



Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan
31.May – 25.June 2004

Dear Birdwatcher - Kære ornitolog

Hermed følger en oversigt for iagttagne fugle på Mikstures KAKI 2004 - ornitologiske rejse til Kasakhstan og Kirgisien 31. maj til 25. juni 2004. List of species observed during Mikstures ornithological journey in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan 31. May – 25: June 2004. Majority of the text is written in English – the introduction is written in Danish, too.

Det var en fantastisk rejse, hvor vi gentagne gange jublede over flotte fugle og andre spændende og flotte oplevelser. Der var masser af højdepunkter; nærmest umuligt at nævne samtlige, men artslisten taler vel sit tydelige sprog. Der er altid arter som mangler, men i forhold til øvrige rejser var det småting. Vi fik set de væsentlige arter og vigtigst af alt; deltagerne fik indfriet deres ornitologiske forventninger. Denne sommer fandt iagttog 270 arter d.v.s. 30 mere end sidste år. Tingene kan altid gøres bedre, men ærlig talt, KAKI 2004 kørte på skinner fra vores første møde i lufthavnen til hjemkomsten. Fra deltagerne reaktioner og tilkendegivelser er jeg også efter hjemkomsten blevet bekræftet i den opfattelse. Når en flok ornitologer rejser sammen er det aldrig kedeligt; KAKI 2004 var ingen undtagelse. Utallige er de emner som undervejs blev drøftet og diskuteret; for ikke at sige de jokes som spontant opstod eller smidt på bordet. Det var en flok rejsevante og erfarne ornitologer, hvorfor vi kunne prioritere al tiden til det vi var kommet for, nemlig fuglene.



Miksture gentager KAKI i 2005 og interesserede er velkomne til at kontakte mig for yderligere information, se evt. Mikstures web: www.sitecenter.dk/kirgistan eller www.miksture.dk (fra medio september 04). I det hele taget er alle rejseinteresserede velkomne til at kontakte undertegnede i spørgsmål om fugle og rejser i Centralasien. Jeg vil efter bedste evne assistere og rådgive om både dette og hint.

Tak til vores lokale guider i Kasakhstan: Anatolij Fedorovich og Alexander Kovshav. Tak til Charlotte M. og Ken Schwartzlose fra *Sights of Nature*: www.kikkertpriser.dk for betingelsesløst udlån af teleskoper, stativer og hvad vi ellers havde brug for af optisk udstyr. Ligeledes en stor tak til vores kirgisiske og kasakhstanske venner, som gjorde alt for vores velbefindende og konstant forkælede os. Uden dem ingen KAKI. Hermed mine varmeste hilsener og dybeste respekt for vores kirgisiske samarbejdspartnere; især Roma og Luba samt deltagerne for engagement og dygtighed! Marie-Joëlle Andrée Thérèse Pellegrini, Jesper Brodersen, Mikkel Kure Jakobsen, Alfred Philippe Freddy Jean Marie Leruth, Jørgen Muldtofte, Claus Brostrøm Nielsen, Henning Vikkelsø Rasmussen, Bjørn Svendsen samt undertegnede.

Michael Westerbjerg Andersen
Rungsted Kyst den 31. august 2004

Vi så flere interessante pattedyr; men ingen overgår Jørgen Muldtoftes fantastiske ulve- iagttagelse.

Jørgen har venligst sendt denne beretning: ... *jeg opdagede Ulven den 18. juni kl. 8.50 på ca.100-150 meters afstand medens den sloges med et murmeldyr - svineheldigt for så opdagede den ikke mig; jeg skyndte mig at sætte mig ned, da jeg havde fået kikkert på den og konstateret at det ikke var en ræv som først antaget. Den forsøgte at få adgang til et eller andet bag ved murmeldyret, men denne dækkede for det og ulven opgav. Så lagde den sig først nogle minutter hvor jeg kun kunne se bagkroppen, lidt efter satte den sig op og spejdede rundt - jeg havde på dette tidspunkt fået teleskop på den. Den kiggede en kort stund direkte på mig med sine melankolske ulveøjne, uden tegn på uro. Jeg sad MEGET stille på det tidspunkt, men forventede alligevel at den ville rejse sig og spurte ad h..... til væk. Den kiggede dog videre, hvorefter den rejste sig og listede bort. Det var først hér til sidst at jeg fik den fotograferet. Da den var forsvundet var klokken 9.02. Resten af gruppen kom kørende et kvarter senere, og det lykkedes som bekendt ikke at genfinde den.*

STORT, som Henning gentagne gange udtrykte undervejs. Mari Jo og Fred fra Belgien var ikke-fuglekiggere, men deltog i alle programpunkter og var bestemt ikke afskrækket af prioriteringen. Vi gennemrejste da også en perlerække af smukke landskaber og lokaliteter, så der var hele tiden nyt i horisonten. Der var ingen uheld undervejs, omend vi på tur måtte *bide i måtten* og ufrivilligt studere interiøret på et kirgisisk lokum eller lejre en varmemartret ornitologkrop et svalt og skyggefuldt sted. De 26 dage var ikke en dag for meget og samtlige kunne have fortsat videre til nye fuglemarker – hvem sagde Usbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kina...

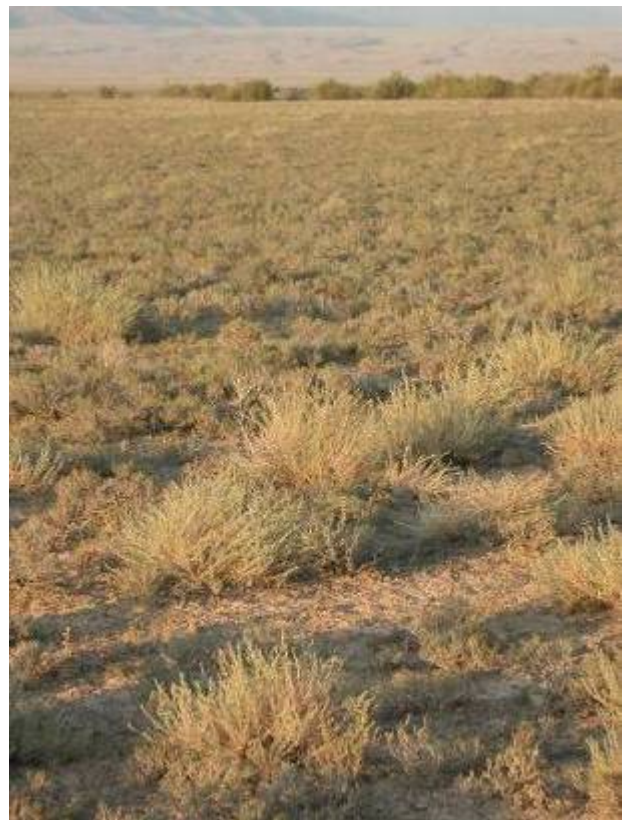
Rejseforholdene i Centralasien er stadig vanskelige; specielt adgangsforholdene og indrejseformaliteterne i Kasakhstan. Det varierer fra år til år, så den rejsende bør være omhyggelig med forberedelserne; ellers er der med næsten 100 % sikkerhed problemer i vente. Perioden var ikke tilfældigt valgt. De fleste ornitologiske rejser til regionen, foregår i maj, hvor et stort antal gennemtrækkende arter træffes og hvor ynglefuglenes sangaktivitet er på det højeste. Men det gælder ikke bjergfuglene. Skal man opleve f.eks. kirgisiens bjergfugle er primo og medio juli langt at foretrække; også fordi adgangsforholdene i bjergene sædvanligvis er mulige.

Vi valgte at fokusere på de spændende centralasiatiske fugle i Kasakhstans og Kirgisiens bjerg-, halvørken- og steppeområder. I forhold til 2003 besøgte vi flere lokaliteter i det sydøstlige af Kasakhstan. Ligeledes tilbragte vi flere dage i Kasakhstan. Vi begyndte i Kirgisien, rejste med den Transsibiriske Jernbane til det centrale Kasakhstan, returnerede til det sydlige Kasakhstan og sluttede med en rundrejse i Kirgisien. Samtlige biotoper er for så vidt repræsenteret i Kirgisien omend steppeområderne er i Kasakhstan



Dag-til dag program

31. May Copenhagen – Bishkek.
1. June Istanbul, Turkey. Afternoon, departure to Kyrgyzstan.
2. June Arrival Bishkek. Birdwatching near Bishkek.
3. June Ala Archa.
4. June Bishkek – Almaty, Kazakhstan.
5. June Almaty – Astana with Trans-Siberian Railway.
6. June Arrival Astana and transfer to Kurgaldzino Nature Reserve.
7. Kurgaldzino Nature Reserve.
8. June Kurgaldzino Nature Reserve.
9. June Kurgaldzino Nature Reserve – Astana.
10. June Arrival Almaty. Night in Almaty.
11. June Sorbulak & Western Taukum.
12. June Western Taukum – drive further SE.
13. June Nurly-area.
14. June Nurly – Bartogoi.
15. June Kara Chungkur.
16. June Karakol - May-Saz.
17. June May Saz.
18. June May Saz – Karakol.
19. June Karakol – Tamga.
20. June Barskaun Gorge.
21. Red Rocks and Salt Lake; Issyk Kul.
22. June Issyk Kul – Son Kul.
23. June Son Kul.
24. June Son Kul – Bishkek.
25. June Kyrgyzstan – Copenhagen via Istanbul.



Dear Birdwatcher

List of species observed during Mikstures ornithological journey in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan 31.May – 25: June 2004. There were 8 participants: Marie-Joëlle Andrée Thérèse Pellegrini, Jesper Brodersen, Mikkel Kure Jakobsen, Alfred Philippe Freddy Jean Marie Leruth, Jørgen Muldtofte, Claus Brostrøm Nielsen, Henning Vikkelsø Rasmussen, Bjørn Svendsen & tourleader (and owner of Miksture Michael Westerbjerg Andersen. They have contributed with comments and additional notes.

Thanks to Charlotte and Ken Schwarzlose from *Sights of Nature*: www.kikkertpriser.dk to provide Miksture with whatever technical equipment we may need; binoculars, telescopes, tripods, etc. They have since I established Miksture borrowed binoculars etc, everytime we had an journey or expedition – and always *unconditional*. Thanks to our local friends and guides in Kazakhstan: Mr Anatolij Fedorovich and Mr. Alexander Kovshav. Of course and immense big applaus and thanks to Luba, who arranged evrything so well for us and our reliable (read: incredible) driver: Roma. Also our kitchen-team: Sergei and Sasha deserve thanks for providing us with loads of excellent food.

KAKI (Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan) 2004 was an incredible journey. We managed to observe an impressing number of birds (and mammals). Both countries are fascinating and unrivalled in beauty. It's impossible to pinpoint all the highlights, but I think the species list tells it own story. It's impossible to see all species in a single travel, but in my mind we managed to see the majority – and most important, the participants most-wanted species. In summer 2003 there were app. 230 species, this summer we managed to watch approx. 270 species. When a group of dedicated birders travel together its never boring. Indeed it wasn't. Numerous issues both ornithological and almost everything else were discussed, Jokes and funny experiences were numerous as well.

Miksture provide information about traveling in the region and specific ornithological information. In June and July 2005 we make more ornithological journeys to Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan – surely there will be a KAKI 2005. Please contact me for further information). Programs can be studied on our web: www.sitecenter.dk/kirgistan or www.miksture.dk (from end of September 2004) or contact Michael. All birders are welcome and on our travels there usually is a mix-ture of nationalities. Language is no problem: English, German and Danish are spoken. It's possible to book Michael as leader or co-leader for your journey in the region. Likewise our facilities and experienced team in Kyrgyzstan will join and arrange everything in superior quality. We use out own vehicles, our own gear – tents, kitchen-team, vehicles, etc. Everything to increase your birding experience and your journeys safety. In addition our prices are reasonable for everyone.

Miksture/Michael Westerbjerg Andersen can be contacted for further information and I welcome any remarks and dialogue:

On behalf of Kyrgyz Travel and Miksture

Michael Westerbjerg Andersen
Rungsted Kyst den 31.august 2004
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Miksture was established with the purpose of encourage and combine Eco-tourism and biological scientific research in Central Asia; mainly Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. The approach of combining Eco-tourism and Nature Conservation is in many ways opposite activities, but in Kyrgyzstan we have done it without severe compromises for the visitors and the environment. Our tours are the result of friendship and *strange* ideas and our carefully planned itineraries and intensive approach have since 1994 given those who travel with us an unusually experience.

Miksture is an independent company, established by Michael Westerbjerg Andersen and operated together with Kyrgyz-Travel. You will always be in contact with Michael when you contact us.

Miksture is strongly committed to bird protection and to conservation in general. We participate and try to raiseunds for conservation projects in Kyrgyzstan and surrounding countries. The potential income from developing special interest tourism can, in the long term, partly or even wholly offset the potential short-term gain from destroying an area. Miksture keep a close watch on environmental issues in Central Asia and do whatever to support local and international conservation initiatives.

All itineraries are accompanied by the staff of Kyrgyz-Travel who posses the knowledge and experience to make the tour wholly successful. They know the areas thoroughly and take pride in showing those who travel the local hotspots, confidently coping with any problems that may arise and so greatly increasing the chance that everything will run smoothly. Leading a tour in Europe or North America is one thing, leading one in Central Asia where logistical problems are a fact of life is quite another! Where practicable and necessary we obtain the assistance of local leaders who have both an intimate ke of their home areas and the ability to look after the group to the required standard.

Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan 2004: Systematic List of the Birds observed during our journey. I have included taxonomical remarks issued by AERC TAC (2003) AERC TAC's Taxonomic Recommendations. Online version: www.aerc.be . I assume most travelers in the region would appreciate some taxonomical hints. Subspecies are mentioned, though not in every occasion detailed. In many occasions it's impossible or difficult to pinpoint the ssp. - marked with a parenthesis e.g. *Podiceps grisegena (holboellii)*. Unrecognized ssp. Is marked with an asterix e.g. *Anas strepera** The AERC TAC recommendation is a useful tool for every taxonomist and certainly a great help for any birder travelling in the region. No doubt – there is several non-described ssp. in the region. Lots to see – lots to do! I have added further info about the birds in Kyrgyzstan due general lack of information about ornithology in this country.

Nedenstående er en gennemgang af iagttagne arter. For en række arters vedkommende er lokaliteten ikke præcist angivet. Samtlige besøgte lokaliteter har stednavne som kan oplyses ved at kontakte mig. Der er arter som ikke tåler præcise angivelser af ynglelokaliteter. Det gælder især rovfuglene, der er genstand for omfattende illegal indsamling af æg og unger.

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GAVIIDAE

***Gavia arctica arctica* - Black-throated Diver - Sortstrubet Lom**

Used to breed in Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan; nowadays rare vagrant. Breeds Eurasia east to Lena River [includes suschkini]. 6/6 1 ad.

Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 2 (1-2 breeding pairs) at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 1 calling in the evening at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan

and 9/6 1 calling (04.00 – 06.45) Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.

***Puffinus yelkouan* - Yelkouan Shearwater**

1/6 several hundreds seen from the ferry crossing Bosphorus from the Galata Bridge; the Golden Horn to Asia part of Istanbul.

PODICIPEDIDAE

***Podiceps auritus* (monotypic) - Horned Grebe - Nordisk Lappedykker**

23/6 7 Son Kul, Kyrgyzstan.

***Podiceps nigricollis nigricollis* - Black-necked Grebe - Sorthalset Lappedykker**
23/6 6 Son Kul, Kyrgyzstan.

***Podiceps cristatus cristatus* - Great Crested Grebe - Toppet Lappedykker**

Breeds countrywide in Kyrgyzstan; winters in good numbers in Issyk Kul. 6/6 2 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, Kazakhstan, 7/6 1 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 10/6 1 Lake Sorbulak and 23/6 11 Son Kul.

***Podiceps grisegena (holboellii)* - Red-necked Grebe - Gråstrubet Lappedykker**

Breeds in Son Kul; winters in Issyk Kul. 6/6 3 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village. Ssp. (1) *grisegena* Europe and north-west Asia [includes *balchaschensis*] (2) *holboellii* Vagrant; south-central and east Siberia to Nearctic [includes *bergmanni*].

PHALACROCORACIDAE

***Phalacrocorax carbo (sinensis)* - Great Cormorant - Skarv**

Breeds in Western Tien Shan; at present, colonies in Chui Valley and in the north of the country near Bishkek. Sometimes winters in small numbers in Issyk Kul. Juveniles considered rather pale (white) compared to European birds, maybe bleaching or so. Juvenile birds looked mostly white on the belly! 1/6 11 Istanbul, 6/6 2 Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 6/6 800 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan; observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 150 Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 10/6 10 Lake Sorbulak and 13/6 3 Querbulag – Nurly. Ssp. (3) *sinensis* Europe (except coasts of Atlantic Ocean) and Asia [includes *subcormoranus*, *hanedae*].

PELECANIDAE

***Pelecanus onocrotalus (monotypic)* - Great White Pelican - Almindelig Pelikan**

10/6 3 Lake Sorbulak, Kazakhstan.

***Pelecanus crispus (monotypic)* - Dalmatian Pelican - Krøltoppet Pelikan**

Rare migrant Breeding in Kazakhstan; they are heading for India to winter. Observed in Bishkek in springtime (e.g. April). Note: Vulnerable qualified by Birdlife International, the largest numbers of the world are found in Kazakhstan. 6/6 2 Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 6/6 2 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village,

7/6 2 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 7/6 80 at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 10 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 10/6 12 Lake Sorbulak.

ARDEIDAE

***Botaurus stellaris stellaris* [includes *orientalis*] - Great Bittern - Rørdrum**

Kyrgyzstan: Resident in the north of the country. 6/6 2 booming Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 7/6 1 booming Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 7/6 3 booming in the evening at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 4 booming at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 1 booming during day-excursion in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 1 booming at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 9/6 2 booming (04.00 – 06.45) Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 9/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik) - Astana, Kazakhstan.

***Ixobrychus minutus minutus* - Little Bittern - Dværghejre**

12/6 1 male Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, Kazakhstan.

***Egretta alba* * - Great White Egret - Sølvhejre**

5/6 2 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 1 Korgaljinski Goszapovednik, drive from Korgaljinski village – Karachar village, 6/6 3 Kurghaldzino

(Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 5 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 7/6 3 at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 1 Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 11/6 1 Konchangel – Djel Turanga Graf and 12/6 6 Djel Turanga Graf, Recorded for southern Kyrgyzstan in 1995 - breeding Issyk Kul; around 1 nests. Former regarded as non-breeding; significant numbers wintered mainly in Chui and Talas Rivers and Issyk Kul.

***Ardea cinerea cinerea* - Grey Heron - Fiskehejre**

1/6 4 – colony in Gülhane Park, Tokapi Sarayi, Istanbul, Turkey, 5/6 10 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 6 Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 6/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 5 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 10/6 1 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, Kazakhstan, 10/6 3 Lake Sorbulak, 11/6 4 Konchangel – Djel Turanga Graf, 12/6 1 Djel Turanga Graf and 23/6 1 Son Kul-area. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds country-wide; winters in small numbers. Ssp. (2) *cinerea* Africa (except Mauritania), Europe, and northern and south-western Asia.

CICONIIDAE

***Ciconia nigra* (monotypic) - Black Stork - Sort Stork**

14/6 1 Barthogai Water reservoir and 15/6 4 Karachar Valley, Kyrgyzstan. Small numbers breed almost country-wide in Kyrgyzstan; regular migrant. CICONIIDAE

PHOENICOPTERIDAE

***Phoenicopterus roseus* (monotypic) - Greater Flamingo - Flamingo**

7/6 3 Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 7/6 27 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 8/6 72 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino

(Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan. In Kyrgyzstan it's a rare visitor in the north of the country. Observed a few times. Kazakhstan: Breeding in several colonies in Kazakhstan. Migrates through southern Kazakhstan and might incidentally visit Issyk Kul.

ANATIDAE

***Cygnus olor* (monotypic) Knopsvane - Mute Swan**

6/6 4 Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 6/6 2 ad. Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 4 ad. Observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 8/6 11 ad. seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds in Son Kul; wintering; especially in Issyk Kul.

***Cygnus Cygnus* * - Whooper Swan - Sangsvane**

6/6 2 ad. Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 8/6 19 ad. seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 22/6 1 ad. lake outside Balykchy, Kyrgyzstan. Non-breeding residents occur in Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan; larger numbers in winter; rarely seen in other parts of the country.

***Anser anser rubrirostris* - Greylag Goose - Grågås**

6/6 2 ad. Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 16 Korgaljinski Goszapovednik, drive from Korgaljinski village – Karachar village, 6/6 2 observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 7/6 5 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 135 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 9/6 25 (04.00 – 06.45) Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds in small numbers around lakes; regular migrant in north of the country; winters sometimes in large numbers in Issyk Kul.

Anser indicus (monotypic) - Bar-headed Goose - Indisk Gås

14/6 1 ad. Barthogai Water Reservoir; actually it had been there for several months and 23/6 2 ad. Son Kul, Kyrgyzstan. Especially the Kyrgyzstan birds were appreciated. Increasingly difficult to observe in the region. Used to breed in two small colonies in Son Kul and Sator Kul, Kyrgyzstan. Status 2004 uncertain.

Tadorna tadorna (monotypic) - Common Shelduck - Gravand

7/6 12 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 225 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 10/6 2 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, Kazakhstan. Miksture recorded first confirmed breeding record in Kyrgyzstan (summer 2003) - no birds seen in 2004.

Tadorna ferruginea (monotypic) - Ruddy Shelduck - Rustand

5/6 8 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 7/6 9 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 10/6 1 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, Kazakhstan, 10/6 2 Lake Sorbulak, 10/6 1 Konchangel incl. artesian well, 12/6 1 Djel Turanga Graf, 14/6 2 tent camp/Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly, 14/6 1 pair with 4 pull. Barthogai Water reservoir, 16/6 2 Karakol – May Saz Pass, 17/6 2 ad. May Saz, 20/6 2 ad. + 4 pull. Tamga, 21/6 30 Salt Lake, Issyk Kul and 23/6 5 Son Kul, Kyrgyzstan.

