Divers on the water. In the reedbed we saw Great Reed and Paddyfield Warblers and working the shoreline and muddy margins we found no less than 16 species of wader including Greater Sand Plover, Terek Sandpiper, Red-necked, Little and Temminck's Stint with Citrine and Masked Wagtails and a Hoopoe around too.

After tea and biscuits, we dragged ourselves away and came back for lunch and some downtime before dinner. Some went for a walk in the stunning gorges a short walk from camp which are full of birdlife.

After dinner we went out with the spotlight, finding Black-tailed Gazelles, quite a few Hairy-footed Jerboa and a single Pygmy Jerboa was a real cracker.

Day 6

Monday 21st August

Today we decided to head for the high mountains despite the trackers not being on to a Snow Leopard. It was a spectacular drive high into the Altai Mountains with our final scanning point being at 3050m asl. On the way we stopped to see a juvenile Barred Warbler and some ancient petroglyphs made in the bronze age. You could clearly see the engravings of Ibex. We had a few Tolai Hare on the drive up and reaching the top we had simply breathtaking views of the peaks and valleys around us.

We set up scopes and settled in for a day of scanning every inch of this vast landscape in the hope of finding the ghost of the mountains. We enjoyed excellent views of Altai Snowcock, Lammergeiers and the alarm calls of the Tarbagan Marmots led us to a really lovely Red Fox. More glowing orange than red. We enjoyed lunch and continued scanning finding some Ibex on a sheer cliff edge and Steppe Eagles cruised overhead. Hopes had been raised as a recent kill had been found, being watched by a tracker and we had also found a dead sheep which had a Steppe Eagle sat on it for much of the afternoon.

At around 5pm, Bina came charging down the scree to my vantage point saying he had glimpsed a Snow Leopard! Hope and adrenaline running through us, we all were scanning and willing to find the cat in the area he was explaining. To our frustration we could not find the elusive beast and a hailstorm came in which didn't help. We had a quick dinner and scanned once more, harder than ever as the evening time generally means moving time for these animals. Then the moment we had wished for. As cool as you like Brian sat next to me just said "Snow Leopard". My heart fell through my stomach and the adrenaline was flowing. I had a quick look through Brian's scope to get bearings on it and soon had my scope on the cat too. Soon all scopes were trained on the animal, sat facing us from across the valley next to a helpful large pale rocky outcrop. What a magical moment! We watched as it licked its paws and groomed and soon to our delight it stood up and walked majestically across the side of the mountain, ambling along, with that relaxed gate and huge thick tail curling behind it! Some thought a second head could be seen at the original point but certainly just the one animal moved giving us all a super view. With the light fading, we lost the animal and sat back to take in what had just happened. There were hugs, high fives and some tears before we loaded up and drove the hour or so back to camp down the mountain.

What a day. What a privilege. It was time for a celebratory beer and bed.

Day 7

Tuesday 22nd August

After the success of finding the Snow Leopard yesterday, we were up early to get back up there and try to relocate it early in the morning. We were rolling out of camp at just after 6am and up at the point soon after 7am. The first thing we checked was the sheep carcass. It had gone! We soon noticed it was half eaten in a nearby crag with Black Vultures, Black Kites and Ravens around it. It was a beautiful morning, and the sounds of Altai Snowcock filled the air with Chough also calling. We had really great views of lekking Snowcock and Lammergeiers once more drifted over with Altai Accentor also seen with a Fox in a similar area to yesterday. We scanned all we could, but no Leopard was moving. We decided to drive to another valley nearby and view a different area and scene after lunch and we arrived to more incredible views over the vast plains beyond.

Scanning away we enjoyed some Twite and a fine G黚denst鋎t's Redstart with both White-winged and Pere-David's Snowfinch here too. It was fairly quiet on the mammal front, and we set about marmot spotting and enjoying these endearing creatures. As evening was approaching, Paul asked James to check a Marmot he was

