

# Wise Birding Holidays

Bird and mammal watching tours



## MONGOLIA: Birds & Mammals Tour

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2018

### 5 Wise Birding Clients

**Leaders:** Chris Townend with Tumen Khumbaa

### HIGHLIGHTS OF TRIP

**Pallas's Cat:** As a group we enjoyed no less than 3 separate encounters! Two during night drives and one watched through a telescope from our camp as it hunted at dusk.

**Oriental Plover:** We were fortunate to find a female and juvenile together on the Bulagtai Steppe before they migrated away from this breeding area.

**Great Knot:** Surprise of the trip was finding a breeding plumaged adult in Steppe pools en route to Dalanzadgad. This was only the 3<sup>rd</sup> record for the country!

**Mongolian Gazelle:** An incredible and very memorable sighting of 700+ animals in the vast Steppe habitat whilst travelling between Dalanzadgad and Ulaanbataar.

**Demoiselle Crane:** Commonly encountered in suitable Steppe habitat in small groups with both adults and some juvenile birds seen.

**Mongolian Ground Jay:** Some great views on three days whilst in the South Gobi region with good views of 5 birds in total.



**Great Knot and Mongolian Ground Jay were just two of the highlights**

## **Tour Summary**

*Mongolia is a country of vast open space and very few people with a population of around 3 million people. Mongolia is fairly straight forward to visit with regular flights from London via Moscow and a flight time of just 6 hours from Moscow. The scenery is varied and mesmerising with vast steppe land, incredible mountains, golden sand dunes, stony desert and lush grassland and lakes. This tour was focused on trying to see Snow Leopard and Pallas's Cat as well as other key mammals, but at the same time the itinerary covered a good variation of habitats to ensure a reasonable number of iconic birds were also seen. Mongolia in July is generally dry and has comfortable temperatures for camping and looking for key mammals. Though not the optimal time of year for birding, it is still possible to see the majority of key specialities.*

***This tour recorded an impressive list of 114 birds and 31 mammals.***

### **Saturday 21 July: ARRIVE ULAANBAATAR - DALANZADGAD**

After a smooth flight to Moscow and a short and painless connecting flight, the group arrived into a very wet Ulaanbaatar airport! Literally, the roads were like a river as we negotiated our way through the edge of UB in our convey of Toyota Land Cruisers.

Once out of UB, the weather improved and we started the long journey south on good roads to the town of Dalanzadgad. A number of stops were made en route where we enjoyed great views of a number of key species including our first elegant Demoiselle Cranes, Upland Buzzard, Steppe Eagle, Cinereous Vulture, the *brandti* race of Steppe Horned Lark and the beautifully plumaged and striking Mongolian Lark. Numerous Brandt's Voles were seen during the journey and a stop before lunch at a roadside pool produced the most unexpected bird of the day, a Great Knot! A superb breeding plumaged moulting adult which turned out to be only the 3rd record for Mongolia. Another highlight during the journey was seeing our first Pallas's Sandgrouse.

After a lunch stop in the town of Mandalgovi we continued south and finally arrived at our hotel in Dalanzadgad. After a shower everyone enjoyed a beer and a good meal followed by some much needed sleep!

### **Sunday 22 July: BULAGTAI STEPPE - BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAINS BASE CAMP**

After a good sleep and breakfast, we headed out to explore the vast open steppe to the north-west of Dalanzadgad. A stop en route produced the hoped for Great Gerbils before we headed off for the key bird of the day, Oriental Plover. We drove slowly through endless steppe scanning regularly for plovers and remaining in radio contact. Horned Larks and *chaleensis* Lesser Short-toed Larks (Asian Short-toed Larks) were the commonest species along with Desert Wheatears. As the search continued a group of five Greater Sandplover were a nice bonus before lunch in a nearby tourist camp.

A final check of the Steppe after lunch finally produced the hoped for Oriental Plover; an adult female and juvenile seen well before they flew off and away into the distance. A nearby pool revealed a superb adult Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. We then returned to Dalanzadgad where we spent some time birding a small wetland area. Here we added a few new species to the trip including Richard's Pipit and White-cheeked Starling as well as three lovely juvenile Greater Sandpipers. It was then time to head off on dirt roads into the Beautiful Mountains where we finally arrived at our Ger Base Camp that was to be our home for the next few nights.

We enjoyed our first meal at base camp, which considering our remoteness and limited facilities, was very tasty. After dinner we headed out for our first spotlighting session. Within a very short time, one of the vehicles hit the jackpot with some close

but brief views of a Pallas's Cat! Unfortunately it did not remain long enough for the second vehicle! As is often the way with spotlighting, it was somewhat quiet after the cat sighting with just two Red Foxes being the only other mammal, so we returned for our first night in the Gers!

### **Monday 23 July: BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAINS BASE CAMP**

After our first night sleeping in the very comfortable Gers we met early and spent some time scanning the mountain peaks behind our base camp before breakfast. Isabelline Wheatears and Brown Accentors were a common sight around the camp along with our first views of Siberian Ibex.

We returned to camp to find a wonderful breakfast had been cooked by Tumen's wife, Oyunna, and it was soon devoured! We then explored some of the more remote valleys and spoke with the local herders about any recent Snow Leopard sightings. The small mammal population in these mountains was very impressive as numerous Pikas and Gerbils scurried around in front of our vehicles. The very localised Alashan Ground Squirrel was seen as well as Small Snowfinches and Mongolian's only true endemic, the Mongolian Accentor also known as Kozlov's Accentor. Though perhaps not a true wow factor bird, it was great to see this charismatic speciality of the mountains nonetheless. The scenery was stunning as we spent the morning surrounded by spectacular scenery, watching some wonderful birds & small mammals.

A post lunch wander near the camp was scuppered due to heavy rain, but by early evening it finally stopped and we spent a long night spotlighting from around 6pm until gone midnight. New mammals included our first Siberian Jerboas and a fine Argali Sheep whilst a fly-by Eurasian Eagle Owl was a good bird to see. However, despite no cats, it was still very exciting knowing that literally anything was possible in this habitat, including the elusive Snow Leopard!

### **Tuesday 24 July: BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAINS BASE CAMP / TEMPORARY CAMP**

After a slightly later breakfast following our late night finish, we headed to a nearby gorge for a walk. Highlights here included Lammergeier, Brown Accentor, Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush and our first views of Beautiful Rosefinch. Mammal highlights included numerous Pikas, Siberian Ibex and Mongolian Silver Vole.

After lunch back at base camp, the weather took a turn for the worse again with heavy rain and even hail! By late afternoon the weather had passed and everyone experienced their first camp showers which was an invigorating experience! During late afternoon we then moved from our Ger base camp to a temporary camp about 45 minutes drive through yet more spectacular scenery! We knew from recently checked trail camera footage and speaking with our local herder contacts that a Snow Leopard was on the prowl in this area. It had recently been hunting young foals and fresh Snow Leopard urine marks known locally as "boomba" were also around the area. This was a word and sight that we became very familiar with over the next few days! So it was here that we spent the next few nights, ensuring that we spent the last and the first hours of daylight scanning the tops of the mountains.