Anas platyrhynchos * - Mallard - Gråand

5/6 5 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 20 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 7/6 25 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 14/6 8



Barthogai Water Reservoir. Kyrgyzstan: Resident country-wide; in winter in large flocks in open water.

Anas strepera * - Gadwall - Knarand

6/6 3 Korgaljinski Goszapovednik, drive from Korgaljinski village – Karachar village, 6/6 1 female Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 7/6 10 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 1 Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 10/6 4 Lake Sorbulak and 23/6 5 Son Kul. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds in the north of the country and Son Kul; migrant but rare in winter (Issyk Kul).

Anas acuta acuta [includes tzitzihoa] - Northern Pintail - Spidsand

8/6 12 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 23/6 20 Son Kul. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds in the NE of the country and Son Kul; migrant and sometimes winters; very rare in winter Issyk Kul.

Anas clypeata (monotypic) - Northern Shoveler - Skeand -

6/6 4 males observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 7/6 74 observed at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 7/6 2 Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 8 (4 pairs) seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 23/6 60 Son Kul. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds in Son Kul; migrant. Status in winter uncertain; probably rare winterer in Issyk Kul.

Anas crecca * - Green-winged Teal - Krikand

8/6 15 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds in north of the country; migrant and winters in small numbers in Issyk Kul.

Anas querquedula (monotypic) - Garganey - Atlingand

5/6 2 female and male Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 1 male Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 6/6 2 female and male

Kurghaldzino + 1 heard (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 2 males and 1 female seen during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 30 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 9/6 1 heard (04.00 – 06.45) near Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 22/6 2 female and male lake outside Balykchy, Kyrgyzstan. Status in Kyrgyzstan: Breeds in the north of the country; migrant.

***Aythya ferina* (monotypic) - Common Pochard - Taffeland**

6/6 23 Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 6/6 1 male Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 1 female Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 7/6 20 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 350 seen in one lake in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 22/6 1 female lake outside Balykchy, Kyrgyzstan (Breeds in north of country; resident in Issyk Kul). Always winters in good numbers.

***Netta rufina* (monotypic) - Red-crested Pochard - Rødhovedet And**

5/6 22 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 2 Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 6/6 4 males observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 7/6 10 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 10 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 22/6 10 lake outside Balykchy and 23/6 10 Son Kul. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds country-wide in small numbers; resident in Issyk Kul; in winter there are large concentrations. Issyk Kul is one of the most important wintering sites for this species in the region.

***Aythya nyroca* (monotypic) - Ferruginous Duck - Hvidøjet And**

6/6 1 male Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village. Kyrgyzstan: Migrant; possibly breeds in north of the country. A few birds winter in Issyk Kul.

***Aythya fuligula* (monotypic) Tufted Duck - Troldand**

6/6 1 pair Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 8/6 1 male Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 23/6 42 Son Kul, Kyrgyzstan (Breeds in Son Kul; migrant; winters in Issyk Kul).

***Bucephala clangula clangula* - Common Goldeneye - Hvinand**

8/6 6 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan. Kyrgyzstan: winter in Issyk Kul, generally in good numbers

***Mergus merganser merganser* - Goosander - Stor skallesluger**

20/6 10 Barskaun Gorge and high plateau and 21/6 5 (3 females and 2 males) Red Rocks - Salt Lake, Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan (Resident; winters in Issyk Kul and larger rivers).

***Oxyura leucocephala* (monotypic) White-headed Duck - Hvidhovedet And**

Few observations. 6/6 2 males + 1 female and 8/6 3 in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan. The world population is estimated at 8.000 to 12.000 birds. Kazakhstan is the main breeding area in the world. No less than 2200+ birds were present at Kyzylkol lake in south-western Kazakhstan



in autumn 2003 - probably the largest gathering in the world? Endangered.

ACCIPITRIDAE

***Gypaetus barbatus aureus* [includes *hémachalanus*] – Lammergeier - Lammegrib**

3/6 1 adult and 1 juvenile Ala Archa, 16/6 1 juv. May Saz Pass, 16/6 1 ad. May Saz, 17/6 2 ad. May Saz, 18/6 1 ad. May Saz Pass, 20/6 1 ad. Barskaun Gorge and high plateau, 22/6 1 ad. Son Kul-area and 23/6 1 ad. Son Kul. Kyrgyzstan: Resident country-wide Birds belong for some authors to a different race *altaicus* but it's now replaced into *aureus*.

***Gyps himalayensis* * - Himalayan Griffon Vulture - Himalayagrib**

4/6 2 Bishkek – Almaty, 15/6 3 Red Canyon – Karakol, Kyrgyzstan; via Tüp Valley, 16/6 1 Karakol – May Saz Pass, 17/6 1 juv. May Saz, 18/6 1 ad. May Saz Pass, 20/6 2 ad. Barskaun Gorge and high plateau, 22/6 1 Balykchy – Son Kul and 23/6 2 Son Kul-area. Kyrgyzstan: Resident country-wide. Easy to identify, look for pale breast and the strong contrast on the under wing.

***Aegypius monachus* (monotypic) [includes *chincou*, *danieli*] - Eurasian Black Vulture Munkegrib**

15/6 2 Red Canyon – Karakol, Kyrgyzstan; via Tüp Valley, 20/6 2 Barskaun Gorge and high plateau and 23/6 1 Son Kul-area. Kyrgyzstan: Resident country-wide. Listed as near threatened by Birdlife International.

***Haliaeetus albicilla* (monotypic) [includes *groenlandicus*] – White-tailed Eagle - Havørn**

10/6 1 ad. Lake Sorbulak, Kazakhstan. Listed as near threatened by Birdlife International.

***Aquila chrysaetos* (*chrysaetos*) - Golden Eagle - Kongeørn**

3/6 1 adult Ala Archa, 11/6 1 ad. And 1 juv. Konchangel, 12/6 1 ad. Camp Querbulag at River Ili, 14/6 2 ad. Kökpek Pass, 15/6 1 ad. Red Canyon, 16/6 1 ad. + 1 juv. Karakol – May Saz Pass, 16/6 1 ad. May Saz and 17/6 1 ad. May Saz.

***Aquila heliaca* (monotypic) [includes *ricketti*] - Imperial Eagle – Kejserørn**

13/6 1 wetlands near Nurly. Kyrgyzstan: Used

to breed in the north of the country and Ferghana. Breeding nowadays doubtful. In Kazakhstan vulnerable notified by Birdlife International. Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* is treated as two species: Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* (monotypic) and Spanish Imperial Eagle *Aquila adalberti* (monotypic).

***Aquila nipalensis* (*orientalis*) - Steppe Eagle - Steppeørn**

9/6 1 seen from the train between Astana – Almaty, Kazakhstan. Kyrgyzstan: Regularly in low numbers country-wide. Steppe Eagle *Aquila rapax* is treated as two species (accepted by the AERC TAC in Sangster et al. 2002a): 1. Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* (polytypic: *A. r. belisarius*; extralimital: *A. r. vindhiana* and *rapax*) Occurs mainly in North and Tropical Africa, the Indian peninsula and in parts of Arabia. 2. Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis* (polytypic: *A. n. nipalensis* and *orientalis*). Occurs in Central Asia and large areas beyond.

***Aquila sp. A.nipalensis* (*orientalis*) or *A. heliaca* – Steppe-/ Imperial Eagle - Steppeørn/ Kejserørn**

5-6/6 5 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 9/6 3 seen from the train betw. Astana – Almaty, Kazakhstan and 15/6 1 Chelek – Red Canyon.

***Circaetus gallicus* [includes *heptneri*] - Short-toed Eagle - Slangeørn**

21/6 1 Red Rocks, Kyrgyzstan: Usually occurs in lower & western parts of the country in broadleaf forested and open areas. Our record is unusual.

***Hieraaetus pennatus* (monotypic) [includes *harterti*, *milvodes*] - Booted Eagle - Dværørn**

11/6 1 pale-phase Djel Turanga Graf, Kazakhstan and 15/6 1 pale-phase Tüp Valley.

***Milvus migrans* – Black Kite - Sort Glente or *Milvus lineatus* – Black-eared Kite**

4/6 1 Bishkek – Almaty, 5/6 2 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 10/6 20 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, Kazakhstan, 10/6 2 Lake Sorbulak – Konchangel incl. artesian wells along the road, 11/6 2 Konchangel, 12/6 3 Djel Turanga Graf, 13/6 5 Querbulag – Nurly, 13/6 2 wetlands near Nurly, 15/6 1 Red Canyon, 15/6 2 Red

Canyon – Karakol, Kyrgyzstan; via Tüp Valley, 19/6 1 valley East of Karakol - Tamga, 20/6 1 Barskaun Gorge and high plateau, 20/6 1 Barskaun Gorge – Tamga and 23/6 1 Son Kul-area. Kyrgyzstan: Common. Breeds in the north of the country; migrant in big numbers. Both in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan all belong to Black-eared Kite *M.m.lineatus*. Birds are distinctive due to their characteristic primary pattern, colour of the under body and the dark eye-mask. In general they looked larger than European Black Kite *Milvus migrans*. *Ssp lineatus* occur in Asia east from west Siberia, vagrant WP [includes *formosanus*, *tianshanicus*]. Species status uncertain, though most authors split it in two species. Black Kite *Milvus migrans* now regarded more as a European/South Asian species. In Central Asia further northwards it is referred to as the Black-eared Kite *Milvus lineatus*.

Circus aeruginosus (aeruginosus*) Western Marsh Harrier - Rørhøg

6/6 3 Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 6/6 1 ad. female Korgaljinski Goszapovednik, drive from Korgaljinski village – Karachar village, 6/6 8 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 8 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 6 (3 ad. females, 1 juv. male and 2 ad. males) seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 13/6 1 male wetlands near Nurly and 23/6 1 ad. male Son Kul-area.

Circus cyaneus (cyaneus) - Hen Harrier - Blå Kærhøg

18/6 2 (female and male; breeding birds?) May Saz Pass - Karakol, Kyrgyzstan. This is an interesting record. Often observed in breeding season. Breeding never recorded in Kyrgyzstan;



winters in most parts of the country.

Circus pygargus (monotypic) - Montagu's Harrier - Hedehøg

2/6 1 ad. male Oto-Say, Bishkek, 4/6 1 ad. male Bishkek – Almaty, 7/6 1 ad. male Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 2 ad. males seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 9/6 1 ad. male Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik) - Astana, Kazakhstan, 10/6 1 ad. male Konchangel incl. artesian well, 12/6 1 ad. male Camp Querbulag at River Illi and 13/6 1 ad. male wetlands near Nurly. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds in open areas almost country-wide.

Circus macrourus (monotypic) - Pallid Harrier - Steppehøg

5/6 1 adult male Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 7/6 1 ad. female and 1 ad. male observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 1 ad. male Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 1 ad. male Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 9/6 1 ad. male Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik) - Astana, Kazakhstan, 9/6 1 seen from the train betw. Astana – Almaty, Kazakhstan and 10/6 1 ad. male Konchangel incl. artesian well. Kyrgyzstan: Uncommon. Breeds in the North of the country in open low areas. Listed as near-threatened by Birdlife International.

Buteo rufinus rufinus - Long-legged Buzzard - Ørnevåge

2/6 1 Oto-Say, Bishkek, 4/6 1 Bishkek – Almaty, 5/6 21 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 7/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 9/6 1 seen from the train betw. Astana – Almaty, Kazakhstan, 10/6 1 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, Kazakhstan, 10/6 2 Lake Sorbulak – Konchangel incl. artesian wells along the road, 13/6 1 Querbulag – Nurly, 21/6 2 Red Rocks and 21/6 1 Salt Lake, Issyk Kul. Kyrgyzstan: Common resident.

Buteo buteo vulpinus Eurasian Buzzard - Musvåge (ssp Steppevåge)

6/6 4 Korgaljinski Goszapovednik, drive from

Korgaljinski village – Karachar village, 7/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 9/6 1 seen from the train betw. Astana – Almaty, Kazakhstan, 13/6 1 Querbulag – Nurly and 18/6 2 May Saz Pass – Karakol. Kyrgyzstan: Resident country-wide; migrant in large numbers. Note local ssp. Steppe Buzzard *Buteo Buteo vulpinus* – breeding range from Finland to Altai mountains in southern Siberia. Other subspecies: Eurasian Buzzard *Buteo buteo* and eastern *B. b. japonicus* may occur migrating in September and October, the latter in low numbers; sporadic. I have observed Upland Buzzard *Buteo hemilasius* in eastern Kyrgyzstan in some years – even at summertime, which is interesting from the point of view concerning possible breeding birds. Upland Buzzard breeds central Asian highlands from east Tien Shan and Altai east to western Manchuria and south to southern Tibet, and perhaps Himalayas. In winter, also northern and central China, northern India and Russian Turkestan (Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and probably western central Asian as well, *pers. com.* MWA): Cramp, S and Simmons, K E L (eds.) (1980) *The Birds of the Western Palaearctic*, Vol. 2.

***Pernis ptilorhyncus (orientalis)* [includes *japonicus, neglectus*] - Crested Honey Buzzard**

13/6 2 wetlands near Nurly, Kazakhstan. Kyrgyzstan: Status uncertain. Probably more common than stated, especially in the northern part of Kyrgyzstan. Further information needed. In Kazakhstan: Migrant; fairly common during autumn migration at Chokpak. The northern subspecies of Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus orientalis* breeds in central Siberia from the Ob River to Japan and winters in India and Southeast Asia. Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* occur in migration and is more common than Crested Honey Buzzard. In the field notice following identification marks between the two species: Crested Honey Buzzard is visible larger than Honey Buzzard, have longer tail, broader wings and heavy eagle-like flight; slow, heavy and deep wing strokes. Honey Buzzard has dark carpal patches; Crested Honey Buzzard has no such. Honey Buzzard has typical six countable *fingers*; Honey Buzzard typically only five. Adult Crested Honey Buzzard had

broad tail band and pale throat with contrasting surrounding dark collar. The barring of the remiges differs between the species, in Crested Honey Buzzard the central dark bar reaches the body, not being covered by the greater coverts as in Honey Buzzard. The wing barring of females is less distinct than in the males of both species. The female Crested Honey Buzzard shows a dark trailing edge and three narrower bars to the wing. The female Honey Buzzard shows only two, and the distance between the trailing edge and the first bar is wider. The female Crested Honey Buzzard shows a narrower sub-terminal band to the trail than does the male. Juvenile Crested Honey Buzzard are narrower-winged than adults. Still the difference in size and jizz between the two species is obvious. Again the difference in finger-numbers is a good identification mark. The contrast in the wing – dark fingers, pale primary patch and dark arm – is typical of juveniles in both species, Pauli Dernjatin and Martti Vattulainen, *Alula* 2-2004 p. 48.

***Accipiter nisus (nisosimilis)* - Eurasian Sparrowhawk - Spurvehøg**

3/6 1 Ala Archa, 19/6 1 valley East of Karakol. Kyrgyzstan: Resident country-wide. Ssp. *Nisus*: Europe, West Siberia, and the Middle East [includes *hibernicus, optimi, peregrinoides, and salamancae*] or ssp. *nisosimilis*: central and eastern Siberia, migrant WP [includes *pallens*].

***Accipiter badius cenchroides* [includes *chorassanicus*] - Shikra - Shikra**

11/6 1 Konchangel – Djel Turanga Graf, 11/6 1 breeding pair Djel Turanga Graf and 12/6 1 male Djel Turanga Graf. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds in the north of the country and Fergana; migrant. Paler above compared Sparrowhawks.

FALCONIDAE

***Falco tinnunculus* - Common Kestrel - Tårnfalk**

3/6 2 adult Ala Archa, 4/6 1 Bishkek – Almaty, 5/6 30 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 3 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 3 Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 6/6 1 Korgaljinski Goszapovednik, drive from Korgaljinski village – Karachar village, 6/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik),

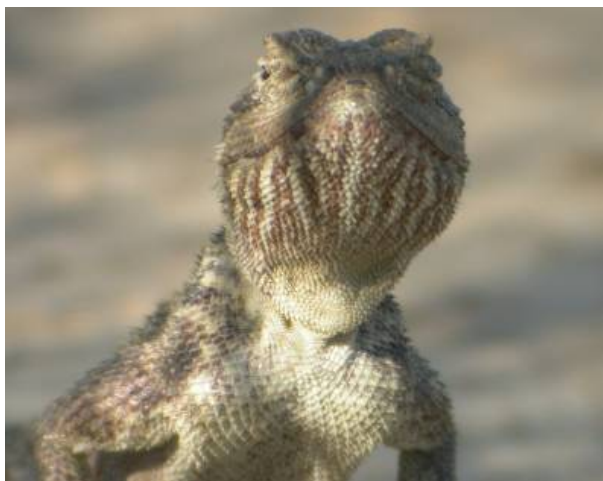
Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 9/6 15 seen from the train betw. Astana – Almaty, Kazakhstan, 10/6 1 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, Kazakhstan, 10/6 2 Lake Sorbulak, 10/6 1 Lake Sorbulak – Konchangel incl. artesian wells along the road, 11/6 1 Djel Turanga Graf, 12/6 2 Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Illi, 13/6 15 Querbulag – Nurly, 14/6 1 tent camp/Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly, 15/6 1 ad. Mael Red Canyon, 16/6 1 Karakol – May Saz Pass, 16/6 2 May Saz, 17/6 1 ad. male May Saz, 18/6 1 May Saz Pass - Karakol, 19/6 2 valley East of Karakol, 19/6 1 valley East of Karakol - Tamga, 21/6 1 Salt Lake, Issyk Kul, 22/6 1 male morningobs at Tamga and 23/6 2 Son Kul. Kyrgyzstan: Resident country-wide; also migrant. Nominate *tinnunculus* North-west Africa and Europe east to central Asia [includes *doerriesi*, *perpallida*, *stegmanni*, *ultratinunculus*].

***Falco naumanni* (monotypic) [includes *pekinensis*, *sarmaticus*] - Lesser Kestrel - Lille Tårnfalk**

All observations are from Kazakhstan. 12/6 1 Camp Querbulag at River Illi, 13/6 4 Querbulag at River Illi and 14/6 3 ad. Kökpek Pass. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds country-wide in small colonies in open mountainous areas except at high altitude. Note: Vulnerable qualified by Birdlife International.

***Falco vespertinus* (monotypic) - Red-footed Falcon - Aftenfalk**

5/6 2 males Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 6 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 15 Astana –



Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan and 9/6 10 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik) - Astana, Kazakhstan.

***Falco subbuteo subbuteo* [includes *centralasiae*, *jakutensis*, *jugurtha*, *ussuriensis*] – Eurasian Hobby - Lærkefalk**

3/6 1 Ala Archa, 4/6 1 Bishkek, 5/6 1 Almaty, 5/6 8 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 11/6 2 Djel Turanga Graf, 12/6 2 Djel Turanga Graf, 13/6 2 Querbulag – Nurly, 14/6 1 tent camp/Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly, 18/6 1 May Saz Pass - Karakol, 20/6 1 Tamga, 20/6 1 Barskaun Gorge – Tamga and 21/6 1 Red Rocks. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds country-wide.

***Falco peregrinus* * – Peregrine - Vandrefalk**

2/6 1 Oto-Say, Bishkek.

***Falco columbarius* (*pallidus*) – Merlin - Dværgfalk**

2/6 1 Oto-Say, Bishkek, 6/6 1 ad. female Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 6/6 1 male Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 1 pair and 1 female observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 11/6 1 male Djel Turanga Graf, 16/6 1 May Saz, 17/6 1 female May Saz and 22/6 2 males Son Kul. Kyrgyzstan: Resident country-wide. Ssp. (2) *aesalon* Europe and western Asia [includes *regulus*, *alaunicus*], (3) *pallidus* Transcaspia and south-west Siberia, migrant south-east WP [includes *christianiludovici*], (4) *insignis* East Asia, vagrant south-east WP.

***Falco cherrug* * - Saker - Slagfalk**

9/6 1 seen from the train betw. Astana – Almaty, Kazakhstan. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds in small numbers country-wide. Its protection is hardly respected or enforced. Both the form (1) *cherrug* East-central and south-east Europe east to steppes of central Asia [includes *aralocaspius*, *cyanopus*, *danubialis*, *gurneyi*] and (2) *milvipes* Turkmenistan east to the mountains of central Asia, and apparently Iran and Asia Minor [includes *altaicus*, *coatsi*, *hendersoni*,

lorenzi, progressus, saceroides].

***Tetrgogallus hirnalayensis* * - Himalayan Snowcock - Himalaya Kongehøne**

3/6 1 Ala Archa, 16/6 2 calling May Saz Pass, 16/6 1 May Saz, 17/6 3 May Saz, 18/6 1 May Saz, 18/6 4 May Saz – May Saz Pass and 18/6 1 May Saz Pass. Kyrgyzstan: Resident country-wide in mountainous areas.

***Alectoris chukar* * - Chuckar - Chukarhøne**

2/6 8 Oto-Say, Bishkek, 14/6 12 K kpek Pass, 15/6 3 Red Canyon, 18/6 5 May Saz – May Saz Pass and 21/6 4 Salt Lake, Issyk Kul. Kyrgyzstan: Resident country-wide up to alpine zone in the mountains.

***Perdix perdix (robusta)* - Grey Partridge - Agerh ne**

7/6 2 together Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 8/6 2 calling at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan. The *robusta* race looks a bit more greyish than the birds we normally see in Denmark. (7) *robusta* Lower Ural River and southern Urals east through Kazakhstan and south-west Siberia to south-central Siberia and Tuva [includes *arenicola*, *buturlini*].

