

Mongolia, June 3-29 - 2003

Mattias Gerdin, Måns Grundsten and Johan Ställberg, Stockholm, Sweden.

This report is compiled by Johan Ställberg: just_run_it@hotmail.com

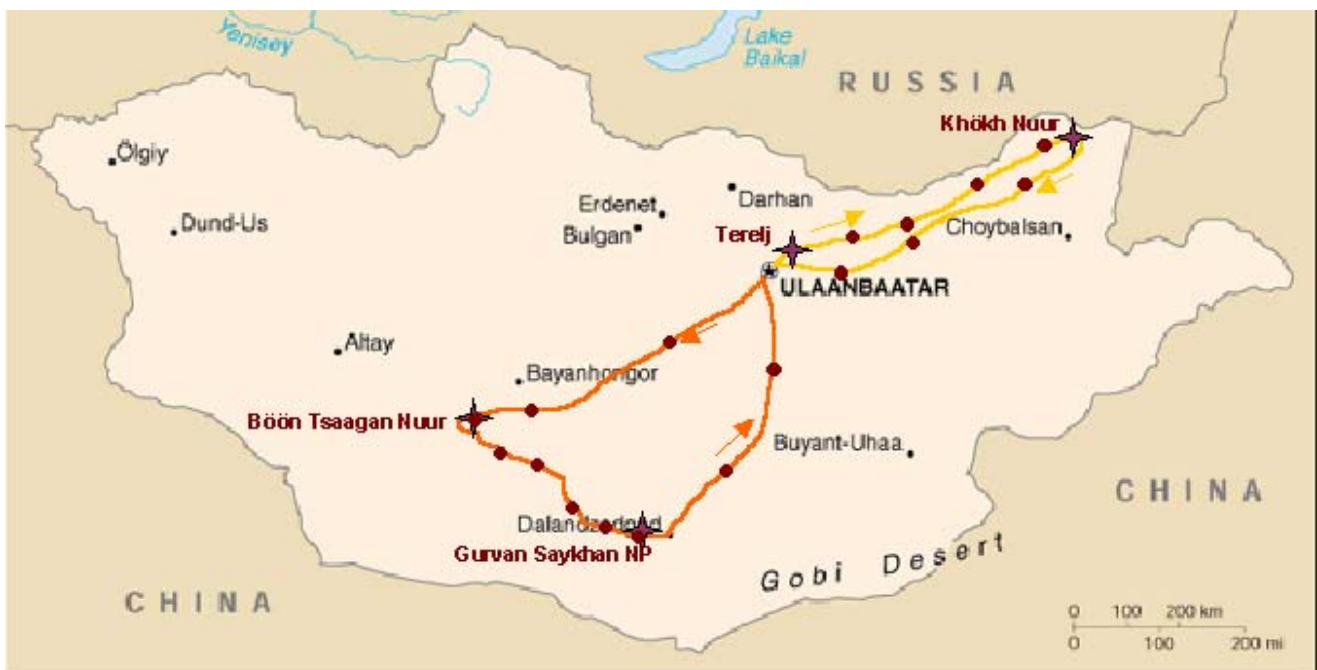
Introduction

This was the last country visited by us during a five month (two months for Mattias) long birding trip in Asia (India, Thailand, Vietnam, China and Mongolia). Almost nothing is written and published about birding in this steppe country. On the internet we found only a few trip reports including a brief summary from BirdQuest. Hopefully this report will be some help for future travellers.

Mongolia is mostly steppe, but also taiga in the north and the Gobi Desert in the south. The roads are in a very poor condition (in total only about 900 km paved road), and it's only possible to drive 200-300 km in one day. It could be a good idea to do some transportations by air. Since the country is scarcely populated there are no hotels or restaurants as soon as you leave the bigger cities (which are few). It's easy to realize that birding in this country without any local help is both difficult and most likely a waste of time if you want to find the rare species.

We arranged this trip with Nomadic Journeys Ltd. They provided a chef, English speaking guide, tent and other necessary equipment, a car driver and a local bird guide (who turned out to be a professor in Ornithology at the Mongolian Academy of Natural Sciences, on the last part of our trip one of his co-workers joined us). Everything worked out amazingly well during the whole trip.

We really recommend other birders to visit Mongolia. There are some charismatic and rare birds to find together with many Siberian stragglers to Europe, both migrating birds through the Gobi Desert and breeding birds in the Taiga. Everything set in a beautiful nature scenery.



Modified map from <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/mongolia.html> with our trip, camp sites and some major localities marked. Despite four weeks of birding and driving we still have some additional areas to visit...

Weather

It was sunny almost all the time, except for some rain just outside the Gobi Desert. The mornings and evenings were cold, especially in the mountains. Mongolia is famous for the clear blue sky, something that we enjoyed during the first couple of days. After the first two weeks large clouds of smoke came from the north, in the Russian taiga large areas of forest were on fire. Apparently only burned woods are allowed to be cut. Without these clouds the temperature would probably have risen even more.

Literature and contacts

www.nomadicjourneys.com

A trip report from Birdquest: <http://www.birdquest.co.uk/frameset.cfm>

A report in French: http://ebn.unige.ch/ebn/vo/vo_2000_05.html

OBC Bulletin 35, June 2002 **Birding in Central Asia: an introduction to Mongolia.** Axel Bräunlich.

Lonely Planet Guide - Mongolia

Field guide to the Birds of China (MacKinnon & Phillips)

Collins Bird Guide (Svensson, Mullarney, Zetterström & Grant)

Birds of the Indian Subcontinent (Grimmett, Inskipp & Inskipp)

A Field Guide to the Birds of South-East Asia (Robson)

Rare Birds in Europe (Alström, Colston & Lewington)

It should be enough with the first two ones. Since the plates of the China-guide aren't that good, we found the Indian and South-East Asian-Guides to be quite helpful.

We also kindly got some information from the Swedish birders Magnus Köpman and Anders Borgehed whom both had visited Mongolia previously. Luckily we met the Danish birder Kent Olsen in Beidiahe just before leaving to Mongolia. He not only gave us the spot for Black-billed Capercallie, but also good general advice about birding in the country. Without him and the good arrangement from Nomadic Journeys this trip would have been much less successful.

The birders at the Mongolian Institute of Biology don't speak that much English. But maybe they can answer some questions: tsevenmyadag@magicnet.mn

The western birder with the best knowledge about birding and birds in Mongolia is Axel Bräunlich e-mail: braunlich@ipn.de

For questions don't hesitate to contact Johan: just_run_it@hotmail.com,

Måns: m.grundsten@spray.se, or Mattias: grisslan@hotmail.com

Maps

It's possible to buy surprisingly detailed maps at State Department Store in Ulaan Baatar, try the 1st and the 4th floor. The tourist maps covering Terelj and Gurvan Saykhan NP (Yolyn Am) were useful.

Habitat

Birding in Mongolia is much about to find the correct habitat for the bird you are seeking. Once there, you *will* spot the bird, for example:

Henderson's Ground-Jay: Stony small hills with a few small bushes in a dry landscape.

Koslow's Accentor: Juniper bushes in grassy valleys (Gurvan Sayhan NP). You will find Brown Accentor in the same habitat.

Altai Snowcock: High altitude. Grassy slopes with some rocks.

Black-billed Capercaillie: Old *pine* forest, which - in Terelj - is most likely to be found at higher altitudes.

Azure Tit: The willow regions along rivers and streams.

Chinese Bush-Warbler: Steep, grassy slopes in the Taiga.

Itinerary

3/6	Beijing - Ulaan Baatar (UB)
4/6-16/6	UB - Böön Tsaagan Nuur - Gobi Desert - UB
16/6	UB
17/6-21/6	Terelj
21/6-28/6	Terelj - NE Mongolia - UB
29/6	UB - Beijing

3/6 Tuesday

We arrived in Ulaan Baatar from Beijing at 11.30 am. It took some time to get off the plane since the temperature of all the passengers should be checked once more (for the third time on the plane: take off, in the air and now after landing!). This was just after the SARS peak in China. When we were going to get our luggage we soon realized that someone by mistake had taken Mattias backpack. Ganaa, our guide that met us at the airport, talked to the airport-staff and we could leave for our hotel (Zaluuchuud Hotel, according to Lonely Planet a budget hotel, but we thought it was a good one). In the afternoon the missing bag arrived at our hotel.

It was with big expectations we looked out from the car during the transport to the city. Steppe, sunny steppe everywhere! It was beautiful and we could see our first Black-eared Kites through the window.

In the afternoon we walked down to Tuul River just south of the town. UB has no suburbs and the border between the city and the steppe is very distinct. We walked Marx Avenue to the collapsed bridge over the Tuul river. It took some time of walking along the river around the *salix*-bushes before we found two Azure Tits. They were quite shy, but indeed very beautiful. We also found some White-crowned Penduline Tits. During three hours of birding we saw only 17 species, in Mongolia you get quality instead of quantity.

We had dinner together with Janne Wigsten from Nomadic Journeys and Professor Bold, our bird guide for the next 12 days. Bold had extensive knowledge of the avifauna of Mongolia and pinpointed many nice sites along our trip, his knowledge of the birding-sites proved extremely important.

Bird of the day: Azure Tit. Off course.

Black-eared Kite 6
 Common Tern 2
 Pacific Swift 15
 Brown Shrike 1

Northern Wheatear 8
 Azure Tit 2
 White-crowned Penduline Tit
 5

Common Rosefinch 4
 Red-billed Chough 8
 Eastern Carrion Crow 9
 Hoopoe 2

4/6 Wednesday

We left UB at 11 o'clock in our purple-coloured van, bought in Irkutsk and renovated for maximum comfort (i.e. padded ceiling for the bumpy roads). Soon we had left the traffic jam in UB and our 12-day trip to the Gobi Desert could start. Professor Bold in the front, shouting the Latin names of the birds we were passing, and the three of us, together with Ganaa in the back. We were surprised about the variation of the steppe, sometimes like the green on a golf court, sometimes with a lot of small bushes and sometimes barren. But most frequently short, yellow, dry grass. We didn't do that many stops during the day, instead we concentrated the birding to the long evening. Still we saw a lot of Cinereous Vultures, some tame Demoiselle Cranes, the first Mongolian Larks, Isabelline Wheatears, Steppe Eagles etc. During the birding around the campsite (47°16'90N 103°38'62E) the silence was almost overwhelming and in great contrast to China. We saw some Ruddy Shelducks, Amur Falcons and a Pacific Golden Plover before two big dogs from a nearby Geer became too interested in us. After throwing some stones to keep them off, we walked back to the campsite for dinner (four different dishes!!). We felt like kings and were almost embarrassed, since we were not used to this kind of service. However, after a couple of days we got used to this, and it was with joy we ate the magic cooking of Gaana (not a single time we got the same dinner - 26 days! Without any kitchen facilities!).

Bird of the day: Demoiselle Crane. In breeding grounds, in the steppe!

Grey Heron 2
 Bar-headed Goose 20
 Ruddy Shelduck 10
 Gadwall 4
 Black-eared Kite 30
 Cinereous Vulture 40
 Upland Buzzard 3
 Steppe Eagle 7
 Common Kestrel 5
 Amur Falcon 6

Eurasian Hobby 1
 Demoiselle Crane 30
 Northern Lapwing 40
 Pacific Golden Plover 1
 Marsh Sandpiper 2
 Herring Gull ssp. *mongolicus*
 Whiskered Tern 1
 Common Tern ssp.
longipennis? (not everyone
 had entirely black bill...)

Mongolian Lark 10
 Pacific Swift 100 (mainly in
 UB)
 Asian Short-toed Lark 25
 Isabelline Wheatear 20
 Red-billed Chough 35 (close
 to UB)
 Rook 50 (close to UB)

5/6 Thursday

We got up too early and had to wait for dawn until six o'clock. We left the campsite at 8.30, and after 2½ hour of driving we came to Sangiyn Dalai Lake (46°40'81N 103°18'21E). It turned out to be a good spot with Swan Goose and Tundra Swan as highlights, among big numbers of Demoiselle Crane (93), Whooper Swan (121) and White-winged Black Tern (200). Since it was about 10 hours of driving from UB it might be possible to spend the night there after one day of driving.

We drove until 7.30 pm before we put up the tents in a small gorge with a stream about 12 km west of Bayanteeg (45°41'74N 101°23'65E). Luckily the sun set is after 10 pm so we could do some birding around the campsite, including good views of Pied Wheatear. Just before we fell asleep a Eurasian Eagle Owl started to call.

