Mongolia

18-27 June 2004

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Oriental Plover in the Gobi desert

General

During ten days I visited a few selected areas in Mongolia together with my family. The purpose was not only birding, but also general sightseeing and camping. The ground logistics was arranged by Nomadic Journeys in Ulan Baatar. From a birding perspective, I managed to see six of my seven target birds. Most of the time we camped at the best birding sites so I could go birding in the early mornings and evenings. Our two 6 year old boys very much enjoyed the camping, especially in the sand dunes in the Gobi.

All in all it was a highly successful trip, much thanks to the excellent service by Nomadic Journeys' staff. Mongolia is certainly a truly fascinating and varying country when it comes to nature. We visited the vast steppes and deserts in the south Gobi, the alpine easternmost part of Gobi Altai, the southernmost taiga forest at Terelj and a steppe lake west of Ulan Baatar.

Highlights

Bird of the trip was definitely the three male Black-billed Capercaillies that I saw in Terelj. In the Gobi, I saw the gorgeous Saxaul Sparrow in the *Saxaul* forest (where else?) at Bayanzaag and on the steppe there were a few photogenic Oriental Plovers and fantastic flocks of Pallas's Sandgrouses. At Yolyn Am, I completed my snowcock list with a couple of Altai Snowcocks and also saw several of the near-endemic, but rather drab, Koslow's Accentor. The trip was rounded off with a detour to Bayan Nuur to bag my now ex-jinx bird, Swan Goose.

Itinerary

18/6

We flew to Ulan Baatar (UB, means Red Hero) from Beijing and arrived in the late morning. After being swiftly driven from the airport we did some general sightseeing in UB. An interesting mix of old poorly maintained communist-style buildings with lots of new cafes, bars and restaurants in a more modern style. A visit to the Natural History Museum was "fascinating", but rather disappointing from a tourists/birders point of view.

19/6

We left the hotel early in order to catch the morning flight to the Gobi. Mongolian airlines have only five planes to serve the whole country, but the departure was almost on time. We had planned to fly to Juulchin airstrip, but as it turned out we had to get off already at the provinicial town of Dalanzdadgad, as the other airstrip was being repaired. Not a big deal, as it was only one hour extra drive through the desert. After having bought some food, water and gas, we set off in a northwesterly direction across the desert.

After a lunchstop we arrived at Bayanzaag in the late afternoon. This is one of the places where lots of dinosaur skeletons have been found. Our kids looked for dino spare-parts in the sand, but did not come up with anything astonishing.

Just north of Bayanzaag, there is one of the few patches of Saxaul forest in Mongolia and this was the place where we had planned to camp the first night. It was very hot, but still I managed to turn up my much wanted Saxaul Sparrows. In the evening we were treated to the first in a row of delicious three course dinners cooked in the field. This was accompanied by small flocks of Pallas's Sandgrouses heading for a drink in their own bar somewhere.

20/6

I got up at dawn, which is about 6.00 in this part of the world, and birded the Saxaul forest and the surrounding desert. Found several singing Asian Desert Warblers, Desert Wheatears, Isabelline Shrikes, Saxaul Sparrows and a most impressing morning flight of Pallas's Sandgrouses. An estimated total of close to 1500 birds flew right over our campsite between 7 and 8 in the morning. Several flocks consisted of over a 100 birds! After breakfast, we collapsed the camp and headed back southeast towards the Gobi Altai. The target destination was Yolvn Am, which is situated in the easternmost part of this mountain range. Here it was much cooler and we even had some rain. The mountain tops are at around 2600 m compared to the surrounding desert at around 1300 m. We had some problems with the car at a few places, but fortunately one of these stops produced my first Koslow's Accentors in the dwarf juniper. At the end of the road I scanned the ridge crests and surprisingly quickly found an Altai Snowcock, completing my set of Tetraogallus. In the evening we set up the camp at a saddle point between the valley and the highest mountain. Stunning scenery, with yet another Snowcock scoped, from the tent and again a fantastic dinner. Koslow's and Brown Accentors and Blyth's Pipits were some of the more conspicuous singers around the camp.

In the middle of the night a storm came up and smashed to cooking tent where we also had most of our bags. After the worst wind-bursts and rain were over, I went out to pick up the remains of the big tent and our soaked bags. Amazingly, in spite of the roaring sound, our kids slept all through the night.