***Coturnix coturnix* [includes *confisa*, *corsicana*, *orientalis*] - Common Quail - Vagtel**

2/6 1 calling Oto-Say, Bishkek, 6/6 1 calling Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 1 calling Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 7/6 2 calling at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 2 calling at Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 12/6 1 calling Camp Querbulag at River Illi, 15/6 1 Red Canyon – Karakol, Kyrgyzstan; via T p Valley, 19/6 1 valley East of Karakol - Tamga, 20/6 1 calling Tamga, 20/6 1 Barskaun Gorge – Tamga, 20/6 1 (1730 – 2000) Tamga and 22/6 1 lake outside Balykchy. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds in fields and steppes throughout the country; migrant.

RALLIDAE

***Crex crex* (monotypic) – Corn Crake - Engsnarre**

15/6 3 heard Red Canyon – Karakol, Kyrgyzstan; via T p Valley, 20/6 4 calling (1730 – 2000) Tamga and 20/6 1 Barskaun Gorge – Tamga.

***Phasianus colchicus* * - Common Pheasant - Fasan**

5/6 2 males Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 12/6 1 male Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Illi, 19/6 1 male valley East of Karakol - Tamga, 20/6 1 male (1730 – 2000) Tamga, 20/6 1 Barskaun Gorge – Tamga, 21/6 1 male Red Rocks – Salt Lake, Issyk Kul and 22/6 1 lake outside Balykchy. Kyrgyzstan: Resident in valleys and near mountains; popular object for hunting. More ssp. in the region e.g. *turcestanicus* in Almaty. (1) *colchicus* Western and central Transcaucasia [includes *lorenzii*], (2) *septentrionalis* Western and northern shores of Caspian Sea south to northern foot of Caucasus, west to mouth of Kuban' River, (3) *talischensis* Eastern Transcaucasia to northern Iran, (4) *principalis* South-east Turkmenistan to west-central Asia; introduced birds WP show characters of (especially) this and following 2 races, or variable mixture of these and others [includes *bogdanowi*, *komarowii*], (5) *mongolicus* Eastern Kazakhstan and eastern Tien Shan to western Dzhungaria (Xingjian, China), introduced WP (6) *torquatus* South-east China, introduced WP.

***Rallus aquaticus* * - Water Rail - Vandrikse**

7/6 2 heard at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 22/6 1 lake outside Balykchy.

***Gallinula chloropus chloropus* [includes *correiana*, *lucida*, *turkestanica*, *vestigialis*] – Common Moorhen - Gr nbenet R rh ne**

6/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 24/6 2 Naryn Bridge – Bishkek. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds almost country-wide; migrant. Some bird's winter.

Fulica atra atra* [includes *japonica*, *turke-

stanica] - Eurasian Coot - Blishøne

6/6 10 Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 6/6 20 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 30 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 20 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 22/6 20 lake outside Balykchy. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds almost country-wide. Winters in flocks in Issyk Kul.

GRUIDAE

Grus grus * - Common Crane - Trane

Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan: Breeds in SE Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan - migrates in larger numbers in spring and autumn, mainly in the north of the country. (1) *grus* Europe east to Urals and (2) *lilfordi* Asia Minor, Transcaucasia, and west Siberia eastward. Note: *lilfordi* less black in the wing compared to nominate. 7/6 3 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 7 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.

Grus virgo (monotypic) - Demoiselle Crane - Jomfrutrane

5/6 20 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 2 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 3 pairs Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 7/6 4 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 6 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 9/6 4 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik) - Astana, Kazakhstan, 9/6 1 seen from the train betw. Astana – Almaty, Kazakhstan, 10/6 6 Konchangel incl. artesian well, 13/6 10 wetlands near Nurly and 23/6 7 Son Kul. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds in Issyk Kul and Son Kul (2003 MWA). Demoiselle Crane *Anthropoides virgo* has changed to *Grus virgo*.

OTIDIDAE

Chlamydotis macqueenii * - Macqueen's Bustard

11/6 7 (2 females, 2 chicks and 3 males) Konchangel. In Kyrgyzstan rarely breeds in centre of the country; rare migrant. Houbara Bustard *Chlamydotis undulata* to be treated as two species: Houbara Bustard *Chlamydotis undulata* (polytypic: *C. u. undulata* and *fuertaventurae*) and Macqueen's Bustard *Chlamydotis macqueenii* (monotypic) North-east Egypt, Arabia, and Middle East, east to Mongolia.

HAEMATOPODIDAE

Haematopus ostralegus * - Eurasian Oystercatcher - Strandskade

6/6 2 ad. Korgaljinski Goszapovednik, drive from Korgaljinski village – Karachar village, 8/6 4 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 12/6 2 Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili.

RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Recurvirostra avosetta (monotypic) - Pied Avocet - Klyde

7/6 2 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 8/6 13 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.

Himantopus himantopus * [includes ceylonensis, meridionalis] - Black-winged Stilt - Stylteløber

5/6 10 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 7/6 2 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 4 seen during day-excursion in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 10/6 6 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, Kazakhstan. In Kyrgyzstan it breeds in the north of the country; Issyk Kul; migrant.

Ibidorhyncha struthersii - Ibisbill - Ibisnæb

18/6 1 pair with 2 pull. May Saz Pass - Karakol, 19/6 2 ad. Valley East of Karakol, Kyrgyzstan. Resident mainly in the centre and East of Kyrgyzstan; restricted breeding in high mountain streams, lower in winter. Sometimes in small groups. Note: The call is much like a Whimbrel!

BURHINIDAE

***Burhinus oedicnemus* * - Stone Curlew - Triel**

12/6 1 Djel Turanga Graf and 13/6 2 Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds (in very small numbers) in the north of the country. Ssp. (3) *saharae* North Africa, Mediterranean islands (uncertain whether also Sardinia and Sicily), Greece, Cyprus, and the Levant east to western, central, and southern Turkey and Iraq [includes *astutus*, *jordansi*, *theresae*], (4) *oedicnemus* Europe (except Mediterranean islands and Greece), the Caucasus, Transcaucasia, north-east Turkey, and north-west Iran, (5) *harterti* South-east Turkey, and from south-west Iran and south-east European Russia east to the plains of Kazakhstan.

CHARADRIIDAE

***Charadrius dubius curonicus* - Little Ringed Plover - Lille Præstekrave**

7/6 2 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 10/6 5 Lake Sorbulak – Konchangel incl. artesian wells along the road, 10/6 1 Konchangel incl. artesian well, 11/6 1 ad. Konchangel, 12/6 1

Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Illi and 22/6 1 lake near Balykchy.

***Charadrius alexandrinus* * [includes *spatzi*] - Kentish Plover - Hvidbrystet Præstekrave**

6/6 1 ad. Korgaljinski Goszapovednik, drive from Korgaljinski village – Karachar village, 7/6 150 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 8/6 30 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.

***Charadrius mongolus pamirensis* - Lesser Sand Plover - Mongolsk Præstekrave**

23/6 4 ad. + 5 juv. Son Kul-area, 24/6 7 Son Kul – Son Kul Pass. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds on high altitude plateaus country-wide. (1) *pamirensis* Mountains of west-central Asia, migrant WP and (2) *atrifrons* Himalayas, vagrant WP.

***Vanellus vanellus* (monotypic) - Northern Lapwing - Vibe**

5/6 4 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 7/6 16 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik),



Kazakhstan, 10/6 1 Konchangel, 14/6 1 tent camp/Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly and 22/6 1 lake outside Balykchy. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds country-wide; gathering during migration in large flocks; a few birds winter.

***Vanellus gregarius* - Sociable Lapwing - Steppevibe**

7/6 28 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.

***Calidris alba* (monotypic) – Sanderling - Sandløber**

8/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.

***Arenaria interpres* * - Ruddy Turnstone - Stenvender**

8/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.

SCOLOPACIDAE

***Calidris alpine* * – Dunlin - Almindelig Ryle**

8/6 5 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.

***Calidris ferruginea* (monotypic) [includes *testacea*] - Curlew Sandpiper - Krumnæbbet Ryle**

7/6 5 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 8/6 11 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.

***Calidris minuta* (monotypic) - Little Stint - Dværgryle**

7/6 220 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 8/6 1300 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.

***Tringa ochropus* (monotypic) - Green Sandpiper - Svaleklire**

11/6 1 artesian wells near Konchangel village and 22/6 3 lake outside Balykchy.

***Tringa tetanus* (*ussuriensis*) - Common Redshank - Rødben**

6/6 6 Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 7/6 56 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 11 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 9/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik) - Astana, Kazakhstan, 10/6 1 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, Kazakhstan, 22/6 7 lake outside Balykchy and 23/6 19 Son Kul.

***Tringa nebularia* (monotypic) [includes *affinis*] – Common Greenshank - Hvidklire**

8/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.

***Tringa stagnatilis* (monotypic) - Marsh Sandpiper - Damklire**

7/6 16 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 8/6 18 seen during



day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.

***Limosa limosa* - Black-tailed Godwit - Stor Kobbersneppe**

7/6 2 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 8/6 4 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.

***Numenius arquata* * - Eurasian Curlew - Stor Regnspove**

6/6 3 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 8/6 4 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 22/6 1 lake outside Balykchy, Kyrgyzstan.

***Gallinago gallinago* * - Common Snipe - Dobbeltbekkasin**

9/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik) - Astana, Kazakhstan), 13/6 1 wetlands near Nurly and 22/6 6 lake outside Balykchy, Kyrgyzstan.

***Phalaropus lobatus* (monotypic) - Red-necked Phalarope - Odinshane**

7/6 110 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 8/6 2070 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.

***Philomachus pugnax* (monotypic) – Ruff - Brushane**

8/6 1 male Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.

***Actitis hypoleucos* (monotypic) - Common Sandpiper - Mudderklire**

16/6 1 May Saz, 17/6 1 May Saz and 19/6 5 valley East of Karakol.

***Glareola nordmanni* - Black-winged Pratincole – Sortvinget Braksvale**

In Kazakhstan breeding in the steppe region, especially in northern Kazakhstan. 7/6 15 observed at breeding colony in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 8/6 2 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.

***Glareola pratincola* - Pratincole – Braksvale**
10/6 2 Lake Sorbulak and 24/6 1 Naryn Bridge – Bishkek.

LARIDAE

The times that gulls were easy to classify are long past. Three species are recognized for this region among the larger gulls. Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* breeds in Kazakhstan and as such is a more northern species. Yellow legged Gull *L. cachirmans* is the *moa* of the larger gulls, breeding in small numbers and mainly migrant. However, there are also other subspecies! In my notebook I wrote some remarks about some other subspecies seen. These notes certainly wouldn't be able to solve any identification problems – contrary I would say! I mention the notes, because during our journey we observed several subspecies and were not able to detect every useful identification mark, no frustrating this is. Anyway it's interesting and could keep one busy for a very long period of time. However I would mention ssp. We saw included a.o. Heuglin's Gull *Larus heuglini* (with subspecies *heuglini* and Steppe Gull *L. f. barabensis*) and Armenian Gull *Larus armenicus* (monotypic).

***Larus michahellis* - Yellow-legged Gull**
Ssp. *michahellis*: 1/6 150 Istanbul, Turkey.

***Larus cachinnans* [includes *ponticus mongolicus*] - Caspian Gull**

5/6 50 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 4 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 40 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 30 at Karachar village; Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 36 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 4 at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 10/6 16 ad. Lake Sorbulak, 20/6 6 ad. Tamga, 21/6 2 Red Rocks and 23/6 10 Son Kul.

***Larus fuscus barabensis* - Steppe Gull**
6-8/6 50 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 10/6 5 ad. Lake Sorbulak.

***Larus ridibundus* (monotypic) [includes *lavrovi*, *sibiricus*] – Black-headed Gull - Hættemåge**

5/6 1 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 3 ad. Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 40 Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 7/6 2 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 10/6 2 Lake Sorbulak, 20/6 1 ad. Tamga, 23/6 120 Son Kul-area and 24/6 10 Son Kul – Naryn Bridge. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds country-wide; partly resident.

***Larus genei* (monotypic) - Slender-billed Gull - Tyndnæbbet Måge**

7/6 4 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik) and Kazakhstan, 8/6 73 ad. Observed in the vicinity of breeding colony in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.

***Larus canus* (*heinei*) - Mew Gull - Stormmåge**

8/6 4 (2ad. +4juv.) Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.

***Larus melanocephalus* * - Mediterranean Gull - Sorthovedet Måge**

1/6 2 ad. + 1 juv. the Golden Horn, Istanbul.

***Larus ichthyaetus* (monotypic) - Pallas's Gull - Stor Sorthovedet Måge**

6/6 1 ad. Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in



the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 1 ad. Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 7/6 1 ad. Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 5 ad. + approx. 57 ad. and 110 pull. at breeding colony Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 23/6 1 ad. + 1 juv. Son Kul, Kyrgyzstan, where it's a rare resident.

***Larus minutus* (monotypic) - Little Gull - Dværgmåge**

8/6 30 adult Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.

STERNIDAE

***Sterna albifrons* * - Little Tern - Dværgterne**

7/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds in Issyk Kul; rare migrant to northern lakes. Incredible that this species occur in the Middle of Asia. I have seen this species in the centre of Tien Shan Mountains. If one looks at the possible migrant routes – which must be the rivers, the tern have to migrate through China to reach interior e.g. In Kyrgyzstan.

***Sterna nilotica* * - Gull-billed Tern - Sandterne**

8/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.

***Sterna hirundo* (*minussensis*) - Common Tern - Fjordterne**

5/6 4 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 3 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 6 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 7/6 3 at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 10/6 2 Lake Sorbulak, 12/6 2 Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Illi and 22/6 3 lake outside Balykchy.

***Sterna caspia* (monotypic) [includes *strenua*, *tschegrava*] - Caspian Tern - Rovterne**

6/6 5 ad. Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in

the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 54 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 8/6 10 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.

***Chlidonias niger niger* - Black Tern - Sortterne**

6/6 2 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 50 Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 7/6 16 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 8/6 5 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.

***Chlidonias leucopterus* (monotypic) - White-winged Tern - Hvidvinget Terne**

6/6 15 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 400 Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 6/6 550 Korgaljinski Goszapovednik, drive from Korgaljinski village – Karachar village, 7/6 30 Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 8/6 111 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.

***Chlidonias hybrida hybrida* [includes *leucopareia*] - Whiskered Tern - Hvidskægget Terne**

This record is rare or? In literature it's difficult to obtain any valid information about this species occurrence in Central Asia; I might suspect its occurrence to be more common than thought in northern Kazakhstan, though I could be wrong. 6/6 4 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village.

PTEROCLIDIDAE

***Pterocles orientalis (arenarius)* - Black-bellied Sandgrouse - Sortbuget Sandhøne**

10/6 15 Konchangel, 11/6 230 Konchangel, 13/6 10 Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly, 14/6 79 tent camp/Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly and 15/6 3 Red Canyon. Kyrgyzstan: breeds almost country-wide; migrant. (1) *orientalis* North Africa, Iberia, Turkey, and western Iran (2) *arenarius* From

Transcaspia and central Iran eastwards [includes *bangsi*, *enigmaticus*, *koslovae*, *magna*].

***Pterocles alchata caudacutus* - Pin-tailed Sandgrouse - Spidshalet Sandhøne**

Rare in both Kyrgyzstan and southern Kazakhstan. (1) *caudacutus* North Africa and western Asia [includes *bogdanowi*] and (2) *alchata* Southern France and Iberia. *Alchata* is a Latin transliteration of the Arabic name of the sandgrouse (cf. Jobling 1991), and is thus invariable. Del Hoyo (1997) has it right: *P. alchata caudacutus* (M. Gosselin in litt.). 11/6 2 Konchangel.

***Syrrhaptes paradoxus* (monotypic) - Pallas's Sandgrouse - Steppehøne**

13/6 2 Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly, Kazakhstan and 14/6 2 (possible same birds as the day before) tentcamp/Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly. Occurs in Kyrgyzstan and is uncommon though probably overlooked. Resident in Issyk Kul and Naryn oblasts.

COLUMBIDAE

***Columba livia neglecta* - Rock Dove - Klippedue**

13/6 2 Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly and 19/6 8 valley East of Karakol – Tamga. *Columba livia neglecta* have a grey rump (sometimes white which can cause confusion with Yellow-eyed Stock Dove). Very similar to nominate in coloration. (2) *neglecta* Northern Turkey, Transcaucasia, and Transcaspia from northern Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan eastward [includes *korejewi*, *ferghanensis*].

***Columba oenas* * [includes *hyrcana*] - Stock Dove - Huldue**

2/6 1 Oto-Say, Bishkek. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds in West Tien Shan; migrant. Sometimes winters near Fergana. Ssp. *Yarkandensis* a bit paler than European birds in general.

***Columba rupestris rupestris* - Hill Pigeon - Østlig Klippedue**

17/6 14 prob. from nearby colony May Saz, 18/6 1 May Saz Pass. Kyrgyzstan: Resident in mountainous areas country-wide.

***Columba palumbus (casiotis)* - Common Woodpigeon - Ringdue**

2/6 3 Oto-Say, Bishkek and 6/6 10 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan. Breeds in forested areas

country-wide; migrant. Ssp. *casiotis* less marked on the neck, and browner on the upper parts and the white in the wing is less than the nominate birds.

***Columba eversmanni* (monotypic) - Yellow-eyed Dove - Turkestandue**

11/6 11 Djel Turanga Graf, 12/6 10 Djel Turanga Graf, 13 and 14/6 2 Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly. Kyrgyzstan: Rarely breeds in steep valleys of Talas, Chui and Fergana; migrant. (Hunted in Kyrgyzstan, but in Red Data Book of Kazakhstan). Birds have a pale rump, less black in the wingtips and are generally smaller than Stock Dove and Rock dove and easy to pick out the flocks of pigeons. The population, which migrates through Chokpak in Kazakhstan, has been shown to decline by 75% in the last 20 years - thought to be attributable to the destruction of Turanga woodland (Aspinall 1996). Note: Vulnerable (Birdlife International).

***Streptopelia decaocto decaocto* [includes *stoliczkae*] - Eurasian Collared Dove - Tyrkerdue**

2/6 1 Bishkek, 2/6 1 Oto-Say, Bishkek, 4/6 1 Bishkek – Almaty, 10/6 2 Lake Sorbulak – Konchangel incl. artesian wells along the road, 13/6 1 Querbulag – Nurly, 15/6 1 Chelek, 19/6 1 Karakol – valley east of Karakol, 22/6 1 morningobs at Tamga and 24/6 3 Naryn Bridge – Bishkek.

***Streptopelia turtur (arenicola)* - European Turtle Dove - Turteldue**

5/6 1 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 10/6 1 Lake Sorbulak – Konchangel incl. artesian wells along the road, 13/6 2 Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly, 14/6 1 sg. tent camp/Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly, 21/6 1 Red Rocks. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds country-wide; migrant. Ssp. *arenicola* North-west Africa, Balearic Islands, southern Levant, and from Iraq east to central Asia.

***Streptopelia orientalis meena* - Oriental Turtle Dove - Østlig Turteldue**

7/6 2 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 10/6 3 Lake Sorbulak – Konchangel incl. artesian wells along the road, 16/6 1 Karakol – May Saz Pass, 19/6 1 valley East of Karakol – Tamga.

Kyrgyzstan: Breeds country-wide; migrant. Ssp. *meena*: whitish tail tips, lacking of the bulky size (very thin dove), the pattern of the outermost tail feathers and the quite broad fringes to the new adult wing coverts in young birds. (1) *meena* West Siberia and Altai south to Himalayas, found breeding in the WP in Ural Mountains of Russia and (2) *orientalis* East Asia, vagrant WP.

***Streptopelia senegalensis* * - Laughing Dove - Palmedue**

1/6 3 Istanbul, 3/6 1 Bishkek and 4/6 1 Bishkek. Our first observation was on the European side of the Bosphorus Strait (he-he). In Kyrgyzstan resident country-wide. (1) *phoenicophila* North-west Africa and (apparently introduced) Turkey and Syria, (4) *cambayensis* Iraq, Iran, and southern Afghanistan to India [includes *kermanensis*] and (5) *ermanni* Armeniya, and Transcaspia to western China [includes *centralasiae*].

PSITTACIDAE

***Psittacula krameri* – Ring-necked Parakeet**

1/6 4 Istanbul, Turkey.

CUCULIDAE

***Cuculus canorus (subtelephonus)* - Common Cuckoo - Gøg**

2/6 2 Bishkek, 2/6 1 calling Oto-Say, Bishkek, 3/6 1 calling Bishkek, 3/6 3 Ala Archa, 7/6 2 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 9/6 15 seen from the train betw. Astana – Almaty, Kazakhstan, 12/6 5 Djel Turanga Graf, 12/6 6 Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, 13/6 4 wetlands near Nurly, 15/6 2 call. Chelek, 17/6 1 May Saz, 18/6 1 May Saz – May Saz Pass, 18/6 1 May



Saz Pass - Karakol, 19/6 2 Karakol – valley east of Karakol, 20/6 1 Tamga, 20/6 2 (1730 – 2000) Tamga, 20/6 1 Barskaun Gorge – Tamga, 21/6 1 Red Rocks, 22/6 4 lake outside Balykchy, 24/6 1 Son Kul – Naryn Bridge and 24/6 1 Bishkek.

***Bubo bubo* * - Eurasian Eagle Owl - Stor Hornugle**

2/6 1 Oto-Say, Bishkek. There is rather interesting information about taxonomical issues according several subspecies and possible splits.

Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* suggested by Wink & Heidrich (1999) to be treated as two species: Pending decisions with comments on the progress Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* Pharaoh Eagle Owl *Bubo ascalaphus*.