Our small tents were all lined up giving views up to the mountain ridges. We remained silent as we scanned the ridge tops with our scopes, back and forth until dusk. No cats, but a friendly Daurian Pika kept Cheryl company outside her tent and the wonderful view as we clambered into our sleeping bags was simply beautiful.

### **Weds 25 July: BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAINS BASE CAMP / TEMPORARY CAMP**

A quick radio check pre-dawn confirmed that everyone was awake and back on scanning duties from each of their tents. We scanned meticulously from before 5am until around 10am when we finally accepted that our chances of a cat had diminished for the morning. We then travelled back to our Ger base camp where Oyunna had already organised a wonderful brunch for us all!

Feeling refreshed full of porridge and coffee, we then took a walk to the nearby Spring for some general birding where the now familiar Brown Accentors, White-winged Snowfinches, Daurian Shrikes and Isabelline Wheatears went about their business. After a short rest, we returned to our temporary camp, stopping en route in a lush valley where we simply took in the amazing views and watched the constant scurrying of small mammals around us before we returned to our position at our tents in good time to scan for the grey ghost!

Once again, we sat in the tents or on small stools in the porch scanning every rock and every unfamiliar shape, but despite the odd Siberian Ibex, it was cat free until the final 30 minutes of light when a rock moved! Sadly, not a Snow Leopard, but a Pallas's Cat! It was a long way off, but everyone managed scope views as it hunted small mammals on the lower slopes. We then ran nearer to get closer and despite seeing the animal again, the light was fading fast! Regardless of the fading light and distance, it was still great to see this notoriously elusive cat, particularly as not everyone managed to see the one a few days earlier. We then returned to our tents and remained positive for the morning and maybe some more cat action!

### **Thursday 26 July: BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAINS TEMPORARY CAMP / BASE CAMP**

Once again, a quick radio check pre-dawn confirmed that everyone was awake and back on scanning duties from each of their tents. It had been pretty windy in the night and it felt much colder. Once again, we scanned meticulously from before 5am until around 08.30am. Despite our best efforts, still no cats, though a couple of Altai Snowcock gave good scope views for some of the group.

We returned to our Ger Base Camp earlier this morning as people were in need of warmth and breakfast before we headed back out to check another area of mountains. A nice posing adult Golden Eagle and Lammergeier were certainly bird highlights of the morning as our local guide headed off to the mountain slopes to check for any signs of Boomba! We returned to Ger base camp for lunch and some free time to rest and take showers before another late night of spotlighting.

Before dinner some of the group took the short walk to the viewpoint behind the camp and spent some time scanning. Again no cats, but plenty of Siberian Ibex always gave hope that a Snow Leopard could be lurking nearby, ready to pounce! After dinner we spotlighted from 9pm until 1am and it was a busy night with the star of the show being a very obliging Marbled Polecat! Ironic to think that probably more mammal enthusiasts have seen Snow Leopard than Marbled Polecat! Our third Pallas's Cat of the trip was also seen slowly walking along a near ridge in the spotlight and a very brief Wolf was exciting nonetheless!

### **Friday 27 July: BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAINS BASE CAMP - GOBI ERDENE CAMP**

We awoke to lovely calm and sunny conditions and the feeling was that it was time to head to new habitat to search for Snow Leopard which would also allow us time to look for the other speciality birds and mammals that everyone was keen to see. After breakfast, we packed just enough for the next few nights and left the rest of our gear at Base Camp, under the watchful eye of the friendly local herders.

We stopped again at the wetland on the edge of DZ whilst supplies and fuel were gathered for our next adventure. Highlights were at 50+ Little Ringed Plover, a lone Little Stint and a group of 40+ White-cheeked Starlings.

We then travelled west on a tarmac road to Bayandalai where we stopped for lunch before travelling the rest of the journey by dirt roads and across the vast open steppe. It was a long and dusty journey accompanied by the now familiar Horned Larks, Desert Wheatears and Lesser Short-toed Larks (Asian Short-toed Larks). Unfortunately, during the journey the rain started and the wind picked up and it soon became apparent that our plans of a small temporary camp in the Sevrei Mountains was no longer the best option. The Snow Leopard now had many places to drink water and our plan was to monitor a regular drinking place! However, a slight detour allowed our trail camera to be checked and we soon discovered that a Snow Leopard had visited the water hole just a few days ago!

We travelled further than planned and into the Gobi Gurvan Saikhan National Park. The scenery changed quickly to a desert environment as continued our journey towards the impressive Khongor Sand Dunes. En route we found two very welcome Mongolian Ground-Jays and made a stop to see a group of five Mongolian Wild Ass. Though distant at first, a quick route march carefully using some nearby buildings as cover and we were soon treated to excellent views, despite the cold wind! They were impressive animals with elegant tails, stiff dark manes and a lovely tan coloured body.

We arrived at our tourist camp at dusk, complete with cabins and flushing toilets! After a meal in the restaurant, most of the group were keen for some more spotlighting and we spent a very productive couple of hours in the surrounding desert steppe environment. Highlights were many, despite the cold windy conditions and the final tally was 2+ Gobi Jerboa, 4+ Northern Three-toed Jerboa (Hairy-footed Jerboa), 10+ Black-tailed Gazelles, an endearing Long-eared Hedgehog, a Tolai Hare and no less than 6 Desert Hamsters! A great evening considering the less than ideal weather.

### **Saturday 28 July: GOBI ERDENE CAMP - KHONGOR RIVER**

After a great night's sleep and a lovely comfortable bed we met for breakfast. The weather was still very unseasonally cold and wet, but we still headed out to try and find a key bird that was high on everyone's wish list, the very smart Saxaul Sparrow. After a very short drive from the camp we soon all enjoyed great views of both male and female Saxaul Sparrows of at least 4 pairs and a newly fledged juvenile too! The birds were nesting in a stone wall and we watched them busily flying back and forth, still finding food in the wet weather to feed young birds that were mostly still yet to fledge. We then ventured towards the Khongor River where we enjoyed good views of some rather damp looking Desert Wheatears and a Pied Wheatear as well as the odd Richard's Pipit and Daurian Shrike. However, the most interesting bird was a Snipe that we spent some time studying and it appeared to show many features consistent with Pintail Snipe. A nearby Common Snipe gave a good comparison for the species. A couple of Hill Pigeons and a Ruddy Shelduck were also seen.