Bird of the day: Pied Wheatear

Black-throated Diver 2	Tufted Duck 35	Asian Short-toed Lark 2
Slavonian Grebe 4	Velvet Scoter ssp <i>stejnegeri</i> 5	Eurasian Skylark 1
Black-necked Grebe 6	Common Goldeneye 8	Horned Lark 7
Great Crested Grebe 18	Black-eared Kite 20	Hoopoe 1
Great Comorant 1	Cinereous Vulture 5	Eurasian Eagle Owl 1
Mute Swan 2	Upland Buzzard 7	Common Cuckoo 1
Whooper Swan 121	Eurasian Hobby 1	Sand Martin 1
Tundra Swan 1	Amur Falcon 1	Citrine Wagtail 6
Swan Goose 1	Demoiselle Crane 100	White Wagtail ssp <i>leucopsis</i> 1
Bar-headed Goose 8	Common Coot 33	Blyth's Pipit 5
Ruddy Shelduck 39	Black-tailed Godwit 10	Brown Shrike 1
Common Shelduck 6	Herring Gull ssp. <i>mongolicus</i> 6	Northern Wheatear 4
Eurasian Wigeon 26	Black-headed Gull 5	Pied Wheatear 2
Gadwall 19	White-winged Black Tern 225	Isabellie Wheatear 35
Common Teal 1	Whiskered Tern 1	Peré-David's Snowfinch 7
Mallard 10	Gull-billed Tern 1	Red-billed Chough 15
Northern Pintail 15	Common Tern 20	Pacific Swift 5
Garganey 6	Rock Dove 2	Common Swift 5
Northern Shovler 35	Hill Pigeon 5	Rock Sparrow 1
Common Pochard 88	Mongolian Lark 25	

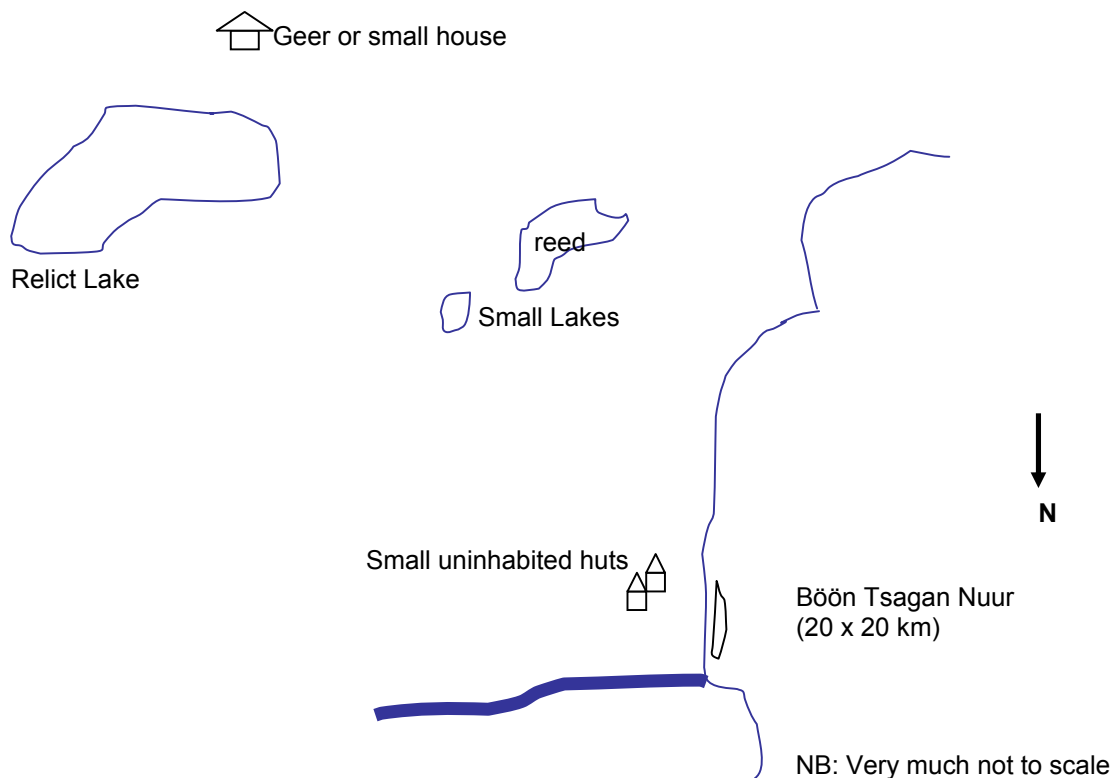
6/6 Friday

Around the campsite we saw one migrating Rose-coloured Starling, normally they should only be found in the western part of Mongolia (but if they can fly all the way to western Europe searching for grasshoppers, the distance from western Mongolia to here shouldn't be a problem...). We also enjoyed a pair of Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush just outside our camp.

In Mongolia the average altitude is about 1400 meters a.s.l. Before lunch we drove at an altitude of 2000 meters and sometimes the habitat looked good for Henderson's Ground Jay. We had heard that the easiest way to find these birds is from the car, but we couldn't find any. When crossing a gorge on our way to lower altitudes we found some passerines in the shadow of a couple of small bushes. Thick-billed Warblers, Two-barred Greenish Warblers and a Pallas's Leaf-warbler, all probably still on migration.

In the lowland (1300 meters a.s.l) we stopped at a small lake full of ducks and among all the Common Pochards (90) we also found 40 Red-crested Pochards and 2 Ferruginous Ducks. In the afternoon we arrived at Böön Tsaagan Nuur (BTN), a salt lake just outside the Gobi Desert, famous for breeding Relict Gulls. We camped just south of the river delta at the eastern side of the lake (45°37'10N 99°15'33E). The day had been sunny and warm but now the wind increased rapidly and sand from Gobi came in. We found some shelter at an old house, and from here we started to scan the lake, while to rain and sand were swirling outside. The numbers of birds were impressive and we found three more species named after Peter Simon Pallas (he made an expedition to eastern Mongolia during the 1750s): Pallas's Sandgruose, Pallas's Fish-eagle and Pallas's Gull.

In the evening Professor Bold told us that the storm we had seen today was nothing compared with a storm he had experienced during a Gobi expedition in the 70ies. That time the combination of wind and sand had erased all color from his car!



Pallas of the day: Pallas's Sandgruose

Slavonian Grebe 1 (BTN)
Great White Egret 7 (BTN)
Eurasian Spoonbill 8 (BTN)
Mute Swan 1 (BTN)
Whooper Swan 2 (BTN)
Swan Goose 50 (BTN)
Red-crested Pochard 44

Ferruginous Duck 2
Common Pochard 90
Garganey 15
Goosander 10 (BTN)
Black-eared Kite 4
Pallas's Fish-eagle 5 (BTN)
Upland Buzzard 3

Demoiselle Crane 10
Pied Avocet 5 (BTN)
Pacific Golden Plover 1 (BTN)
Mongolian Lark 3
Greater Sand Plover 1 (BTN)
Pallas's Gull 39 ad + 1 2nd cy
+ 1 3d cy (BTN)

White-winged Black Tern 400 (BTN)
 Gull-billed Tern 2 (BTN)
 Common Tern common (BTN)
 Pallas's Sandgrouse 2 (BTN)
 Pacific Swift 5
 Common Swift 3
 Hoopoe 1
 Horned Lark 30

Mongolian Finch 10
 Rock Sparrow 1
 Citrine Wagtail 5
 Brown Shrike 1
 Northern Wheatear 3
 Isabelline Wheatear 4
 Desert Wheatear 5
 Pied Wheatear 6
 Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush 2

Thick-billed Warbler 2
 Dusky Warbler 1
 Pallas's Leaf Warbler 1
 Two-barred Greenish Warbler 1
 Black-faced Bunting 1
 Rose-coloured Starling 1

7/6 Saturday

We spent all the day around the lake. Most of the birding close to the campsite in the delta, but we also took the car to a couple of small lakes (SL) just at the SE corner of Böö'n Tsagan Nuur (45°30'92N 99°14'41E). One of these lakes had some reed which attracted a lot of birds like Paddyfield Warbler and an unidentified Greater/Oriental Reed Warbler. We also found our first Asian Dowitchers here.

Unfortunately the rain kept on falling the whole day (this can't be normal, just outside the Gobi Desert), however, this meant that the otherwise numerous and annoying mosquitoes kept a low profile.

Still no Relict Gulls were found, this was a bit of a disappointment. According to Bold, the island in the lake where the gulls used to breed was flooded.

Bird of the day: Asian Dowitcher (at last, we missed it in Beidaihe)

Slavonian Grebe 2 (SL)
 Great Crested Grebe 130 (BTN)
 Eurasian Spoonbill 19 (BTN)
 Black Stork 1 (BTN)
 Mute Swan 2 (BTN)
 Swan Goose 65 (BTN)
 Bar-headed Goose 50 (BTN)
 Falcated Duck 1 (BTN)
 Red-crested Pochard 15 (SL) + 5 (BTN)
 Ferruginous Duck 3 (SL)
 Black-eared Kite 6
 Pallas's Fish-eagle 7 (BTN)
 Western Marsh Harrier 1 (SL)

Upland Buzzard 2
 Demoiselle Crane 8
 Black-winged Stilt 4 (SL)
 Pied Avocet 14 (BTN)
 Pacific Golden Plover 1 (BTN)
 Greater Sand Plover 20 (BTN)
 Black-tailed Godwit 3 (BTN)
 Marsh Sandpiper 7 (BTN)
 Asian Dowitcher 13 (SL)
 Little Stint 3 (BTN)
 Ruddy Turnstone 1 (BTN)
 Broad-billed Sandpiper 2 (BTN)
 Pallas's Gull 27 (BTN)
 Whiskered Tern 2 (BTN)

White-winged Black Tern 100
 Caspian Tern 70 (BTN)
 Pallas's Sandgrouse 10
 Hoopoe 2
 Asian Short-toed Lark 3
 Citrine Wagtail 8
 Water Pipit 1 ssp. *coutelli* (BTN)
 Pied Wheatear 1
 Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler 1 (SL)
 Paddyfield Warbler 2 (SL)
 Mongolian Finch 25
 Common Rosefinch 5

8/6 Sunday

A sunny day, until the evening, when the rain came again. We birded the delta until 8 am. On the way east we stopped at the same small lakes as yesterday and in the sun, the reeds proved even better. About 1 km further to the east there was a larger (salt?) lake (45°30'76N 99°15'51E) and here we found the Relict Gulls! In total we counted 46 birds standing on the shore and resting in

the lake. Success! They were unexpectedly beautiful, the appearance was very different from all the Black-headed Gulls we had been taking close looks at.

We continued east towards Orog Nuur (ON). In a small area with just a few small bushes we found three different shrikes: Brown-, Isabelline- and a unidentified Great Grey Shrike (possible ssp. *pallidrostris*). It took us 6 hours to drive all the way to Orog Nuur, we camped at the north-western corner (45°04'04N 100°36'48E), the western shore seemed to be the best for birding. In the evening Matthias found a male Long-tailed Duck. As far as we know, this is the first published record from Mongolia.

Bird of the day: Relict Gull - mythical.

Slavonian Grebe 3 (SL)	Curlow Sandpiper 1 (RL)	Great Grey Shrike 1
Black-necked Grebe 10 (Relict Lake, RL)	Eurasian Curlow 1 (BTN)	Pied Wheatear 1
Eurasian Spoonbill 15 (BTN) + 8 (ON)	Grey Plover 1 (RL)	<u>Pallas's</u> Grasshopper Warbler 8 (SL)
Ruddy Shelduck 70 (RL) + 30	Relict Gull 46 (RL)	Blyth's Reed Warbler 1 (SL)
Falcated Duck 1 (BTN)	<u>Pallas's</u> Gull 25 (BTN) + 2 (ON)	Great/Oriental Reed Warbler 1 (SL)
Red-crested Pochard 15 (SL) + 5 (BTN)	Whiskered Tern 2 (BTN)	Paddyfield Warbler 20 (SL)
Ferruginous Duck 1 (SL)	White-winged Black Tern 800 (!)	Two-barred Greenish Warbler 1
Long-tailed Duck 1 (ON)	Gull-billed Tern 3	Dark-sided Flycatcher 1 (BTN)
Smew 1 (SL)	Little Tern 1 (SL)	<u>Pallas's</u> Reed Bunting 2 (BTN)
<u>Pallas's</u> Fish-eagle 4 (BTN)	<u>Pallas's</u> Sandgrouse 13	Mongolian Finch 60
Western Marsh Harrier 3 (SL)	Hill Pigeon 2	Common Rosefinch 8
Upland Buzzard 3	Pacific Swift 25	Rose-coloured Starling 30 (ON)
Saker Falcon 1 (SL)	Citrine Wagtail 7	Bearded Tit 6 (SL)
Black-winged Stilt 5 (SL)	White Wagtail 1	
Pied Avocet 30 (BTN)	Brown Shrike 1	
Greater Sand Plover 10	Isabelline Shrike ssp. <i>isabellinus</i> 1	

Five Pallas-species today (no Rosefinch or Leaf Warbler)

9/6 Monday

During the morning we birded the meadows at the NE shore of Orog Nuur. Highlights were displaying Marsh Sandpiper, Black-winged Stilt, Black-tailed Godwit and Pied Avocet. Just like Öland in SE Sweden, except for the first two species... By car we headed south to the mountain Ich Bogd Uul, a poorly known place quite close to the more famous Gurvan Sayhan NP. We were curious to see other than the main-stream localities (as far as anyone can speak of anything main-stream about birding in Mongolia...). We thought that it maybe would be possible to find Hodgson's Bushchat here? At least we hoped to see Koslow's Accentor and Altai Snowcock. We took short stop for water supply, close to a geer. Four children came running and gave us some of their "dried yogurt". Very sour, but still quite ok to eat.