CSNA This will be further investigated before final recommendation. In particular, the apparently rather distinct taxon *desertorum* needs to be properly assessed in relation to the other two. There is supposedly a contact zone between the *bubo* group and the *ascalaphus* group in the Middle East and in N Africa. In the Middle East, Shirihai (1996) mentions intergradations. There is no precise information on N Africa. There are, moreover, important phenotypical differences between *ascalaphus* and '*desertorum*', which may indicate a cline (or at least progressive variation) from the north towards desert areas. It seems, however, difficult to make a clear distinction between these two groups. A study of past



(with *B. b. hispanus*) and present interbreeding (with *B. b. interpositus*) of *ascalaphus* would be welcome. Additionally, more information is needed on the other small desert forms (*B. b. nikolskii* and *B. b. omissus*). An analysis of plumage variation, biometry, vocalisations and molecular data of the entire complex is desirable. Wink & Heidrich (1999) studied mtDNA of *B. Bubo*, *B. ascalaphus*, *B. nipalensis*, *B. magellanicus*, *B. africanus*, *B. bengalensis*, *B. sumatrana* and *B. lacteus*. According to phylogenetic relationships and distances these are all distinct species. In this analysis, nucleotide substitutions differ by 3.5% between *B. bubo* and *B. ascalaphus*. Moreover, *B. b. interpositus*, which is morphologically distinct from *B. b. bubo* and lives in the Israeli desert, is also genetically distinct (distance 2.8%). Notice, however, that *interpositus* has a much wider range (western and northern shores of the Black Sea, Turkey, and from the Levant to NW Iran and the Caucasus area) (Roselaar 1995). Since a sequence divergence of more than 1.5% is indicative of species level (exceptions occur!), the authors regard it justified to treat both taxa as distinct species particularly if supported by morphological and acoustic evidence. Helbig & Barthel in Svensson et al. (2000) supported this split. If, however, *interpositus* is as distinct as *ascalaphus* from *bubo*, one may question a split in two species. Genetic divergence within species is not always evidence for reproductive isolation. A population level approach is required. Also the reports of intergradation by Shirihai (1996) require more research. The World Owl Trust is working to determine the exact taxonomy of Eagle Owls in the Middle East. Researchers of the World Owl Trust consider that morphology, vocalisations, and mtDNA of *B. Bubo* and *B. ascalaphus* are distinct. They include *desertorum* as a subspecies of *B. ascalaphus* and define the ranges as follows:

- (1) *B. a. ascalaphus*: N Africa from Morocco to Egypt, Sinai, Israel and Palestine.
 - (2) *B. a. desertorum*: W Iraq, Arabia and S Sahara from Ethiopia and Sudan to Mali.
- Peter Symens has commented that in Saudi Arabia, *ascalaphus* is restricted to E Saudi Arabia, whereas *desertorum* is occurring in C Saudi Arabia. *B. africanus* is occurring there in the South-West (and may spread into the desert during wet years). He has the impression that *desertorum* and *ascalaphus* may well be sepa-

rated geographically in Saudi Arabia. In Saudi Arabia, P. Symens has only found ground nests of *ascalaphus* (often situated near hillocks in the desert). Guy Kirwan commented on the situation in Turkey, regarding recent claims of intergradation in that country by Hadoram Shirihai: 'Most, if not all, are apparently *interpositus*. König et al. (1999) remarked that DNA evidence suggested that *interpositus* was sufficiently distinct to be recognised at species level, and considered the forms *ascalaphus* and *desertorum*, which have traditionally been placed in *Bubo bubo*, as a separate species, Pharaoh Eagle Owl *B. ascalaphus*. However, the relationships between *ascalaphus* and *desertorum* clearly merit further research. The DNA results for *interpositus* are interesting, but thus far do not appear to be supported by other data, e.g. vocalisations, unlike the case for *B. ascalaphus*. Given that Roselaar (1995) posited that *interpositus* might grade into *nikolskii* in SE Turkey and that H. Shirihai (in *Birding World* 9: 218) suggested that those at Birecik appeared to represent intergrades between *interpositus* and *desertorum* (though photographs from this area examined by us do not appear to support this proposition), we prefer to await additional evidence before making any judgement over the taxonomic position of Turkish populations.' Molecular information on owls was published by Wink & Heidrich (1998, 1999, 2000a,b). This is a clear case where further research is needed.

Subspecies in Central Asia is not well known and could be one of following (or not): (3) *bubo* Europe from France, Sicily, western Greece, Carpathians, and northern Ukraine north to Fenno-Scandia, east to western European Russia [includes *meridionalis*, *ognevi*, *septentrionalis*], (4) *ruthenus* Central European Russia, (5) *interpositus* Western, northern, and north-eastern coasts of Black Sea east along lower Volga to Mangyshlak peninsula, Turkey, and from the Levant to north-west Iran and the Caucasus area [includes

armeniacus, *nativus*, *tauricus*, *transcaucasicus*], (6) *nikolskii* Eastern Iraq, Iran (except north-west), east to western Pakistan, (7) *turcomanus* Transcaucasia, east from the mouth of the Volga [includes *eversmanni*, *gladkovi*] and (8) *sibiricus* South-west and central Urals east to Ob' [includes *baschkirikus*].

Asio otus * - Long-eared Owl - Skovhornugle

16/6 1 juv. May Saz, Kyrgyzstan (resident country-wide in coniferous forests; also migrant). Ssp. (2) *otus* Azores, North Africa, and Eurasia [includes *turcmenica*].

Asio flammeus flammeus [includes pallidus] - Short-eared Owl - Mosehornugle

7/6 2 observed during excursion at various places in Kurgaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan. Kyrgyzstan Usually present in Son Kul-area. Resident in open grassy areas.

Athene noctua * - Little Owl - Kirkeugle

5/6 2 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 12/6 1 Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili. Kyrgyzstan: Resident country-wide.

Little Owl *Athene noctua* suggested by Wink & Heidrich (1999) to be treated as two species: The following proposals are pending. We either have not examined the data in sufficient detail to reach a conclusion, or there may not be sufficient data for such an assessment to be worthwhile. Little Owl *Athene noctua* (polytypic: *A. n. noctua*, *vidalii*, *glaux*, *indigena*, *bactriana*; extralimital *A. n. orientalis*, *ludlowi*, *plumipes*, *spilogastra*, *somaliensis*) and Desert Little Owl *Athene lilith* (mono-

typic). Possible ssp within the Central Asian region probably include one or more of following: Ssp(5) *indigena* Southern Balkan countries and Greece through Turkey and northern coastal Levant to Transcaucasia, north to southern European Russia and south-west Siberia [includes *caucasica*, *kessleri*], (6) *lilith* Cyprus, inland parts of Levant, south-east Turkey, and



western and northern Iraq and (7) *bactriana* South-east Azerbaydzhan, Iran, and Transcas-
pia, north along eastern Caspian to lower Ural
valley, east to Lake Balkhash and Afghanistan.

STRIGIDAE

***Otus brucei* * - Pallid Scops Owl - Stribet Dværghornugle**

11/6 1 seen Djel Turanga Graf, 12/6 3 heard
calling night time Djel Turanga Graf, Kazakh-
stan. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds mainly in the west of
the country; in Bishkek and Talas and Chui
valleys; uncommon. (1) *exiguus* Israel, central
Iraq, and southern Iran east to western Pakistan
and (2) *obsoletus* Northern Syria, south-east
Turkey, northern Iraq, and through northern
Iran, Turkmenistan, and northern Afghanistan
to lowlands of Uzbekistan.

CAPRIMULGIDAE

***Caprimulgus europaeus* * - European Night- jar - Natravn**

2/6 1 Oto-Say, Bishkek, 10/6 2 Konchangel
incl. artesian well, 11/6 1 display-call Djel
Turanga Graf, 12/6 1 Djel Turanga Graf, 13/6
2 Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly and
14/6 1 tent camp/Artesian well/desert-area east
of Nurly.

APODIDAE

***Apus apus* * Common Swift - Mursejler**

6/6 1 Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park,
Kazakhstan, 11/6 10 Konchangel, 12/6 2 Djel
Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, 14/6 1
tent camp/Artesian well/desert-area east of
Nurly, 15/6 15 Red Canyon, 18/6 2 May Saz –
May Saz Pass, 19/6 800 valley East of Karakol
- Tamga, 20/6 1 Barskaun Gorge and high
plateau, 21/6 5 Red Rocks, 21/6 5 Salt Lake,
Issyk Kul and 22/6 6 Tamga. (1) *apus* North
Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and western
and north-central Asia and (2) *pekinensis* Iran
to south-central Asia, migrant WP [includes
turkestanicus].

***Apus melba* * - Alpine Swift - Alpesejler**

1/6 24 Istanbul, 2/6 6 Bishkek, 13/6 3 Querbu-
lag at River Ili and 15/6 1 Red Canyon. Kyr-
gystan: In foothills in the north of the country
and West Tien Shan. (1) *melba* Northern Mo-
rocco and southern Europe east to Caucasus
area and north-west Iran [includes *obscurus*]
(2) *tuneti* North Africa (except northern Mo-
rocco), Lebanon, Syria, and from south-west

Iran and Transcaspia east to western Pakistan,
Alai ranges, Tien Shan, and Dzhungarian
Alatau.

UPUPIDAE

***Upupa epops* * – Eurasian Hoopoe - Hær- fugl**

4/6 3 Bishkek – Almaty, 5/6 15 Trans-Siberian
Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern
Kazakhstan, 7/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski
Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 1 seen dur-
ing day-excursion in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljins-
ki Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 10/6 2 Lake
Sorbulak, 10/6 6 Lake Sorbulak – Konchangel
incl. artesian wells along the road, 11/6 6 Kon-
changel, 11/6 3 Djel Turanga Graf, 12/6 2 Djel
Turanga Graf, 13/6 5 Querbulag at River Ili,
13/6 6 Querbulag – Nurly, 14/6 1 tent
camp/Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly,
15/6 2 Red Canyon – Karakol, Kyrgyzstan; via
Tüp Valley, 20/6 2 Barskaun Gorge – Tamga
and 24/6 2 Son Kul – Naryn Bridge. Kyr-
gystan: Breeds country-wide. birds might
winter in the south of the country. First birds
return in February, leaving as late as possible
in autumn. (2) *epops* North-west Africa,
Europe, the Middle East, and western Asia
[includes *loudoni*, *orientalis*, *renzoi*] and (3)
major Egypt, northern Chad, and northern
Sudan.

ALCEDINIDAE

***Alcedo atthis* * - Common Kingfisher - Is- fugl**

7/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapov-
ednik), Kazakhstan. (1) *atthis* North-west Af-
rica, southern and eastern Europe, Turkey, and
from the Levant east to central Asia and Paki-
stan [includes *margelanica*, *pallasii*, *pallida*,
suschkini] (2) *ispida* Western and central
Europe east to St Petersburg area, western
Belarus, western Ukraine, and Carpathians.

CORACIIDAE

***Coracias garrulous* * - European Roller - Ellekrage**

2/6 12 Oto-Say, Bishkek, 5/6 55 Trans-
Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in
northern Kazakhstan, 10/6 2 seen from the
train betw. Astana – Almaty, Kazakhstan, 10/6
15 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, Kazakhstan, 10/6
12 Lake Sorbulak – Konchangel incl. artesian
wells along the road, 11/6 3 Djel Turanga Graf,
12/6 3 Djel Turanga Graf, 12/6 22 Djel

Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, 13/6 9 Querbulag – Nurly, 15/6 9 Chelek – Red Canyon and 24/6 7 Naryn Bridge – Bishkek. Kyrgyzstan: Common, breeds almost country-wide. (1) *garrulous* North Africa, Europe, south-west Siberia, and northern Kazakhstan east to Ob' and western Altai, and in Turkey, the Levant, and north-west Iran [includes *caucasica*] and (2) *semenowi* Iraq and south-west Iran east through Transcaucasia to western Dzhungaria (Xinjiang, China).

MEROPIDAE

***Merops apiaster* (monotypic) - European Bee-eater - Biæder**

2/6 20 Oto-Say, Bishkek, 4/6 1 Bishkek, 5/6 100 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 7/6 10 at colony in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 2 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 10/6 2 seen from the train betw. Astana – Almaty, Kazakhstan, 10/6 3 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, Kazakhstan, 10/6 10 Lake Sorbulak, 10/6 20 Lake Sorbulak – Konchangel incl. artesian wells along the road, 10/6 4 Lake Sorbulak – Konchangel incl. artesian wells along the road, 12/6 27 Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, 13/6 3 Querbulag – Nurly and 24/6 10 Naryn Bridge – Bishkek.

***Merops persicus* * - Blue-cheeked Bee-eater - Grøn Biæder**

5/6 1 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in central Kazakhstan.

***Dendrocopos leucopterus* * - White-winged Woodpecker**

4/6 1 Bishkek, 11/6 4 Djel Turanga Graf, 12/6 3 Djel Turanga Graf and 12/6 1 Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili. The record from Bishkek city is unusual, but this species is probably overlooked and occur more common than expected. The bird was extremely well seen and we enjoyed close views for several minutes.

PICIDAE

***Jynx torquilla* * - Eurasian Wryneck - Vendehals**

9/6 1 heard betw. Astana –

Almaty, Kazakhstan.

ALAUDIDAE

***Alauda arvensis (dulcivox)* – Eurasian Skylark - Sanglærke**

2/6 12 sg Oto-Say, Bishkek, 6/6 20 sg. Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 6/6 4 sg. Korgaljinski Goszapovednik, drive from Korgaljinski village – Karachar village, 6/6 3 sg. Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 50 sg. observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 11 seen and heard during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 13/6 35 Querbulag at River Ili, 20/6 10 (1730 – 2000) Tamga, 21/6 5 Red Rocks and 22/6 5 Tamga, 23/6 15 Son Kul-area. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds country-wide; some birds might winter. (7) *armenica* Eastern Turkey, Caucasus area, northern Iran, and south-west Turkmenistan, (8) *dulcivox* Urals east to Yenisey and western Mongolia, south to foot of Tien Shan and northern foot of Altai, on migration in WP.

***Galerida cristata* * - Crested Lark - Toplærke**

10/6 1 Lake Sorbulak – Konchangel incl. artesian wells along the road, 11/6 1 Konchangel, 13/6 5 Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly, 14/6 5 tent camp/Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly and 22/6 1 Balykchy - Son Kul. Possible ssp. Includes (18) *subtaurica* Central and eastern Asia Minor, southern Transcaucasia, north-east Iraq, and northwest and south-west



Iran, (20) *magna* Northern Transcaspia from Emba River east through Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan to northern China and southern Mongolia, in winter in WP and (29) *caucasica* Northern Asia Minor, Caucasus and northern Transcaucasia, and Caspian zone of northern Iran east to extreme south-west Turkmenistan.

***Calandrella acutirostris acutirostris* * - Hume's Short-toed Lark - Humes Lærke**

21/6 1 Red Rocks and 21/6 2 Salt Lake, Issyk Kul. Kyrgyzstan Breeds in dry areas, in general higher in the mountains than other *Calandrellas*. Mainly occurs in the west of the country. Winters in India.

***Calandrella brachydactyla* * - Greater Short-toed Lark - Korttået Lærke**

7/6 20 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 10/6 2 Lake Sorbulak, 10/6 5 (*cinerea*?) Lake Sorbulak – Konchangel incl. artesian wells along the road, 10/6 52 Konchangel, 11/6 2 sg. Konchangel camp, 11/6 60 Konchangel and 13/6 4 Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurlı. At least two possible subspecies occur in northern Kyrgyzstan and southern Kazakhstan: (6) *artemisiana* Central and eastern Turkey, Caucasus area, north-east Iraq, Iran (except east), and (perhaps this race) north-east Arabia, (7) *longipennis* Plains of south-east European Russia, and from Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and eastern Iran east to Tien Shan, north-west China, and northern Mongolia [includes *orientalis*]. Kyrgyzstan: Resident with some movements almost country-wide with a preference for deserts and dry steppes; in winter, in agricultural fields.

***Calandrella rufescens** - Lesser Short-toed Lark - Dværglærke**

Polytypic: *C. r. rufescens*, *apetzii*, *minor*, *heinei*, *persica*, *aharonii*, *leucophaea*, *kunooorensis* and *cheleensis*. *Calandrella cheleensis* - Asian Short-toed Lark is often treated as separate species. Minimum two (possible three if *cheleensis* is included) subspecies observed in southern Kazakhstan: *heinei* and *rufescens*. More subspecies occur in the region. 10/6 20 Konchangel, 11/6 4 sg. Konchangel camp, 11/6 20 Konchangel and 12/6 3 Camp Querbulag at River Ili. (7) *heinei* North-east Bulgaria and eastern Rumania

through Ukraine and southern Russia to eastern Kazakhstan, south to foot of northern Caucasus, Turkmenistan, northern Afghanistan, and Tien Shan. Ssp. *leucophaea* Northern and eastern shore of Caspian Sea east to eastern Kazakhstan, Lake Balkhash, and Fergana basin, south to Turkmenistan - I have never seen any of this ssp. in the region (MWA).

Kyrgyzstan: Breeds in dry steppes and arable land almost country-wide.



***Melanocorypha calandra* * - Calandra Lark - Kalanderlærke**

2/6 11 sg Oto-Say, Bishkek, 5/6 5 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 10/6 1 Konchangel incl. artesian well, 12/6 10 Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, 12/6 8 sg. Camp Querbulag at River Ili and 13/6 3 sg. Camp Querbulag at River Ili. (1) *calandra* North Africa and southern Europe through Turkey and Caucasus area east to northwest and north Iran, western shore of Caspian Sea, and north-west Kazakhstan [includes *hollomi*], (4) *psammochroa* Iran (except north and extreme south-west) east to Kazakhstan and Afghanistan.

***Melanocorypha bimaculata* * - Bimaculated Lark - Østlig Kalanderlærke**

11/6 10 Konchangel, Kazakhstan. Local ssp. may be (3) *torquata* Transcaspia from north-east Iran, western Uzbekistan, and western Kazakhstan east to foothills of Tien Shan and to north-west China (Dzhungaria). Locally common in south-western Kazakhstan, especially during autumn migration.

***Melanocorypha leucoptera* (monotypic) White-winged Lark - Hvidvinget Lærke**

6/6 6 Korgaljinski Goszapovednik, drive from

Korgaljinski village – Karachar village, 7/6 6 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 8/6 7 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan. Occur in southern Kazakhstan fairly common at Konchangel. Kyrgyzstan: Nomadic, winters in small numbers in Issyk Kul.

***Melanocorypha yeltoniensis* (monotypic) - Black Lark - Sortlærke**

6/6 60 Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 6/6 40 Korgaljinski Goszapovednik, drive from Korgaljinski village – Karachar village, 7/6 130 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 8/6 85 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.



***Eremophila alpestris* * - Horned Lark - Bjer-glærke**

17/6 1 May Saz, 18/6 6 May Saz, 22/6 20 Son Kul-area, 23/6 30 Son Kul-area and 24/6 5 on Kul – Naryn Bridge. Possible ssp. (6) *brandti* Lower Volga basin and Transcaspia through plains of Kazakhstan to northern Mongolia and western Manchuria and (7) *flava* Northern Eurasia and mountains of east Siberia. Kyrgyzstan: Resident country-wide also at higher altitude; lower in winter.

HIRUNDINIDAE

***Riparia riparia riparia* - Sand Martin - Diges-vale**

6/6 25 Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 6/6 3 Korgaljinski Goszapovednik, drive from Korgaljinski village – Karachar village, 7/6 1 colony ; specimens not counted though less than 100 were seen Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan,

7/6 10 at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 10 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 10 at Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 10/6 19 Konchangel incl. artesian well, 14/6 10 Kökpek Pass, 19/6 1 colony (app. 50 birds) valley East of Karakol – Tamga and 21/6 50 Salt Lake, Issyk Kul. Some authors split *diluta* as a separate species: Pale Martin. In southern Kazakhstan both forms occur; *R. riparia* the far most common of the two. All our observations in 2004 belong to *R. riparia*. Riparia –group: (1) *riparia* North-west Africa, Eurasia, and North America, south to Turkey, Caucasus area, northern Kazakhstan and Altai. Diluta-group: (4) *diluta* Transcaspia and eastern Iran, east to south-central Siberia (where overlapping *riparia* without apparent interbreeding), migrant Middle East.

***Ptyonoprogne rupestris* (monotypic) - Eurasian Crag Martin - Klippesvale**

16/6 1 Karakol – May Saz Pass, 17/6 4 May Saz and 19/6 16 valley East of Karakol – Tamga.



***Hirundo rustica rustica* - Barn Swallow - Landsvale**

4/6 10 Bishkek, 4/6 50 Bishkek – Almaty, 5/6 2 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 10 Korgaljinski Goszapovednik, drive from Korgaljinski village – Karachar village, 7/6 30 Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 40 at Karachar village

and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 10/6 25 Konchangel incl. artesian well, 11/6 25 Konchangel, 12/6 4 Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, 13/6 3 wetlands near Nurly and 18/6 1 May Saz Pass – Karakol.

***Hirundo daurica* * - Red-rumped Swallow - Rødrygget Svale**

2/6 3 Bishkek 4/6 5 Almaty and 24/6 2 Bishkek.

(1) *rufula* North Africa and southern Europe east to west-central Asia (2) *daurica* Eastern Asia, vagrant WP. Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* suggested by Winkler & Sheldon (1993) to become *Cecropis daurica*. A.J. Helbig Winkler & Sheldon (1993) first adopted this treatment based on nest structure. P.-A. Crochet commented: 'The species used in Sheldon et al. (1999) is *Cecropis semirufa*, not *daurica*. Is there strong evidence that *semirufa* and *daurica* are closely related? This treatment suggests that *fuligula* (and *rupestris*?) are more closely related to *rustica* than *daurica* is to *rustica*. A bit hard to swallow (!) given the voice similarity and similarity in structure and colours between *rustica* and *daurica*. An alternative treatment is to merge all species of the "Hirundo" clade within the genus *Hirundo* until more taxa are analysed. The only change required would thus be to move *urbicum* to *Hirundo*.' Cecropis is the name of the daughters of Cecrops (founder of Athens), hence feminine (cf. Jobling 1991). Thus: *Cecropis daurica* (M. Gosselin in litt.). M. Gosselin commented: 'In my opinion, merging all light-rumped swallows that build enclosed mud nests (*Delichon*, *Petrochelidon*, *Cecropis*) into one genus (*Cecropis*) is just as good an option.'