After lunch, it was still very cold and grey, but it seemed there was a chance that the rain was becoming lighter. We headed out to target some of the key birds of the area and we did pretty well considering the poor weather. The primary target was Asian Desert Warbler which we had some excellent views of as it moved quickly from bush to bush. A Steppe Grey Shrike was a welcome addition to the day list, as were another two Mongolian Ground-Jays, that despite the wind and rain, still managed to cover ground very quickly!

Back at our Tourist Camp we enjoyed an early evening meal and at 5pm the rain finally abated. Just before dusk we took another night drive to the town of Sevrei where we re-fuelled. We travelled across some spectacular desert landscapes and witnessed the most incredible sunset. However, the spotlighting was somewhat disappointing, though maybe not surprising on a cold evening. Highlight species were a Tolai Hare, a single Long-eared Hedgehog and the brief eyeshine of a Corsac Fox.

### **Sunday 29 July: SEVREI DISTRICT CAMP**

This morning the weather had improved and we decided to return to our original plan of camping in the Snow Leopard area. We knew at least two animals had visited the waterhole in recent days after reviewing our trail camera footage. So after breakfast we re-traced our journey and once again we found the Wild Ass, this time just four individuals. A couple more Mongolian Ground-Jays gave another distraction and by mid morning we had arrived back in the mountains where the Snow Leopards had been caught on camera. We enjoyed lunch in the newly organised base camp and our efficient team set up our small tents for the night overlooking the waterhole.

We spent some time searching for Black-tailed Gazelles and were pleased to find ten animals that we watched in the scope for some time. A Steppe Eagle gave excellent views beside our vehicle and then it was time to return to our camp and settle into the newly positioned small tents ready for more scanning!

We took our evening meals into the tents with us and after a radio check we were silent once again and kept watch from our tents. The light was good and we all had views into the narrow gully a few hundred metres away from us where the Leopard had recently visited to drink. Of course, we also kept an eye on the top ridges, knowing that our feline friend could realistically appear from anywhere! As the sun set we scanned even harder and despite no cat, it was an amazing feeling being in amongst the land of the Snow Leopard. All we could do was wait until dawn, to see if we were in luck.

### **Monday 30 July: SEVREI DISTRICT CAMP**

It was the usual drill with a quick radio check pre-dawn confirming that everyone was awake and back on scanning duties. Once again we scanned every rock and boulder from before 5am until around 09.00 when we finally accepted that our chances of a cat had greatly reduced for the morning. The good news was the weather was sunny and calm! A check of the trail camera confirmed that nothing had visited us during the night and we headed to our food tent for some much needed caffeine!

The afternoon was very hot and we took a walk in the nearby valley and found some shade to rest and to scan for any sleeping cats. There were certainly plenty of Snow Leopard signs around with numerous areas of Boomba, so we just needed to keep focused and stick with our plan! During late afternoon, we returned to our tents overlooking the narrow valley and resumed scanning in perfect light until darkness. No sign of any cats, but a Golden Eagle was a pleasant distraction. We then met with our drivers and thought we would try some spotlighting, particularly after having seen so many Boomba signs in the valley during the afternoon.

It was really exciting as we slowly drove through the valley with nobody but us in the valley and a seemingly perfect night, overcast and still. We continued spotlighting until midnight with very little to show for our efforts other than a few Siberian Ibex. So we returned to our tents to sleep and waited until dawn.

### **Tuesday 31 July: SEVREI DISTRICT CAMP - YOL VALLEY**

Once again, the pre-dawn radio checks confirmed everyone was awake and scanning, but the weather had deteriorated. It was raining and though visibility was still ok, it just felt like lady luck was no longer with us! Despite the rain, we continued scanning but at 07.30hrs we called it a day as our local guides and drivers were concerned that the route back to DZ was becoming quite treacherous and we needed to leave soon. After breakfast, with heavy hearts, it was time to leave the land of the Snow Leopards and we headed back towards civilisation.

Our return journey was ok at first, but we were soon distracted by a lake that certainly hadn't been present when we passed the area a few days ago! Tumen's excitement was obvious as he explained that the lake that we could see was called Lake Bayan Tothom, a lake that had been dry for the last 20 years until today! We headed over to investigate and it was quite incredible to see the size of the lake that had literally appeared in just a couple of days with all the rainfall. A scan of the lake produced our first wildfowl for a few days with a small group of Ruddy Shelduck, Tufted Duck and Gadwall, plus five White-winged Terns hawking over the surface. Quite amazing that the birdlife appeared so quickly after the lake was formed.

We continued our journey towards the town of Bayandalai and all of a sudden the terrain was becoming very wet and muddy! Our brilliant team of drivers were unperturbed and it was quite exciting as the real 4x4 driving began! At one point we were driving through a deep muddy river, but we kept on going and our drivers kept their nerve and everyone made it! We soon arrived at Bayandalai once again and everyone had a compulsory ice cream before we ventured towards the Yol Valley.

We took lunch at a tourist camp just outside the valley where a couple of very obliging Red-cheeked Ground Squirrels entertained us before we entered the main valley. The Yol Valley was without doubt, one of the busiest places that we had visited during the whole tour. There were numerous tourists and it felt a little strange after the tranquility of our small base camp. Despite the busy tourist feel to the place we still managed to find a few familiar birds with White-winged Snowfinches, Red-billed Choughs, and Lammergeiers. At least four Mongolian Silver Voles entertained us as they appeared and disappeared inside an Ovoo (sacred rock pile) leaving us to guess where they would appear next! The Beautiful Rosefinches were more tame here and we enjoyed some great views of Himalayan Griffon Vulture and Red-billed Chough before returning to our vehicles. Within an hour we were in DZ and back at the hotel where our adventure had started and everyone was pleased to have a proper bed and shower once more.

### **Wednesday 01 August: DALANZADGAD - ULAANBATAAR**

After a good sleep and breakfast, we ventured into the small park by our hotel where the highlight was a pair of Brown Shrikes were feeding recently fledged juveniles. Today was mostly a travel day and we were all prepared for the long journey having already experienced it on the first day of the tour. We made a few stops en route and it was nice to be travelling on the smooth tarmac roads again! A visit to the pools where the Great Knot had been revealed a nice selection of waders including Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Long-toed Stints, Temminck's Stint, Curlew Sandpipers, Black-tailed Godwit, Spotted Redshanks and a beautiful Pacific Golden Plover. Another nearby pool revealed a spectacle of 150+ Gull-billed Terns, including many juveniles.

The long journey was broken up to the sound of local music playing in our vehicles and hypnotic steppe scenery as we passed Steppe Eagles, Upland Buzzards and Demoiselle Cranes for company. Mammals also played a large part of the journey and we witnessed one of the biggest spectacles of the tour. A huge group of over 700+ Mongolian Gazelles continued as far as the eye could see as they ran as a herd into the vast Steppe! The grand mammal finale was seeing no less than five Corsac Foxes during the final hour of daylight.

