

SNOW LEOPARDS & WILDLIFE OF MONGOLIA TOUR REPORT 2026

17 / 25 September - 10 October 2026

Mark Beaman

TOUR DIARY TEXT TO FOLLOW SHORTLY!

TOP CREATURES OF THE MAIN TOUR

1st SNOW LEOPARD

2nd PALLAS'S CAT

3rd SAIGA

4th EURASIAN EAGLE-OWL

5th PRZEWALSKI'S HORSE

TOP CREATURES OF THE WILD CAMEL EXTENSION

1st WILD CAMEL

2nd RELICT GULL

3rd= COMMON LONG-EARED HEDGEHOG

3rd= NORTHERN THREE-TOED JERBOA

3rd= STRIPED DWARF HAMSTER

3rd= BACTRIAN CAMEL

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' for some other reason, including being seen on only a few tours.

MAMMALS

Common Long-eared Hedgehog ***Hemiechinus auritus***

Siberian Shrew ◊ ***Crocidura sibirica***

Snow Leopard ◊ ***Uncia uncia***

Pallas's Cat (Manul) ◊ ***Otocolobus manul***

Corsac Fox ◊ ***Vulpes corsac***

Red Fox ***Vulpes vulpes***

Wild Horse ◊ [Przewalski's Horse or Takhi] ***Equus [ferus] przewalskii***

Asian Wild Ass [Mongolian Wild Ass or Kulan] ◊ ***Equus [hemionus] hemionus***

Wild Camel ◊ ***Camelus ferus***

Elk (or Wapiti) ◊ [Siberian Elk or Siberian Wapiti] ***Cervus [canadensis] sibiricus***

Siberian (or Asiatic) Ibex ***Capra sibirica***

Goitered (or Black-tailed) Gazelle ***Gazella subgutturosa***

Argali ◊ ***Ovis ammon***

Mongolian Gazelle ◊ ***Procapra gutturosa***

Saiga ◊ ***Saiga tartarica***

Tolai Hare ***Lepus tolai***

Pallas's (or Mongolian) Pika ◊ ***Ochotona pallasi***

Tarbagan (or Mongolian) Marmot ◊ ***Marmota sibirica***

Long-tailed Ground Squirrel ***Spermophilus undulatus***

Northern Three-toed (or Hairy-footed) Jerboa ***Dipus sagitta***

Gobi (or Desert) Jerboa ◊ ***Orientallactaga bullata***

Siberian (or Mongolian Five-toed) Jerboa ◊ *Orientallactaga sibirica*

Eastern House Mouse *Mus musculus*

Brandt's Vole *Lasiopodomys brandtii*

Striped Dwarf Hamster ◊ *Cricetulus barabensis*

Mongolian Jird (or Mongolian Gerbil) *Meriones unguiculatus*

BIRDS

Tundra Swan ◊ [Bewick's Swan] *Cygnus [columbianus] bewickii*

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Bar-headed Goose ◊ *Anser indicus*

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Swan Goose ◊ *Anser cygnoides*

Greater White-fronted Goose ◊ Anser albrifrons

Taiga Bean Goose ◊ *Anser fabalis*

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Common Merganser (or Goosander) *Mergus merganser*

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca*

Altai Snowcock ◊ *Tetraogallus altaicus*

Daurian Partridge ◊ Perdix dauurica

Chukar Partridge *Alectoris chukar*

Horned (or Slavonian) Grebe ◊ *Podiceps auritus*

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Black-necked Grebe ***Podiceps nigricollis***

Pallas's Sandgrouse ◊ ***Syrrhaptes paradoxus***

Oriental (or Rufous) Turtle Dove ***Streptopelia orientalis***

Eurasian Collared Dove ***Streptopelia decaocto***

Hill Pigeon ◊ ***Columba rupestris***

Rock Dove (Rock Pigeon) (feral) ***Columba livia***

Common Moorhen ***Gallinula chloropus***

Eurasian (or Common) Coot ***Fulica atra***

White-naped Crane ◊ ***Antigone vipio***

Demoiselle Crane ◊ ***Grus virgo***

Common Crane ***Grus grus***

Pied Avocet ***Recurvirostra avosetta***

Pacific Golden Plover ***Pluvialis fulva***

Common Ringed Plover ***Charadrius hiaticula***

Little Ringed Plover ***Charadrius dubius***

Northern Lapwing ***Vanellus vanellus***

Greater Sand Plover ***Anarhynchus leschenaultii***

Kentish Plover ***Anarhynchus alexandrinus***

Eurasian Curlew ***Numenius arquata***

Black-tailed Godwit ◊ [Eastern Black-tailed Godwit] ***Limosa [limosa] melanuroides***