***Delichon urbicum* * - Common House Martin - Bysvale**

12/6 5 Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, 13/6 100 Querbulag – Nurly, 16/6 1 Karakol – May Saz Pass, 16/6 5 May Saz and 19/6 1 valley East of Karakol – Tamga. Common in Bishkek.

MOTACILLIDAE

***Anthus campestris* (monotypic?) - Tawny Pipit - Markpiber**

6/6 1 sg. Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 6/6 1 sg. Korgaljinski Goszapov-

ednik, drive from Korgaljinski village – Karachar village, 12/6 1 Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, 12/6 1 Camp Querbulag at River Ili, 13/6 4 Querbulag at River Ili, 14/6 1 sg. tent camp/Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly, 15/6 2 sg. Red Canyon, 17/6 1 May Saz, 19/6 1 sg. valley East of Karakol – Tamga and 21/6 1 Salt Lake, Issyk Kul.

***Anthus spinoletta* * - Water Pipit - Bjergpiber**

2/6 Oto-Say, Bishkek, 3/6 3 sg. Ala Archa, 16/6 1 sg. May Saz Pass, 18/6 2 May Saz – May Saz Pass, 20/6 3 (1sg.) Barskaun Gorge and high plateau, 22/6 3 Son Kul-area and 23/6 2 Son Kul-area. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds country-wide mainly in the mountains.

***Anthus pratensis* (monotypic) - Meadow Pipit - Engpiber**

3/6 1 Ala Archa is an interesting observation at this time of year! No breeding records from Kyrgyzstan, yet.

***Anthus trivialis* * - Tree Pipit - Skovpiber**

15/6 3 (1sg.) Red Canyon – Karakol, Kyrgyzstan; via Tüp Valley and 16/6 1 sg. Karakol – May Saz Pass. Maybe two subspecies: *harringtoni* and *trivialis*.

***Motacilla alba* - White Wagtail - Hvid Vipstjert. *Motacilla personata* - Masked Wagtail - Maskevipstjert**

2/6 1 ad. Bishkek, 2/6 1 Oto-Say, Bishkek, 5/6 5 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 7/6 1 nominate *M. alba* Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 12/6 2 Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, 13/6 2 (ssp. *personata*)1 Querbulag – Nurly, 15/6 2 Red Canyon – Karakol, Kyrgyzstan; via Tüp Valley, 18/6 2 May Saz Pass – Karakol, 20/6 1 Tamga and 22/6 1 Tamga.

M.a.personata widely accepted as its own species *M. Personata* Masked Wagtail: Eastern Iran and Turkmenistan east to mountains of north-central Asia, migrant WP; persica is a name given to an intermediate form from Iran (except north-west, coastal zone of Caspian Sea and east). *Motacilla alba personata* is been split of already for years by some authors and by others it's still a race of the White Wagtail, also at Clements list. In Kazakhstan *M. alba* more common than *personata*. White Wagtail

Motacilla alba suggested by Sangster et al. (1998) to be split in nine species: 1. White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* (incl. *dukhunensis*): Europe, from Iberia, France, Netherlands, Iceland, and Norway east to Levant, western half of Turkey, lower Volga, and Urals; including 'dukhunensis': West Siberia from Urals and basin of Lower Ural River east to Yenisey, south to northern Kazakhstan; apparently this subtle race eastern half of Turkey, Caucasus area, and north-west and northern Iran, 2. Pied Wagtail *Motacilla yarrellii* (monotypic), 3. Moroccan Wagtail *Motacilla subpersonata* (monotypic), 4. Masked Wagtail *Motacilla personata* (monotypic), 5. Himalayan Wagtail *Motacilla alboides* (monotypic), 6. Black-backed Wagtail *Motacilla lugens* (monotypic), 7. East Siberian Wagtail *Motacilla ocularis* (monotypic), 8. Amur Wagtail *Motacilla leucopsis* (monotypic) and 9. Baikal Wagtail *Motacilla baicalensis* (monotypic). STC Until more research is done with this complex suggested to be monophyletic by Alström & Mild (2003) and references therein, it was decided to keep following taxa combined as one species *M. a. alba*, *yarrellii*, *baicalensis*, *ocularis*, *lugens* and *subpersonata*. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds almost country-wide; some birds winter. All birds seen in Kyrgyzstan belongs to *Motacilla personata* - Masked Wagtail.



***Motacilla flava* * - Yellow Wagtail - Gul Vipstjert**

6/6 1 Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 6/6 50 /ssp. *beema*; common and *lutea*; rare – 1 seen, Korgaljinski Goszapovednik, drive from Korgaljinski village – Karachar village, 6/6 75 ssp. *beema* Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 2 ssp. *beema* Karachar village,

Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 7/6 210 ssp. *beema*; less than 5 *lutea* observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 50 ssp. *beema* seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 10 ssp. *beema* and *lutea* (2) at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 12/6 1 ssp. *beema* Djel Turanga Graf, 13/6 2 (ssp. *feldegg* or *melanogrisea*) wetlands near Nurly. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds almost country-wide in meadows and open fields. STC Until more research is done on this complex it is decided to keep all the taxa combined as one species.

***Motacilla citreola calcarata* and *M. c. citreola* - Citrine Wagtail - Citronvipstjert**

4/6 1 Bishkek – Almaty, 6/6 1 Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 6/6 1 Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 6/6 1 Korgaljinski Goszapovednik, drive from Korgaljinski village – Karachar village, 6/6 1 female and 1 male Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 2 pairs seen (probably more breeding pairs) at Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 12/6 1 male Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, 16/6 2 males (ssp. *calcarata*) May Saz, 17/6 5 (ssp. *calcarata*) May Saz, 20/6 10 (1730 – 2000) Tamga, 20/6 4 Barskaun Gorge – Tamga, 22/6 10 lake outside Balykchy, 23/6 1 Son Kul-area and 24/6 1 Son Kul – Naryn Bridge. Majority of birds in Kyrgyzstan is ssp. *calcarata*, but both ssp. Can be seen; especially during migration (MWA).

***Motacilla cinerea cinerea* [includes *melanope*] - Grey Wagtail - Bjergvipstjert**

15/6 1 pair Red Canyon – Karakol, Kyrgyzstan; via Tüp Valley, 16/6 1 Karakol – May Saz Pass, 18/6 3 May Saz – May Saz Pass, 19/6 11 valley East of Karakol and 20/6 2 Barskaun Gorge and high plateau. Kyrgyzstan: Very common in the mountains and along streams in cities, reservoirs; also high in the mountains.

TROGLODYTIDAE

***Troglodytes troglodytes* * - Winter Wren -**

Gærdesmutte

3/6 1 sg. Ala Archa. Local ssp. *tianschanicus*?

CINCLIDAE

Cinclus cinclus leucogaster - White-throated Dipper - Vandstær

15/6 1 Red Canyon – Karakol, Kyrgyzstan; via Tüp Valley, 16/6 3 Karakol – May Saz Pass, 19/6 6 valley East of Karakol and 19/6 2 valley East of Karakol – Tamga. Kyrgyzstan: Resident country-wide in mountain streams; in winter near open water. Notice distinct local ssp. *leucogaster* has white belly.

Cinclus pallasii * - Brown Dipper - Himalaya Vandstær

18/6 1 May Saz – May Saz Pass and 19/6 3 ad. and 1 juv. valley East of Karakol. Kyrgyzstan: Resident mainly in the north of the country in mountain streams; in winter near open water.

PRUNELLIDAE

Prunella collaris * - Alpine Accentor - Alpejerspurv

20/6 1 ad. Barskaun Gorge and high plateau. Kyrgyzstan: Uncommon resident in all higher mountains, above the tree-line; in winter lower (2) *collaris* Southern and central Europe, east to Carpathians, in Balkan countries south to Slovenia and north-east Serbia [includes *tschusii*], (4) *montana* Northern and eastern Turkey, Caucasus area, Iran, and south-west Turkmenistan [includes *caucasicus*, *hypanis*].

Prunella atrogularis * - Black-throated Accentor - Sortstrubet Jerspurv

3/6 10 Ala Archa, 17/6 6 sg. May Saz, 19/6 6 valley East of Karakol and 20/6 1 sg. Barskaun Gorge and high plateau. Kyrgyzstan: Common resident in coniferous areas in the eastern and northern part of the country.

Prunella himalyana * - Himalayan Accentor

16/6 2 sg. May Saz Pass, 18/6 14 May Saz Pass, 20/6 2 sg. Barskaun Gorge and high plateau and 22/6 5 Son Kul-area. Kyrgyzstan: Resident almost country-wide in higher mountains; above tree line, lower in winter.

Prunella fulvescens * - Brown Accentor

20/6 3 Barskaun Gorge and high plateau and 23/6 2 Son Kul-area. Uniform unstreaked

upper parts and yellowish belly.

Luscinia megarhynchos (hafizi) – Common Nightingale - Sydlig Nattergal

2/6 4 warbling Bishkek, 3/6 1 sg Bishkek, 4/6 1 sg. Bishkek, 5/6 3 sg. Almaty, 7/6 2 sg. At one locality along the river in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 11/6 2 sg. Cemetery at Djel Turanga Graf, 12/6 4 sg. Djel Turanga Graf, 12/6 6 sg. Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, 13/6 1 sg. wetlands near Nurly, 14/6 2 sg. tent camp/Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly, 15/6 4 sg. Chelek, 19/6 1 sg. valley East of Karakol - Tamga, 20/6 3 sg. Tamga, 21/6 2 Salt Lake, Issyk Kul and 24/6 1 sg. Naryn Bridge – Bishkek. Ssp. (1) *megarhynchos* Europe and North Africa, in southern former USSR east to Crimea and Taman Peninsula, in Middle East to central Turkey and Levant (2) *africana* Eastern Turkey and Caucasus area east through north and south-west Iran to western Turkmenistan [includes *transcaucasica*] (3) *hafizi* Northern Transcaspia, Uzbekistan, southern Turkmenistan, and eastern Iran east to Dzhungaria (Xingjian, China) and western Mongolia [includes *golzii*].

TURDIDAE

Cercotrichas galactotes * - Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin - Trænattergal

12/6 5 Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, 13/6 4 Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly and 14/6 3 sg. tent camp/Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly. Excellent views were obtained. Local ssp. could be (3) *familiaris* Eastern and perhaps central Turkey, Transcaucasia, Iraq, Iran, and north-east Arabia, east to west-central Asia, north to southern



Kazakhstan [includes *deserticola*, *iranica*, *persica*, *transcaspica*].

***Luscinia svecica* * – Bluethroat - Blåhals**
6/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 1 sg. Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 7/6 36 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 1 sg. Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 9/6 2 sg. (04.00 – 06.45) Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 9/6 1 sg. Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik) - Astana, Kazakhstan and 22/6 1 sg. lake outside Balykchy. More subspecies occur in the region. In Kazakhstan both birds of *pallidigularis* and *svecica* is being caught during migration: Look for the pattern of breast band which is much broader in *svecica* than in *pallidigularis* and the markings in the throat differ as well. More subspecies occur in the region than the two mentioned. Kyrgyzstan: Especially common during migration; probably breeding country-wide in low marshy areas on several locations; migrant.

***Irania gutturalis* (monotypic) - White-throated Robin - Hvidhals**
14/6 1 breeding pair observed with 1 juv. Kökpek Pass, Kazakhstan. Rare breeding in the SW of Kyrgyzstan; mainly in the foothills of Fergana.

***Luscinia pectoralis* - Himalayan Rubythroat - Himalaya Rubinnattergal**
3/6 7 Ala Archa, 17/6 2 sg. May Saz, 18/6 1 May Saz Pass and 20/6 3 (1 pair and 1 male) Barskaun Gorge and high plateau. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds country-wide at higher altitude in bushy areas along mountain streams and in mountain meadows.

***Phoenicurus phoenicurus* (*samamisticus*) - Common Redstart - Rødstjert**
2 sg males Ala Archa and 21/6 1 male Salt

Lake, Issyk Kul. Kyrgyzstan: Status uncertain, but breeds in the north of the country; migrant.

***Phoenicurus erythrogastrus erythrogastrus* - Güldenstädt's Redstart - Hvidkronet Rødstjert**
18/6 7 (5 ad. males) May Saz Pass and 20/6 2 (female and male) Barskaun Gorge and high plateau. Kyrgyzstan: Resident country-wide at high altitude; in winter in valleys.

***Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides* - Black Redstart - Husrødstjert**
20/6 1 Barskaun Gorge and high plateau, 21/6 3 (1 female and 2 males) Red Rocks and 24/6 1 male Son Kul – Naryn Bridge. Local ssp *phoenicuroides*: Central Asia from Tien Shan to Mongolia, vagrant WP. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds country-wide; in general migrates to Iran and India.

***Phoenicurus erythronotus* (monotypic) - Eversmann's Redstart - Altairødstjert**
3/6 3 (1 pair and 1 male) Ala Archa, 16/6 1 male Karakol – May Saz Pass, 17/6 1 male May Saz and 19/6 1 male valley East of Karakol. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds in forests a country-wide; winters in small numbers in forests and open areas.

***Phoenicurus caeruleocephalus* * - Blue-headed Redstart**
3/6 2 sg Ala Archa and 19/6 1 valley East of Karakol. Kyrgyzstan: Tien Shan Resident, winters in lower valleys country-wide.

Note about the Wheatears. There are more species and especially a multitude of forms and subspecies in the Central Asian region. Be aware of the variability and spend time to recognise what you actually catch in the binocular. It's not that obvious and easy identification task, when two or three *oenanthe* species occur in front of the observer. There are still debates whether *Oenanthe finschii*, *Oenanthe hispanica* and other wheatears occur in the region.



***Oenanthe oenanthe* * - Northern Wheatear - Stenpikker**

6/6 1 ad. male Korgaljinski Goszapovednik, drive from Korgaljinski village – Karachar village, 6/6 1 female Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 1 female and 1 male observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 3 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 1 breeding pair at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 17/6 3 (1 pair + 1 male) May Saz, 20/6 1 male Barskaun Gorge and high plateau, 20/6 1 male (1730 – 2000) Tamga, 23/6 2 males Son Kul-area and 24/6 1 Son Kul – Naryn Bridge. Possible local ssp. (1) *seebohmi* (monotypic) (2) *libanotica* Southern Europe from Iberia east through Greece, Turkey, and Levant to Transcaucasia and Iran, north to Pyrenees, Alps, west and south of former Yugoslavia, southern and eastern Rumania, southern Ukraine, and Caucasus, and in Transcaspia from Tien Shan, Dzhungaria, Mongolia, and Tuva east to Transbaikalia and western Manchuria [includes *argentea*, *nivea*, *virago*]. Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* proposed by Walters (1997) to be treated as two species: Pending decisions with comments on the progress: 1) Seebohm's Wheatear *Oenanthe seebohmi* (monotypic) and 2) Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* (polytypic: *Oe. oe. libanotica*, *oenanthe*, *leucorhoa*). A.J. Helbig Seebohm's Wheatear was described in 1882 by C. Dixon

(1858–1926), a naturalist, author, journalist and lecturer who studied the migration of birds and geographic distribution of species. Seebohm's Wheatear could be treated as a separate species based on consistent differences in morphology, including male-like female plumage, and song. There is no consensus on this, however, within the AERC TAC. Its audibly different song is more measured, melodious and sonorous than that of nominate oenanthe; units are longer and lower-pitched, mostly below 4 kHz, whereas much of oenanthe song exceeds 4 kHz. Also pauses between units are longer (cf. Cramp et al. 1988 for sonograms and discussion). Recognised as a distinct species by Walters (1997) and A.J. Helbig in Svensson et al. (2000).

***Oenanthe isabellina* (monotypic) - Isabelline Wheatear - Isabellastenpikker**

2/6 1 sg Oto-Say, Bishkek, 6/6 2 female Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 10/6 3 Konchangel incl. artesian well, 11/6 5 artesian wells near Konchangel village, 14/6 1 tent camp/Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly, 14/6 13 Barthogai Water reservoir, 16/6 11 May Saz, 17/6 2 May Saz, 18/6 8 May Saz, 19/6 2 valley East of Karakol - Tamga, 20/6 2 Barskaun Gorge – Tamga, 21/6 2 Red Rocks, 21/6 2 Salt Lake, Issyk Kul and 22/6 20 Son Kul-area. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds country-wide also in higher mountains; winters in India and NE Africa.





***Oenanthe deserti (atrogularis)* - Desert Wheatear - Ørkenstenpikker**

2/6 2 male and female Oto-Say, Bishkek, 5/6 1 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 14/6 1 female desert east of Nurly and 21/6 1 female Red Rocks.

Ssp. (3) *atrogularis* Transcaucasia and Iran to Tien Shan, Dzhungaria (north-west China), and Mongolia, north of Pamir and Tarim basin [includes *salina*]. Kyrgyzstan: Country-wide in suitable habitat.

***Oenanthe pleschanka (monotypic)* [includes *hendersoni*] - Pied Wheatear - Nonnestenpikker**

5/6 3 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 12/6 1 male Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, 12/6 1 female and 2 males Camp Querbulag at River Ili, 13/6 3 males Querbulag at River Ili, 14/6 1 female and male Kökpek Pass, 15/6 1 female and 1 male Red Canyon, 21/6 7 Red Rocks, 21/6 1 male Salt Lake, Issyk Kul and 22/6 1 male morningobs at Tamga.

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*: Pied Wheatear is already treated as separate species in the Swedish Holarctic checklist (SOF 1995). The BOURC commented on the taxonomic status of Pied and Black-eared Wheatears in its 13th report (BOURC 1988): Haffer (1977) presented detailed information on the hybridisation of these two species in Iran. Recent work by Panov (1986, 1999) on the W coast of the Caspian Sea has emphasised the extent to which these taxa interbreed and the variety of plumages found in the resulting hybrids. However, *Oe. pleschanka* and *Oe. hispanica* are

largely parapatric with limited areas of contact.’ G. Sangster added ‘but where they meet, they show introgressive hybridisation without evidence for reproductive isolation.’ Pied and Black-eared Wheatears are poorly differentiated acoustically; in playback experiments, they react to each other’s songs. G. Sangster then asked: ‘Why still consider them as species if this is the case?’ whereupon L. Svensson replied: ‘I agree that same or extremely similar song should make us very cautious before we split. However, taxonomy (or speciation) is complex, and in a few cases the song does not seem to be as important for upholding largely distinct species, as witnessed by Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* and Pine Bunting *E. leucocephalos*, Red-headed *E. bruniceps* and Black-headed Buntings *E. melanocephala*, Willow *Parus montanus* and Songar Tits *P. songarus*, and others. Habitat choice, altitude, breeding season, mating behaviour etc. can sometimes be enough, while selection has apparently not (yet) developed distinct songs.’ Further reading: Panov, N. & Ivanitzky, V.V. (1975) Evolutionary and taxonomic relations between *Oenanthe hispanica* and *Oe. pleschanka*. Zool. Zhurn. 54: 1860-1873. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds country-wide in plains and hills along valleys.

***Oenanthe picata* * - Variable Wheatear - Østlig Nonnestenpikker**

21/6 1 male Red Rocks. Kyrgyzstan: Locally common breeding in Tien Shan, Fergana; hills and lower mountains.



***Saxicola torquatus* (ssp. *Maurus*-group) – Common Stonechat - Sortstrubet Bynkefugl**

There is more subspecies in the region. Obvious is the *maurus*-group, but we have seen more odd-looking birds and I assume there is much more to study and learn about this.

6/6 1 male Korgaljinski Goszapovednik, drive from Korgaljinski village – Karachar village, 7/6 12 observed during

excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 1 pair Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 19/6 3 (1 female and 2 males) valley East of Karakol – Tamga. Majority was ssp. *S. t. maurus*, but definitely there were more subspecies, e.g. *rubicola*-looking birds in Kazakhstan.

Rubicola-group

(1) *hibernans* Northern Portugal, north-west Spain, western France, Britain, Ireland, and along coast of southern North Sea north to at least western Netherlands [includes *theresae*]
(2) *rubicola* North-west Africa and southern and central Europe (except for area inhabited by *hibernans*), east to western and northern Turkey, western Transcaucasia, western Caucasus, and Ukraine [includes *graecorum*, *gabrielae*, *amaliae*]

Maurus-group

(3) *variegatus* Eastern Caucasus, north-east Transcaucasia, and along western and northern shore of Caspian Sea north to lower Ural River
(4) *armenicus* South-east Turkey, south-west and northern Iran, and south-central Transcaucasia
(5) *maurus* Northern and eastern European Russia east to Yenisey basin and north-west Mongolia, south to northern Kazakhstan, and through mountains of north-central Asia to Pamir-Alai system, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, and north-east Iran.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus* suggested by Sangster et al. (1998) to be treated as three species: Pending decisions with comments on the progress. The following proposals are pending. African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus* (polytypic: extralimital *S. t. felix*, *albofasciatus*, *jebelmarrae*, *moptanus*, *nebularum*, *adamauae*, *pallidigula*, *axillaris*, *promiscuus*, *salax*, *stonei*, *clanceyi*, *torquatus*, *oreobates*, *sibillus*, *voeltzkowi*, *tectes*). Common Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola* (polytypic: *S. r. rubicola*, *hibernans*) and Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus* (polytypic: *S. m. variegatus*, *maurus*, *armenicus*, *przewalskii*, *stejnegeri*; extralimital: *indicus*).