We arrived back in Ulaanbaatar during the early evening and checked into our hotel beside the Tuul River. Here we enjoyed a meal and we raised a glass to a great day!

#### **Thursday 02 August: TUUL RIVER - KHUSTAI NP**

Most of the group were up and out early this morning, keen to explore our new surroundings. A pre-breakfast walk revealed some new and exciting birds just around the hotel that included Daurian Jackdaw, the beautiful Azure Tit, White-crowned Penduline Tit and a pair of Amur Falcons. Whilst Cheryl needed a Ground Squirrel fix and was rewarded with views of Long-tailed Ground Squirrel.

After breakfast our drivers arrived fully refreshed and full of smiles and we then travelled for a couple of hours to the west of UB and the famous Khustai National Park. The agricultural fields close to the park entrance allowed more great views of the superb Mongolian Lark. The sky was grey as we dodged some quite heavy rain showers and we arrived in time to check in at the tourist Camp and have lunch, in the hope that the weather would improve.

During the afternoon we enjoyed some great new mammals and birds and all within some very different scenery compared to the last few days, somewhat reminiscent of Dartmoor in places. The first new mammals for the trip were the amusing Siberian Marmots which soon became a common sight as they lumbered around the grassy slopes. However, the National Park is probably best known for its re-introduction program of Przewalski's Horses. This wild horse, also known as Takhi, had completely disappeared from its natural habitat and only a few specimens remained in zoos. A breeding and reintroduction program was initiated in 1992, resulting in a wild and sustainable population inside Khustai NP. Therefore this species was high on our target list and before too long we had located a group of 12 animals including some young foals which we watched in the scope. During the afternoon we birding an area for Daurian Partridge and Tumen came up trumps as he located a bird sat on a boulder that very kindly posed for the whole group. A Meadow Bunting was also seen well and Adrian got lucky with a Steppe Polecat sighting before it vanished down a hole!

We spent the evening in a very scenic area of Steppe habitat in the hope of finding Pallas's Cat. It was a wonderful spot as the light was ever changing against the backdrop of rocky hills. We saw no cats but enjoyed a number of Corsac Fox sightings with no less than 8 animals seen, including three young cubs! We returned to the tourist camp for an evening meal before retiring to our warm Gers for the night where the wood burning stoves had done their job nicely!

#### **Friday 03 August: KHUSTAI NP - TUUL RIVER - GUN GALUUT**

This morning the weather had improved and after breakfast some of the group went on a Ground Squirrel mission with Tumen, in search of the localised Daurian Ground Squirrel whilst others went birding. For the birding group a couple of Common Rosefinch were a new species for the trip and we also enjoyed some nice perched views of the very distinctive rufous breasted *tytleri* race of Barn Swallow and masses of Tree Sparrows as usual. The squirrel mission was a success too, so we headed back towards UB and our hotel by the Tuul River.

Here, we spent some time checking some nearby pools where we saw a good selection of birds new for the trip list. Species included Common Goldeneye and Great Crested Grebe. However it was the Common Terns that were of most interest as we enjoyed great views of the distinctive dark billed *longipennis* race.

After a quick lunch at the hotel, we headed off east for our final excursion to the impressive wetland area of Gun Galuut. It was a lovely sunny afternoon and it was a bit of a whistle stop visit, but it was very well rewarded. One of the highlights was finding a couple of scarce Grey-tailed Tattlers, including one bird that posed in perfect light at the edge of the lake. Other birds on the lake included Whooper Swan, an impressive count of 150+ Goldeneye with many family groups and Pied Avocet. However, we saved the best until last and our primary reason for visiting this wonderful site as we watched two beautiful White-naped Cranes in the early evening sunshines as they regally walked amongst the open damp grassland and we simply took time to enjoy the wonderful sighting.

As always, time was upon us and we needed to drag ourselves away and back towards the busy UB traffic. We broke the journey for a quick look around at the famous and highly impressive Genghis Khan Statue. It was then time to head to an excellent Korean Restaurant to enjoy one final meal together and to reflect on the Mongolian adventure we had experienced over the last two weeks. We raised a glass to the team and voted for the top five highlights of the tour which can be seen below:

- 1st: Marbled Polecat**
- 2nd: Pallas's Cat**
- 3rd: Great Knot**
- 4th: Grey-tailed Tattler**
- 5th: Base Camp in the Beautiful Mountains**

We arrived back at the hotel late with just enough time to organise bags, have a shower and sleep before an early morning alarm call ready for the flight home.