21/6

I went up at dawn and expected the Snowcocks to be calling. Surprisingly they were not to be heard for the whole morning. I walked up to the ridges at 2600 m and scanned without even seeing them. Needless to say, I was quite satisfied to have seen them the day before! My next target species on the agenda was Red-mantled Rosefinch, although the only rosefinches I managed to see during the whole day were Beautiful and Common. In the late morning we walked along the valley bottom to the narrow gorge. Wallcreepers and more Beautiful Rosefinches and some Ibexes made the walk.

The afternoon saw us leaving Yolyn Am and set a new camp in the grassy foothills just north of the mountain range. This was from a birding perspective not a very good move as it was rather birdless apart from the ever-present Isabelline Wheatears and Horned Larks. Nevertheless it was a relaxing place with a good vista over the desert.

22/6

This morning we all got up late and had a few very lazy hours. The kids were playing and I did the occasional scanning for birds. After lunch we broke the camp and drove to a nomad family, where we were invited to have some yoghurt in their ger (tent). Interesting experience indeed and not to be missed. Later we returned to Dalandzadgad where we caught the afternoon flight back to UB. One of our sons had fever, so we had a simple dinner at the hotel, where we also had a much desired shower.

23/6

Left the hotel in UB at 9.00 and arrived Terelj national park after less than two hours. The habitat was dramatically different from the Gobi, with rolling hills, rocky mountains and taiga forest. We set camp at the forest edge in one of the valleys west of Terelj/UB2 village. After lunch I decided to scout the area where Black-billed Capercaillie is supposed to be. I expected a long difficult climb up to the mountain ridges. However, I made it in only 30 minutes (from 1700 m to 2100 m), being soaked from sweat and rainwet bushes and chased by a zillion mossies. Up on the ridge, I was fortunate to flush no less than three male Capercaillies within ten minutes walk! Thanks to my compass (I had no GPS), I easily found my way back to the camp. Note that at least a compass is absolutely necessary once you get up to the flat ridges, especially on a cloudy day. Once back at the camp I did some relaxed birding around the campsite in the evening. Again a nice dinner, this time with some beer that Gaana had bought for me to celebrate.

24/6

Early morning walk up the grassy slopes in order to bag my other target bird in Terelj, the Chinese Bush-Warbler. Only 200 m from the camp and well before dawn, one was singing and I enjoyed good views in the twilight. I slowly continued uphill and heard a second bird and was then treated to super views of a third individual singing in the open at 3 m distance. Then returned through the forest with nice observations of Red-throated Thrush, Bluetail, Siberian Blue Robin, etc.

After breakfast, we moved on and drove back through Terelj village and then north along the river. Pitched camp just by the river and the kids even went swimming, while I was enjoying baicalensis White Wagtails and Daurian Jackdaws. This areas was not so birdy, but a nice place for a camp.

This was the last day for the rest of the family in Mongolia, so we took down tha camp early in the morning and returned to UB. In town, the kids enjoyed ice-cream and we had a cup of tea at Nomadic Journeys' office before it was time to leave for the airport. The rest of the family then flew home to Beijing, whilst I got into another 4WD vehicle for some serious birding at the steppe lakes west of UB. The primary target for this side-trip was to find Swan Goose, which had eluded me both on the breeding and wintering grounds in China. The plan was to drive to Bayan Nuur, where a few geese had been seen a few weeks earlier. It took us a good three hours (210 km) to reach the lake. Once there I scanned the entire lake without seeing any Swan Goose. Just as I was about to suggest to the driver to continue for another four hours to Ogii Nuur, one, and then, two geese suddenly appeared. As Bayan Nuur seemed to be a very rich place, the name actually means "rich lake", I decided to call Ogii Nuur off and stay at Bayan Nuur for some birding in the evening and next morning.

26/6

I spent the whole morning birding the lake and steppe around Bayan Nuur. At midday we decided to return to UB. The journey interrupted only by a quick lunch-stop and another stop to watch a crowd of Cinereous Vultures at their lunch-stop.

In the evening it was time to celebrate a highly successful trip with Jan Wigsten and a couple of other foreign ornitholgists.

27/6

This morning I took a taxi to the Tuul River (between town and the airport) in order to see Azure Tit and White-crowned Penduline-Tit. It did not take too long and I was also pleased to see a Black Stork flapping past.

In the late morning I packed up and went to the airport for the flight back to Beijing.