looking at and as James scanned the ridge beyond the Marmot, his scope dropped onto an adult Snow Leopard! Wow. It was walking right along the ridge line and briefly stopped and looked towards him before continuing out of sight. What a moment. The breakthrough had been made. The cat was not seen for a while longer sadly, but at around 5pm, the cat was spotted briefly along the valley and a tracker was sent to view into the right area. Before long it was apparent that the tracker was watching a Snow Leopard who was watching us but was too far for us to see it. It was decided that we would drive around to try to get closer. On getting out, the trackers and local guides were planning where we would view from and eventually, we were all scanning the cliff face where the cat was last seen. It was quite close too! Then all of a sudden, an animal had been spotted in the gully below us. There was what seemed like an age before scopes were finally on these masters of camouflage, but we were soon watching three cubs at their den site! For the next half an hour or so, we had wonderful views in the scope of the youngsters, lazing on the rocks, playing, rolling around and generally messing around as young animals do. What a privilege and real disbelief at what we were witnessing. Eventually with the light fading the cats had retreated out of site into their shelter and in the gloom we walked back up the slope to the land cruisers.

The fantastic team had made dinner and we all sat round, celebrating and coming to terms with what we had just witnessed. We enjoyed a delicious hot bowl of soup (or two) with lovely dumplings. It was then time to pack up and head back to camp. What an amazing team effort to pull off such a sighting! What a day in the mountains once again. An Eagle Owl was calling close to camp as we went to sleep.

Day 8

Wednesday 23rd August

We had a relaxed start today after the previous long days in the mountains. We decided to stay close to camp today and visit an area where a Pallas's Cat had been recently seen. We drove the short distance to a lovely scanning spot and again set about searching for wildlife. Amazingly, after a short time, Bina spotted a Pallas's Cat moving down the open hillside in front of us! It was only on view for a short time, but it was close and moved down into the gully. We spent some time watching the gully it was in, but the cat had gone to ground and was not to be seen again. A Tolai Hare was seen, and Rob saw a lovely Stoat too.

We decided to move down to the open steppe and searched here for Henderson's Ground Jay. After a short search we found this iconic species initially sheltering in the shade of a bush and then running around and probing the ground as it fed before flying out of view. What a great bird. An Isabelline Shrike was also seen here and with the day heating up, we went back for lunch.

After lunch we had some time to relax, shower and explore the area around camp. Some of us walked a short distance and enjoyed watching an Eastern Mole Vole pushing earth and stones out of its hole. The earth then covering the hole to create a mole hill. Such large front teeth they have.

We had planned in the late afternoon through to dinner to watch over the Pallas's Cat area again, but sadly a thunderstorm came in and heavy rains persisted. We had started the walk there, seeing a Desert Wheatear but with the storm hitting, the vans came to pick us up and we retreated to camp. Unfortunately, the heavy rain persisted so we had some time relaxing, and a few went for a short stroll from camp before dinner and bed.

Day 9

Thursday 24th August

After yesterday's Pallas's Cat sighting we decided to get up at 5.30 and walk back to the vantage point and scan the area. We had no luck with the cat but did see a lovely Fox and glimpsed a Stoat too around a Pika colony. A few Hares were also seen and a Saker Falcon.

After breakfast we headed for the Great Lakes depression, driving across the vast open steppe/desert to reach these vast lakes. On the way we stopped first to enjoy some lovely Red-cheeked Ground Squirrels and then carried on to a plantation of willow trees for a look for migrants. There were stacks of Black Kites as always with a couple of Booted Eagle and Spotted Flycatchers were flitting around. The highlight here was a cracking Wryneck and there was also Greenish Warbler and Siberian Stonechat.

Carrying on, we drove across the vast endless steppe with a few Saiga Antelope seen charging, head down, close to the vehicles. We reached the lake for some great birding and lunch with amazing views over these vast bodies of water, with snow-capped peaks in the background. It was a super scene at our lunch spot with a flock of around 50 Pacific Golden Plover, two Terek Sandpipers, many Kentish Plover, Wood Sandpiper and Temminck's Stint. A flock of Pallas's Sandgrouse also flew over and briefly came to drink though we only noticed as they lifted up. After lunch, we went for a short stroll to a bridge viewing a reedbed and here we enjoyed great views of Paddyfield Warbler and Bearded Tits, Reed Buntings and lots of Sand Martins with some Pale Martins too. We continued on, checking other areas of water which held breeding plumage Black-throated Divers and large numbers of duck. A single flock of Red-crested Pochard likely totalled around 1,500 birds! On another shallower pool, no less than 45 Red-necked Phalaropes delighted us with very close views. There was also Spotted Redshank, Sanderling and Little Stint here. What a brilliant area.