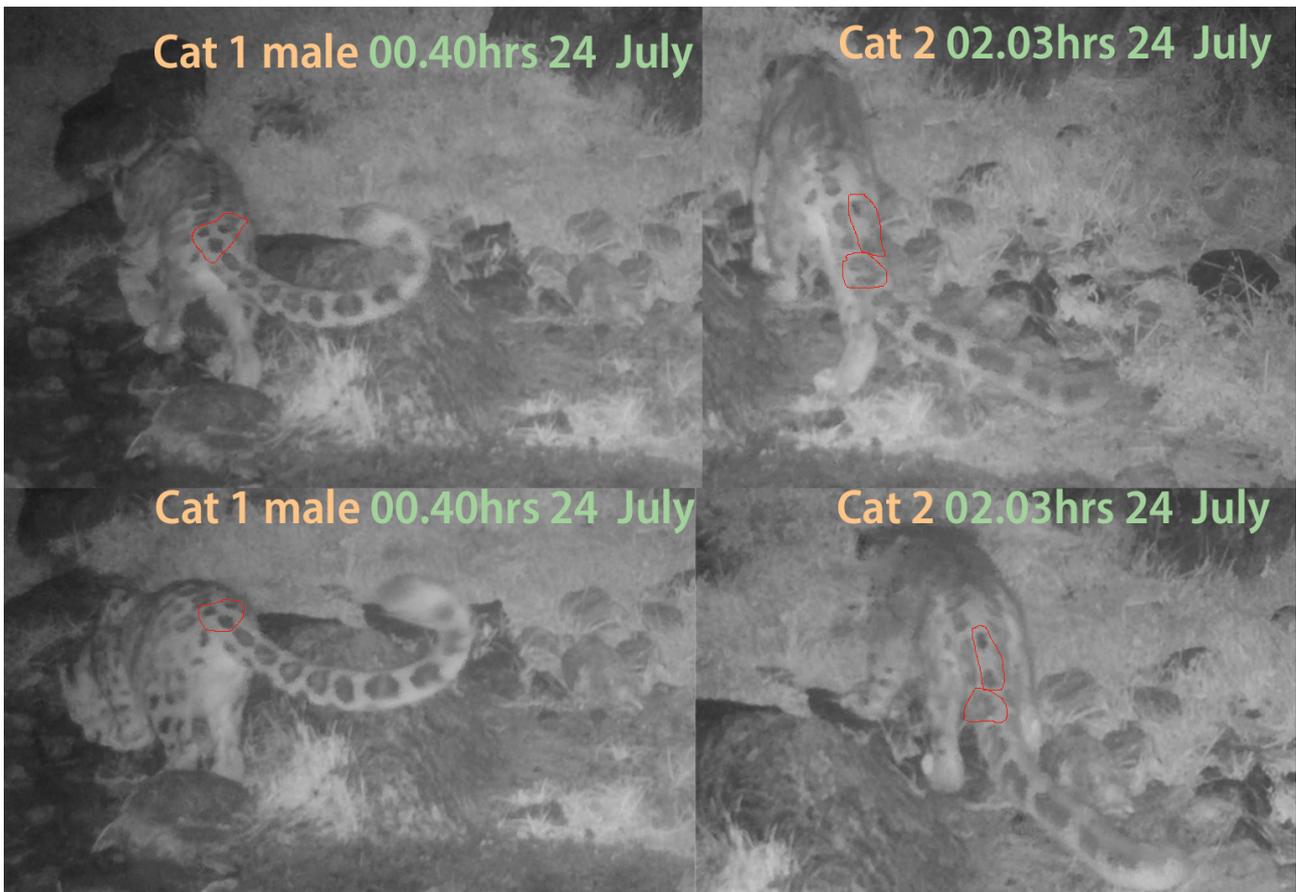
#### **Friday 04 August: DEPARTURE**

An early morning departure and short transfer to the airport concluded the tour.

**Next time.....**

**Snow Leopard caught on trail camera during our tour in the Sevrei District.**





**Conservation Donation** – Following this tour to Mongolia £325 was transferred to the Wise Birding Holiday's central conservation fund.

Once a target amount has been reached this money will be used to support one single project in the hope of achieving more for species conservation. Currently this amounts to over £5,000. Some tours will continue to donate money to help some of the smaller projects that we feel will still benefit from smaller donations. Please visit our [Conservation News](#) & [Latest News](#) links to find out more.



**Long-toed Stint (above) and we found this Great Knot, believed to be only the 3rd record for Mongolia! (below)**





**Grey-tailed Tattler (above) and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (below)**





**Mongolian or Kozlov's Accentor is Mongolia's only true endemic bird (above) and Mongolian Ground Jay is a speciality of the South Gobi region (below)**





**Mongolian Lark (above) and Pacific Swift (below)**





**Our Ger Base Camp in the mountains (above)  
was a good place to see Lammergeier (below)**





Beautiful Rosefinch (above) and Pallas's Sandgrouse (below)





One of the tour highlights was seeing this fabulous Marbled Polecat (above) and at the same location we saw Siberian Jerboa (below)





**Immature Steppe Eagle (above) and male Amur Falcon (below)  
were just two of the many raptors seen on the tour**





**Hustai National Park (above) and The Yol Valley (below)**





**Juvenile Daurian Shrike (above) and Daurian Partridge (below)**





**Azure Tit (above) seen well near the Tuul River  
and Przewalski's Horses in Hustai NP (below)**





**Demoiselle Crane family (above) and the smart Toad-headed Agama (below)**





**One of six Desert Hamsters seen in the South Gobi (above)  
and two of the five Mongolian Wild Ass (below)**



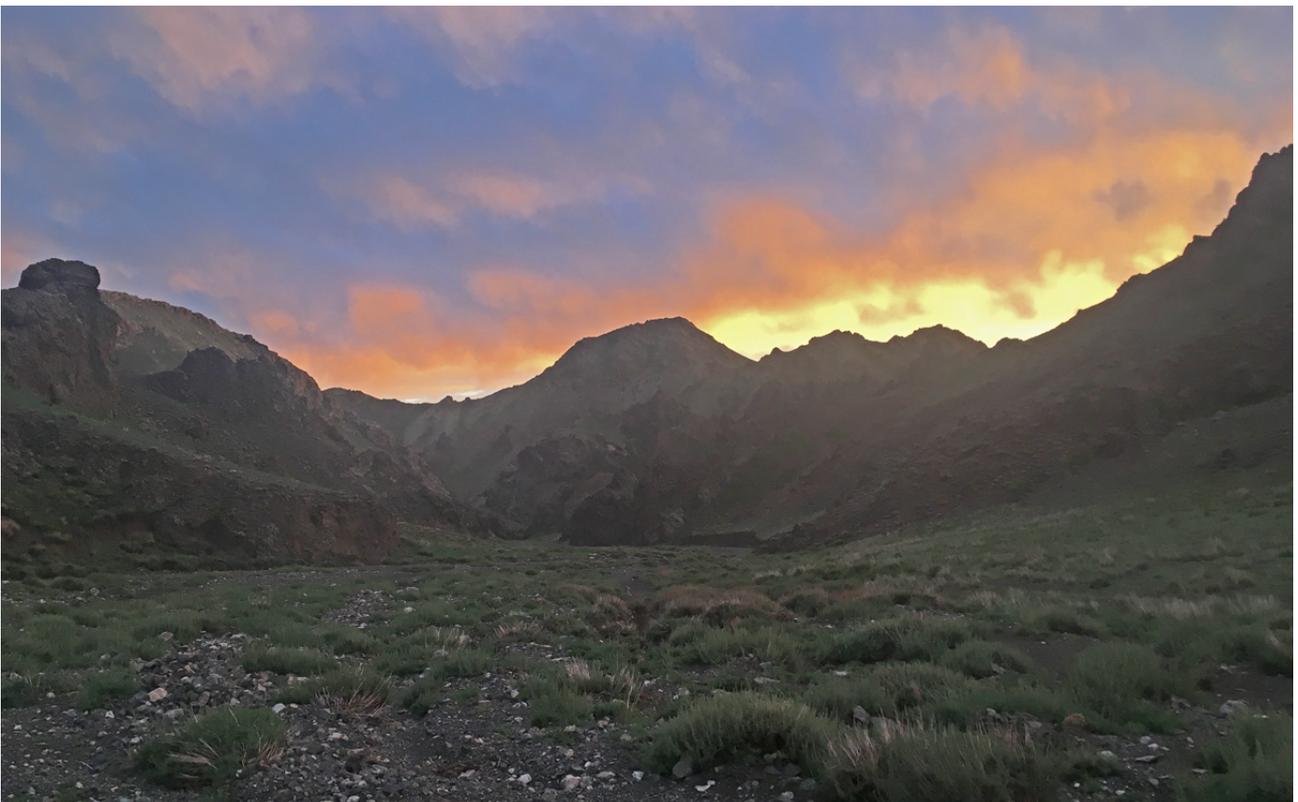


One of our temporary camps set in beautiful Snow Leopard and Pallas's Cat habitat