At the lower levels of the mountain we found some passerines, obviously still on migration. Here we also saw the first Black Redstarts and Chukars for the trip. The road was bad (bad in Mongolian standards...), but eventually we came to a isolated geer high up in the mountain. We

were invited and after some more dried yoghurt and milk tea the man followed us higher up in the mountain (2500 meters a.s.l). He knew a stakeout (44°56'30N 100°35'21E) for Altai Snowcock and shortly after our arrival we found two birds. Their call was quite similar to Eurasian Curlew. More than satisfied, we drove down to the southern side of the mountain where we camped (44°48'00N 100°35'76E, 1800 meters a.s.l) for the night. But no sign of any Hodgson's Bushchats.

Bird of the day: Altai Snowcock

Eurasian Spoonbill 8 (ON)	Grey-tailed Tattler 2 (ON)	Pied Wheatear >25, common in rocky steppe/mountains
Swan Goose 4	Common Snipe 2 (ON)	Northern Wheatear 10
Long-tailed Duck 1 (ON)	Ruddy Turnstone 1 (ON)	Desert Wheatear 1
Upland Buzzard 5	White-winged Black Tern 60	Isabelline Wheatear 3
Himalayan Griffon Vulture 2	Gull-billed Tern 10 pairs (ON)	Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush 5
Cinereous Vulture 3	Pallas's Sandgrouse 10	Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler 1
Lammergeier 1	Common Cuckoo 3	Pallas's Leaf Warbler 3
Saker Falcon 1	Hoopoe 2	Two-barred Greenish Warbler 1
Altai Snowcock 3	Crested Lark 2 (ON)	Mongolian Finch common
Cuckoo Partridge 2	Eurasian Skylark 5	Godlewski's Bunting 4
Demoiselle Crane 10	Asian Short-toed Lark >10	White-winged Snowfinch 7
Black-winged Stilt 20 (ON)	Eurasian Crag Martin 6	
Pied Avocet 40 (ON)	Citrine Wagtail 8	
Greater Sand Plover 8, one at 2400 meters above sea level.	Richard's Pipit 2	
	Brown Shrike 10	

10/6 Tuesday

Sunny and hot. But the wind and the clouds from the Russian forest fires decreased the temperature. Birding around the camp site gave us the first Lesser Kestrel for the trip, a female. During the day we could add another 3 of this species. Today we drove in the true Gobi Desert. No sand, but indeed very dry and sometimes Saxaul forest. We did some birding in one of these Saxaul forests (but actually the trees are more like bushes: old, knotty with leaves like coniferous forest and in average 1-2 meters high) in the middle of the day. Desert Warbler, Great Grey Shrike and of course Saxaul Sparrow. In this dry landscape some of the Buzzards confused us as they were pale and reddish like Long-legged Buzzard. Still, with not as pale tail, and according to Professor Bold, Long-legged Buzzards is only a winter visitor in these areas. We are still a bit confused...

In the afternoon we drove for a long time in some kind of flat desert landscape with no bushes and only scattered, short, but green, grass. Suddenly a Bustard flew towards the car. Stop. And outside the car we could see that it was a MacQueen's Bustard! The bird continued flying in the direction we came from and we could never see it on the ground. We were very happy anyway. Of course we had talked about that bird, but it was more like dreaming. This should be at the eastern edge of its distribution range. Normally you can find it (with some luck) in for example western Mongolia and Kachakztan. The Mongolian population is estimated to 200-300 birds and declining due to human impact. Only seven birds were seen during three summers in the 80s, and only one was seen in this southern tip of Mongolia.

Quite late in the evening we camped somewhere in nowhere (and we forgot to check the coordinates). We had hoped to reach Bulgan this day for some purchases, but with 100 km left we had to stop for the night. Still, the dinner was as delicious as always and today we celebrated the Bustard with “djungelvrål”. Salty Swedish candy bought at Arlanda airport when we left Sweden in the beginning of February...

Bustard of the day: MacQueen's

Black-eared Kite 1	Greater Sand Plover breeding at camp site	Northern Wheatear 2
Lammergeier 1	Pallas's Sandgrouse 65	Desert Wheatear 10
Cinereous Vulture 19 (at a dead animal)	Hoopoe 1	Pied Wheatear 2
Upland Buzzard 2	Horned Lark, common (as always)	Isabelline Wheatear 2
Steppe Eagle 1	Isabelline Shrike ssp <i>isabellinus</i> 2	Lanceolated Warbler 1
Lesser Kestrel 4	Great Grey Shrike 2	Desert Warbler 1
MacQueen's Bustard 1 (43°57'18N 102°21'33)		Saxaul Sparrow 1
		Rock Sparrow 2

11/6 Wednesday

In the morning we heard an unfamiliar song from several of the small bushes around the camp. After some searching we found out, that it came from Desert Warblers. They were quite shy and it was impossible to get really close views. But we saw them well jumping on the ground and singing from the top of the bushes. We also saw some Pallas's Sandgrouse on the ground, usually you only see them briefly when they're flying past you in small flocks.

Before midday we had reached Bulgan and meanwhile Gaana was shopping we did some birding around a couple of trees and a small plantation. Pallas's Leaf Warbler (1), Dusky Warbler (1), Thick-billed Warbler (1), Two-barred Greenish Warbler (3), Hume's Leaf Warbler (1) and Dark-sided Flycatcher (1) was still on migration. In the middle of May it should be possible to see a lot of siberian passerines concentrated to these trees.

During a couple of hours we walked around in the Saxaul forest close to the Dinosaur-digging site at Bayanzag (N. Bulgan). It was very hot and no good activity among the birds. We hoped to find Henderson's Ground-jay, a charismatic bird that we had been looking for during the last couple of days without any luck. No success today either, but we found out that Desert Wheatear is very common in this habitat. To the happiness of the photographer they often came in very close. We also saw one Saxaul Sparrow and several Isabelline & Great Grey Shrikes. A bit unsatisfied we continued towards Gurvan Saykhan NP. Just before the NP border the unsatisfaction turned into pure enjoyment. Professor Bold found us a stunning Oriental Plover in breeding plumage! (43°55'84N 103°40'64) After some additional driving we spotted one more. The habitat was very similar to what we had been driving through the whole day: short green grass (like the green on a golf court). Maybe there were some more dry gullies here and maybe the proximity to the mountain made the difference?

We set up the camp (43°46'63N 103°39'89E) in a narrow gully just east of Haalga Nuruu. With new energy gained from the Oriental Plover, we spread out, starting to climb the mountains in search for Koslow's Accentor among others. We saw no accentors. When we reached our summits, respectively, we all noted that the summits were unmarked, so we quickly built a small mound of stones (how many have marked a summit in Gobi?) and we noted that *Spirea*, a garden

hedge familiar from Sweden is naturally occurring a 2000 above sea level in the Gobi desert (and at lower levels you find *Potentilla*, another garden hedge). Surprisingly, many Barred Warblers occurred in this habitat and also some migrating Leaf Warblers.

Bird of the day: Oriental Plover

Booted Eagle 2 (Bulgan)	Hill Pigeon >1 (Bulgan)	Barred Warbler 12
Black-eared Kite 2	Pallas's Sandgrouse 10	Desert Warbler 4
Cinereous Vulture 5	Eurasian Crag Martin 5	Dusky Warbler 3
Upland Buzzard 4	Richard's Pipit 1	Hume's Leaf Warbler 1
Chukar 2	Blyth's Pipit 2	Pallas's Leaf Warbler 17
Oriental Plover 2	Isabelline Shrike 10	Two-barred Leaf Warbler 4
Greater Sand Plover 8	Great Grey Shrike 4	Dark-sided Flycatcher 1
Eurasian Collared Dove 3 (Bulgan)	Desert Wheatear common	Saxaul Sparrow 1
	Thick-billed Warbler 2	

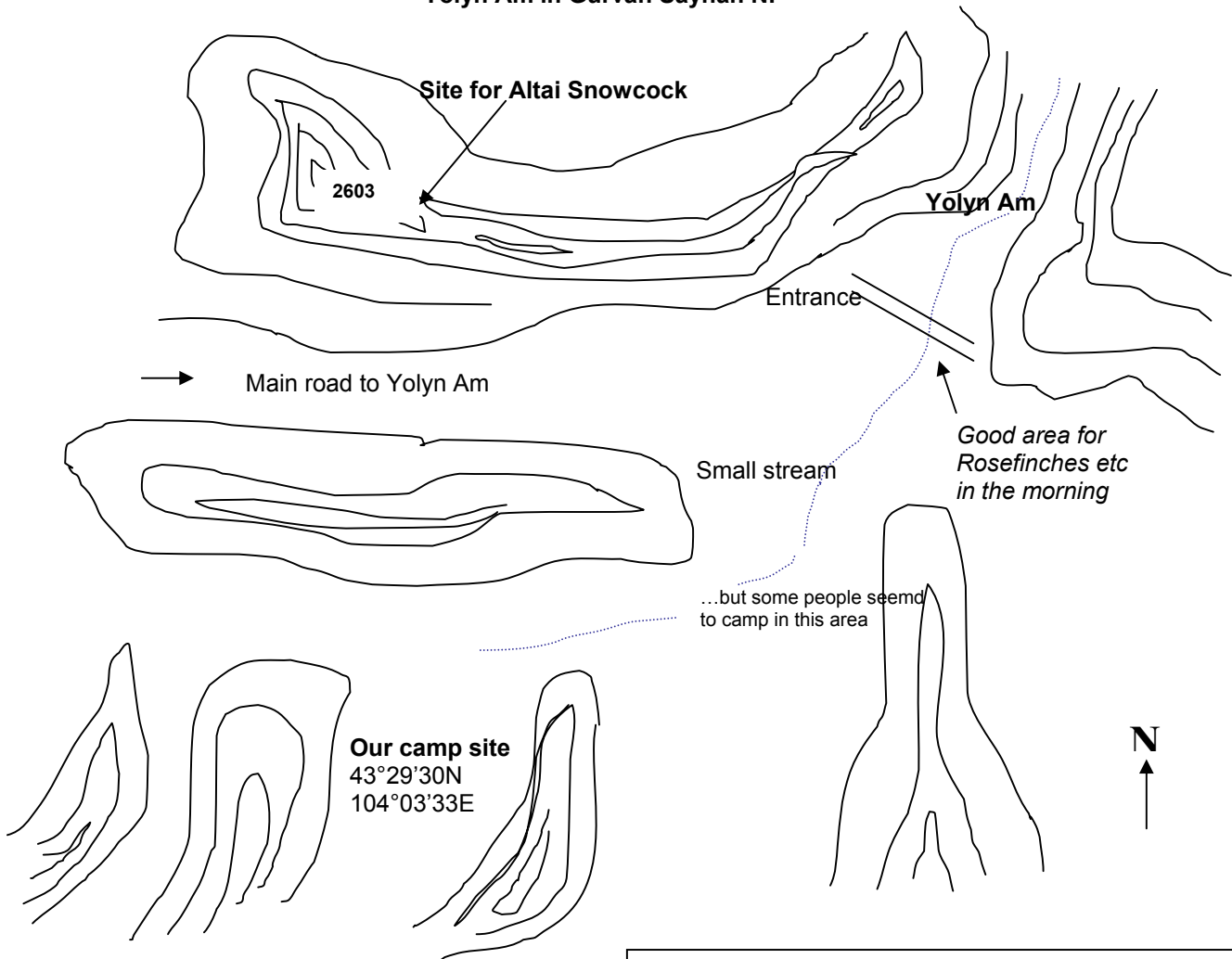
12/6 Thursday

What a day! In the morning we got close views of the Barred Warblers and Isabelline Shirkes close to the camp site. Beautiful birds. After some driving we saw three additional Oriental Plovers. At the gorge Olyyn Davaa (2250 meters a.s.l, 43°39'30N 103°41'04E) we finally spotted seven Koslow's Accentors and two Brown Accentors. They seemed to prefer the small junipers growing in the gully that crossed the gorge. Higher up on the mountain side we saw Black Redstarts and Water Pipits. After the accentors had got their entitled attention we continued south of the gorge through some really dry desert before we drove up to Yolyn Am at the very eastern edge of Gurvan Saykhan NP. Since this is a national park (and many tourists go here) you are only allowed to camp at a few marked places. We had no problem to see Koslow's Accentor from this campsite (43°29'30N 104°03'33E, 2250 meters a.s.l).