As we headed back towards camp, we had a real treat as we located 12 Pallas's Sandgrouse feeding and we were able to get some really brilliant views!

It was then back to camp for a quick shower and dinner with a few more Saiga Antelope seen on the way.

Day 10

Friday 25th August

It was time to say goodbye to our amazing hosts this morning and we were soon on our way at around 7.30am. We were heading back to Khovd for our flight to Ulaanbaatar but on the way, we stopped at another excellent lake for an early lunch after stopping for a nice close up Saiga Antelope. We had done very well with sightings of this sadly critically endangered animal. At the lake we saw a couple of superb Pallas's Gulls, lots of adult and young Caspian Terns, while out on the water there was again big numbers of birds. Hundreds of Coot, around 40 Wigeon, 20 White-headed Duck and a few Pintail. There were birds to look at everywhere. There were also thousands of Sand Martins resting on wires.

It was then onward to Khovd and we boarded our flight. The flight was delayed a bit, but we were soon landing into Ulaanbaatar and on our way to Hustai National Park.

First, we had a really close look at a lovely roundabout in Ulaanbaatar from various angles as we got stuck in some heavy traffic. Plodding along in traffic the best bird was a single Twite. We stopped for some supplies along the way and kept a look out for wildlife as always as we munched through the crisps, nuts and toffees. Back to the off

roading, we reached the Hustai NP gate entrance and before we reached the camp, we stopped to watch a superb herd of Przewalski's Horses, just next to the road. The last remaining true wild horses on earth. We all got out to admire them at very close quarters. It was very atmospheric having them in the van headlights at night with a few spots of rain falling and they were stood very calmly as we took photos. As we slowly drove past them, some crossed the track and one animal ended up galloping alongside us for a short time. We also saw Siberian Jerboa in the headlights and some Mongolian (or white-tailed) Gazelle.

Arriving at camp quite a bit later than planned, we had a delicious dinner in a very warm ger and got to bed.

Day 11

Saturday 26th August

We went out before breakfast this morning in search of wildlife, enjoying the vast open landscapes with granite boulder strewn hills and open plains with long grasses. On these plains we enjoyed a large herd of around 150 Mongolian Gazelle and an adult and youngster also showed well close to the van.

We went for a nice walk along a ravine, scanning and working hard to try to find another Pallas's Cat. It wasn't to be this time, but we did find some lovely Marmots, Taiga Flycatcher, a Yellow-browed Warbler and also Durain Partridge which was new for the tour.

We enjoyed a delicious breakfast this morning with a range of items with the favourites being cream omelette with cream on top and dipping churros into honey. This was alongside eggs, sausages and cheese. Leaving camp, we essentially embarked on a vehicle safari across the national park with various stops to get out before exiting and heading to a restaurant for lunch. There was much to see as always! We hopped out to get good views of Mongolian Lark, enjoyed around ten superb Amur Falcons and stopped to enjoy more views of Przewalski's Horses on the skyline which included a young foal. The wild flowers here were stunning too.

Moving along slowly we asked the driver to stop many times as we were spotting so many Marmots (or Marmites as they came to be known). They were everywhere here and although typically they would zoom down their hole, tail flicking around as they went, we did get very close views and some photos. Certainly one of the stars of the tour. Everyone loves a Marmite!

We continued on, stopping again to enjoy scoped views of Taiga Flycatcher and also a huge katydid like insect, munching on a grasshopper. There was also a brilliant encounter of two Steppe Eagles very close to us, eating an unfortunate Marmot. We then very much enjoyed spotting some Mongolian Gerbils (or Jirds) on the edge of a ploughed field as a Steppe Eagle and Golden Eagle soared together above us.

We enjoyed a lovely lunch and after appreciating the wallowing roadside pigs, made a short stop at a nearby wetland. Here we tracked down a cracking family party of White-naped Cranes - two adults and one young. What a treat! There was also White-tailed Eagle and Eastern Marsh Harrier here. It was time to drive back to Ulaanbaatar now and of course, we made some stops for wildlife. There is always so much to see. We were doing well for cranes and soon stopped to enjoy a field covered in stunning Demoiselle Cranes and we watched and admired them as they fed on crickets/grasshoppers. After some Upland Buzzard photographic opportunities, we navigated around Ulaanbaatar once more and enjoyed our final meal together and ran through the checklist before bed.