Eurasian Woodcock ◊ ***Scolopax rusticola***

Common Snipe ***Gallinago gallinago***

Common Sandpiper ***Actitis hypoleucos***

Green Sandpiper ***Tringa ochropus***

Wood Sandpiper ***Tringa glareola***

Common Redshank ***Tringa totanus***

Spotted Redshank ***Tringa erythropus***

Common Greenshank ***Tringa nebularia***

Ruddy Turnstone ***Arenaria interpres***

Ruff ***Calidris pugnax***

Curlew Sandpiper ***Calidris ferruginea***

Temminck's Stint ***Calidris temminckii***

Sanderling ***Calidris alba***

Dunlin ***Calidris alpina***

Little Stint ***Calidris minuta***

Caspian Tern ***Hydroprogne caspia***

Common Tern ***Sterna hirundo***

Black-headed Gull ***Chroicocephalus ridibundus***

Brown-headed Gull ◊ ***Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus***

Pallas's (or Great Black-headed) Gull ◊ ***Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus***

Relict Gull ◊ ***Ichthyaetus relictus***

Mongolian Gull ◊ ***Larus mongolicus***

Great Cormorant ***Phalacrocorax carbo***

Eurasian Spoonbill ***Platalea leucorodia***

Chinese Pond Heron ***Ardeola bacchus***

Great Egret ***Ardea alba***

Grey Heron ***Ardea cinerea***

Dalmatian Pelican ◊ ***Pelecanus crispus***

Little Owl ***Athene noctua***

Long-eared Owl ***Asio otus***

Eurasian Eagle-Owl ***Bubo bubo***

Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier) ***Gypaetus barbatus***