Just some of the local guides we work with and a beautiful sunset near Sevrei





**Himalayan Griffon Vulture (above)  
and White-winged Snowfinch (below)**





**Male Saxaul Sparrow in the South Gobi Region (above)  
and an Asian Desert Warbler (below)**





**Corsac Fox hunting in the Steppe (above) and  
Red-cheeked Ground Squirrel (below)**





Terns put on a good show with the *longipennis* dark-billed subsp. of Common Tern (above) and Gull-billed Tern (below)





**Siberian Ibex were seen on numerous occasions (above)  
and Great Gerbil was seen near our hotel in Dalanzadgad (below)**





An interesting plumaged Brown-shrike with some *lucionensis* plumage traits (above) and a Pacific Golden Plover (below)





Northern Three-toed or Hairy-footed Jerboa (above) and the localised Alashan Ground Squirrel (below) were both seen well





**Long-tailed Ground Squirrel (above) and  
Brandt's Vole (below) were commonly encountered**





Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue

## Wise Birding Holidays Ltd

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Website: [www.wisebirding.co.uk](http://www.wisebirding.co.uk)

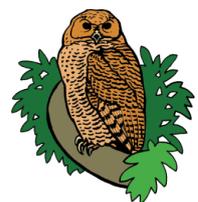
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# Wise Birding Holidays

*Bird and mammal watching tours*



## MONGOLIA: Birds, Mammals & Reptile Checklist for 21st July - 3rd August 2018

#	Common name	Scientific name	Notes
1	Altai Snowcock	<i>Tetraogallus altaicus</i>	Two birds were seen by CT and HB early morning on the 26th whilst scanning for Snow Leopards from our camp, but they scuttled behind boulders before others could see them!
2	Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	Recorded on four days, but heard more than seen.
3	Daurian Partridge	<i>Perdix dauurica</i>	A single bird posed on a rock, allowing close views for everyone in Hustai NP on the 2nd August.
4	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	A group of 6 birds were present at Gun Galuut on our final day.
5	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	A minimum of 150+ at Gun Galuut, including family groups.
6	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Recorded on our first and last days only with a max. count of 50+ at Gun Galuut, including family groups.
7	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	A total of 11 birds on the Tuul River on the 2nd August.
8	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Recorded on seven days with a max. count of 12 birds on the 31st on Lake Bayan Tothom.
9	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Recorded on two days with 100+ at Gun Galuut on the 3rd August.
10	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	A single bird on the 1st August on pools between DZ and UB was the only bird of the trip.
11	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	Recorded on two days on pools near the Mongolia Hotel and at Gun Galuut.
12	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Recorded on pools near the Mongolia Hotel only.
13	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	At least 2 birds recorded on pools between DZ and UB and at least 1 bird at Gun Galuut.
14	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	Recorded on 9 days including birds in the Gobi Region.
15	Hill Pigeon	<i>Columba rupestris</i>	Pure birds were recorded on the 28th July in the Gobi Region and en route to Gun Galuut in association with Feral Pigeons!
16	Eurasian Collared-dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Small numbers recorded on five days.
17	Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrrhaptes paradoxus</i>	Great views of this much sought after species on at least five days with counts of up to 12 birds.
18	White-throated Needletail	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	A total of 2 birds were seen on separate occasions on the 23rd July. On both occasions the birds were flying low along dry river valleys during the morning and late afternoon.
19	Pacific Swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	A common species recorded on 10 days seen very well including birds at the nest.
20	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Odd birds recorded on the 22nd and 23rd July only.
21	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	A singing bird was heard on the 3rd August.
22	White-naped Crane	<i>Antigone vipio</i>	Great to see 2 regal looking adults as they strutted around at Gun Galuut in the late afternoon sunshine on our last day.
23	Demoiselle Crane	<i>Anthropoides virgo</i>	Another wonderful Crane species seen very well, including both adults and juveniles. Recorded on four days with a max. count of 30+ birds on the 2nd August.
24	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Recorded on only two days with 2 birds on the 2nd and 3 birds on the 3rd August
25	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Recorded on the 2nd August only by the Tuul River.
26	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	A group of 10 adults and 2 juveniles on our first day on pools between UB and DZ.
27	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Four birds at Gun Galuut were the only birds recorded.
28	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	A smart adult bird seen on pools between UB and DZ on our first day.
29	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Small numbers recorded on five days at any suitable small pools. An impressive count of 50+ birds on the 27th July.
30	Greater Sandplover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Great views of 5 adults and 3 fresh juveniles on the 22nd July in the Bulagtai Steppe and a wetland on the edge of DZ.

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#	Common name	Scientific name	Notes
31	Oriental Plover	<i>Charadrius veredus</i>	We were lucky to still find an adult female and juvenile on the Bulagtai Steppe breeding site on the 22nd July.
32	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Recorded on two days with 12 birds on the 1st August and a single on the 3rd August.
33	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Flocks of 40+ on the 21st July and 1st August on pools between UN and DZ presumably of the Subsp. <i>melanuroides</i> .
34	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	A single bird on the 1st August on pools between DZ and UB was the only bird of the trip.
35	Great Knot	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	Surprise find of the trip was a breeding plumaged adult beginning to moult on pools between UB and DZ on the 21st July. Only the 3rd record for Mongolia!
36	Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>	A single bird on pools between UB and DZ on the 21st July.
37	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	A cracking adult on a small pool near the Bulagtai Steppe on the 22nd July and 7 adults on pools between DZ and UB on the 1st August.
38	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	A single bird recorded on pools between UB and DZ on the 21st and 3 birds on the 1st August.
39	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	Six birds recorded on pools between UB and DZ on the 21st and a single bird on the 1st August.
40	Long-toed Stint	<i>Calidris subminuta</i>	Great to see small groups of this exciting wader with counts of 3 - 8 birds over three days.
41	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Adult birds recorded on three days with counts of 1 - 2 birds.
42	Pintail Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	A bird on the Khongor River on the 28th July in the South Gobi was watched for some time with Common Snipe and in flight to confirm its identity as a Pintail Snipe.
43	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	At least 1 bird on the Khongor River on the 28th in association with Pintail Snipe.
44	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Small numbers recorded on seven days.
45	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Counts of 1-2 birds recorded on seven days.
46	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	A single bird on the 21st July and lovely feeding flock of 8 birds on the 1st August.
47	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	A single bird was heard at Gun Galuut on our final day.
48	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Single birds on the last two days near the Mongolia Hotel and Gun Galuut were the only records.
49	Grey-tailed Tattler	<i>Tringa brevipes</i>	Two birds at Gun Galuut were a good scarcity to find and gave great views in the late afternoon sunshine on the 3rd August.
50	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Small numbers recorded on four days, including an impressive count of 20+ birds on the 21st July.
51	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Between 1 - 6 birds including some juveniles recorded mostly on roadside pools on five days.
52	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	A small group of gulls at Gun Galuut were seen very briefly whilst travelling and therefore frustratingly were not assigned to subsp. <i>heuglini</i> or <i>barabensis</i> (Steppe Gull).
53	Common Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	A single bird on pools between UB and DZ on the 21st July was followed by a minimum of 150+ birds on the 1st August at a breeding colony with many juveniles.
54	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	Five birds were seen feeding over the newly formed Lake Bayan Tothom on the 31st July.
55	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Recorded on three days with a max. count of 20+ birds near the Tuul River, including the distinctive dark-billed subsp. <i>longipennis</i> .
56	Eurasian Eagle-owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	A single bird whilst spotlighting in the Beautiful Mountains on the 23rd July.
57	Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	A real treat to see birds so regularly and so close to ground level with sightings over nine days.
58	Himalayan Griffon	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	Counts of up to 6+ birds over six days including a number of birds perched whilst scanning for cats!
59	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	Counts of up to 8+ birds over seven days with some excellent views.