Weather

In general the weather was very good, although a little bit varying. In the Gobi desert it was very hot and sunny. In the Gobi Altai it was rather cold, and some rain, at higher altitudes, especially after the storm we had one night. In Terelj it was sunny and warm with some overcast sometimes. To summarize it, one has to be prepared for all different weather types.

Logistics

Nomadic Journeys, a local tour agent run by Swedish Jan Wigsten, helped us to set up the trip we wanted. They booked the domestic flights, arranged for suitable cars, camping gear and last but not least the fantastic guide/cook Gaana, who made us three-course-dinners every day. Even in the most remote areas where we camped, we were always treated by the most delicious food. We can highly recommend to let Nomadic Journeys tailor-make a trip. They can be contacted at infomongolia@nomadicjourneys.com, www.nomadicjourneys.com.

Site descriptions

Bayanzaag

Saxaul forest amongst sand dunes just north of the small village of Bulgan in the Gobi desert. From Dalandzadgad it takes about 4-5 hours to drive in northwesterly direction.



The camp in the Saxaul forest at Bayanzaag.

Yolyn Am

Yolyn Am is a mountainous area located in Gurvan Saykhan National Park which is in the easternmost Gobi Altai mountain range. From Dalandzadgad it takes slightly more than an hour to drive. At the entrance there are probably some possibilities for staying overnight, but inside the park there are no facilities. We camped at a ridge ½ up the slope of one of the highest mountains. Altai Snowcocks were scoped on the ridge-crests. Koslow's Accentors were in the low juniper bushes on the slopes (bright green patches in the photo). Sulphur-bellied Warbler in some small bushes. Snow Leopard is irregularly seen in this area, but alas not by us...



View, towards southwest, from the top of the mountain at Yolyn Am in Gobi Altai.

Tereli

Terelj is part of a very extensive mountain and forest area northeast of Ulan Baatar. The southern fringes are easily accessible from UB. There is a large number of tourist gercamps in the area and even a few hotels.

Black-billed Capercaillies were seen in the forest on top of the mountains. Chinese Bush-Warbler in the open grassy slopes on the right-hand (west) side of the valley. We camped at the forest edge along the track that leads up the valley to the west of the small stream.



View, towards south, of the valley where we camped at Terelj.

Bayan Nuur

One of several steppe lakes to the west and southwest of Uland Baatar. Bayan Nuur is 3 hours/ 210 km due west of UB. The lake is situated just north of the road and about 5 km west of the village of Bayan Nuur. We camped near the north end of the lake.



The northern end of Bayan Nuur with a sand-storm approaching.

Birds

Grey Heron, Ardea cinerea cinerea

100+ at Bayan Nuur.

Black Stork, Ciconia nigra

One at Tuul River in Ulan Baatar.

Whooper Swan, Cygnus cygnus

Four (one pair with young) at Bayan Nuur.

Swan Goose, Anser cygnoides

One pair at Bayan Nuur.



Swan Goose

Bar-headed Goose, Anser indicus

100+ at Bayan Nuur. Many with goslings.

Ruddy Shelduck, Tadorna ferruginea

Four at Terelj. 500+ at Bayan Nuur.

Common Shelduck, Tadorna tadorna

1000+ at Bayan Nuur.

Eurasian Wigeon, Anas penelope

30+ at Bayan Nuur.

Gadwall, Anas strepera strepera

20+ at Bayan Nuur.

Eurasian Teal, Anas crecca crecca

100+ at Bayan Nuur.

Mallard, Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos

200+ at Bayan Nuur.

Northern Pintail, Anas acuta

20+ at Bayan Nuur.

Garganey, Anas querquedula

10 at Bayan Nuur.

Northern Shoveler, Anas clypeata

40+ at Bayan Nuur.

Red-crested Pochard, Netta rufina

One male at Bayan Nuur.

Common Pochard, Aythya ferina

20 at Bayan Nuur.

Common Goldeneye, Bucephala clangula clangula

One at Terelj.

Common Merganser, Mergus merganser merganser

Two at Tuul River in Ulan Baatar.

Black Kite, Milvus migrans lineatus

Three at Yolyn Am and common at Ulan Baatar, Terelj and along the way to Bayan Nuur.

Lammergeier, Gypaetus barbatus barbatus

Three at the third camp in the Gobi.

Himalayan Griffon, Gyps himalayensis

20 at Yolyn Am.

Cinereous Vulture, Aegypius monachus

Two near Juulchin. Several at Terelj and common between Ulan Baatar and Bayan Nuur, e.g. about 50 at a carcass.