Day 12

Sunday 27th August

We were up early today, and it was all about travelling home. We were at the airport in good time for our flight to Istanbul and onward to the UK.

What a brilliant tour. Such a huge range of special wildlife in incredible habitats, working with such a superb local team of spotters, drivers and chefs. A big thank you to everyone and importantly to the group for your endless enthusiasm, great wildlife finding and the fun and laughter along the way.

Snow Leopard Video

Please follow this link for a video of the young Snow Leopards we were lucky enough to enjoy! Thank you to Brian Clasper for the footage.

[Snow Leopards in Mongolia - Naturetrek - YouTube](#)

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	August 2023											
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>					1						4	
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>					6						15	
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>					7				2	10	2	
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>					20					2	2	
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>										1		
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>										50		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓		✓					✓	✓	
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>					✓							
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>					2				c6	c8		
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>									2			
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>					c20				c1500	c40		
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>					c60				c20	c50		
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>									2			
White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>					1					c20		
Altai Snowcock	<i>Tetraogallus altaicus</i>						18	c20					
Chukar Partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>				✓		✓						
Daurian Partridge	<i>Perdix dauurica</i>											1	
Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>					4				c20	2		
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>					✓				✓	✓		
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>					✓				✓	✓		
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>					✓				✓	✓		
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>					✓				✓	✓		
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>					1							
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>					✓				✓	✓		
Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>				2	2	3	2					
Himalayan Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>							1	2				
Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>		2	✓			2	1		1		1	
Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	

Common name	Scientific name	August 2023											
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>				2	2	1	1				1	
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>					2				1	1		
Eastern Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus spilonotus</i>											1	
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans lineatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>											1	
Upland Buzzard	<i>Buteo hemilasius</i>			2	1						1	c10	
Brown-cheeked Rail	<i>Rallus indicus</i>									H			
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>										2		
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>					✓				✓	c200		
White-naped Crane	<i>Antigone vipio</i>											3	
Demoiselle Crane	<i>Grus virgo</i>											c200	
Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>					6							
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>					3				2			
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>					✓				✓	✓	✓	
Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>					c100				✓		✓	
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>					2				1			
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>					c15				c5		1	
Greater Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>					4				2		1	
Pin-tailed Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>		1			1							
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>										2		
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>				c8					c10			
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>									2			
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>					1				1			
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		c8	c4		2				1			
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>					4				1			
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		1			1					1		
Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>					1					2		
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>									6	c12		
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>					2				5			
Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>												
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>									2			
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>										1		

		August 2023											
Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>					1							
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>									c50			
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>					✓				✓	✓		
Pallas's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>									3			
Vega/ Mongolian Gull	<i>Larus vegae mongolicus</i>		✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>									c5	c15		
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>					1				2	c10		
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>					1				2	1		
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					2							
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>											✓	
Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrrhaptes paradoxus</i>									12			
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Hill Pigeon	<i>Columba rupestris</i>				c50		2						
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		1	1									
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>				3								
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>				1	1							
Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>								H				
European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>					c4	c5	c7					
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>				c5								
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			1		1				2	1		
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>		1										
White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>			1						1			
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>												
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>					✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Amur Falcon	<i>Falco amurensis</i>		c5									c12	
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>											1	
Saker Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>				2			1		1			
Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>		c30	✓								✓	
Isabelline Shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>					✓			✓	✓	✓		
Azure-winged Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cyanus</i>		c12										
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓							✓	
Henderson's Ground Jay	<i>Podoces hendersoni</i>								1		1		

Common name	Scientific name	August 2023											
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>		✓	✓			20	20				✓	
Daurian Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus dauuricus</i>		c20	c5									
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus pastinator</i>											✓	
Carion Crow	<i>Corvus corone orientalis</i>		✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Azure Tit	<i>Cyanistes cyanus</i>		c8	4									
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		1	1									
White-crowned Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz coronatus</i>		1										
Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>									c6			
Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>			2			2	8					
Mongolian Lark	<i>Melanocorypha mongolica</i>											c5	
Asian Short-toed Lark	<i>Aldauda cheleensis</i>									2		1	
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>					✓				✓	1000s		
Pale Martin	<i>Riparia diluta</i>									c5			
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓					
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>				✓					✓	✓		
Sulphur-bellied Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus griseolus</i>				1								
Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>		H									1	
Arctic Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>		1										
Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>			3	2					1			
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>					1				1			
Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>					1				1			
Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>						1						
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	
Asian Desert Warbler	<i>Sylvia nana</i>		1					1	1				
Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>				✓					✓			
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea asiatica</i>			1									
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>									✓	✓		
Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>			1									
Taiga Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>											2	
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>												