CSNA *Saxicola* is a masculine noun. Notice the correct spelling of *torquatus*, *variegatus*, *armenicus* and *maurus* (David & Gosselin

2002b). Authors prior to this publication have used the feminine endings to these adjectives, which are not repeated here to avoid confusion. There are, however, other differences in the Latin binomen used for the suggested new species. The CSNA has used the binomen *S. rubicola* for the two Western Palearctic subspecies *hibernans* and *rubicola*, whereas Wink et al. (2002) have used the binomen *S. torquatus* (in fact, *torquata* at the time, but see David & Gosselin 2002b). Wittmann et al. (1995) and Wink et al. (2001, 2002) both use the binomen *S. axillaris* for African Stonechat. This would only be correct if subspecies *S. t. torquatus* from South Africa was grouped with the European populations. A grouping including *S. t. torquatus* with the rest of the African populations under African Stonechat *S. torquatus* is far more likely than a grouping of *S. t. torquatus* under European populations (G. Sangster in litt.). Urquhart & Bowley (2002) clearly show the discrepancy between the nomenclature used by Wink et al. (2002) and the one used by the CSNA (and their own). The CSNA recommended European Stonechat *S. rubicola*, Siberian Stonechat *S. maurus* and African Stonechat *S. torquatus* to be treated as specifically distinct (cf. Sibley 1996) based on qualitative differences in morphology (Cramp 1988, Svensson 1992) and phylogeographic analysis (Wittmann et al. 1995). Vernacular name: Guy Kirwan requested that Eastern Stonechat be used instead of 'the long-standing misnomer of Siberian Stonechat'. ID: Corso (2001) pointed out that *S. t. archimedes* (Clancey 1949) from Sicily can appear very similar to *maurus*. Is *rubicola* the correct name of the Stonechats breeding in W Europe?

Monticola solitarius * - Blue Rock Thrush - Blådrössel

14/6 1 sg. Kökpek Pass.

Monticola saxatilis (monotypic) [includes centralasiae, coloratus, turkestanica] - Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush - Stendrossel -

14/6 1 sg. Kökpek Pass and 21/6 1 male Red Rocks.

Turdus viscivorus viscivorus - Mistle Thrush - Misteldrossel

3/6 12; hereby more sg individuals Ala Archa, 16/6 2 Karakol – May Saz Pass, 16/6 5 May Saz, 17/6 7 May Saz, 19/6 4 valley East of

Karakol and 20/6 1 Barskaun Gorge. Ssp. *viscivorus* Europe (except Corsica and Sardinia) to west Siberia, Caucasus area, and northern Iran [includes *bithynicus*, *hispaniae*, *jordansi*, *jubilaeus*, *loudoni*, *precentor*, *tauricus*, *uralensis*] plateau.

***Turdus merula intermedius* – Common Blackbird - Solsort**

2/6 Bishkek 9, 3/6 1 sg Bishkek and 19/6 1 Karakol – valley East of Karakol. Ssp. (9) *intermedius* Central Asia, vagrant WP [includes *brodkorbi*].

***Turdus ruficollis* * - Dark-throated Thrush - Sortstrubet Drossel**

17/6 1 May Saz. Kyrgyzstan: Uncommon in summer, though very common spring migrant. Dark-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis* suggested by some to be treated as two species: Dark throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis* includes *T. r. atrogularis* (Black throated form) and *T. r. ruficollis* (Red throated form). Pending decisions with comments on the progress. Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis* (monotypic): Western Urals through west and central Siberia east to upper Lena, south to Tarbagatay [includes *relicta*, *vogulorum*]. and Red-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis* (monotypic): *ruficollis* Eastern Altai and Angara basin east to northern Mongolia, Transbaikalia, and western Manchuria, occasionally breeding west to Urals [includes *hyemalis*]. Arkhipov et al. (2003) described the differences in song between these two taxa. Molecular studies are still lacking and the contact zone is poorly studied. See Clement et al. (2000) for a review of currently available information. More research is needed. ID: Clement et al. (2000).

***Myiophoneus caerleus (temminckii)* - Blue Whistling Thrush**

3/6 1 Ala Archa. Kyrgyzstan and 24/6 1 Son Kul - Bishkek: Resident country-wide in narrow mountain rivers; gorges. Birds warbling loudly at the first light of morning from spring to ult. September.

SYLVIIDAE

***Sylvia nisoria* * - Barred**

Warbler - Høgesanger

2/6 2 sg Bishkek, 7/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 20/6 2 Barskaun Gorge – Tamga. (1) *nisoria* Europe east to Urals and north-west Caspian Sea, and (perhaps this race) Crimea, Asia Minor, Caucasus area, and northern Iran (2) *merzbacheri* From about Ural Mountains, Ural River, and Caspian Sea east to Mongolia.

***Sylvia communis rubicola* - Common Whitethroat - Tornanger**

3/6 12 sg. Ala Archa, 15/6 4 sg. Red Canyon – Karakol, Kyrgyzstan; via Tüp Valley and 20/6 6 Barskaun Gorge – Tamga. Ssp. *rubicola* the largest race of the Common Whitethroat. (4) *rubicola* Central Asia, from Afghanistan through Pamir and Tien Shan to Altai and Mongolia; migrant south-east WP.

***Sylvia curruca* * - Lesser Whitethroat - Gærdesanger**

This species really provide complex and difficult field ornithology. In appearance and vocalisation the Central Asian Lesser Whitethroats differs evidently compared to European birds. At least three subspecies recognised by us: *minula*, *halimodendri* and *althaea*. Due to the lack of available information it is insufficient to get a clear picture. 2/6 1 sg Oto-Say, Bishkek made us completely mad, running up and down the hills to figure out exactly what species we were observing, 7/6 3 along the river in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 4 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan,



10/6 6 Konchangel incl. artesian well, 11/6 16 Konchangel, 21/6 6 Red Rocks and 21/6 10 Salt Lake, Issyk Kul.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* complex suggested by some to be treated as three species: Pending decisions with comments on the progress: Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*, Desert Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia minula* and Hume's Lesser Whitethroat - Mørk Gærdesanger *Sylvia althaea*. STC This entire complex is currently being researched by several taxonomists, and pending new evidence best kept as one species (see e.g. Martens & Steil 1997, King 1998, Shirihai et al. 2001 for details).

Curruca-group

(1) *curruca* Western Europe east to basin of Ob', south to northern Italy, to northern part of former Yugoslavia, and to northern Bulgaria, Ukraine (except Crimea), middle Volga, southern Urals, and extreme northern Kazakhstan

(2) *blythi* Central Siberia from basin of Yenisey east to Lena River, south to northern foot of Altai, Tuva, north-east Mongolia, and western Manchuria

(3) *halimodendri* Lower Volga and Mangyshlak Peninsula (north-east Caspian Sea) east through Kazakhstan to Lake Zaisan, south to northern Aral Sea and area round Lake Balkhash

(4) *jaxartica* Southern Transcaspia east to Syr Darya valley, foot of western Tien Shan and foot of Alai ranges, vagrant WP [includes *turkmenica*, *snigirewski*]



(5) *minula* Xinjiang (north-west China) east to Gansu and extreme south Mongolia, vagrant WP

Althaea-group (larger types than those in Curruca-group)

(6) *caucasica* West and south of former Yugoslavia, southern Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, Levant, Caucasus area, and north and south-west Iran [includes *zagrossiensis*]

(7) *althaea* Mountains of north-east and eastern Iran, south-west Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and west-central Asia, vagrant WP [includes *monticola*]

Although a genetic analysis remains to be done, the Lesser Whitethroat complex can be seen as a ring species, where the widespread nominate (*curruca*, including extremely similar 'blythi' in Siberia) in one direction, in the east and going southward, becomes paler and warmer brown above, and generally smaller, adapting to deserts and arid plains in Central Asia (*halimodendri* and *minula*; *margelanica* same but large), in the other direction southward in Europe and east through E Asia Minor and the Caucasus (*caucasica*) becoming darker and greyer above and progressively larger, to culminate in the mountains of Iran, Pakistan, N India and Central Asia (*althaea*). Where *althaea* in the mountains on occasions meets or comes near *halimodendri* and *minula* in the valleys and on the desert plains they behave as separate species. However, along this chain of populations it is impossible to indicate a step or a break which could serve as a division between two or more species; all are

grading smoothly and steplessly into each other. This is the picture emerging when making a careful study of available study skins in museums, and from trapping live birds in various parts of the wide range of distribution. However, it is possible that a morphometric study is insufficient to resolve the taxonomy, and so a systematic collection of DNA has taken place the last five years in collaboration with Urban Olsson. The future will show whether some cryptic species are hiding among this cline of very similar birds. – For field study, it has become clear over the years that the

various taxa are extremely difficult to identify reliably in nature, and even after recording the song and trapping the bird it can prove difficult without sample specimens to compare with. (This is in bright contrast to the optimistic picture given in some fieldguides and identification papers.) – It should be noted, also, that the song differences as given by Martens & Steil (1997) have proved difficult to follow. In practice, all birds west of a line from W Siberia to E Turkey have the familiar song consisting of a brief warble followed by the characteristic rattle (*curruca*, *caucasica*), whereas birds east of this line basically have a longer scratchy warble and no rattling end (*halimodendri*, *minula* and *althaea*; many exceptions or intermediate singers near the line). This means that in Central Asia you have limited help by the song. – A brief reference also to the taxon *margelanica*, afforded ‘allospecies’ status by Shirihai et al. 2002 (but this based solely on morphological distinctness!) It breeds in C China (contra BWP) and migrates west through Central Asia to unknown winter grounds. Until we know DNA, song, detailed distribution range, etc., I find no sound reason to split it as an ‘allospecies’. – In summary, research is in progress, research which will hopefully cast more light on the relationship between these closely similar taxa. It seems unwise to make any taxonomic changes before this research is concluded. Also, if a molecular analysis confirms the morphological picture of a ring species, I strongly advocate keeping it together as one whole rather than arbitrarily cutting it up in little pieces (cf. comments on the Greenish Warbler complex). The Lesser Whitethroat is an old and interesting, plastic species which has been able to adapt to various environments, and changed with them. A fragmentation of it will not help our understanding of this. (Lars Svensson).

***Sylvia nana* (monotypic) - Asian Desert Warbler - Østlig Ørkensanger**

Volga 10/6 1 Konchangel incl. artesian well, 11/6 2 Konchangel and 21/6 1 Salt Lake, Issyk Kul.

***Acrocephalus scirpaceus fuscus* - European Reed Warbler - Rørsanger**

22/6 1 sg. lake outside Balykchy. Kyrgyzstan: Breeds mainly in the North of the country in larger reed beds; migrates in larger numbers. Winters south of Sahara. Eurasian Reed-warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus fuscus* or Caspian Reed-warbler treated by Leiser et al 1997 J. fur Orn. 138: 469-496) and Sangster et al 1998 (Dutch Birding 20: 22-32) as a separate species. Birds are rather dark and look like a hybrid between a Dusky Warbler and an *acrocephalus* bird. (2) *fuscus* Central and eastern Asia Minor, Levant, Transcaucasia, Iraq, and from Iran, shores of Caspian Sea, and lower Volga east to west-central Asia [includes *macronyx*].

***Acrocephalus agricola capistratus* Paddy-field Warbler - Lille Rørsanger**

6/6 1 sg. Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 7/6 2 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 7/6 12 sg. at Karachar village; Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 10 sg. at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 3 sg. at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 9/6 10 sg. (04.00 – 06.45) at Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 9/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik) - Astana, Kazakhstan and 22/6 2 sg. lake outside Balykchy. Ssp. *capistratus* (polytypic: *A. a. septimus*, *capistratus*; extralimital *A. a. agricola*) Ural River and Transcaucasia east to Mon-



golia and western China [synonym: *brevipennis*].

***Acrocephalus dumetorum* (monotypic) - Blyth's Reed Warbler Buskrørsanger**

2/6 1 sg Bishkek and 7/6 2 sg. Along the river in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.



***Acrocephalus arundinaceus* * - Great Reed Warbler - Drosselrørsanger**

6/6 6 sg. Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 6/6 1 sg. Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 8/6 1 sg. at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 1 sg. during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 9/6 3 sg. (04.00 – 06.45) Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 13/6 2 sg. wetlands near Nurly.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* to be treated as three species:

Basra Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus griseldis* (monotypic), Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* (polytypic: *A. a. arundinaceus* and *zarudnyi*) and Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis* (monotypic). (1) *arundinaceus* North-west Africa and Europe, east to Volga basin and Caucasus area (2) *zarudnyi* Eastern Iraq, Iran, and Volga basin east through Transcaspia to western Mongolia and Krasnoyarsk area. Basra Reed Warbler is already considered a separate species in the Swedish Holarctic checklist (SOF 1995). The species Great Reed Warbler was suggested by Helbig & Seibold (1999) not to be mono-

phyletic (see also Helbig 2000). *A. a. arundinaceus* and the poorly differentiated *A. a. zarudnyi* are more closely related to the different forms of Clamorous Reed Warbler *A. stentoreus* than to Basra Reed Warbler *A. griseldis*. Oriental Reed Warbler is best treated as a separate species based on differences in morphology, including juvenile plumage. Leisler et al. (1997) showed that it is genetically more closely related to Clamorous Reed Warbler *A. stentoreus* than to Great Reed Warbler *A. arundinaceus*. It is treated as a full species by e.g. Sibley & Monroe (1990), Howard & Moore (1991).

***Acrocephalus stentoreus brunnescens* - Clamorous Reed Warbler - Papyrussanger**

13/6 3 sg. wetlands near Nurly, 24/6 1 sg. Sashas place in Bishkek. (3) *brunnescens* Shores of central and southern Red Sea and Arabia, and from Iran east to southern Kazakhstan and central India. Kyrgyzstan: Not well recorded; breeds in the north of the country along border to Kazakhstan and probably in drier southwestern part of the country.

***Hippolais pallida* * (polytypic: *H. p. reiseri*, *pallida*, *laeneni* and *elaeica*) - Eastern Olivaceous Warbler - Bleg Gulbug**

2/6 2 sg. Bishkek.

Kyrgyzstan: Breeds in the north and west of the country in bushy areas, also in gardens, etc. Possible local ssp. *Elaeica*; Hungary, southwest Ukraine, and Balkan countries south to Greece and western Asia Minor; includes *tamariceti* from central and eastern Asia Minor, Cyprus, Levant, and through Caucasus area, Iraq, and Iran to west-central Asia [includes *turcestanica*].

STC Olivaceous Warbler is best treated as two separate species based on clear differences in morphology, vocalisation, behaviour (Svensson 2001a) and genetic data (Helbig & Seibold 1999, Ottosson et al., in prep.). In spite of parapatric ranges in NW Africa, intermediates are unknown (Roselaar, in Cramp et al. 1992, Svensson 2001). All taxa of the Eastern Olivaceous Warbler have a cyclic, scratchy-voiced song, and they all dip their tail down frequently. The Western Olivaceous Warbler has a more pleasing and varied song, like a slower version of *H. polyglotta*, and it does not dip its tail downwards. Bill-shape and some other biometric differences make it possible to dis-

tinguish all individuals in the hand. Recent DNA data (Ottoosson et al., in prep.) show that all four subspecies of *pallida* have very similar genetic composition, whereas *opaca* differs markedly.

***Hippolais caligata* (monotypic) - Booted Warbler - Lille Gulbug**

7/6 4 sg. Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 3 seen and heard sg. during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 9/6 1 sg. Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik) - Astana, Kazakhstan.

STC Sykes's Warbler is best treated as a separate species based on differences in morphology, song, ecology, genetic data and partly sympatric breeding ranges (Svensson 2001a). Although both species are morphologically at times extremely similar (however separable in the hand to 99%), they differ in song and can invariably be separated on that. They are true cryptic species which are best told on vocalisation and habitat choice, *caligata* breeding in low scrub on steppe or steppe-like habitats, *rama* in sand or clay deserts with dense Saxaul or Tamarix vegetation. They have recently (Svensson 2001a) been found to apparently breed sympatrically in a part of the range (S Kazakhstan). Also in this year (May 2003) were *rama* found to sing north of Lake Balkhash, and *caligata* south of it. – The CSNA split this species in 1998 based on PSC (Sangster et al. 1998), and BOURC did so in 2002 (Knox et al. 2002). This split was accepted unanimously by the AERC TAC. Previously, Sykes's Warbler was regarded as a separate species, mainly based on morphology, by Sykes (1832), Hartert (1910), Stepanyan (1978 & 1983), Haffer in Glutz & Bauer (1991), Sibley & Monroe (1993), and Clements (2000). (Lars Svensson) ID: Svensson (2001a); Small (2002) commented on a difference in bill shape between *rama* and *caligata*.

***Hippolais rama* (monotypic) - Sykes's Warbler - Steppegulbug**

10/6 1 Lake Sorbulak – Konchangel incl. artesian wells along the road, 12/6 1 Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, 14/6 3 sg. tent camp/Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly and 21/6 4 Salt Lake, Issyk Kul.

***Phylloscopus collybita* * - Chiffchaff - Gransanger**

7/6 2 Karachar village; Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 8/6 1 Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan. Fairly many records have been reported by different observers during the years. Apparently its records of *P.c.sindianus* - Mountain Chiffchaff – Bjerggransanger.



***Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus* - Greenish Warbler - Lundsanger**

3/6 35 hereby more warbling individuals Ala Archa, 15/6 1 sg. Red Canyon – Karakol, Kyrgyzstan; via Tüp Valley, 16/6 5 sg. May Saz, 17/6 9 sg. May Saz, 18/6 3 sg. May Saz – May Saz Pass, 18/6 13 sg. May Saz Pass - Karakol, 19/6 15 sg. valley East of Karakol, 19/6 1 sg. valley East of Karakol – Tamga and 20/6 2 sg. Barskaun Gorge and high plateau.

Kyrgyzstan: Very common in summer in forested areas country-wide. Most common ssp. *viridanus*: Eurasia east to Yenisey, Altai, and north-west Mongolia, south in mountains of westcentral Asia to Pamir [includes *intermedia*, *sushkini*, *tenuirostris*]. Proposed by BOURC TSC (Collinson et al. 2003) to be treated as one species: Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* (polytypic: *Ph. t. virida-*

nus, ‘Green Warbler’ *nitidus*, ‘Two-barred Greenish Warbler’ *plumbeitarsus*; extralimital: *ludlowi*, *obscuratus* and *trochiloides*). BOURC TSC The taxa within the Greenish Warbler complex are best treated as conspecific, based on application of the Guidelines (Collinson et al. 2003). Four of the five taxa form an interrupted ring *viridanus*–*ludlowi*–*trochiloides*–*obscuratus*–*plumbeitarsus*. There is distributional overlap between the two ends *viridanus* and *plumbeitarsus*. All published morphological and vocal characters vary clinally along the chain *viridanus*–*ludlowi*–*trochiloides*–*obscuratus*–*plumbeitarsus* and there is no evidence of species-level differences across the distributional gap between *obscuratus* and *plumbeitarsus*. Under the guidelines, taxa that are linked by a broad cline are retained within a single species. For *nitidus*, a treatment as a separate species could be defended considering its allopatric range, genetic differentiation (by 2.5–3.1% for cytochrome b mtDNA) and apparently distinct morphology, but it has not yet been shown that *nitidus* fulfils diagnosability requirements under the guidelines. *Nitidus* is therefore, for now, retained within *trochiloides*. Based on sound-recordings, M. Schubert showed that some vocalisations of *Ph. t. plumbeitarsus* are very similar to those of *viridanus* [Schubert M. (1982) Mitt. zool. Mus. Berlin 58 (1): 109–128.]. Van der Vliet et al. (2003) showed that *plumbeitarsus* and *nitidus* have rather similar sparrow Passer-like contact calls with slightly different patterns; the contact calls of *viridanus* differ in showing a rising first part and a descending final part. For additional



reading on the Greenish Warbler complex, see Ticehurst (1938), Vaurie (1959), Williamson (1967), Helbig et al. (1995), Irwin (2000, 2002), Irwin et al. (2001b) and Collinson (2001).

***Phylloscopus griseolus* * - Sulphur-bellied Warbler - Stensanger**

3/6 1 Ala Archa, 17/6 2 May Saz and 20/6 3 Barskaun Gorge and high plateau.

***Phylloscopus humei* (polytypic: *Ph. h. humei*; extralimital: *Ph. h. mandellii*) – Hume’s Leaf Warbler - Humes Sanger**

3/6 13 Ala Archa, 10/6 2 Lake Sorbulak – Konchangel incl. artesian wells along the road, 16/6 2 sg. May Saz, 17/6 18 May Saz and 19/6 6 sg. valley East of Karakol. Kyrgyzstan: Very common country-wide. In breeding season mainly in the mountains $\geq 1.700\text{m}$, but also recorded in city parks and similar forested areas.

***Cettia cetti* * - Cetti’s Warbler - Cettisanger**

7/6 1 sg. Kurgaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 12/6 1 sg. Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, 13/6 1 sg. Querbulag – Nurly, 13/6 2 sg. wetlands near Nurly, 19/6 1 sg. valley East of Karakol - Tamga, 21/6 1 sg. Salt Lake, Issyk Kul, 22/6 3 sg. lake outside Balykchy and 24/6 1 sg. Naryn Bridge – Bishkek.

Local ssp. could be one of following: (3) *orientalis* Central and eastern Turkey, Levant, Caucasus area north along western Caspian to Volga delta, western and northern Iran, and westernmost Turkmenistan [includes *interposita*] (4) *albiventris* Iran (except west and north) and from Ural valley and central Turkmenistan east through Transcaspia to Dzhungaria (western China) [includes *cettioides*, *stolickzae*, *semenowi*].

***Locustella naevia* * - Common Grasshopper Warbler - Græshoppesanger**

5/6 1 sg. Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 7/6 2 sg. observed during excursion at various places in Kurgaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 7/6 1 sg. at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurgaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 9/6 1 sg. (04.00 – 06.45) Karachar village, Kurgaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 16/6 1

sg. Karakol – May Saz Pass and 22/6 1 sg. lake outside Balykchy.