Eastern Marsh-Harrier, Circus spilonotus spilonotus

Male and female at Bayan Nuur.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Accipiter nisus nisosimilis

One at Terelj.

Eurasian Buzzard, Buteo buteo vulpinus

One at Tereli.

Upland Buzzard, Buteo hemilasius

One near Juulchin, two at Yolyn Am and one at the third camp in the Gobi. Eight around Bayan Nuur.

Steppe Eagle, Aquila nipalensis nipalensis

One immature at Terelj and one 2yr between Ulan Baatar and Bayan Nuur.

Golden Eagle, Aquila chysaetos chrysaetos

One at Yolyn Am and two at the third camp in the Gobi.

Lesser Kestrel, Falco naumanni

One male between Bayan Nuur and Ulan Baatar.

Eurasian Kestrel, Falco tinnunculus tunnunculus

Five at Yolyn Am. One at Terelj.

Saker Falcon, Falco cherrug milvipes

Two near Juulchin, one at Terelj and one at Bayan Nuur.

Black-billed Capercaillie, Tetrao parvirostris stegmanni

Three males flushed in the pine forest at Terelj was the ultimate bird of the trip.

Altai Snowcock, Tetraogallus altaicus

Two at Yolyn Am were scoped when they typically perched on the ridge crests.

Demoiselle Crane, Grus virgo

A pair near Juulchin when coming back from Bayanzaag. Six at Terelj. 30+ around Bayan Nuur. Always a good bird to see!



Demoiselle Cranes

White-naped Crane, Grus vipio

One pair with a young at the south-east corner of Bayan Nuur. Apart from Ogii Nuur, this must be one of the westernmost places where they breed.

Common Crane, Grus grus

20+ at Bayan Nuur.

Eurasian Coot, Fulica atra atra

20+ at Bayan Nuur.

Black-winged Stilt, Himantopus himantopus

10 at Bayan Nuur.

Pied Avocet, Avocetta recurvirostra

300+ at Bayan Nuur.

Northern Lapwing, Vanellus vanellus

200+ at Bayan Nuur.

Little Ringed Plover, Charadrius dubius curonicus

Five at Bayan Nuur and two at Tuul River in Ulan Baatar.

Kentish Plover, Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus

One at Bayan Nuur.

Oriental Plover, Charadrius veredus

Three between Bulgan and Juulchin where very approachable. Six in flight at

Bayan Nuur. My first encounter of breeding plumaged birds, very nice indeed!

Common Snipe, Gallinago gallinago gallinago

Five at Bayan Nuur.

Black-tailed Godwit, Limosa limosa melanuroides

12 at Bayan Nuur.

Eurasian Curlew, Numenius arquata orientalis

Five at Bayan Nuur.

Spotted Redshank, Tringa erythropus

Three at Bayan Nuur.

Common Redshank, Tringa totanus ussuriensis

Two at Bayan Nuur.

Marsh Sandpiper, Tringa stagnatilis

100+ at Bayan Nuur.

Green Sandpiper, Tringa ochropus

10+ at Bayan Nuur.

Common Sandpiper, Actitis hypoleucos

Two at Terelj and two at Tuul River in Ulan Baatar.

Mongolian (Herring) Gull, Larus (argentatus) mongolicus

1000+ at Bayan Nuur. Huge breeding colony with all ages-classes from pulli to adults.



Mongolian Gull

Black-headed Gull, Larus ridibundus

Two at Bayan Nuur.

Little Gull, Larus minutus

Three adults at Bayan Nuur.

Gull-billed Tern, Sterna niloticus addenda

50+ at Bayan Nuur.

Common Tern, Sterna hirundo hirundo/longipennis

Three at Terelj and two at Tuul River in Ulan Baatar (one with red/black and one with all black bill).

White-winged Tern, Chlidonias leucopterus

Seven at Bayan Nuur.

Pallas's Sandgrouse, Syrrhaptes paradoxus

Ten between Juulchin and Bayanzaag and at least 1500 at Bayanzaag in the morning. The latter one of the best memories from the trip!



Flock of Pallas's Sandgrouses



Pallas's Sandgrouse – one of few seen on the ground

Hill Pigeon, Columba rupestris rupestris One at Bulgan.

Eurasian Collared-Dove, Streptopelia decaocto decaocto One at Bulgan.

Common Cuckoo, Cuculus canorus canorus Four at Yolyn Am. 20 at Terelj.