Bird of the day: Koslow's Accentor. It was first described by Przewalski 1887, but named after his co-worker Koslow. Later Koslow's wife, Koslowa, found the breeding grounds during her extensive research in Mongolia in the beginning of the 1920s.

Lammergeier 3	Water Pipit 2 Olyyn Davaa (OD)	Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler 2 (OD)
Himalayan Griffon Vulture 2	Brown Shrike 1	Lanceolated Warbler 1 (OD)
Upland Buzzard 4	Isabelline Shrike 2	Barred Warbler 5
Steppe Eagle 1	Brown Accentor 2 (OD) + 7 (YA)	Dusky Warbler 3
Saker Falcon 1 Yolyn Am (YA)	Koslow's (Mongolian) Accentor 7 (OD) + 4 (YA)	Pallas's Leaf Warbler 5
Oriental Plover 3	Black Redstart 3	Two-barred Leaf Warbler 1
Greater Sand Plover 1	Isabelline Wheatear common (less of Northern & Desert)	Rock Sparrow 1
Pallas's Sandgrouse 5		White-winged Snowfinch 10
Eurasian Crag Martin 15		Twite 2 (OD) + 4 (YA)
Blyth's Pipit 10		

Yolyn Am in Gurvan Sayhan NP



I have to admit that this map might be very incorrect and misleading. Still I think the main features are correct and that they might be for some help. The map is not to scale, it's about 1,5 km from our camp to Yolyn Am.

13/6 Friday

The whole day in the area, which meant good birding and no car driving. Before breakfast we birded the small valleys around the campsite. There are several valleys in all directions, the accentors seemed to prefer wider valleys with scattered juniper bushes. Blyth's Pipit and Isabelline Wheatear are the characteristic birds of this area. After some pancakes we went to Yolyn Am, or the Vally of the Lammergeier. Spectacular and narrow with the steep mountain sides. Most of the birds, including the rosefinches (which was a real challange to indentify), were seen in around Yolyn Am and in its close proximity. It took us some time to understand that it was possible to walk around a corner and over a snow or ice field to get even further in to the

valley. Maybe the valley is more famous for the Wallcreepers than the Lammergeier, and we got some really good veivs.

Bird of the day: Wallcreeper

Black-eared Kite 1	Water Pipit 4	Red-billed Chough 10
Lammergeier 2	Brown Accentor 7	Eurasian Siskin 5
Himalayan Griffon Vulture 7 (3 ad)	Koslow's Accentor 11	Twite 20
Cinereous Vulture 1	Alpine Accentor 7	Mongolian Finch 2
Golden Eagle 2 ssp. <i>canadensis</i>	Black Redstart 5	Common Rosefinch 6
Upland Buzzard 2	Northern Wheatear 1	Red-mantled Rosefinch 1 female
Eurasian Hobby 1	Isabelline Wheatear common, 50	White-winged Snowfinch 6
Eurasian Crag Martin 30	Pallas' Grasshopper Warbler 1	Godlewski's Bunting 2
White Wagtail 3	Thick-billed Warbler 1	Chestnut-eared Bunting 2
Blyth's Pipit 12	Barred Warbler 1	
Olive-backed Pipit 2	Pallas' Leaf Warbler 1	Ibix 2+5
	Wallcreeper 3	

14/6 Saturday

Before sunrise we started to climb the highest peak (2604), north of us. Before we reached the ridge we heard Altai Snowcocks displaying in distance. At the other side of the ridge the habitat was a bit different with more grassy slopes and some rocky areas. Here we got good views of three Snowcocks. On our way back, just outside the entrance to Yolyn Am, we spotted both Greater and Beautiful Rosefinch.

After breakfast we started our way back towards UB. In Dalanzadgad (1:15 h from Yolyn Am) we saw some Siberian passerines. After some hours of driving we set up the camp about 100 km south of Mandalgov (44°12'83N 105°57'90E). In this dry area we finally found Henderson's Ground-jay! The habitat was stony small hills with a few small bushes. Before we had eaten our dinner a Peré-David's Bush-Warbler was found. As far as we know this should be the first reported record from Mongolia. Probably overlooked earlier, the species breeds in northern China close to the Mongolian border.

Bird of the day: Henderson's Ground-jay. At last.

Common Shelduck 2	Water Pipit 2 (YA)	Two-barred Greenish Warbler 1
Black-eared Kite 1	Brown Accentor 7 (YA)	Wallcreeper 1 (YA)
Lammergeier 1 (YA)	Alpine Accentor 5 (YA)	Godlewski's Bunting 2 (YA)
Upland Buzzard 1	Koslow's Accentor 2 (YA)	Chestnut-eared Bunting 1 (YA)
Golden Eagle ssp. <i>canadensis</i>	Black Redstart 7 (YA)	Eurasian Siskin 1 (YA)
Altai Snowcock 3 (YA)	Desert Wheatear 1	Common Rosefinch 3 (YA)
Pallas's Sandgrouse 15	Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush 1 (YA)	Beautiful Rosefinch 2 (YA)
Hill Pigeon 1	Barred Warbler 1 (YA)	Great Rosefinch 2 (YA)
Pacific Swift 20	Common Whitethroat 1 (YA)	Henderson's Groundjay 2
Eurasian Crag Martin 15 (YA)	Dusky Warbler 4	Pere-David's Bush-Warbler
Blyth's Pipit 1	Pallas's Leaf Warbler 4	
Olive-backed Pipit 1		

15/6 Sunday

It took seven hours before we finally reached UB. In the morning we found two pairs of Henderson's Ground-jay around the campsite. A Chinese Bush-Warbler was unexpectedly found, also near the campsite. Most probably a bird on migration.

Today we had our first and only (!) flat tyre. Surin (the driver) fixed it within 20 minutes!

Bird of the day: Henderson's Ground-jay. Again.

Ruddy Shelduck 1	Greater Sand Plover 3	Desert Wheatear 4
Cinereous Vulture 2	Hill Pigeon 1	Isabelline Wheatear 3
Upland Buzzard 3	Pallas' Sandgrouse 7	Peré-Davids Snowfinch 10
Lesser Kestrel 7	Mongolian Lark 7 (first seen since 6/6)	Henderson's Groundjay 4
Demoiselle Crane 8		Chinese Bush-Warbler 1

16/6 Monday

Just some birding in the morning, before we drove the last distance to UB, where we arrived at lunch-time. During this Gobi trip we saw 164 species. In the evening, after a well deserved shower, we had dinner at an Indian restaurant together with Janne Wigsten from Nomadic Journeys. Apparently our flight back to Beijing was cancelled so we had to reschedule our trip a bit and go back to Beijing one day earlier.

Mongolian Lark 6	Peré-Davids Snowfinch 8	Isabelline Wheatear 10
Blyth's Pipit 4	Upland Buzzard 3	Red-billed Chough 40

17/6 Tuesday

Birding at Tuul River (TR) in the morning gave Long-tailed Rosefinch (very cooperative, almost like Pine Grosbeak), Azure Tit, Common Kingfisher, White-crowned Penduline Tit, singing Two-barred Greenish Warbler, Yellow-breasted Bunting and Black-faced Bunting.

After picking up some food we headed toward Terelj. The taiga national park just outside UB (two hours of driving). Terelj is not really 'dark taiga', but more like patches of good forest, scattered around on the northern slopes of the hills, surrounded by steppe.

We paid the entrance fee (~ 4 USD) and then stopped for some quick birding at the other side of the river. In this deciduous forest with grassy underground we easily found Daurian Jackdaw, White-cheeked Starling, Eurasian Wryneck, White-backed Woodpecker and Three-toed Woodpecker.

Later on we continued to Kent Olsen's Capercaillie stake out, 1.5 km west of Terelj and UB2.

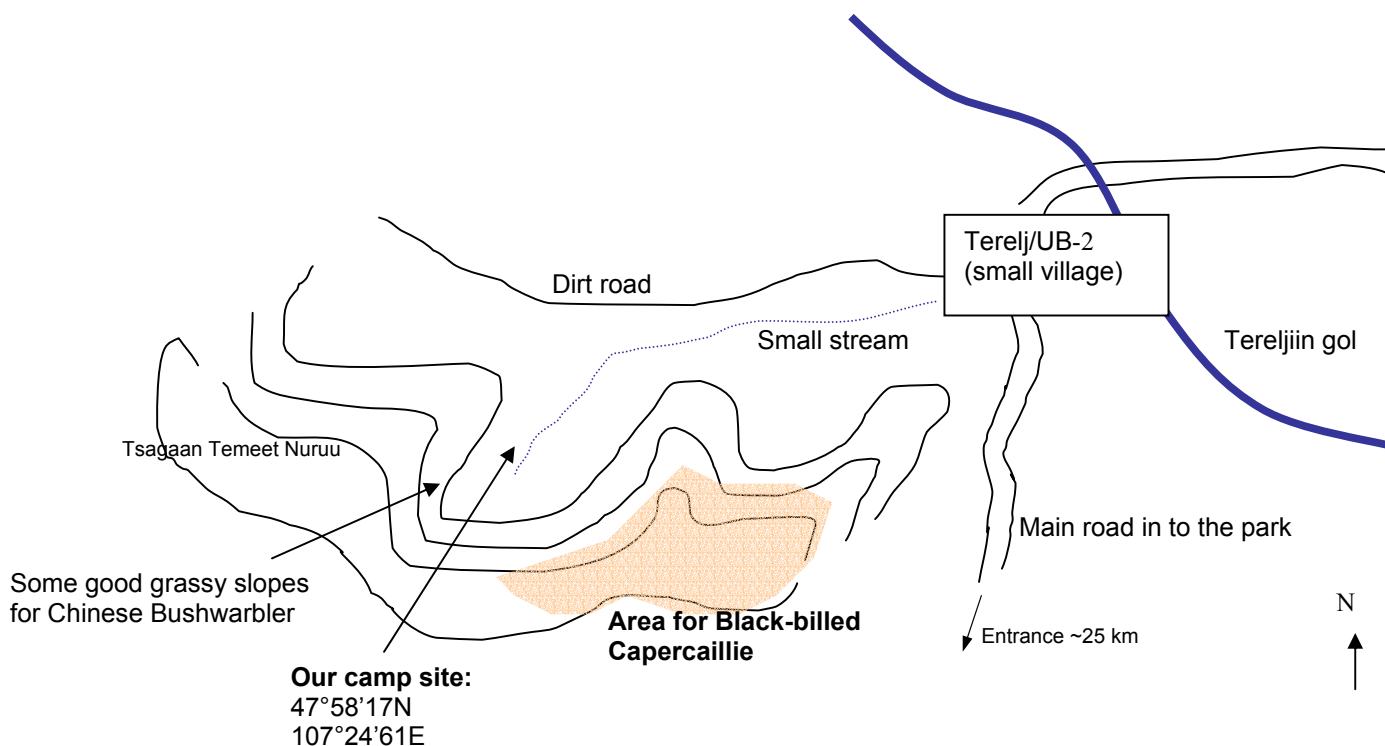
We camped, this time without Ganaa and the others from Nomadic Journeys, in one of the north-western valleys of Tsagaan Temeetiin Nuuru (the 2nd valley from UB-2). In the afternoon, around the campsite, we enjoyed singing Yellow-browed Warblers, Arctic Warbler, Siberian Blue Robin (close to the small stream), Oriental Cuckoo, Daurian Redstart, Eyebrowed Thrush and Red-throated Thrush. In a slope with high grass we found three singing Chinese Bush-Warblers. But no Black-billed Capercaillies.