## MONGOLIA: Birds, Mammals & Reptile Checklist for 21st July - 3rd August 2018

#	Common name	Scientific name	Notes
60	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	Recorded on at least four days with great views of birds on the ground and in flight.
61	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Single birds recorded on three days.
62	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Small numbers recorded on six days.
63	Upland Buzzard	<i>Buteo hemilasius</i>	One of the commonest raptors with birds recorded on eight days, including a dark morph on the 26th July.
64	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Between 1 - 5 birds recorded on 10 days.
65	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	A common species in varying habitat recorded on ten days.
66	Amur Falcon	<i>Falco amurensis</i>	Great views of a male and female around our hotel by the Tuul River on the 2nd August.
67	Saker Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>	Wonderful views of this exciting falcon and recorded on eight days with 1 -2 birds seen, including at least one juvenile.
68	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	A family party with adults feeding juveniles in a park at DZ on the 1st August. Showing some plumage traits of the rare <i>lucionensis</i> race.
69	Isabelline Shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>	Great to see many times throughout the trip. Recorded on seven days and all of the Daurian subspecies.
70	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	A single on the 28th July and 2 birds on the 29th July. Both of the subsp. <i>pallidirostris</i> also known as Steppe Grey Shrike.
71	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	Small groups recorded on at least six days.
72	Mongolian Ground-jay	<i>Podoces hendersoni</i>	Great views of this much sought after and often tricky to locate species. Recorded on three consecutive days with counts of 2, 2 and 1 all in the South Gobi Region.
73	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Recorded on the final two days of the tour only.
74	Daurian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus dauuricus</i>	Good views of 2 birds near our hotel by the Tuul River on the 2nd August.
75	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	A very common species recorded on 11 days.
76	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	A single bird whilst travelling on the 21st July was the only bird recorded.
77	Azure Tit	<i>Cyanistes cyanus</i>	A couple of family groups amounting to 10 birds gave wonderful views in our hotel garden by the Tuul River on the 2nd August.
78	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Recorded on the 2nd August only around our hotel.
79	White-crowned Penduline-tit	<i>Remiz coronatus</i>	A family party gave great views in the garden of our hotel by the Tuul River on the 2nd August.
80	Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Alaudala rufescens</i>	Small groups were recorded in the Steppe on four days. All of the subsp. <i>cheleensis</i> also known as Asian Short-toed Lark and considered by some to be a separate species.
81	Mongolian Lark	<i>Melanocorypha mongolica</i>	This stunning lark was seen very well on three days with the best views in Hustai NP on the 2nd August.
82	Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	A very common species throughout the tour recorded on 11 days. All of the subsp. <i>brandti</i> also known as Steppe Horned Lark.
83	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	The only bird recorded was on the 27th July at a wetland area on the edge of DZ.
84	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Recorded on the 22nd July and the 27th July when 2 birds showed well near DZ whilst watching Great Gerbils.
85	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	A single bird in a small reedbed at a wetland on the edge of DZ on the 22nd July.
86	Eastern House Martin	<i>Delichon lagopodum</i>	Small numbers of House Martins were recorded on at least 6 days including a number of local breeders at nest sites. These local breeders were presumed to be Eastern House Martin (a distinct species by HBW taxonomy) which differs from the nominate Northern House Martin <i>urbicum</i> in having a more extensive white rump patch and shallower tail fork.
87	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Recorded on four days including the very striking local breeding race <i>tytleri</i> with complete rufous underparts.
88	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	Small numbers recorded mostly in the mountains over nine days.

## MONGOLIA: Birds, Mammals & Reptile Checklist for 21st July - 3rd August 2018

#	Common name	Scientific name	Notes
89	Asian Desert Warbler	<i>Sylvia nana</i>	Excellent views of a single bird in the South Gobi Region on the 28th.
90	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	This distinctive grey-looking Eastern subspecies <i>icterops</i> was seen well on at least two days.
91	White-cheeked Starling	<i>Spodiopsar cineraceus</i>	Recorded on four days, mostly in small flocks with a mx. count of 40+ birds on the 27th July.
92	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Counts of 1 - 3 birds recorded on four days.
93	Rufous-tailed Rock-thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	A juvenile bird showed well whilst exploring a rocky gorge on the 24th July.
94	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Odd birds recorded on six days.
95	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	Much commoner than the above species, particularly common around our camp. Recorded on seven days including family parties.
96	Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>	Another relatively common species in suitable habitat recorded on six days.
97	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>	Many opportunities to see this attractive wheatear with both males and females seen on at least five days, mostly in the more barren rocky areas.
98	Brown Accentor	<i>Prunella fulvescens</i>	The commonest Accentor recorded on at least four days.
99	Mongolian Accentor	<i>Prunella koslowi</i>	Mongolia's only true endemic bird and seen very well on at least two days including, an adult feeding young on the 26th July.
100	Saxaul Sparrow	<i>Passer ammodendri</i>	A south Gobi speciality seen very well at their nesting site on the 28th July with a total of 8 pairs and a recently fledged juvenile.
101	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Small numbers recorded on seven days at the beginning and the end of the tour, mostly around the areas of major habitation.
102	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Great to see this was a very common bird and in large numbers. Seen on eight days with some sizeable groups.
103	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>	Small numbers recorded on six days in suitable rocky habitats.
104	White-winged Snowfinch	<i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>	A very numerous species in the mountainous regions recorded on seven days with some counts in excess of 30+ birds, particularly when travelling.
105	Small Snowfinch	<i>Pyrgilauda davidiana</i>	Less common than its White-winged cousin, recorded on four days including a number of family groups.
106	Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>	Some great views of this relatively common species in suitable habitat, recorded on four days..
107	Blyth's Pipit	<i>Anthus godlewskii</i>	Recorded on four days with the best views in Hustai NP where birds regularly performed song flights.
108	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	A single migrant adult bird was at a wetland on the edge of DZ on the 22nd July.
109	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Recorded on at least six days with two subspecies recorded. These were Chinese or Amur Wagtail ( <i>leucopsis</i> ) and Baikal Wagtail ( <i>baicalensis</i> ).
110	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	Recorded on two days whilst in Hustai NP , including a singing male and at least 3 female / juveniles.
111	Beautiful Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus pulcherrimus</i>	Some great views of this attractive species, recorded on two days in the appropriately named Beautiful Mountains.
112	Mongolian Finch	<i>Bucanetes mongolicus</i>	Recorded on four days, including a post breeding flock of 60+ that were seen very well on the 23rd July.
113	Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>	This striking race was very Linnet-like in appearance and was recorded on six days. Most commonly encountered around our Ger Base Camp.
114	Meadow Bunting	<i>Emberiza cioides</i>	Three juvenile birds were recorded in Hustai NP on the 3rd August.