Horsfield's Cuckoo, Cuculus horsfieldi

Three at Terelj.

Short-eared Owl, Asio flammeus flammeus

One at Bayan Nuur.

Common Swift, Apus apus pekinensis

Common around Bayanzaag.

Fork-tailed Swift, Apus pacificus pacificus

Common in Ulan Baatar and Terelj and a few at Yolyn Am.

Hoopoe, Upupa epops saturata

A few in the Gobi.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Dendrocopos minor kamtschatkensis One at Terelj.

White-backed Woodpecker, Dendrocopos leucotos leucotos One at Terelj.

Great Spotted Woodpecker, Dendrocopos major brevirostris One at a nest at Terelj.

Black Woodpecker, Dryocopus martius martius Two at Terelj.

Grey-faced Woodpecker, Picus canus jessoensis One at Terelj.

Mongolian Lark, Melanocorypha mongolica 10 between 70 km west of YB and Bayan Nuur. Asian Short-toed Lark, Calandrella cheleensis cheleensis

Common in the Gobi desert (ssp?) and between Ulan Baatar and Bayan Nuur (cheleensis).



Asian Short-toed Lark

Skylark, Alauda arvensis kiborti

Several around Bayan Nuur.

Horned Lark, Eremophila alpestris brandti

Common in the Gobi desert and one at Tuul River in Ulan Baatar.

Pale Martin, Hirundo diluta

Five at Bayan Nuur.

Eurasian Crag-Martin, Hirundo rupestris rupestris

30 at Yolyn Am.

Barn Swallow, Hirundo rustica tytleri

Common around Bayan Nuur. Brilliantly coloured in deep blue and brick-red.



Barn Swallow

House Martin, Delichon urbica lagopoda

One at Yolyn Am. Several between Ulan Baatar and Bayan Nuur.

White Wagtail, Motacilla alba baicalensis

One at Ulan Baatar, one at Dalandzadgad. A pair nesting at Terelj. One at Bayan Nuur.

Citrine Wagtail, Motacilla citreola citreola

One male at Bayan Nuur.

Yellow Wagtail, Motacilla flava macronyx

Common at Bayan Nuur.

Grey Wagtail, Motacilla cinerea melanope Two at Terelj.

Richard's Pipit, Anthus richardi dauuricus Common at Bayan Nuur.

Blyth's Pipit, Anthus godlewskii

Five at Yolyn Am and one at Terelj.

Olive-backed Pipit, Anthus hodgsoni hodgsoni Common at Terelj.

Brown Accentor, Prunella fulvescens dahurica 30 at Yolyn Am.

Koslow's Accentor, Prunella koslowi Four at Yolyn Am.



Koslow's Accentor

Red-throated Thrush, Turdus ruficollis ruficollis Three at Terelj.

Chinese Bush-Warbler, Bradypterus taczanowskius

Three on the grassy slopes above the first camp at Terelj.
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler, Locustella certhiola sparsimstriata

Common in the reed-beds at Bayan Nuur.



Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler – slightly more cooperative than on migration

Black-browed Reed-Warbler, Acrocephalus bistrigiceps Common in the reed-beds at Bayan Nuur. Oriental Reed-Warbler, Acrocephalus orientalis 10+ in the reed-beds at Bayan Nuur. Sulphur-bellied Warbler, Phylloscopus griseolus

One at Yolyn Am.

Pallas's Leaf-Warbler, Phylloscopus proregulus proregulus

10+ at Tereli.

Yellow-browed Warbler, Phylloscopus inornatus

20+ at Terelj.

Arctic Warbler, Phylloscopus borealis transbaicalicus

One at the first campsite at Terelj.

Greenish Warbler, Phylloscopus trochiloides plumbeitarsus

Five at Tereli.

Asian Desert Warbler, Sylvia nana nana

Ten around Bayanzaag.

Lesser Whitethroat, Sylvia curruca blythi

One at the first campsite at Terelj and one at Tuul River in Ulan Baatar.

Common Whitethroat, Sylvia communis icterops

One at the first campsite at Terelj.

Siberian Flycatcher, Muscicapa sibirica sibirica

One at the second campsite at Terelj.

Asian Brown Flycatcher, Muscicapa dauurica

One at the second campsite at Terelj.

Siberian Rubythroat, Luscinia calliope

One male seen nicely on top of a bush at Terelj.

Siberian Blue Robin, Luscinia cyane cyane

One singing near the first campsite at Terelj.