Bird of the day: Long-tailed Rosefinch

Black-eared Kite 7
 Green Sandpiper 1 (TR)
 Oriental Cuckoo 2
 Pacific Swift 50 (UB)
 Common Kingfisher 1 (TR)
 Eurasian Wryneck 1
 White-backed Woodpecker 1
 Three-toed Woodpecker 1
 White Wagtail 4
 Siberian Blue Robin 1
 Daurian Redstart 5
 Blyth's Pipit 2
 Eyebrowed Thrush 1
 Red-throated Thrush 3

Chinese Bush-Warbler 3
 Long-tailed Rosefinch 2 (TR)
 Common Rosefinch 10
 Daurian Jackdaw 20
 Olive-backed Pipit 10
 Lesser Whitethroat ssp blythi?
 1 (TR)
 Yellow-browed Warbler 30
 Arctic Warbler 1
 Two-barred Greenish Warbler
 1
 Long-tailed Tit 4
 White-crowned Penduline Tit
 4 (TR)

Willow Tit 13
 Coal Tit 7
 Azure Tit 1
 Eurasian Nuthatch ssp. asiatica
 3
 Eurasian Treecreeper 2
 Yellow-breasted Bunting 3
 (TR)
 Chestnut Bunting 2
 Black-faced Bunting 1 (TR)
 Hawfinch 2
 White-cheeked Starling 15
 Eurasian Jay 1



18/6 Wednesday

In the early morning we started to walk up the slopes to the east. A Hazel Grouse was flushed almost immediately and several droppings was found in the slopes, suggesting more birds present. In the lower altitudes a lot of Yellow-browed Warblers was singing, higher up they were replaced by Pallas' Leaf Warblers and Olive-backed Pipits. Up on the ridge (took about two hours of birding to get there) the habitat changed. The larches and birches was replaced by pine trees. This is the place to find the Black-billed Capercaillie. We spread out with 20 meters gap between us and started to walk along the ridge. Several singing Red-flanked Bluetails accompanied us in our search for the Capercaillie. Surprisingly we saw one Siberian Tit. We

found several droppings from the Capercaillies, especially in small rocky areas, and our hopes of seeing one became even greater. It took us four hours before we flushed one male. Luckily, it flew up in front of Johan on the right flank, passed Mattias in the middle, and then in front of Måns on the left flank. After calming down after the euphoria of finally getting a view of this taiga-speciality we soon realized that we were rather lost! Fortunately we had a compass with us, so it was just to head north in order to get to the valley west of Terelj and UB-2.

In the boundary between the wooded slopes and the steppe-like valley we found a new *Emberiza* species for the trip: Pine Bunting. During the walk back to the tent we counted six males and three females.

Back at the campsite we soon discovered that almost all of our food, which we had hidden in some bushes, were gone. Probably the Ravens had taken it. We had some bananas, crackers and noodles left, and we couldn't stop dreaming of Gaana's surely superb dinner next evening.

Bird of the day: Black-billed Capercaillie. Like a Swedish birder once said: Good one to have with you in the grave...

Black-eared Kite 1	Three-toed Woodpecker 2	Siberian Tit 1
Steppe Eagle 1	Grey Wagtail 4	Willow Tit 20
Northern Goshawk 1	Daurian Redstart 2	Coal Tit 10
Eurasian Sparrowhawk 1	Blyth's Pipit 2	Daurian Jackdaw 2
Upland Buzzard 2	Olive-backed Pipit 40	Eurasian Nuthatch 7
Common Kestrel 1	Red-flanked Bluetail 15	Eurasian Treecreeper 4
Black-billed Capercaillie 1 (47°56'77N 107°24'57E)	Eyebrowed Thrush 1	Pine Bunting 9
Hazel Grouse 2	Chinese Bush-Warbler 1	Chestnut Bunting 2
Oriental Cuckoo 6	Yellow-browed Warbler 30	Common Rosefinch 4
Common Cuckoo 6	Pallas' Leaf Warbler 30	Common Crossbill 5
Black Woodpecker 2	Dark-sided Flycatcher 1	Common Bullfinch 3
	Long-tailed Tit 10	

19/6 Thursday

Today we split up: Johan hiked back up to the ridge. Meanwhile, Måns and Mattias birded in the valley. In the early morning a Lanceolated Warbler sang just outside the tent.

No Capercaillie today, but indeed a wolf(!) and a female Two-barred Crossbill. Down in the valley, close to the small stream outside the camp site, Mattias and Måns got some nice views of a nice male Siberian Rubythroat as well as a Red-throated Flycatcher.

In the evening Gaana picked us up, and we drove to Nomadic Journey's own campsite: Jalman Meadows, 40 km further inside the NP. There where no good Capercaillie-forest here, but instead an interesting deciduous forest around the rivers. This gave some other birds, and along the small stream just north of the camp we saw Azure Tit, Dusky Warblers and Yellow-breasted Buntings.

Bird of the day: Two-barred Crossbill. But if wolf had been a bird...

Ruddy Shelduck 2	Amur Falcon 1 pair (J)	Hoopoe 1
Goosander 4	Demoiselle Crane 2 (J)	Eurasian Wryneck 1 (J)
Black-eared Kite 1	Common Sandpiper 2 (J)	Black Woodpecker 2
Upland Buzzard 1	Oriental Cuckoo 6	Three-toed Woodpecker 1
Common Kestrel 1 Jalman (J)	Pacific Swift 3 (J)	Citrine Wagtail 1 (J)

Forest Wagtail 2 (J)
 White Wagtail 4 (J)
 Blyth's Pipit 1
 Olive-backed Pipit 30
 Siberian Rubythroat 1
 Siberian Blue Robin 1
 Red-flanked Bluetail 14
 Daurian Redstart 1
 Common Redstart 1
 Common Stonechat 1
 Isabelline Wheatear 10

Northern Wheatear 3
 Eyebrowed Thrush 5
 Chinese Bush-Warbler 1
 Lanceolated Warbler 1
 Dusky Warbler 20 (J)
 Two-barred Greenish Warbler
 3
 Arctic Warbler 3
 Red-throated Flycatcher 1
 Asian Brown Flycatcher 1
 Siberian Tit 1

Azure Tit 1 (J)
 Yellow-breasted Bunting 7 (J)
 Chestnut Bunting 2
 Common Crossbill 5
 Two-barred Crossbill 1
 Hawfinch 3
 White-cheeked Starling 3
 Daurian Jackdaw 40
 Eurasian Jay 5

20/6 Friday

The morning was spent in the larch forests east of Jalman. Highlights were a flock of Black Grouse. A couple of Two-barred Crossbills flew past, Chinese Bush-Warblers sang from the slopes, a single singing Siberian Rubythroat and two Lesser Whitethroats along a small stream. We also counted six beautiful Red-throated Thrushes. In the more open country on the way back we encountered our first singing fresh-plumaged Thick-billed Warblers (contrary to the British bird on Fair Isle this spring which had all-worn tail feathers, just like all migrating birds we saw in Beidaihe), a pale Common Whitethroat, several Brown Shrikes, Pine Bunting and two flushed Japanese Quails.

After some food we waded across the big river to reach some good parts of riverforest. Among the mosquitoes we found a Azure Tit, 3 Black-faced Buntings and a White-backed Woodpecker. In the evening Nomadic had arranged some horse-back riding around the camp. Something we can recommend - riding in the steppe accompanied by singing Blyth's Pipits.

Bird of the day: Black Grouse. Unexpected.

Ruddy Shelduck 2
 Common Teal 1
 Common Goldeneye 14
 Goosander 6
 Cinereous Vulture 1 nesting pair
 Upland Buzzard 2
 Northern Goshawk 1
 Steppe Eagle 2
 Golden Eagle 2
 Black Grouse 8
 Japanese Quail 2
 Common Sandpiper 8
 Little Ringed Plover 1
 Oriental Cuckoo 4
 Common Cuckoo 12
 Eurasian Wryneck 7
 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker 3
 White-backed Woodpecker 1

Great Spotted Woodpecker 2
 Black Woodpecker 4
 Grey-headed Woodpecker 2
 Eurasian Skylark several
 Grey Wagtail 1
 Blyth's Pipit 15
 Olive-backed Pipit 40
 Brown Shrike 4 pairs
 Siberian Rubythroat 1
 Daurian Redstart 3
 Common Redstart 3
 Common Stonechat 5 pairs
 Pied Wheatear 1
 Isabelline Wheatear 2 pairs
 Northern Wheatear common
 Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush 1
 Red-throated Thrush 6
 Chinese Bush-Warbler 3-5
 Thick-billed Warbler 7

Common Whitethroat 1
 Lesser Whitethroat 2 ssp. *blythi*
 Dusky Warbler 35
 Yellow-browed Warbler 5
 Pallas' Leaf Warbler 1
 Two-barred Greenish Warbler 13
 Dark-sided Flycatcher 1
 Long-tailed Tit 5
 Azure Tit 1
 Two-barred Crossbill 5
 White-cheeked Starling 4
 Eurasian Jay 1
 Spotted Nutcracker 1
 Daurian Jackdaw 20
 Pine Bunting 3
 Yellow-breasted Bunting 10
 Black-faced Bunting 3

21/6 Saturday and Midsummer day in Sweden

After a thunder-storm during the night we woke up to a clear blue sky. Unfortunately it soon became extremely foggy, so we did no birding except near the camp. In Terelj and Jalman (including one morning at Tuul River) we saw 99 species and so far in Mongolia 216.

Today the third and last part of our trip started: at 11 we left Jalman heading to the north-east corner of the country. This time Tsevenmyadag would be our bird guide. And he proved to be very skilled. Tseven really know eastern Mongolia after several years of working (as an ornithologist) there. After a couple of hours driving he showed us our first White-naped Cranes (SE Bagannur near Kherlen Gool, 47°41'51N 108°27'18E), and we should see more...

We camped at a lake south of Delgerkhaan Uul and could celebrate Midsummer day with home made french fries, hamburger, port wine and of course a lot of nice birds as: Amur Falcon, Yellow-breasted Bunting and an additional pair of White-naped Cranes. From the tent, before we fell a sleep, we heard a Grey Nightjar.

Bird of the day: White-naped Crane

Black-throated Diver 2	Upland Buzzard 1	Gray Nightjar 1
Slavonian Grebe 2	Steppe Eagle 5	Pacific Swift 100
Great-crested Grebe 1	Lesser Kestrel 2 (Terelj)	Mongolian Lark 3
Red-necked Grebe 1	Amure Falcon 7	Citrine Wagtail 1
Black Stork 2	Eurasian Hobby 2	Common Stonechat 3
Whooper Swan 4	Black Grouse 2	Lesser Whitethroat 1
Bar-headed Goose 10	White-naped Crane 4+2	Yellow-breasted Bunting 1
Ruddy Shelduck 20	Demoiselle Crane 10	Red-billed Chough 20
Black-eared Kite 4	Black-tailed Godwit 12	Daurian Jackdaw 70
Cinereous Vulture 6	Hill Pigeon 1	Rook 3

22/6 Sunday

After a cloudy morning, the sky turned back to normal and we enjoyed another sunny day. We drove along Khurkh Gol and Onon Gol (river) all day and did a lot of stops near small wetlands. Many non-breeding cranes summer in this area and we could count 75 White-naped Cranes, but only five breeding pairs. Tseven then showed us seven Hooded Cranes, birds he had seen at the same spot last week.

After 180 km of driving we camped (48°35'08N 110°52'81E) close Onon Gol at a small creek between Onon and Bayan. After a quick bath in the warm but rapid-flowing water we started to bird this *salix*-area. The habitat was very different to what we had been driving through earlier and we could add Azure Tit, Azure-winged Magpie, Long-tailed Rosefinch, and Oriental Turtle Dove to the day-list. One calling Eurasian Nightjar in the evening.

Bird of the day: Hooded Crane.