(1) *naevia* Western Europe east to western European Russia (2) *obscurior* North-east Turkey and Caucasus area (3) *straminea* Eastern European Russia to Tien Shan and foot of Altai. Kyrgyzstan: Rarely breeder in the north of the country in dense vegetation; not easy to see (caught Chokpak, Kazakhstan); winters India. Probably common during migration; several warbling birds have been recorded by MWA.

***Locustella luscinioides* * - Savi's Warbler - Savisanger**

6/6 2 sg. Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 3 sg. Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 7/6 5 sg. at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 5 sg. at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 3 sg. at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 9/6 6 sg. (04.00 – 06.45) Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 22/6 3 sg. lake outside Balykchy.

Local ssp. could be one of following (1) *luscinioides* North-west Africa and through southern and central Europe east to Balkan countries (except north-east Bulgaria and eastern Rumania), Greece, Ukraine, and western European Russia (2) *sarmatica* North-east Bulgaria, eastern Rumania, southern Ukraine, and south-east European Russia, east to south-west Urals and Volga valley, south to Crimea and foot of northern Caucasus (3) *fusca* Asia Minor, Levant, Iran, and from south-east Urals, Emba River, and Transcaspiya east to western Mongolia.

***Leptopoeile sophiae* - White-browed Tit Warbler [F: Severtzov's Tit Warbler]**

3/6 13 Ala Archa and 17/6 1 May Saz.

Kyrgyzstan: Resident country-wide in higher mountains above tree line in scrub; winters at lower altitude.

***Regulus regulus* *- Goldcrest - Fuglekonge**

19/6 2 Valley East of Karakol. Kyrgyzstan: Resident country-wide in forested areas. Interesting ssp. *tristis*: These birds miss

the complete black lateral crown-stripes compared with *regulus*; also the upper parts were duller and greyer. (4) *regulus* Europe (except Crimea and Caucasus area) and west Siberia east to Tomsk and middle Yenisey (5) *buturlini* Asia Minor, Caucasus area, and (probably this race) Crimea.

MUSCICAPIDAE

***Muscicapa striata (neumanni)* - Spotted Flycatcher - Grå Fluesnapper**

7/6 1 Karachar village; Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.

Kyrgyzstan: Breeds in the west of the country; gardens, orchards, forests. *Muscicapa striata neumanni* have whiter underparts and greyer upperparts compared to European birds. (1) *striata* North-west Africa, Europe (except Balearic Islands, Corsica, Sardinia, southern Greece, and Crimea), north-west and probably northern Turkey, Caucasus area, and west Siberia east to Irtysh [includes *grisola*, *papamoscas*] (4) *neumanni* Southern Greece, Cyprus, Levant, and northern and south-west Iran; also, central Siberia from Ob' and Altai east to northern Transbaikalia [includes *cretica*] (6) sarudnyi Eastern Iran and Turkmenistan east to Pakistan and Tien Shan; migrant WP [synonym: *pallida*].

***Ficedula albicilla (monotypic)* - Taiga Flycatcher**

10/6 1 female/juv Lake Sorbulak – Konchangel incl. artesian wells along the road.

BOURC TSC Taiga Flycatcher is best treated as a separate species based on consistent differences in morphology (incl. female-like winter plumage of adult males, and absence of immature-like first-summer plumage of males), marked differences in vocalisation, genetic data and presumed sympatric breeding ranges (Cederroth et al. 1999). Jännes (1996) treated the identification of *albicilla* and provided some useful comments on its taxonomy. The recent record of 'Taiga' or 'Red-throated' Flycatcher in Sweden (Cederroth et al. 1999) has led to a re-appraisal of the taxonomic status of this form. Hitherto, it has been treated as subspecies *albicilla* of *F. parva*. However, the songs are diagnosably distinct (see BWP Vol. VII p. 36 Figs III and IV). Furthermore, Jännes (2003) described the distinct call notes of these two flycatchers. Svensson (1992) drew attention to the near all-dark underside of the

bill in *albicilla*, whereas *parva* has a pale brown or pinkish base to the lower mandible. Adult male *parva* has a more extensive red breast meeting the white of the lower breast and belly; in *albicilla* the reddish breast patch is encircled by grey and restricted to the centre of the throat. One year-old male *albicilla* attain adult plumage, whereas *parva* are more female-like. Finally, the upper tail coverts of *albicilla* are jet black, even blacker than the uppertail, compared with *parva*, which has these brown or black-brown, never darker than the uppertail. Both breast and upper tail coverts seem to be diagnostic. Taiga Flycatcher has now also been recorded in Great Britain (Lassey 2003; Chapman 2003), with recent records in Denmark and France pending.

DNA analyses have not yet been published. Urban Olsson reports that cytochrome b differs by c. 6.9% between *parva* and *albicilla*. This is larger than for many similar species, and clearly would support a split. Following the Guidelines for assigning species rank, these taxa seem to be parapatric, overlapping slightly in the Ural Mountains. They are diagnosable distinct on song, bill colour, upper-tail coverts (apparently in all plumages), and adult male breast pattern. The case for splitting is further strengthened by the difference in one year-old males and the (unpublished) mtDNA data. Thus, *Ficedula albicilla* Taiga Flycatcher should be recognised as a separate species. It is a pity, however, that no information is available from the presumed contact zone. (Martin Collinson) ID: Jännes (1996), Cederroth et al. (1999).

PARIDAE

Parus major * - Great Tit - Musvit

1/6 6 Gülhane Park, Topkapi Sarayi, Istanbul, 2/6 10 Bishkek and 5/6 4 sg. Almaty.

Resident in the of the country and Bishkek (Birds were introduced from Russia about 40 years mainly in Almaty and Bishkek; birds are now found further west) Confusion: Central Asian form (no yellow) and Siberian form (yellow breast with tie) This yellow form is nowadays common and one can find it up to 500 kilometres west of Almaty.). Now both forms occur in region. The originally form (without yellow) of *P. major* is not regularly observed. At Chokpak, Kazakhstan some *bok-*

harensis have hybrid signs; hybrids between *bokharensis* x *major* caught. Birds had more yellow on the breast and more contrast in the wing (wing bar versus rest of the wing). (8) *major* Continental Europe from central Spain, France, and Norway east to Asia Minor, northwest Iran, Caucasus area (except south-east Azerbaydzhan), Altai, and central Siberia [includes *caucasicus*, *holsaticus*, *scytharum*, *sulfureus*].



Parus caeruleus – Blue Tit - Blåmejsje

1/6 1 Gülhane Park, Topkapi Sarayi, Istanbul.

Parus bokharensis bokharensis - Turkestan Tit

11/6 1 + 1 breeding pair with 2 juv. Djel Turanga Graf, 12/6 2 pairs Djel Turanga Graf and 12/6 1 Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili. Status in Kyrgyzstan uncertain, but mentioned as resident mainly in the west of the country. Uncommon.

Parus cyanus * - Azure Tit - Azurmejsje

All birds seen belongs to ssp. *Parus cyanus (tianschanicus)* 2/6 2 Oto-Say, Bishkek, 3/6 4 Ala Archa, 12/6 3 Djel Turanga Graf, 12/6 2 Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, 20/6 1 Barskaun Gorge – Tamga, 21/6 1 pair in garden near guesthouse Tamga and 24/6 2 Naryn Bridge – Bishkek.

Both ssp. occur in Kyrgyzstan. The one: The Yellow-breasted Tit *Parus flavipectus* or rather *P.c.carruthersi* I have observed only west of Son Kul in the Sususmyr Valley. Don't know

the precise distribution, but all birds I have seen during the years, in the central and eastern Kyrgyzstan have been Azure Tit *Parus cyanus*. Resident in all types of forests and with a preference for near water; more common in the east of the country. Two distinct forms occur 1) The Yellow-breasted Tit *Parus flavipectus* or rather *P.c.carruthersi* and Azure Tit *Parus cyanus tianschanicus*. The Yellow-breasted Tit *Parus flavipectus flavipectus* by Clements regarded as a separate species although it's doubted by some authors that it is a true species.

***Parus rufonuchalis* * - Rufous-naped Tit**

3/6 4 Ala Archa.

Not that rare as our few observations suggest. Resident in mountain forests, mainly coniferous and juniper; most common in the south and west of the country.

***Parus ater* * - Coal Tit - Sortmejse**

16/6 3 May Saz, 17/6 1 May Saz, 18/6 1 May Saz Pass – Karakol and 18/6 2 sg. May Saz Pass – Karakol.

Kyrgyzstan: Resident in coniferous and mixed forests in hills and plains. Mainly in the east of the country. *P.a.rufipectus* is the subspecies for the Tien Shan and the form part of the Aemodius group of Coal Tits but looks like nominate - only very detailed feather marks form a difference, and one of the small differences is the small crest.

TIMALIIDAE

***Panurus biarmicus* * - Bearded Reedling - Skægmejse**

6/6 2 Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 6/6 1 heard Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 8/6 1 at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 22/6 1 heard lake outside Balykchy.

REMIZIDAE

***Remiz pendulinus* * - Eurasian Penduline Tit - Pungmejse**

2/6 3 incl. one breeding pair at Oto-Say, Bishkek, 9/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik) - Astana, Kazakhstan, 10/6 1 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, Kazakhstan and 13/6 2 wetlands near Nurly and 24/6 1 Naryn

Bridge – Bishkek.

Local subspecies White-crowned Penduline Tit *Remiz coronatus* often regarded by authors as a separate species included in the Macronyx-group: (5) *macronyx* Transcaspia, from Ural and Emba River deltas, east through Uzbekistan and central and eastern Turkmenistan to Syr Darya valley and upper Amu Darya valley in Tadzhikistan [includes *aralensis*] (6) *neglectus* South-east Azerbaydzhan, northern Iran, and south-west Turkmenistan [includes *altaicus*, *loudoni*, *paradoxa*] and (7) *coronatus* Southern Turkmenistan (Tedzhen valley), and valleys of Amu Darya and Syr Darya, east along foot of Alai ranges and Tien Shan to foot of Dzhungarian Alatau, vagrant to Austria.

SITTIDAE

***Sitta tephronota* * - Eastern Rock Nuthatch - Østlig Klippespætmejse**

13/6 1 Querbulag at River Ili.

LANIIDAE

***Lanius isabellinus phoenicuroides* and *L. i. speculigerus* - Isabelline Shrike - Isabella-tornskade**

7/6 2 breeding pairs at Karachar village; Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 1 male Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 10/6 1 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, Kazakhstan, 10/6 1 ad. male Konchangel incl. artesian well, 12/6 76 Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, 13/6 2 males Querbulag at River Ili, 13/6 1 Querbulag – Nurly, 13 and 14/6 1 pair near Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly, 20/6 11 Barskaun Gorge – Tamga, 21/6 20 Salt Lake, Issyk Kul – Tamga and 22/6 3 mornings at Tamga.

Kazakhstan birds were either *L. i. phoenicuroides* or *L. i. speculigerus* (Turkestan Shrike). Majority were *L. i. phoenicuroides* in Kazakhstan. In autumn most birds seen in the southern Kazakhstan is juvenile *isabellinus*; also known as Daurian Shrike. The main Id criteria for Daurian Shrikes is the contrast between head and back, orange colour on the sides of the breast. In Kyrgyzstan there is a greater percentage of *speculigerus*; e.g. observed breeding in the city parks of Bishkek. Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* is rarely observed during migration as it winters in India. So is Red backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*. In general, during mi-



gration there is a complex occurrence of subspecies, forms and morphs in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The observer might be extremely cautious and enjoy the variety.

The situation in the contact zones within the ‘*cristatus* group’ of shrikes is extremely complicated and open to differing interpretations (e.g. review of hybrids in Worfolk 2000, pp 333–335); this group consists of red-backed, isabelline and brown shrikes.

More research is needed before they can be split under the species concept that has been adopted by the AERC TAC. Worfolk (2000) offers a useful review of the identification of red-backed, Isabelline and brown shrikes.

AERC TAC comments: Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* (polytypic: *L. i. phoenicuroides*, *isabellinus* and extralimital *arenarius*): (1) *phoenicuroides* Iran north and east to far north-western Xinjiang, through Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, western Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Tadjikistan and southern Kazakhstan, on migration in WP [includes *karelini*] (2) *isabellinus* Russian Altai through northern China and Mongolia, approx. as far east as the Upper Amur River (3) *arenarius* Tarim Basin (western China) to southern Mongolia, probably only a rare winter visitor as far west as Iraq (according to Worfolk 2000).

***Lanius schach erythronotus* [includes *jax-artensis*] - Long-tailed Shrike - Langhalet Tornskade**

4/6 2 Bishkek and 4/6 2 sg. Bishkek – Almaty.

***Lanius meridionalis pallidirostris* - Southern Grey Shrike - Ørkentornskade**

13 and 14/6 1 breeding pair Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly. These birds didn’t show obvious *pallidirostris* – characteristics. Local ornithologists nevertheless were convinced that these birds were they actually were *pallidirostris* and I may respect this; they are more experienced about this issue than we might be. I have seen obvious *pallidirostris* further west in the Konchangel-area and they are certainly more typically plumaged. *Pallidirostris* is polytypic: *L. m. meridionalis*, *koenigi*, *algeriensis*, *elegans*, *grimm*, *aucheri* incl. *theresae*, *pallidirostris*; extralimital: *lah-tora*, *buryi*, *uncinatus*, *leucopygos* and hence occur in many forms.

***Lanius excubitor* * - Great Grey Shrike - Stor Tornskade**

11/6 1 male Konchangel.

(1) *excubitor* Northern Eurasia east to Yenisey [includes *europaeus*, *galliae*, *melanopterus*, *stepensis*] (2) *homeyeri* Ukraine, Crimea, south-east European Russia, and south-west Siberia to Altai (3) *przewalskii* northern Kazakhstan and Barbinskaya steppe (4) *sibericus* Siberia polytypic: *excubitor* incl. ‘*galliae*’ and ‘*melanopterus*’, *homeyeri*, *przewalskii*, *sibericus*; extralimital: *mollis* incl. *funereus*, *bianchii*, *invictus*, *borealis*).

***Lanius minor* (monotypic) [includes *turanicus*] - Lesser Grey Shrike - Rosenbrystet Tornskade**

2/6 11 Oto-Say, Bishkek, 4/6 25 Bishkek – Almaty, 5/6 50 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 10/6 1 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, Kazakhstan, 10/6 1 Lake Sorbulak – Konchangel incl. artesian wells along the road, 12/6 1 male Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, 13/6 5 Querbulag – Nurly and 24/6 10 Naryn Bridge – Bishkek.

***Lanius collurio* * - Red backed Shrike - Rødrygget Tornskade**

1/6 1 pair Gülhane Park, Topkapi Sarayi, Turkey.

CORVIDAE

***Pica pica (bactriana)* - Common Magpie - Huskade**

1/6 5 Istanbul, 2/6 3 Oto-Say, Bishkek, 3/6 2 Ala Archa, 5/6 4 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 9 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 10/6 1 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, Kazakhstan, 10/6 1 Lake Sorbulak – Konchangel incl. artesian wells along the road, 12/6 2 Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, 13/6 19 Querbulag – Nurly, 15/6 5 Red Canyon – Karakol, Kyrgyzstan; via Tüp Valley, 16/6 1 Karakol – May Saz Pass, 17/6 2 May Saz, 18/6 1 May Saz Pass - Karakol, 19/6 2 valley East of Karakol - Tamga, 20/6 1 Barskaun Gorge and high plateau, 22/6 1 morningobs at Tamga and 24/6 1 Naryn Bridge – Bishkek.

(5) *bactriana* Eastern Ukraine and southern and eastern European Russia, south to northern Caucasus, east to central Siberia, western Himalayas, and Pakistan [includes *hemileucop-tera*].

Kyrgyzstan: Resident country-wide. Subspecies *P. p. bactriana*: whiter in wings and more whitish rump.

***Nucifraga caryocatactes* - Spotted Nutcracker - Nøddekrige**

16/6 2 May Saz, 17/6 5 May Saz, 18/6 1 May Saz and 18/6 1 May Saz – May Saz Pass.

Kyrgyzstan: Fairly common resident in coniferous forest; local movements in winter. (1) *caryocatactes* Mountains of central Europe, Balkan countries, and Greece, and northern Europe east to central European Russia [includes *relicta*, *wolfi*] (2) *macrorhynchos* Western Urals to eastern Asia, south to Altai, with occasional breeding further west after large influxes [includes *altaicus*, *sassii*]. Note: Probably other subspecies occur in this region than those mentioned.

***Corvus monedula soemmeringii* - Western Jackdaw – Allike**

6/6 10 Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 10/6 1 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, Kazakhstan, 11/6 15 Djel Turanga Graf, 12/6 20 Djel Turanga Graf, 13/6 14 Querbulag – Nurly, 22/6 1 morningobs at Tamga and 24/6 40 Naryn Bridge – Bishkek.

Kyrgyzstan: Resident country-wide; winters in large flocks; migrant in large numbers through

West Tien Shian. Notice: white in the neck colour various. (4) *soemmeringii* South-east and Eastern Europe and west and central Asia, south from south of former Yugoslavia and southern and eastern Rumania, east from south-east Finland, Baltic countries, Belarus, and Ukraine [includes *collaris*, *pontocaspius*, *ultracollaris*].

***Pyrhcorax pyrrhcorax (brachypus)* - Red-billed Chough - Alpekrage**

3/6 13 Ala Archa, 16/6 2 Karakol – May Saz Pass, 16/6 30 May Saz, 17/6 10 May Saz, 18/6 2 May Saz – May Saz Pass, 20/6 2 Barskaun Gorge and high plateau and 21/6 15 Red Rocks.

Kyrgyzstan: Resident country-wide in mountainous areas; lower in winter. Winters at lower altitude often in large flocks mixed with Alpine Chough *Pyrhcorax graculus*. Local ssp. *P.p. brachypus* has a shorter tarsus and bill compared to all other races, gloss rather faint, body satin-black, wing and tail slightly purplish makes them recognizable from the other races.

***Pyrhcorax graculus* * - Alpine Chough - Alpeallike**

3/6 60 Ala Archa, 16/6 30 Karakol – May Saz Pass, 16/6 5 May Saz Pass, 16/6 60 May Saz and 18/6 2 May Saz.

Kyrgyzstan: Resident country-wide; lower in winter. One of the local ssp. *Forsythi*: tail and legs longer than European birds.

***Corvus frugilegus* * – Rook - Råge**

4/6 1 Bishkek – Almaty, 5/6 100 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 100 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 100 Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 6/6 5 Korgaljinski Goszapovednik, drive from Korgaljinski village – Karachar village, 7/6 50 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 7/6 200 at Karachar village; Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 10/6 10 Lake Sorbulak, 10/6 10 Lake Sorbulak – Konchangel incl. artesian wells along the road, 12/6 50 Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, 13/6 200 Querbulag – Nurly, 15/6 50 Chelek – Red Canyon, 15/6 100 Red Canyon – Karakol, Kyrgyzstan; via Tüp

Valley, 16/6 400 Karakol, 16/6 200 Karakol – May Saz Pass, 19/6 20 Karakol – valley east of Karakol, 20/6 5 (1730 – 2000) Tamga and 22/6 20 morninggobs at Tamga.

Kyrgyzstan: Very common resident country-wide; winters in big flocks; migrant in very large numbers through West Tien Shan.

Corvus corone orientalis and C. c. cornix - Carrion Crow - Gråkrage (og Sortkrage)

1/6 20 Istanbul, 6/6 120 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 20 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 7/6 2 breeding pairs at Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 10 at Karachar village and nearby lakes,



Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 9/6 5 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik) - Astana, Kazakhstan, 12/6 2 Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, 16/6 10 (*C. corone* – Sortkrage) Karakol – May Saz Pass, 17/6 4 May Saz, 19/6 2 valley East of Karakol and 20/6 1 Barskaun Gorge and high plateau.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone* proposed by Parkin et al. (2003) to be treated as two species: Pending decisions with comments on the progress. The following proposals are pending. We either have not examined the data in sufficient detail to reach a conclusion, or there may not be sufficient data for such an assessment to be worthwhile. Carrion Crow *Corvus corone* (polytypic: *C. c. corone, orientalis*)

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix* (polytypic: *C. c. cornix, pallescens, sharpii and capellanus*) (1) *corone* (monotypic) Western Europe, north to southern Scotland and southern Denmark, east to west and central Germany, western Czech Republic, and west and central Austria, south to Iberia, France, and Alps Oriental Crow.

(2) *orientalis* (monotypic) West central Asia and central Siberia east to eastern Asia, east from easternmost Iran, Turkmenistan, Aral Sea, central Kazakhstan, Altai, and Yenisey; vagrant WP Hooded Crow.

(3) *cornix* Ireland, Isle of Man, Scotland, Faeroes, central, northern, and eastern Denmark, and Norway (north of *corone*), east through northern and east-central Europe to western Yenisey valley, east of *corone*, west of (and, in Asia, north of) *orientalis*) [includes *sub-cornix*].