Red-flanked Bluetail, Tarsiger cyanurus cyanurus

Four around the first campsite at Terelj.

Black Redstart, Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides

Five at Yolvn Am.

Common Redstart, Phoenicurus phoenicurus phoenicurus

One at the second campsite at Tereli.

Daurian Redstart, Phoenicurus auroreus auroreus

Three at the first campsite at Tereli.

Northern Wheatear, Oenanthe oenanthe libanotica

Five at Yolyn Am. Common at Terelj.

Desert Wheatear, Oenanthe deserti atrogularis

Common around Bayanzag and a few along the road from Juulchin.

Isabelline Wheatear, Oenanthe isabellina

Common both in the Gobi desert, Yolyn Am, Terelj and between Ulan Baatar and Bayan Nuur.

Willow Tit, Poecile Montana baicalensis

Common at Terelj.

Coal Tit, Periparus ater ater

Two at Terelj.

Great Tit, Parus major kapustini

Five at Tereli and one in Ulan Baatar.

Azure Tit, Cyanistes cyanus tianschanicus/yenisseensis

Five at Tuul River in Ulan Baatar.

Eurasian Nuthatch, Sitta europaea asiatica

10 at Tereli.

White-crowned Penduline-Tit, Remiz coronatus
One female at Tuul River in Ulan Baatar.
Isabelline Shrike, Lanius isabellinus isabellinus
10 at Bayanzaag.



Isabelline Shrike

Brown Shrike, Lanius cristatus cristatus

One at Dalandzadgad.

Eurasian Magpie, Pica pica leucoptera

Two at Ulan Baatar.

Eurasian Nutcracker, Nucifraga cariocatactes macrorhynchos

One heard at Terelj.

Red-billed Chough, Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax brachypus

A few in Ulan Baatar and four at Yolyn Am. Several at Terelj.

Daurian Jackdaw, Corvus dauuricus

Common in the meadows at Terelj. Three just west of Ulan Baatar.

Hooded Crow, Corvus cornix orientalis

Common around Ulan Baatar and Terelj.

Common Raven, Corvus corax ssp

Several in the Gobi desert and a few at Terelj and between Ulan Baatar and Bayan Nuur.

White-cheeked Starling, Sturnus cineraceus

One at Tereli.

Saxaul Sparrow, Passer ammodendri stoliczkae

Party of five (with one male), three (with one male) and one respectively at Bayanzaag. Called like typical *Passer* sparrow.



Saxaul Sparrow

House Sparrow, Passer domesticus domesticus

Common in Ulan Baatar.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow, Passer montanus dilutus

Seen in many of the Gobi desert settlements.

Rock Petronia, Petronia petronia brevirostris

One near Yolyn Am.

White-winged Snowfinch, Montifringilla nivalis groum-grzimaili

Common at Yolyn Am.

Pere David's Snowfinch, Montifringilla davidiana davidiana

One on the grassy slopes when leaving the mountain range at Yolyn Am. Two at the Bayan Nuur village.

Common Rosefinch, Carpodacus erythrinus grebnitskii

Three at Yolyn Am. Common at Terelj.

Beautiful Rosefinch, Carpodacus pulcherrimus davidianus

Seven at Yolyn Am.

Red Crossbill, Loxia curvirostra curvirostra

Two at Tereli.

Twite, Carduelis flavirostris altaica

Ten at Yolyn Am.

Mongolian Finch, Rhodopechys mongolica

Five between Juulchin and Bulgan.

Pine Bunting, Emberiza leucocephalos leucocephalos

Four at Terelj.

Yellow-breasted Bunting, Emberiza aureola aureola

One at Bayan Nuur.

Reed Bunting, Emberiza schoeniclus pyrrhuloides/harterti

Five in the reed-beds at Bayan Nuur.

Mammals (incomplete list)

Black-tailed Gazelle, Gazella subgutturosa

Two between Juulchin and Bulgan.

White-tailed Gazelle, Procapra gutturosa

4+1+2 between Bulgan and Yolyn Am.

Siberian Ibex, Capra ibex

10 at Yolyn Am.

Squirrel sp

One at Terelj with dark grey upperparts sharply demarked from whitish underparts, size of Euro Red Squirrel..

Siberian Chipmunk, Tamias sibiricus

Common at Terelj.

Pika spp, Ochotona spp

Probably several species involved.

Cape Hare, Lepus capensis

One at Bayanzaag.