## MONGOLIA: Birds, Mammals & Reptile Checklist for 21st July - 3rd August 2018

#	Common name	Scientific name	Notes
	<b>MAMMALS</b>		
1	Siberian Marmot	<i>Marmota sibirica</i>	Also known as the Tarbagan Marmot. At least 40+ animals seen during our visit to Hustai NP.
2	Alashan Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus alashanicus</i>	A fairly localised Ground Squirrel in the higher altitude areas recorded on six days.
3	Daurian Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus dauricus</i>	A single animal was seen at Hustai NP on the morning of 3rd August.
4	Red-cheeked Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus erythrogenys</i>	Counts of 1-2 animals recorded over four days in the Steppe habitat.
5	Long-tailed Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus undulatus</i>	This attractive and distinctly orange coloured Ground Squirrel was seen well on the last two days of the tour.
6	Gobi Jerboa	<i>Allactaga bullata</i>	Recorded on two nights whilst spotlighting on the 27th and 28th July.
7	Siberian Jerboa	<i>Allactaga sibirica</i>	Also known as the Five-toed Jerboa this species was recorded on three nights whilst spotlighting with a max. count of 5 animals on the 23rd July.
8	Northern Three-toed Jerboa	<i>Dipus sagitta</i>	Also known as the Hairy-footed Jerboa and recorded on two nights whilst spotlighting on the 27th and 28th July.
9	Mongolian Silver Vole	<i>Alticola semicanus</i>	Seen well on two days and all during the daytime. A count of 3 animals on the 24th July near our base camp and 4 animals on the 31st in the Yol Valley.
10	Brandt's Vole	<i>Lasiopodomys brandtii</i>	Recorded on the journey from UB to DZ on our first day and then again on the last two days with numerous animals on the road near Hustai after rain.
11	Midday Gerbil	<i>Meriones meridianus</i>	Identification confirm by the yellow claws on our first day and possibly again on the 28th July
12	Mongolian Gerbil	<i>Meriones unguiculatus</i>	The dark claws confirmed the identification compared to the very similar Midday Gerbil. Recorded on at least seven days.
13	Great Gerbil	<i>Rhombomys opimus</i>	As the name suggests, this distinctly larger sized Gerbil was seen well near DZ on the 21st and 22nd July with respective counts of 2 and 8 animals.
14	Desert Hamster	<i>Phodopus roborovskii</i>	An impressive count of 6 animals seen very well whilst spotlighting in the South Gobi region near Gobi Erdene Camp on the 27th July.
15	Daurian Pika	<i>Ochotona dauurica</i>	Difficult to confirm due to the similarity of the Pallas's Pika, but animals that were obviously more crepuscular in their habits were seen on 4 days near one of our temporary camps.
16	Pallas's Pika	<i>Ochotona pallasii</i>	Seemingly commoner and more active during the day than Daurian Pika and recorded on seven days.
17	Tolai Hare	<i>Lepus tolai</i>	Some good views during both day and night and recorded on at least four days.
18	Long-eared Hedgehog	<i>Hemiechinus auritus</i>	A very distinctive looking Hedgehog with long ears with singles seen whilst spotlighting in the South Gobi region on the 27th and 28th July.
19	Corsac Fox	<i>Vulpes corsac</i>	First recorded on the 28th briefly during the night but the best views were 5 animals whilst nearing UB on the 1st and up to 8 animals including 3 cubs hunting in Hustai NP during the early evening of the 2nd August.
20	Pallas's Cat	<i>Felis manul</i>	Sightings of 3 different animals on three separate occasions. The first was seen well but briefly by some of the group whilst spotlighting near base camp on the 22nd July. The 2nd animals was watched hunting in the telescope at dusk near our temporary camp on the 25th July. The final sighting was again during the night near base camp and watched walking in the spotlight on the 26th July.
21	Snow Leopard	<i>Uncia uncia</i>	Sadly only recorded on our trail camera during the early hours of the 24th July in the South Gobi region. Two different animals were identified.
22	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Recorded on four nights with counts of 1-2 animals.
23	Eurasian Wolf	<i>Canis lupus lupus</i>	A single animals on the evening of the 26th was seen briefly in the spotlight before it vanished!
24	Steppe Polecat	<i>Vormela eversmanni</i>	Adrian got lucky with an animal during daylight in Hustai NP before it disappeared down a hole!
25	Marbled Polecat	<i>Vormela peregusna</i>	Fabulous views of a single animal on the evening of the 26th July spotlighting on the open Steppe near base camp.
26	Przewalski's Horse	<i>Equus ferus przewalskii</i>	At least 12 animals, including foals, seen very well in the Hustai NP on the 2nd August.
27	Mongolian Wild Ass	<i>Equus hemionus hemionus</i>	Great views of 5 animals on the 27th as we neared our tourist camp in the South Gobi region. Presumably 4 of the same group seen in the same area on the 29th July.

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#	Common name	Scientific name	Notes
28	Goitered Gazelle	<i>Gazella subgutturosa</i>	Also known as the Black-tailed Gazelle and seen on two days with counts of at least 10 animals while travelling on the 27th July and another single group of 10 animals seen well in the telescope near one of our temporary camps near Sevrei on the 29th July.
29	Mongolian Gazelle	<i>Procapra gutturosa</i>	A count of 25 animals seen during the 22nd July, but the most impressive count was of 700+ individuals in a huge herd as far as the eye could see whilst travelling through the Steppe from DZ to UB on the 1st August.
30	Siberian Ibex	<i>Capra sibirica</i>	Some very nice encounters over seven days both during the day and at night with a max. count of 25+ on the 23rd.
31	Argali	<i>Ovis ammon</i>	The only sighting was of a single animal during the night of the 23rd July near base camp.
	<b>REPTILES &amp; AMPHIBIANS</b>		
1	Toad-headed Agama	<i>Phrynocephalus versicolor</i>	Recorded on at least four days in the South Gobi region.
2	Mongolian Racerunner	<i>Eremias argus</i>	Recorded near Lake Bayan Tothom on the 31st July.

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