Black-throated Diver 2	Whooper Swan 20	Eurasian Wigeon 20
Slavonian Grebe 10	Swan Goose 5	Falcated Duck 5
Great-crested Grebe 4	Bar-headed Goose 2	Gadwall 50
Black-necked Grebe 40	Ruddy Shelduck 175	Common Teal 15
Black Stork 1	Common Shelduck 3	Northern Pintail 5

Garganey 8	Demoiselle Crane 200	Yellow Wagtail ssp. <i>macronyx</i> 2
Northern Shoveler 40	Common Crane 20	Citrine Wagtail 15
Spot-billed Duck 3	Hooded Crane 7	Richard's Pipit 1
Common Pochard 90	Baillon's Crake 1	Blyth's Pipit >5
Tufted Duck 45	Common Coot 1	Olive-backed Pipit 3
Velvet Scoter ssp. <i>stejnegeri</i> 1 pair	Black-winged Stilt 2	Brown Shrike 1
Black-eared Kite 5	Black-tailed Goodwit 130	Daurian Redstart 6
White-tailed Eagle 1	Marsh Sandpiper 8	Common Stonechat 14
Eastern Marsh Harrier 10	Common Snipe 2	Pied Wheatear 3
Upland Buzzard 1	Swinhoe's/Pintail Snipe 1	Rufous-tailed Rock Trush 1
Steppe Eagle 5	Asian Dowitcher 25	Lesser Whitethroat 2
Common Kestrel 1	Herring Gull ssp. <i>mongolicus</i> 350+150	Azure Tit 3
Amur Falcon 10	White-winged Black Tern 400	Yellow-breasted Bunting 5
Eurasian Hobby 1	Hill Pigeon 1	Black-faced Bunting 1
Hoopoe 6	Oriental Turtle Dove 6	Common Reed Bunting 1
White-backed Woodpecker 1	Pacific Swift 80	Long-tailed Rosefinch 1
Great Spotted Woodpecker 1	Eurasian Nightjar 1	White-cheeked Starling 20
Eurasian Wryneck 1	Mongolian Lark 40	Azure-winged Magpie 7
White-naped Crane 85	Horned Lark 10	Daurian Jackdaw 100

23/6 Monday

The morning in the *salix*-forest gave the same species as yeasterday plus one singing Pine Bunting. We left quite early and it didn't take long before we were driving in the steppe again. Fewer stops and fewer wetlands today. Still we did some stops at places that, according to Tseveen, were good for Great Bustard. And at one of these places we found two gigantic males. Last year Tseveen had seen many more. We drove several miles along the Wall of Genghis Khan, not as impressive (all that remains is a small rampart) as the Chinese Great Wall. But much more exotic... We camped at a lake north-east of the village Javartkhoshuu (49°09'83N 112°45'17E) in the Bayan Uul area. A rather small lake, but packed with waterfowl e.g 61 Black-necked Grebes. Pallas' Grasshopper Warbler, Common Reed Bunting and Oriental Reed Warbler were singing from the reed-beds.

Bustard of the day: Great Bustard!

Black-necked Grebe 61	Demoiselle Crane 80	Oriental Turtle Dove 1
Javarthhoshuu (J)	Common Crane 15	White-backed Woodpecker 3
Red-necked Grebe 1 pair (J) breeding	Great Bustard 2	Mongolian Lark 20
Black Stork 1	Pied Avocet 7	Sand Martin 20
Swan Goose 3 ad+5 imm (J)	Black-winged Stilt 1	Citrine Wagtail 10
Falcated Duck 2 (J)	Eurasian Curlew 100	Richard's Pipit 40
Black-eared Kite 5	Far Eastern Curlew 1	Blyth's Pipit >1
Eastern Marsh Harrier 7	Black-tailed Godwit 50	Olive-backed Pipit 5
Upland Buzzard 1	Spotted Redshank 1	Common Reed Bunting 20
Lesser Kestrel 2	Marsh Sandpiper 5	Long-tailed Rosefinch 1
Amure Falcon 3	Common Snipe 4	Daurian Jackdaw 15
White-naped Crane 40	White-winged Black Tern 75	Daurian Redstart 4
	Hill Pigeon 50	Common Stonechat 7

Pied Wheatear 1 Isabelline Wheatear common Oriental Reed Warbler 25 (J)	Pallas' Grasshopper Warbler 3 (J) Azure Tit 2 Pine Bunting 1	Yellow-breasted Bunting 6 Black-faced Bunting 1 White-cheeked Starling 5
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24/6 Tuesday

The morning around the lake gave a Purple Heron (quite a rare bird in Mongolia) and Bearded Tit plus the same birds as yeasterday. A lot of waterfowl today. We passed several salt lakes (Tsagaan Nuur = white lake, from the white salt precipates) and different species dominated in each lake. For example the Whooper Swan (500) liked Khorin Tsagaan Nuur (Kho), and 600 Swan Geese enjoyed Khaidhiin Tsagaan Nuur (Kha) together with 1500 Common Goldeneyes and 9 Relict Gulls. We camped at the shore of Galuut Nuur (GN), a lake full of 350 Common Shelducks.

Bird of the day: Relict Gull. Again, this time much more unexpected, though.

Slavonian Grebe 2 Black-necked Grebe 80 Red-necked Grebe 7 Whooper Swan 500 (Kho) Purple Heron 1 Swan Goose 600 (Kha) + 150 Bus Nuur + 50 Common Shelduck 350 Ruddy Shelduck 350 Falcated Duck 7 Common Pochard 3000 Velvet Scoter 20 Common Goldeneye 2000 Smew 23 Spot-billed Duck 3 Black-eared Kite 15 Eastern Marsh Harrier 10	Upland Buzzard 3 Steppe Eagle 1 Amur Falcon 1 Eurasian Hobby 1 White-naped Crane 13 Demoiselle Crane 75 Common Crane 7 Kentish Plover 1 Black-tailed Godwit 200 Spotted Redshank 5 Marsh Sandpiper 60 Common Greenshank 2 Green Sandpiper 6 Mew Gull ssp. <i>kamchachensis</i> 1 2nd cy Relict Gull 9 ad (Kha) Whiskered tern 3 (GN)	White-winged Black Tern 10 Oriental Turtle Dove 2 Mongolian Lark >50 Horned Lark >1 Yellow Wagtail 25 ssp. <i>plexa</i> & ssp. <i>macronyx</i> Citrine Wagtail 40 Richard's Pipit 50 Pallas' Grasshopper Warbler 4 (GN) + 6 Oriental Reed Warbler 25 Dusky Warbler 3 (GN) Yellow-breasted Bunting 8 Common Reed Bunting 10 Mongolian Finch 5 Bearded Tit 2
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25/6 Wednesday

Cloudy day with some rain in the afternoon and evening. One Red-necked Stint at the shore of Galuut Nuur outside our camp in the morning. Later we drove to the E/NE side of the lake, better habitat but still the same birds (i.e. mostly Common Shelducks). Continued to Duruu Nuur (49°39'97N 115°26'58E) and later to the extensive shores of the great lake Khukh Nuur (49°32'72N 115°32'13E). Both the lakes were good, but the latter was something special. Crowded with birds, above all a lot of Swan Geese (1300) and thousands of Great Cormorants (1500 pairs plus all non-breeding). When driving along the shore we flushed one Pallas' Grasshopper Warbler with our car, surely something that is hard to repeat in most places in the world. All the waterfowl (and fishes?) also attracted two Greater Spotted Eagles and two White-tailed Eagles.

During the day we saw thousands of dabbling ducks, with Gadwall as the most common species (Gadwall>Mallard>Shoveler>Garganey>Teal>Wigeon>Pintail). After Khukh Nuur we turned south again heading back against UB.

We had lunch at Ilturuut Mountain which provides views over an large wetland good for non-breeding Siberian Cranes. This proved fruitless though. In this part of Mongolia, with a lot of luck, you can find Siberian Crane, Red-crowned Crane and Baikal Teal. We saw neither, but the north-eastern part is worth to visit just for the extremely good numbers of waterfowl. Maybe most are non-breeding birds spending their summer south of their breeding grounds, some are likely moulting males and some are still maybe on migration. During the afternoon we stopped at several small muddy lakes, which gave good numbers of sandpipers, eg. 400 Marsh Sandpipers and 23 Asian Dowitchers.

Bird of the day: Red-necked Phalarope. The first for the whole Asian trip.

Great Cormorant 1500 pairs	Saker Falcon 1	White-winged Black Tern 4
Swan Goose 1500	Japanese Quail 1	Mongolian Lark 50
Greylag Goose 5	White-naped Crane 1 (GN)	Horned Lark 1
Ruddy Shelduck 150	Demoiselle Crane 15	Citrine Wagtail 20
Common Shelduck 500	Pied Avocet 4	Yellow Wagtail 50
Falcated Duck 25	Spotted Redshank 5	Richard's Pipit common
Common Pochard >1000	Marsh Sandpiper 400	Common Stonechat 2
Smew 25	Wood Sandpiper 20	Pallas' Grasshopper Warbler 5
Common Goldeneye 800	Red-necked Phalarope 1	Oriental Reed Warbler 2
White-tailed Eagle 2	Common Snipe 7	Dusky Warbler 4
Greater Spotted Eagle 2	Asian Dowicher 23	Yellow-breasted Bunting 7
Eastern Marsh Harrier 10	Red-necked Stint 3	White-cheeked Starling 4
Upland Buzzard 5	Long-toed Stint 1	

26/6 Thursday

Today, most of the time was spent in the car driving southward, 8 hours and 280 km, with few birding-stops. Less birds since the habitat mostly was grasslands. We entertained ourselves by counting Mongolian Larks during ten minute periods. Most birds were flushed by the car and the figures ranged from 7 to 32 birds in a area less than 1 km².

The last new species for the trip became the Little Owl we found en route close to some hills.

Later on we passed a corpse of a dead animal which had attracted 20 Cinereous Vultures.

We camped at Ulziit Uul with a nice view over Khulst Nuur (KN), a small lake with quite good numbers of waterfowl.

Bird of the day: Little Owl

Swan Goose 3 pairs + 18 (KN)	Steppe Eagle 2	Hill Pigeon 10
Falcated Duck 5 (KN)	Japanese Quail 3	Little Owl 1
Black-eared Kite 3	White-naped Crane 7 pairs + 2	Isabelline Shrike ssp.
White-tailed Eagle 1 (KN)	Demoiselle Crane 60	isabellinus 1 pair
Cinereous Vulture 20	Common Crane 3	Isabelline Wheatear 25
Upland Buzzard 4	Spotted Redshank 7	Dusky Warbler 2
Eastern Marsh Harrier 4	White-winged Black Tern 70	Oriental Reed Warbler 1 (KN)

Yellow-breasted Bunting 5

27/6 Friday

Birding around the lake in the morning gave us our last Mongolian tick: Black-browed Reed Warbler. Then we "enjoyed" 300 km driving in a fairly birdless landscape. Camped at the same place as we saw our first White-naped Cranes, SE Bagannur near Kherlen Gool. Rain in the evening.

Bird of the day: Mongolian Lark. Common in the grassy landscape, still big and cool.

Black Stork 5	Saker Falcon 1	Richard's Pipit 25
Swan Goose 25	Japanese Quail 2	Blyth's Pipit 4
Falcated Duck 6 (KN)	White-naped Crane 9 pairs	Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush 1
Black-eared Kite 15	Demoiselle Crane 25	(KN)
Eastern Marsh Harrier 6	Common Crane 6	Black-browed Reed Warbler 1
Upland Buzzard 5	White-winged Black Tern 40	(KN)
Steppe Eagle 6	Hill Pigeon 1	Oriental Reed Warbler 1 (KN)
Golden Eagle 1	Eurasian Collared Dove 3	Dusky Warbler 1
Amur Falcon 2	Pacific Swift 150	White-cheeked Starling 3
Eurasian Hobby 1	Citrine Wagtail 10	

28/6 Saturday

Some last birding in the morning. The two White-naped Cranes were still in the area. Then we drove the last 3h to UB. In total we saw 136 species in the NE and 236 in Mongolia.

Surin drove us 1900 km in the NE and 2300 km in Gobi, guess he was quite exhausted when we came back to UB. In NE it became a bit too much driving, especially the last days. We wanted to see too much and when we had to reschedule our flight to Beijing the time became too short. At least a couple of more days in the north-eastern parts of Mongolia had made that part of our trip more enjoyable.

List of bird-species recorded in Mongolia 3-29.6 2003

In the brackets the number of days (of totally 25) the species were recorded.

In total 236 species.

Black-throated Diver (3)

2 Sangiyn Dalai Lake 5.6 & 2 camp site 21-22.6

Horned Grebe (8)

eg. 4 Sangiyn Dalai Lake 5.6; max 3 around Böön Tsagaan Nuur 6-8.6; more common in the NE (north-eastern Mongolia).

Great Crested Grebe (10)

eg. 130 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 7.6

Black-necked Grebe (8)

6 Sangiyn Dalai Lake 5.6; 10 close Böön Tsagaan Nuur 8.6. More common in the NE eg. 40 en route 22.6 & 61 close Javarthhoshuu 23.6

Red-necked Grebe (4)

1 lake south of Delgerkhaan Uul 21.6; 1 pair lake NE of the village Javartkhoshuu & 7 en route 24.6

Great Cormorant (9)

eg. 1500 pairs Khukh Nuur 25.6

Grey Heron (13)

Not seen in the Gobi Desert or in Terelj.