Common name	Scientific name	August 2023											
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>				✓		✓	✓					
Güldenstädt's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus erythrogastrus</i>						1	2					
Common Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>				c4			2	1				
Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>					✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>								1			1	
Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>			1	1	1	1						1
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓							✓	✓	
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	
Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
White-winged Snowfinch	<i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>				✓		✓	✓					
Pere David's Snowfinch	<i>Pyrgilauda davidiana</i>							✓					
Brown Accentor	<i>Prunella fulvescens</i>				✓			✓					
Altai Accentor	<i>Prunella himalayana</i>							1					
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				✓				✓	✓			
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>					1				1			
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓		✓								
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba baicalensis</i>			✓									
Masked Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba personata</i>												
Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>											✓	
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>				✓		2	4					
Mongolian Finch	<i>Bucanetes mongolicus</i>				✓		✓						
Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>				✓								
Long-tailed Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus sibiricus</i>		1										
Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>							c15				1	
Godlewski's Bunting	<i>Emberiza godlewskii</i>				1								
Grey-necked Bunting	<i>Emberiza buchanani</i>				✓						✓		
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>									✓			

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	August 2023											
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Tarbagan Marmot	<i>Marmota sibirica</i>						c10	c20				c30	
Red-cheeked Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus erythrogenys</i>									3			
Long-tailed Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus undulatus</i>		1										
Siberian Jerboa	<i>Allactaga sibirica</i>											2	
Northern Three-toed Jerboa (Hairy Footed)	<i>Dipus sagitta</i>					c6		c9					
Mongolian Jerboa	<i>Stylodipus andrewsi</i>				1			3					
Five-toed Pygmy Jerboa	<i>Cardiocranius paradoxus</i>					1							
Brandt's Vole	<i>Lasiopodomys brandtii</i>											1	
Mongolian Jird (Gerbil)	<i>Meriones unguiculatus</i>											c15	
Pallas's Pika	<i>Ochotona pallasii</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Tolai Hare	<i>Lepus tolai</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Snow Leopard	<i>Uncia uncia</i>						2	4					
Pallas's Cat	<i>Otocolobus manul</i>								1				
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>			1			1	1		1			
Grey Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>							2					
Przewalski's Horse	<i>Equus ferus przewalskii</i>										c10	7	
Altai Wapiti	<i>Cervus canadensis sibiricus</i>											c8	
Goitred Gazelle (Black-tailed)	<i>Gazella subgutturosa</i>			1		c12				1			
Mongolian Gazelle (White-tailed)	<i>Procapra gutturosa</i>										2	c100	
Saiga Antelope	<i>Saiga tatarica</i>			2						c20	c5		
Siberian Ibex	<i>Capra sibirica</i>				c10		2	5					
Large-eared Mountain Vole	<i>Alticola macrotis</i>				c5								
Zaisan (Eastern) Mole Vole	<i>Ellobius tancrei</i>								1				
Desert Hamster	<i>Phodopus roborovskii</i>					1							
Stoat	<i>Mustela erminea</i>								1	1			
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>										1		

Others

Reptiles and Amphibians	
Mongolian Toad	<i>Strauchbufo raddei</i>
Siberian Wood Frog	<i>Rana amurensis</i>
Tuva Toad-headed Agama	<i>Phrynocephalus kulagini</i>
Butterflies	
The Dryad	<i>Minios dryas</i>
Indian Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa indica</i>
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglaia urticae</i>
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Lesser Bath White	<i>Pontia chloridice</i>
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>
Brown Hairstreak	<i>Thecla betulae</i>
The Copper at Mongolica hotel	<i>Lycaena violacea</i>
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>
Reverdin's Blue	<i>Plebejus argyrognomon</i>
Others:	
The huge buzzing grasshopper with red underwing	<i>Bryodemis gebleri mongolicum</i>
A Katydid (the huge insect eating the grasshopper)	<i>Deracantha onos</i>
Siberian Bumblebee	<i>Bombus sibiricus</i>



Snow Leopards above left by Brian Clasper, above right by Tom Mabbett. Below, Ger Camp by Tom Mabbett