According to the STC, Carrion Crow is best treated as three species based on differences in morphology, vocalisation (at least between *cornix* and *orientalis*) and parapatric breeding ranges as well as only limited hybridisation zones between the three species (Sangster et al. 1999; Knox et al. 2002). An isolated taxon from lowland Iraq, Mesopotamian or Iraq Crow *C. c. capellanus*, strikingly different to adjoining populations of Hooded Crows, is suggested by Madge & Burn (1994) to be possibly a good species. The two black taxa *C. corone* and *C. orientalis* are well

separated, and some authors believe that they probably evolved independently in the wetter, maritime regions at the opposite ends of the Eurasian continent (Madge & Burn 1994). Many experts believe, however, that the last ice ages cleaved and isolated the *corone* and *orientalis* populations, and that mutation produced the *cornix* population in one of the enclaves. Then, after glaciation, the once-separated populations merged. The intraspecific variability of crows is currently studied by Haring, Gamauf & Kryukov (in prep.). *Corone* and *cornix* usually interbreed in areas of contact, as in S Scotland, Denmark, S Switzerland, N Italy and N Afghanistan, but the hybrid zones are narrow and relatively stable, although shifting slightly westward in Europe

in recent years. There are some areas, e.g. C Russia and Iran, where they are sympatric with little or no interbreeding. This complex situation requires a detailed study to fit into any species concept and these two taxa may be viewed either as two species, as subspecies of *corone*, or as 'semispecies'. Kryukov & Blinov (1994. Journ. f. Orn. 135: Sonderheft p. 47) studied the zone of hybridisation between the Ob and Yenesei rivers in Siberia. The hybrid zone is c. 150 km wide and introgression of plumage characters can be detected for 700 km. Up to 30% of the birds in the centre of the zone are intermediate and 11 colour morphs were identified. Genetic variability in allozymes and DNA increase within the hybrid zone. There is no evidence of reduction of fertility or viability in mixed pairs, but evidence of positive assortative mating was found. The two differ in migration behaviour, wintering areas and habitat preferences. Rolando & Saino (1994. Journ. f. Orn. 135: Sonderheft p. 48) analysed the composition of breeding pairs in six areas in the alpine hybrid zone in alpine valleys and the Cuneo highlands of Italy. Their results indicate that positive assortative mating is present, i.e., mixed pairs are less frequent than would be expected if random mating was present. Although the CAF formally accepted the split, P.-A. Crochet comments that in his opinion the split is not ripe.



Kyrgyzstan: Resident country-wide. Local ssp. *orientalis* is bigger than nominate, some birds look almost as big as Raven *Corvus corax*.

Corvus corax* – Common Raven - Ravn

3/6 3 Ala Archa, 16/6 2 May Saz Pass, 16/6 2 May Saz and 23/6 1 Son Kul-area.

Kyrgyzstan: Resident country-wide in mountainous areas. Local subspecies could be *C.c.tibetanus*. (4) *corax* France, Ireland, and Norway east through northern, central, and south-east Europe to west and central Asia, south to Pyrénées, Corsica, Italy, western Greece, north-east Turkey, Caucasus area, and north Iran (6) *laurencei* Eastern Greece (Thrace, Aegean islands, Crete), Turkey (except north-east), and from Middle East, Iran (except north), and lower Volga east to western China and north-west India [synonym: '*subcorax*'].

STURNIDAE

Sturnus vulgaris* - Common Starling - Stær

1/6 20 Istanbul, 2/6 20 Oto-Say, Bishkek, 5/6 50 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 1 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 20 Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 12/6 30 Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, 13/6 20 wetlands near Nurly, 15/6 7 Red Canyon – Karakol, Kyrgyzstan; via Tüp Valley, 20/6 10 (1730 – 2000) Tamga, 22/6 1 morninggobs at Tamga and 22/6 50 lake outside Balykchy. Local ssp. *S.v. porphyronotus?* (5) *poltaratskri* Ural River valley and south-western and central Urals east to Lena basin, south to Kazakhstan, Altai, Mongolia, and western Transbaikalia [includes *menzbieri*] (6) *tauricus* South-east Ukraine (including Crimea), eastern shore of Sea of Azov, and westernmost end of Caucasus, as well as western and central Asia Minor (7) *purpurascens* Eastern Turkey, north-east Iraq, and

western Transcaucasia (8) *caucasicus* Northern Caucasus (except extreme west) through plains north of Caucasus northeast to Volga delta, and in eastern Transcaucasia and north-west, northern (except east), and south-west Iran [includes *heinrichi*, *satunini*].

***Sturnus roseus* (monotypic) - Rosy Starling - Rosenstær**

2/6 10 Oto-Say, Bishkek, 3/6 10 Bishkek, 4/6 100 Bishkek – Almaty, 5/6 2000 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 6/6 15 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 9/6 1500 Astana – Almaty, Kazakhstan, 10/6 51 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, Kazakhstan, 10/6 2500 Lake Sorbulak, 10/6 3 Lake Sorbulak – Konchangel incl. artesian wells along the road, 11/6 1 artesian wells near Konchangel village, 12/6 4 + colony app. 60 birds Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, 13/6 10 Querbulag – Nurly, 14/6 14 tent camp/Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly, 14/6 more colonies; app. 1000 birds seen Kökpek Pass, 20/6 25 Barskaun Gorge and high plateau and 24/6 20 Naryn Bridge – Bishkek. Kyrgyzstan: Common country-wide. A very opportunistic migrant. Arrives late in spring; leaves by the end of July to Asia. Breeds in large colonies in the lower mountains, especially in the west of the country and all over West Tien Shan.

***Acridotheres tristis tristis* [or partly also *tristoides* introduced??] - Common Myna - Almindelig Mynah**

2/7 48 Bishkek, 3/6 1 Bishkek, 3/6 17 Ala Archa, 4/6 1 Bishkek, 4/6 50 Bishkek – Almaty, 10/6 1 seen from the train outside Almaty, Kazakhstan, 10/6 1 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, Kazakhstan, 11/6 1 Konchangel, 12/6 2 Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, 13/6 4 Querbulag – Nurly, 13/6 2 wetlands near Nurly, 15/6 3 Chelek, 15/6 10 Red Canyon – Karakol, Kyrgyzstan; via Tüp Valley, 16/6 1 Karakol, 16/6 5 Karakol – May Saz Pass, 19/6 5 Karakol – valley east of Karakol, 20/6 10 Barskaun Gorge – Tamga and 21/6 10 Tamga.

ORIOLIDAE

***Oriolus oriolus oriolus* [includes *caucasicus*] - Eurasian Golden Oriole - Pirol**

2/6 3 heard Oto-Say, Bishkek, 3/6 1 sg Bishkek, 4/6 6 sg. Bishkek, 4/6 1 female Bishkek – Almaty, 7/6 1 female observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 7/6 2 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 20/6 1 (1730 – 2000) Tamga and 21/6 1 heard Tamga.

PASSERIDAE

***Passer domesticus* * - House Sparrow - Gråspurv**

1/6 50 Istanbul, 2/6 7 Bishkek, 2/6 40 Oto-Say, Bishkek, 2/6 20 ssp. *bactricanus* Oto-Say, Bishkek, 3/6 2 Bishkek, 6/6 5 Korgaljinski Goszapovednik, drive from Korgaljinski village – Karachar village, 6/6 20 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 10/6 2 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, Kazakhstan, 10/6 10 Lake Sorbulak – Konchangel incl. artesian wells along the road, 13/6 10 wetlands near Nurly, 15/6 1 Chelek and 19/6 20 Karakol – valley east of Karakol.

Passer domesticus indicus (or probably more correct: *Passer domesticus bactrianus*) - Indian Sparrow: 10/6 17 Lake Sorbulak – Konchangel incl. artesian wells along the road.



Indian Sparrow *Passer indicus* (or probably more correct: *Passer domesticus bactrianus*) is often treated as a separate species in Central Asia. In general this species is classified under *P. domesticus*. *Passer indicus* is regarded as migrant in this region and might include other subspecies than only *indicus*. *P. indicus* breeds

more commonly outside human settlements in holes in steep, sandy cliffs or in trees where one of the diagnostics is the way the sparrow isolate its nest. The birds are caught regularly during migration in Chokpak, Kazakhstan. It's smaller than nominate and male has more white on the side of the head and neck, underparts are deeply chestnut coloured.

***Passer montanus dilutus* - Eurasian Tree Sparrow - Skovspurv**

6/6 1 Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 6/6 11 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 6 at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 20 Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 12/6 2 Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili and 20/6 10 (1730 – 2000) Tamga.

Local ssp. *P. m. dilutus* is larger than nominate, colours are marked paler. (1) *montanus* Europe (except Caucasus area and south-east European Russia), east to Russian Far East, south to northern Kazakhstan, Altai, north-east Mongolia, and Transbaikalia [includes *catellatus*, *hispaniae*, *margaretae*, *stegmanni*] (2) *transcaucasicus* Central Turkey, northern Caucasus east to Lower Volga, and Transcaucasia to northwest and northern Iran (except north-east) [includes *ciscaucasicus*, *volgensis*] (3) *dilutus* Transcaspiya, from basin of lower Ural River and north-east Iran east to Pakistan and Xinjiang (China) [includes *gobicus*, *pallidus*, *zaissanensis*].

***Passer ammodendri** - Saxaul Sparrow**

11/6 1 breeding pair on cemetery near Djel Turanga Graf, 11 and 12/6 min. 4 breeding pairs recognised in Djel Turanga Graf during our stay, 12/6 min. 4 breeding pairs recognised during drive north of Ili River; Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili and 13/6 1 heard Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly. Kyrgyzstan: Uncommon winter visitor in mixed flocks in the north of the country; breeding areas further east, but might occasionally breed near Issyk Kul.

***Passer hispaniolensis transcaspicus* - Spanish Sparrow - Spansk Spurv**

10/6 5 Lake Sorbulak – Konchangel incl. arte-

sian wells along the road.

Kyrgyzstan: Uncommon, but breeds almost country-wide; strong migrant. Less dependent on human settlements than *P. domesticus*. Local ssp. *transcaspicus* Central Asia Minor, Levant, and Caucasus area east to Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, and western Xinjiang (China) [includes *terekius*].

***Petronia petronia** - Rock Sparrow - Stenspurv**

13/6 1 Querbulag at River Ili.

(3) *exigua* Central Asia Minor, Caucasus, Transcaucasia, north-east Iraq, and northern Iran (5) *kirhizica* Lower Volga east to Turgay depression, Aral Sea, and Mangyshlak peninsula (western Kazakhstan) (6) *intermedia* South-west, central, and southern Iran east through southern Transcaspiya to southeast Kazakhstan and north-west India, in winter in south-east WP.

***Montifringilla nivalis** - White-winged Snowfinch - Snefinke**

18/6 3 May Saz Pass and 23/6 5 Son Kul-area. Kyrgyzstan: Resident in high mountains; in winter at lower altitudes. (1) *nivalis* Central and southern Europe, from Iberia and Alps east to Bulgaria and Greece. (2) *leucura* Southern and eastern Turkey [includes *fahrettini*] (3) *alpicola* Caucasus and northern Iran east through Afghanistan to western Pamirs [includes *prosvirowi*].



***Carduelis cannabina (bella)* - Common Linnet - Tornirisk**

7/6 2 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 2 seen during day-excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino

(Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 14/6 2 Barthogai Water reservoir, 16/6 9 Karakol – May Saz Pass, 20/6 2 (female and male) (1730 – 2000) Tamga, 20/6 1 Barskaun Gorge – Tamga and 23/6 3 Son Kul-area.

Kyrgyzstan: Breeds country-wide, mainly at lower altitudes most bird's winter in the region; also common migrant. Tien Shan Mountains is probably the breeding range of the race *bella*; the bird possibly belonged to this race. These birds are generally paler than the nominate *cannabina*. At Chokpak in southern Kazakhstan *C. c. cannabina* is possibly identified during migration. (6) *cannabina* Western, central, and northern Europe (except Scotland) to west Siberia and upper Yenisey, north from Pyrenees, northern Italy, north of former Yugoslavia, Rumania, and Ukraine (except Crimea) (7) *bella* Islands in eastern Aegean south to Rhodes, Asia Minor, Levant, and Crimea, east through Caucasus area to Iran and south-west Turkmenistan, as well as in central Asia [includes *fringillirostris*, *kudashevi*, *merzbacheri*, *persica*, *taurica*].

***Carduelis flavirostris* * - Twite - Bjergirisk**

7/6 8 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan.

Kyrgyzstan: Breeds in most parts of the country. (4) *brevirostris* Asia Minor and Caucasus area to Iran (5) *kirghizorum* Lower Volga east through Kazakhstan to Irtysh and Ayaguz.

***Carduelis carduelis paropansi* - European Goldfinch - Stillits**

2/6 9 Oto-Say, Bishkek, 3/6 2 Bishkek, 3/6 2 Bishkek, 4/6 2 Bishkek, 18/6 3 sg. May Saz Pass – Karakol and 21/6 2 Salt Lake, Issyk Kul.

Chinese races greyer than European taxa and black on head; hence local name Grey-headed Goldfinch. Proposed split from nominate. All birds seen in Kyrgyzstan, belongs to *paropansi*: Resident country-wide.

***Carduelis chloris (turkestanicus)* - European Greenfinch - Grønirisk**

2/6 2 Bishkek, 3/6 1 Ala Archa, 4/6 1 sg. Bishkek and 15/6 2 sg. Chelek.

Kyrgyzstan: Breeds mainly in the north and west of the country in forests, gardens and parks; nomadic.

***Serinus pusillus (monotypic)* [includes *aurifrons*, *pygmaea*] - Red-fronted Serin - Rødpandet Irisk**

3/6 3 Ala Archa, 15/6 2 Red Canyon – Karakol, Kyrgyzstan; via Tüp Valley, 16/6 12 Karakol – May Saz Pass, 16/6 3 May Saz, 17/6 5 May Saz, 18/6 8 May Saz – May Saz Pass, 19/6 30 valley East of Karakol and 20/6 5 Barskaun Gorge and high plateau.

Kyrgyzstan: Common resident in mountains up to 3.000m; country-wide. In winter at lower altitudes in small flocks.

***Myccrobas carnipes* - White-winged Grosbeak**

3/6 1 Ala Archa.

Only one record is poor. It's usually not rare in the mountains of Kyrgyzstan: Resident country-wide in the mountains, usually above tree line at higher parts of juniper.

***Carpodacus erythrinus* * - Common Rosefinch - Karmindompap**

3/6 47 Ala Archa, 5/6 10 sg. Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 7/6 10 observed during excursion at various places in Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 1 sg. at Karachar village, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 9/6 1 sg. Kurghaldzino (Korgaljinski Goszapovednik) - Astana, Kazakhstan, 12/6 2 Djel Turanga Graf, 15/6 28 sg. Red Canyon – Karakol, Kyrgyzstan; via Tüp Valley, 16/6 60 Karakol – May Saz Pass, 17/6 6 sg. May Saz, 18/6 11 sg. May Saz Pass - Karakol, 19/6 1 Karakol – Valley East of Karakol, 19/6 3 sg. valley East of Karakol, 19/6 6 valley East of Karakol - Tamga, 20/6 1 Tamga, 20/6 15 Barskaun Gorge – Tamga and 22/6 3 sg. morningobs at Tamga.

Kyrgyzstan: Abundant in summer; especially late spring May and June. Breeds country-wide in forests, scrubs and near streams; winters India. Probably most if not all birds belong to ssp. *Erythrinus*: Europe east to Lena basin, south to northern France, Czech Republic, and northern Ukraine [includes *diamesa*]. However there could be more local subspecies present e.g. migratory race *ferghanensis*.

***Carpodacus rhodochlamys* * - Red-mantled Rosefinch**

3/6 5 Ala Archa and 18/6 2 May Saz. Share same habitats and thereby frequently seen

along with Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*.

***Bucanetes mongolicus* (monotypic) - Mongolian Finch - Mongolsk Ørkendompap**

14/6 4 Barthogai Water reservoir, 15/6 9 Red Canyon and 21/6 2 Red Rocks – Salt Lake, Issyk Kul.

Kyrgyzstan: Not enough available information about its presence in Kyrgyzstan, though I have observed this species now and then in Central Kyrgyzstan. It might not be that rare.

***Lecosticte brandtii* * - Brandt's Rosy Finch**

18/6 180 May Saz Pass.

Kyrgyzstan: Present at higher altitude than previous species, often in flocks up to 100 birds or more; lower inter in mixed flocks with White-winged Snowfinch. Former known as 'Brandt's Mountain Finch'.

***Leucosticte nemoricola* - Plain Mountain Finch**

16/6 25 May Saz Pass, 18/6 50 May Saz Pass and 20/6 3 Barskaun Gorge and high plateau.

Kyrgyzstan: Common resident at high altitude country-wide; lower in winter. Often present in large flocks numbering hundreds. Former known as 'Hodgson's Rosy-Finch'.

***Rhodospiza obsoleta* (monotypic) [includes *chuancheica*, *kaschgarica*] - Desert Finch - Ørkenfinke**

10/6 2 males Konchangel incl. artesian well, 11/6 1 male Konchangel, 11/6 1 at artesian wells Konchangel, 13/6 20 Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly and 14/6 20 tent camp/Artesian well/desert-area east of Nurly.

Kyrgyzstan: Uncommon resident in the north and west of the country; prefers dry areas with



bushes; nomadic.

EMBERIZIDAE

***Emberiza schoeniclus* * - Common Reed Bunting - Rørspurv**

6/6 7 Astana – Kurghaldzino National Park, Kazakhstan, 6/6 50 Kurghaldzino (Korgaljin-ski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, observations in the surroundings of Karachar village, 7/6 10 sg. at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljin-ski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan, 8/6 2 sg. at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljin-ski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan and 8/6 5 sg. at Karachar village and nearby lakes, Kurghaldzino (Korgaljin-ski Goszapovednik), Kazakhstan. Kyrgyzstan Resident all over the north and west of the country, mainly in reed-beds and marshy vegetation. A rather complex group in Central Asia where many subspecies occur; especially during migration: e.g. *incognita* Lower Volga east to north-central Kazakhstan, *pyrrhuloides* Northern and eastern shore of Caspian Sea east through southern Transcaspia to foot of Tien Shan [includes *haermsi*]. *Schoeniclus*-group: *schoeniclus* Western and northern Europe from western France, Ireland, and Norway to Urals, south to central France, pre-alpine lakes of Italy, northern Switzerland, north-west Austria, west and north of Czech Republic, western and northern Poland, northern Belarus, and central European Russia [includes *goplanae*, *mackenziei*, *steinbacheri*, *turonensis*, *wotiacororum*], *passerina* North-east European Russia and Urals east to north-central Siberia [includes *tazensis*], *stresmanni*, *pallidior* South-west Urals through south-west Siberia to Altai, etc. I have seen pictures from central Kazakhstan where 4-5 subspecies occur and frankly spoken its difficult to identify these in the field; some subspecies are rather (problem less) to identify, whereas others are difficult. Furthermore I believe not all subspecies are described from this region – and those occur during migration.

***Emberiza buchanan* * - Grey-necked Bunting - Bjerghortulan**

12/6 6 Camp Querbulag at River Illi, 13/6 11 Querbulag at River Illi, 15/6 2 sg. Red Canyon, 21/6 8 Red Rocks and 21/6 1 Salt Lake, Issyk Kul.

Kyrgyzstan: Common in suitable habitat; e.g. dry habitats with sparse vegetation.

***Emberiza leucocephalos leucocephalos* - Pine Bunting – Hvidkindet Værling**

15/6 3 (1 female and 2 males) Red Canyon – Karakol, Kyrgyzstan; via Tüp Valley and 18/6 1 sg. May Saz Pass – Karakol.

***Emberiza stewarti* * - White-capped Bunting**

14/6 2 females and 6 sg. males Kökpek Pass. Kyrgyzstan: Status uncertain; I believe it occurs in the north of the country.

***Emberiza bruniceps* (monotypic) - Red-headed Bunting - Brunhovedet Værling**

2/6 17 Oto-Say, Bishkek, 4/6 20 Bishkek – Almaty, 5/6 50 Trans-Siberian Railway from Almaty to Astana in northern Kazakhstan, 9/6 10 seen from the train betw. Astana – Almaty, Kazakhstan, 10/6 25 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, Kazakhstan, 10/6 4 sg. Lake Sorbulak, 10/6 12 Lake Sorbulak – Konchangel incl. artesian wells along the road, 10/6 30 Konchangel, 11/6 3 sg. Konchangel camp, 11/6 15 Konchangel, 12/6 2 males Djel Turanga Graf, 12/6 55 Djel Turanga Graf – Querbulag at River Ili, 12/6 10 Camp Querbulag at River Ili, 13/6 5 Querbulag at River Ili, 13/6 6 Querbulag – Nurly, 15/6 1 sg. male Red Canyon, 20/6 10 (1730 – 2000) Tamga, 20/6 1 male Barskaun Gorge – Tamga and 21/6 1 Red Rocks.

***Emberiza cia* (par) - Rock Bunting - Klippeværling**

3/6 2 Ala Archa, 14/6 1 Kökpek Pass, 20/6 2 Barskaun Gorge – Tamga and 21/6 3 Red Rocks.

Kyrgyzstan: Resident country-wide in dry open areas. (1) *cia* North-west Africa, southern and central Europe, western Asia Minor, and Levant (2) *prageri* Eastern Turkey and Crimea east through Caucasus area (3) *par* Iran to west-central Asia, in winter in south-east WP.

***Emberiza calandra* * - Corn Bunting - Kornværling**

2/6 9 Oto-Say, Bishkek, 4/6 7 Bishkek – Almaty, 10/6 1 sg. Lake Sorbulak, 19/6 1 valley East of Karakol - Tamga, 20/6 2 sg. Barskaun Gorge and high plateau, 20/6 8 (1730 – 2000) Tamga, 20/6 15 Barskaun Gorge – Tamga and 22/6 2 lake outside Balykchy.

Kyrgyzstan: Common resident country-wide in cultivated areas and open grasslands; in flocks in winter also with other buntings and finches. Ssp. *buturlini* South-east Turkey and interior

Levant east through Iraq and Iran to western China and Afghanistan.

Possible species seen during our journey; though not identified well, hence not included in our list e.g. *Gyps fulvus* Eurasian Griffon Vulture, *Hippolais languida* Upchers Warbler, *Carduelis flammea* Common Redpoll and *Emberiza godlewskii* Godlewski's Bunting.

References: AERC TAC Checklist of bird taxa occurring in Western Palearctic region, With distributional notes on subspecies - 15th Draft and observations Michael Westerbjerg Andersen in the period 1994-2003



Miksture/MWA/Rungsted Kyst 1/9-2004