Purple Heron (1)

1 lake NE of the village Javartkhoshuu 24.6

Great Egret (4)

Max 7 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 6-8.6; also seen in Orog Nuur.

Black Stork (5)

1 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 7.6; 2 Kherlen Gool 21.6; 1 en route 22.6; 1 en route 23.6 & 5 Kherlen Gool 27.6

Eurasian Spoonbill (4)

Max 19 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 6-8.6; 8 Orog Nuur 8-9.6

Mute Swan (3)

2 Sangiyn Dalai Lake 5.6; 2 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 6-7.6

Whooper Swan (11)

121 Sangiyn Dalai Lake 5.6; 2 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 6-8.6; 1 Orog Nuur 9.6. More common in the NE, eg. 500 Khorin Tsagaan Nuur 24.6

Tundra Swan (1)

1 Sangiyn Dalai Lake 5.6

Swan Goose (11)

1 Sangiyn Dalai Lake 5.6; max 64 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 6-8.6; 4 Orog Nuur 9.6. More common in the NE, eg. 600 Khorin Tsagaan Nuur 24.6 & 1300 Khukh Nuur 25.6

Greylag Goose (5)

eg. Böön Tsagaan Nuur; 5 Khukh Nuur 25/6

Bar-headed Goose (8)

e.g. 20 en route 4.6; 50 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 6-8.6 & 10 en route 21.6

Ruddy Shelduck (17)

e.g. 100 Böön Tsagaan Nuur area 8.6; 175 22.6; 350 24.6 & 150 25.6

Common Shelduck (11)

As for Ruddy higher numbers in the NE, eg. 350 24.6 & 500 25.6

Eurasian Wigeon (12)

e.g. 26 Sangiyn Dalai Lake 5/6; 20 22.6

Falcated Duck (8)

1 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 7-8.6; 5 22.6. More common in the NE: 2 close Javartkhoshuu 23.6; 7 24.6; 25 25.6 & 6 Khulst Nuur 26-27.6

Gadwall (12)

Very common in some lakes in the NE.

Common Teal (13)

Spot-billed Duck (2)

3 en route 22.6 & 3 en route 24.6

Mallard (13)

Seen around Böön Tsagaan & Orog Nuur and (more commonly) in the NE.

Northern Pintail (8)

Seen around Böön Tsagaan & Orog Nuur and (more commonly) in the NE.

Garganey (11)

Seen around Böön Tsagaan & Orog Nuur and (more commonly) in the NE.

Northern Shovler (11)

Seen around Böön Tsagaan & Orog Nuur and (more commonly) in the NE.

Red-crested Pochard (4)

44 close Böön Tsagaan Nuur 6.6 & 20 Böön Tsagaan Nuur area 7-8.6

Common Pochard (13)

eg. 90 Böön Tsagaan Nuur area 6.6. Common in the NE, eg. 3000 24.6 & 1000 25.6

Ferruginous Duck (3)

Only seen in small lakes close to Böön Tsagaan Nuur: 2 6.6 & 3 7-8.6

Tufted Duck (12)

Seen around Böön Tsagaan & Orog Nuur and (more commonly) in the NE.

Long-tailed Duck (2)

1 Orog Nuur 8-9.6

Velvet Scoter ssp *stejnagri* (3)

5 Sangiyn Dalai Lake 5/6; 1 pair en route 22.6 & 20 en route 24.6

Common Goldeneye (9)

eg. 1500 Khaidhiin Tsagaan Nuur 24.6 & 800 en route 25.6

Smew (3)

1 close Böön Tsagaan Nuur 8.6; 23 Khaidhiin Tsagaan Nuur and other close lakes 24.6 & 25 Khukh Nuur 25.6

Goosander (7)

Seen in small numbers around Böön Tsagaan Nuur, in Terlej and in the NE.

Black-eared Kite (21)

123 birds seen. Most common close UB, eg. 30 4.6.

Pallas's Fish Eagle (3)

Max 7 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 6-8.6

White-tailed Eagle (3)

1 en route 22.6; 2 Khukh Nuur 25.6 & 1 Khulst Nuur 26.6

Lammergeier (5)

1 Ikh Bogd Uul 9.6; 1 en route 10.6 & max 3 Yolyn Am 12-14.6

Himalayan Griffon Vulture (3)

1 Ikh Bogd Uul 9.6 & max 7 Yolyn Am 12-13.6

Cinereous Vulture (11)

About 100 birds seen, e.g. 40 en route 4/6 & 19 en route 10.6 . Only 2 observations in the NE.

Western Marsh Harrier (2)

Max 3 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 7-8.6

Eastern Marsh Harrier (6)

About 47 birds seen in the NE: 10 22.6; 7 23.6; 10 24.6; 10 25.6; 4 26.6 & 6 27.6

Eurasian Sparrowhawk (1)

1 Terlej 18.6

Upland Buzzard (23)

About 67 birds seen: e.g. 7 en route 5.6.

Greater Spotted Eagle (1)

2 Khukh Nuur 25.6

Steppe Eagle (10)

About 30 birds seen: 7 en route 4.6 & 5 en route 21.6. More birds seen in the NE.

The number of eagles and buzzards were less than expected. Maybe they are declining because of strong winters and less rodents.

Golden Eagle ssp. *canadensis* (4)

2 Yolyn Am 12-14.6; 2 en route 20.6 & 1 en route 27.6

Booted Eagle (1)

2 Bulgan 11.6

Lesser Kestrel (4)

4 en route 10.6; 7 en route 15.6; 2 Terelj 21.6 & 2 23.6. Plus many unidentified Lesser/common Kestrels seen from the car.

Common Kestrel (7)

Seen in Gobi, Terelj and in the NE, e.g. 5 en route 4/6

Amur Falcon (8)

eg. Max 6 at camp site 4-5/6; 1 pair Jalman (Terelj) 19.6; 7 S. Delgerkhaan Uul 21.6 & 10 en route. Except at the first camp site, no observations during the Gobi trip.

Eurasian Hobby (8)

8 birds seen. Most in the NE.

Saker Falcon (5)

1 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 8.6; 1 Ikh Bogd Uul 9.6; 1 Yolyn Am 12.6; 1 en route 25.6 & 1 en route 27.6
Only five observations, this species is declining due to heavy export (both illegal and by the government) to the Arab world.

Black Grouse (3)

Max 8 Jalman, Terelj 20-21/6 & 1 S. Delgerkhaan Uul 21/6

Black-billed Capercaillie (1)

1 male Terelj 18.6

Hazel Grouse (1)

2 Terelj 18.6

Altai Snowcock (2)

3 Ikh Bogd Uul 9.6 & 3 Yolyn Am 14.6

Chukar Partridge (2)

2 Ikh Bogd Uul 9.6 & 2 Haalga Nuruu 11.6

Japanese Quail (4)

2 Jalman (Terelj) 20.6; 1 en route 25.6; 3 en route 26.6; 2 calling en route 27.6

White-naped Crane (7)

About 180 birds seen in the NE, eg. 85 en route 22.6. Mostly non-breeding birds.

Demoiselle Crane (17)

In total about 635 birds seen. Most common in the NE (mostly summering birds), eg. 200 en route 22.6

Common Crane (5)

Only seen in the NE, eg. 20 en route 22.6

Hooded Crane (1)

7 Khurkh/Onon Gol 22.6

Baillon's Crake (1)

1 bird seen 22.6

Common Coot (8)

e.g. 33 Sangiyn Dalai Lake 5/6;

Great Bustard (1)

2 en route 23.6

Mcqueen's Bustard (1)

1 Gobi Desert 10.6

Black-winged Stilt (9)

5 close Böön Tsagaan Nuur 7-8/6; 20 Orog Nuur 9.6; seen almost all days in the NE.

Pied Avocet (7)

Max 30 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 6-8/6; 40 Orog Nuur 9.6; only 11 birds seen in the NE

Northern Lapwing (13)

e.g. 40 en route 5/6

Pacific Golden Plover (3)

1 camp site 4/6 & Böön Tsagaan Nuur 6-7/6

Grey Plover (1)

1 close to Böön Tsagaan Nuur 8/6

Little Ringed Plover (12)

Not seen in the Gobi Desert.

Kentish Plover (6)

Böön Tsagaan Nuur; Orog Nuur & 2 observations in the NE

Greater Sand Plover (8)

Only seen during the Gobi trip, e.g. max 20 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 6-8/6

We didn't see any Lesser Sand Plover, which has the Swedish name Mongolian Plover!

Oriental Plover (2)

2 northern border of Gurvan Saykhan NP 11.6 & 3 12.6

Black-tailed Godwit (10)

Most common in the NE, eg. 200 en route 24.6

Eurasian Curlew (3)

1 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 8/6; 100 en route 23.6

Far Eastern Curlew (1)

1 en route 23.6

Spotted Redshank (6)

Most observations from the NE

Common Redshank (13)

Not seen in the Gobi Desert or in Terelj

Marsh Sandpiper (12)

e.g. 7 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 6-8/6; 400 en route 25.6

Common Greenshank (1)

2 en route 24.6

Green Sandpiper (3)

1 Tuul River 17.6; 6 en route 24.6

Wood Sandpiper (8)

Eg. 20 en route 25.6

Common Sandpiper (4)

Terelj & in the NE.

Grey-tailed Tattler (2)

2 8-9/6 Orog Nuur

Common Snipe (7)

2 Orog Nuur 10/6, max of 7 in the north-east 25/6

Asian Dowitcher (3)

13 close Böön Tsagaan Nuur 7/6; 25 Khurkh Gol 22/6 & 23 close Chukh Gol 25/6

Ruddy Turnstone (2)

1 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 7.6 & 1 Orog Nuur 9.6

Little Stint (1)

3 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 7.6

Red-necked Stint (1)

1 Galuut Nuur 25/6 & 2 close Chukh Gol 25/6

Long-toed Stint (1)

1 close Chukh Gol 25/6

Curlew Sandpiper (1)

1 close Böön Tsagaan Nuur 8/6

Broad-billed Sandpiper (1)
2 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 7.6

Mew Gull (1)
1 Khaidhiin Tsagaan Nuur 24/6

Herring Gull (12)
e.g. 400 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 6/6 & 500 Khurkh and Onon Gol 22/6

Pallas's Gull (3)
Max 41 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 6-8/6; 2 Orog Nuur 8/6

Relict Gull (2)
46 close Böön Tsagaan Nuur 8/6 & 9 Khaidhiin Tsagaan Nuur 24/6

Black-headed Gull (7)
En route to Böön Tsagaan Nuur and en route in the NE.

Whiskered Tern (6)
1 en route 4 & 5/6; 2 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 6-8/6; 3 Galuut Nuur 24/6

White-winged Black Tern (11)
In total 1580, e.g. 800 en route 8/6 & 400 en route 22/6

Gull-billed Tern (5)
1 en route 4.6; 2-3 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 6-8.6 & 10 pairs Orog Nuur 9.6

Caspian Tern (3)
70 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 6-8/6

Little Tern (1)
1 close Böön Tsagaan Nuur 8.6

Common Tern (15)
e.g. very common Böön Tsagaan Nuur

Pallas's Sandgrouse (9)
Only seen during the Gobi trip and south of Böön Tsagaan Nuur – Mandalgov *//förstår man?//*. Mostly small groups flying past, max 65 10/6.

Rock Pigeon (11)
Only south of UB.

Hill Pigeon (10)
Mostly single birds in Gobi. Slightly more common in the NE, e.g. 50 en route 23/6

Eurasian Collared Dove (2)
3 Bulgan 11.6 & 3 en route 27.6

Oriental Turtle Dove (3)

6 in the Salix forest close Onon Gol between Onon and Bayan 22/6; 1 en route 23/6; 2 en route 24/6.

Common Cuckoo (15)

Most common in Terelj, e.g. 12 Jalman 20/6, but also seen in Gobi and in the NE.

Oriental Cuckoo (4)

Only seen in Terelj 17-20/6, max 6 18 & 19/6

Eurasian Eagle Owl (1)

1 calling 12 km west of Bayanteeg 5/6

Little Owl (1)

1 en route 26/6

Grey Nightjar (1)

1 singing south of Delgerkhaan Uul 21/6

Eurasian Nightjar (1)

1 singing close Onon Gol between Onon and Bayan 21/6

Pacific Swift (18)

e.g. common around Ulaan Bataar.

Common Swift (11)

Most observations during the Gobi trip.

Common Kingfisher (1)

1 Tuul River 17/6

Hoopoe (13)

Seen during the Gobi trip, in Terelj and in the NE. E.g. 6 en route 22/6

Eurasian Wryneck

e.g. 1 entrance river Terelj 17/6, 7 Jalman (Terelj NP) 19-20/6

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (1)

3 Jalman (Terelj) 20/6

White-backed Woodpecker (4)

1 entrance river Terelj 17/6; 1 Jalman (Terelj NP) 20/6; max 3 in the Salix forest close Onon Gol between Onon and Bayan 22-23/6.

Great Spotted Woodpecker (2)

2 Jalman (Terelj) 20/6; 1 in the Salix forest close Onon Gol between Onon and Bayan 22-23/6.

Three-toed Woodpecker (3)

Max 3 Terelj 17-19/6

Black Woodpecker (3)

2 Terelj 18-19/6; 4 Jalman (Terelj NP) 20/6

Grey-headed Woodpecker (1)
2 Jalman (Terelj NP) 20/6

Mongolian Lark (12)
e.g. 25 en route 5/6; 10 minutes counting en route 26/6 gave 32 birds. Not seen south of the intersection between Böön Tsagaan Nuur and Mandalgov (i.e. not in the Gobi Desert/Semi-desert). More common in the NE (more grassy landscape).

Asian Short-toed Lark (9)
Only seen during the Gobi trip, e.g. 25 en route 4/6.

Crested Lark (1)
2 Orog Nuur 9/6

Eurasian Skylark (9)
Common around Jalman (Terelj NP) and in the NE. Seen in two occasions during the Gobi trip.

Horned Lark (17)
Most common in the Gobi Desert, but also seen most days in the NE.

Sand Martin (10)
Seen during the Gobi trip and in the NE.

Eurasian Crag Martin (5)
Seen around Ikh Bogd Uul and Gurvan Saykhan NP in the Gobi Desert, e.g. 30Yolyn Am 13/6.

Barn Swallow (11)
Most common in the NE.

Northern House Martin (6)
Seen during the Gobi trip and in one occasion in the NE.

Yellow Wagtail (4)
2 ssp. *macronyx* en route 22/6; 25 ssp. *plexa* & ssp. *machex* 24/6; 50 25/6.

Citrine Wagtail (13)
Max 8 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 6-8/6; 8 Orog Nuur 9/6; 1 Jalman (Terelj NP) 19/6; more common in the NE (seen all days) e.g. 40 en route 24/6

Grey Wagtail (3)
Max 4 Terelj 18-20/6

White Wagtail (12)
Most common in the NE (seen all days).

Richard's Pipit (8)
Only 3 birds seen in Gobi. Quite common in the NE.

Blyth's Pipit (15)
Especially common in Yolyn Am, but also seen in Terelj and in the NE.

Olive-backed Pipit (8)

3 Yolyn Am 13-14.6, max 40 Terelj 17-20.6, 8 birds seen in the NE.

Water Pipit ssp. *coutelli* (4)

1 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 7/6; 2 Oliy Davaa (Gobi) 12/6; max 4 Yolyn Am 12-14.6

Brown Shrike (8)

Mostly solitary birds in Gobi, but 10 Ikh Bogd Uul 9.6 and 4 pairs Jalman (Terelj) 20.6. 1 UB 3.6. Only 1 bird seen in the NE.

Isabelline Shrike (5)

15 birds seen in the Gobi Desert either in Saxaul forest or in lower mountains. In NE 1 pair 26.6

Great Grey Shrike (3)

Gobi Desert: 1 8.6; 2 10.6 (Saxaul forest) & 4 11.6 (Saxaul forest).

Alpine Accentor (2)

Max 7 Yolyn Am 13-14.5

Brown Accentor (3)

2 Oliy Davaa 12.6; 7 Yolyn Am 12-14.6

Koslow's Accentor (3)

7 Oliy Davaa 12.6; max 11 Yolyn Am 12-14.6

Siberian Rubythroat (2)

1 Terelj 19.6 & 1 Jalman (Terelj) 20.6

Siberian Blue Robin (2)

1 Terelj 17-19.6

Red-flanked Bluetail (2)

Max 15 singing Terelj 18-19.6

Black Redstart (4)

9 Ikh Bogd Uul (Gobi) 9.6; max 7 Yolyn Am 12-14.6

Common Redstart (2)

Max 3 Terelj 19-20.6

Daurian Redstart (6)

Max 5 Terelj 17-20.6; 6 close Onon Gol between Onon and Bayan 22-23.6

Common Stonechat (8)

5 pairs Jalman (Terelj) 19-20.6. Seen most days in NE, max 14 22.6

Northern Wheatear (18)

Most common around Jalman (Terelj) 19-20.6

Pied Wheatear (10)

Most observations from the Gobi trip, e.g. 25 9.6; 1 Jalman 20.6; 4 birds in the NE.

Desert Wheatear (7)

Only seen in Gobi, common in Saxaul forest.

Isabelline Wheatear (21)

e.g. 50 13.6

Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush (6)

2 6.6; 5 Ikh Bogd Uul 9.6; 1 Yolyn Am 14.6; 1 Jalman 20.6; 1 22.6 & 1 27.6

Eyebrowed Thrush (2)

Max 5 Terlej 17-19.6

Dark-throated Thrush ssp. *ruficollis* (2)

3 Terlej 17.6 & 6 Jalman (Terlej) 20.6

Bearded Tit (2)

6 close Böön Tsagaan Nuur 8.6; 2 E Javartkhoshuu 24.6.

Chinese Bush-warbler (5)

1 Gobi 15.6; max 3 Terlej 17-20.6

Peré-David's Bush-warbler (1)

1 about 100 km south of Mandalgov 14.6

Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler (8)

Migrating birds in Gobi, e.g. 8 close Böön Tsagaan Nuur 8.6. Breeding birds in the NE, e.g. 10 Galuut Nuur 24.6 & 5 Khukh Nuur 25.6

Lanceolated Warbler (4)

2 migrating birds seen in the Gobi Desert. 1 singing bird in Terlej 19-20.6

Black-browed Reed Warbler (1)

1 singing Khulst Nuur 27.6

Oriental Reed Warbler (5)

Only seen in the NE, e.g. 25 singing from a small lake E Javartkhoshuu 23-24.6. We also spotted unidentified Oriental/Great Reed Warblers close Böön Tsagaan Nuur.

Thick-billed Warbler (4)

5 migrating birds in Gobi and 6 breeding birds in Jalman (Terlej) 7.6

Paddyfield Warbler (2)

Max 20 close Böön Tsagaan Nuur 7-8.6

Barred Warbler (4)

Mountains in the Gobi Desert: 12 Haalga Nuruu 11-12.6 & 1 Yolyn Am 12-14.6

Common Whitethroat (2)

1 Yolyn Am 14.6 & 1 Jalman (Terlej) 20.6

Lesser Whitethroat (4) ssp. *Blythi*

1 Tuul River 16.6; 2 Jalman (Terelj) 20.6 & 2 close Delgerkhaan Uul 21-22.6

(Asian) Desert Warbler (2)

Gobi Desert E. Bulgan: 1 10.6 & 4 11.6

Dusky Warbler (10)

11 migrating birds through the Gobi Desert; max 35 singing Jalman (Terelj) 19-20.6 & some additional observations in the NE.

Yellow-browed Warbler (4)

Max 30 singing Terelj 17-20.6

Hume's Leaf Warbler (1)

1 Bulgan 11.6

Palls's Leaf Warbler (9)

31 migrating in the Gobi Desert & max 30 singing Terelj 18-20.6

Arctic Warbler (2)

Max 3 singing Terelj 19.6

Two-barred Greenish Warbler (8)

9 migrating past the Gobi Desert & breeding in Terelj, eg. 13 Jalman 20.6

Red-throated Flycatcher (1)

1 Terelj 19.6

Asian Brown Flycatcher (1)

1 Terelj 19.6

Dark-sided Flycatcher (4)

Migrating birds in Gobi: 1 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 8.6 & 1 Bulgan 11.6 and breeding (?) birds in Terelj: 1 18.6 & 1 20.6

Long-tailed Tit (4)

Max 10 Terelj 17-20.6

White-crowned Penduline Tit (2)

5 Tuul River 3.6 & 4 Tuul River 17.6

Willow Tit (4)

Common Terelj 17-20.6

Siberian Tit (2)

1 Terelj 18-19.6

Coal Tit (4)

Terelj 17-20.6

Great Tit (5)

Tuul River, Terelj and one observation in the NE

Azure Tit (6)

2 Tuul River 3.6 and 1 at the same spot 17.6; 1 Jalman 19-20.6; 3 close Onon Gol between Onon and Bayan 22-23.6

Eurasian Nuthatch (4)

Terelj 17-20.6

Wallcreeper (2)

Max 3 Yolyn Am 13-14.6

Eurasian Tree-creeper (3)

Terelj 17-19.6

Pine Bunting (3)

9 Terelj 18.6; 3 Jalman (Terelj) 20.6 & 1 close Onon Gol between Onon and Bayan 23.6

Godlewski's Bunting (3)

4 9.6 Ikh Bogd Uul; 2 Yolyn Am 13-14.6

Chestnut-eared Bunting (2)

1-2 Yolyn Am 13-14.6

Yellow-breasted Bunting (9)

3 Tuul River 16.6; max 10 Jalman (Terelj) 19-20.6 & seen most days in the NE.

Chestnut Bunting (3)

1 pair Terelj 17-19.6

Black-faced Bunting (5)

1 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 6.6; 1 Tuul River 17.6; 3 Jalman (Terelj) 20.6 & 1 close Onon Gol between Onon and Bayan 22-23.6

Pallas's Reed Bunting (1)

2 Böön Tsagaan Nuur 8.6

Common Reed Bunting (4)

Only seen in the NE, eg 20 23.6

Eurasian Siskin (2)

Max 5 Yolyn Am 13-14.6

Twite (3)

2 Oliyn Davaa 12.6 & max 20 Yolyn Am 12-13.6

Mongolian Finch (12)

During the Gobi trip seen south of Böön Tsagaan Nuur and Mandalgov, eg. 60 en route 8.6. 5 birds seen in the NE 24.6

Long-tailed Rosefinch (3)

2 Tuul River 17.6; 1 close Onon Gol between Onon and Bayan 22-23.6

Common Rosefinch (12)

Seen in Gobi, Terelj and in the NE

Beautiful Rosefinch (1)

2 Yolyn Am 14.6

Red-mantled Rosefinch (1)

1 Yolyn Am 13.6

Great Rosefinch (1)

2 Yolyn Am 14.6

Common Crossbill (2)

5 Terelj 19-20.6

Two-barred Crossbill (2)

1 Terelj 19.6 & 5 Jalman (Terelj) 20.6

Eurasian Bullfinch (2)

Terelj

Hawfinch (2)

2 17.6 & 3 19.6 Terelj

Saxaul Sparrow (2)

1 Gobi 10.6 & 1 Bayanzag 11.6

House Sparrow (8)

Only one observation in the NE

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (17)

Rock Sparrow (4)

1 en route 5 & 6.6; 2 10.6 & 1 12.6

White-winged Snowfinch (4)

7 Ikh Bogd Uul 9.6; max 10 Yolyn Am 12-14.6

Small Snowfinch (3)

eg. 7 en route 5.6 & 8 en route 16.6.

Rose-coloured Starling (2)

1 W. Bayanteeg 6.6 & 30 Orog Nuur 8.6

White-cheeked Starling (7)

15 entrance river Terelj 22.6; 3-4 Jalman (Terelj) 19-20.6; max 20 close Onon Gol between Onon and Bayan 22-23.6; 4 en route 25.6 & 3 en route 27.6

Eurasian Jay (3)
Max 5 Terelj 17-20.6

Azure-winged Magpie (1)
7 close Onon Gol between Onon and Bayan 22.6

Eurasian Magpie (9)
UB; Terelj & in the NE

Henderson's Groundjay (2)
2 14.6 & 4 15.6 at our camp site about 100 km south of Mandalgov.

Spotted Nutcracker (3)
1 Terelj 17-20.6

Red-billed Chough (12)
Seen close UB, eg. 40 16.6 & in Terelj.

Daurian Jackdaw (7)
Max 40 Terelj 17-20.6; also seen in the NE, eg 100 22.6

Rook (2)
Only seen close UB: 50 4.6 & 3 21.6

Eastern Carrion Crow (12)
Terelj, around UB and in the NE.

Common Raven (22)
Not seen around Böön Tsagaan Nuur or Orog Nuur.