Cinereous (or Eurasian Black) Vulture ***Aegypius monachus***

Steppe Eagle ***Aquila nipalensis***

Golden Eagle ***Aquila chrysaetos***

Eurasian Sparrowhawk ***Accipiter nisus***

Eurasian Goshawk ***Accipiter gentilis***

Pallid Harrier ***Circus macrourus***

Hen Harrier ***Circus cyaneus***

Western Marsh Harrier ***Circus aeruginosus***

Black Kite [Black-eared Kite] ***Milvus [migrans] lineatus***

Pallas's Fish Eagle ◊ ***Haliaeetus leucoryphus***

White-tailed Eagle ◊ ***Haliaeetus albicilla***

Upland Buzzard ◊ ***Buteo hemilasius***

Eastern (or Japanese) Buzzard ◊ ***Buteo japonicus***

Common Hoopoe ***Upupa epops***

Grey-headed Woodpecker ***Picus canus***

White-backed Woodpecker ***Dendrocopos leucotos***

Great Spotted Woodpecker ***Dendrocopos major***

Common Kestrel ***Falco tinnunculus***

Merlin ***Falco columbarius***

Peregrine Falcon ***Falco peregrinus***

Saker Falcon ◊ ***Falco cherrug***

Great Grey Shrike ◊ [Steppe Grey Shrike] ***Lanius [excubitor] pallidirostris***

Chinese Grey Shrike ◊ ***Lanius sphenocercus***

Isabelline Shrike ***Lanius isabellinus***

Red-billed Chough ***Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax***

Azure-winged (or Asian Azure-winged) Magpie ◊ ***Cyanopica cyanus***

Eurasian Magpie ***Pica pica***

Mongolian (or Henderson's) Ground Jay ◊ ***Podoces hendersoni***

Northern (or Spotted or Eurasian) Nutcracker ***Nucifraga caryocatactes***

Daurian Jackdaw ◊ ***Coloeus dauuricus***

Rook ◊ [Oriental Rook] ***Corvus [frugilegus] pastinator***

Carrion Crow ◊ [Oriental Crow] ***Corvus [corone] orientalis***

Northern (or Common) Raven ***Corvus corax***

White-crowned Penduline-Tit ◊ ***Remiz coronatus***

Azure Tit ◊ ***Cyanistes cyanus***

Great Tit ***Parus major***

Coal Tit ***Periparus ater***

Eurasian Skylark ***Alauda arvensis***

Crested Lark ***Galerida cristata***

Horned Lark [Mongolian Horned Lark] ◊ ***Eremophila [alpestris] brandti***

Mongolian Short-toed Lark ◊ ***Calandrella dukhunensis***

Mongolian Lark ◊ ***Melanocorypha mongolica***

Asian Short-toed Lark ◊ ***Alaudala cheleensis***

Sand Martin (or Bank Swallow) ***Riparia riparia***

Barn Swallow ***Hirundo rustica***

Siberian House Martin ***Delichon lagopodum***

Long-tailed Tit (or Long-tailed Bushtit) ***Aegithalos caudatus***

Yellow-browed Warbler ***Phylloscopus inornatus***

Hume's Leaf Warbler ***Phylloscopus humei***

Pallas's Leaf Warbler ***Phylloscopus proregulus***

Common Chiffchaff [Siberian Chiffchaff] ***Phylloscopus [collybita] tristis***

Lesser Whitethroat ***Curruca curruca***

Asian Desert Warbler ◊ ***Curruca nana***

Eurasian Wren ***Troglodytes troglodytes***

Common (or European) Starling ***Sturnus vulgaris***

White-cheeked Starling ◊ ***Spodiopsar cineraceus***

Mistle Thrush ***Turdus viscivorus***

Red-throated Thrush ◊ ***Turdus ruficollis***

Black-throated Thrush ◊ ***Turdus atrogularis***

Naumann's Thrush ◊ ***Turdus naumanni***

Dusky Thrush ◊ ***Turdus eunomus***

Siberian Rubythroat ***Calliope calliope***

Red-flanked Bluetail ***Tarsiger cyanurus***

Eversmann's (or Rufous-backed) Redstart ◊ ***Phoenicurus erythronotus***

Daurian Redstart ***Phoenicurus auroreus***

Güldenstädt's (or White-winged) Redstart ◊ ***Phoenicurus erythrogastrus***

Black Redstart ***Phoenicurus ochruros***

Common Redstart ***Phoenicurus phoenicurus***

Siberian Stonechat ***Saxicola maura***

Desert Wheatear ***Oenanthe deserti***

Pied Wheatear ***Oenanthe pleschanka***

Isabelline Wheatear ***Oenanthe isabellina***

Black-throated Accentor ◊ ***Prunella atrogularis***

Siberian Accentor ◊ ***Prunella montanella***

Brown Accentor ◊ ***Prunella fulvescens***

Rock Sparrow (or Rock Petronia) ***Petronia petronia***

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

Pere David's (or Small) Snowfinch ◊ ***Pyrgilauda davidiana***

Eurasian Tree Sparrow ***Passer montanus***

Saxaul Sparrow ◊ ***Passer ammodendri***

House Sparrow ***Passer domesticus***

Grey Wagtail ***Motacilla cinerea***

Citrine Wagtail ***Motacilla citreola***

White Wagtail ◊ [Masked Wagtail] ***Motacilla [alba] personata***

White Wagtail ◊ [Baikal Wagtail] ***Motacilla [alba] baicalensis***

White Wagtail ◊ [East Siberian Wagtail] ***Motacilla [alba] ocularis***

Blyth's Pipit ◊ ***Anthus godlewskii***

Richard's Pipit ***Anthus richardi***

Olive-backed Pipit ***Anthus hodgsoni***

Red-throated Pipit ***Anthus cervinus***

Siberian Pipit ◊ ***Anthus japonicus***

Water Pipit ◊ ***Anthus spinoletta***

Eurasian Chaffinch ***Fringilla coelebs***

Brambling ***Fringilla montifringilla***

Hawfinch ***Coccothraustes coccothraustes***

Mongolian Finch ◊ ***Bucanetes mongolicus***

Common (or Scarlet) Rosefinch ***Carpodacus erythrinus***

Long-tailed Rosefinch ◊ [Siberian Long-tailed Rosefinch] Carpodacus [sibiricus] sibiricus

Oriental (or Grey-capped) Greenfinch ***Chloris sinica***

Twite ***Linaria flavirostris***

Redpoll ***Acanthis flammea***

Eurasian Siskin ***Spinus spinus***

Lapland Longspur ◊ ***Calcarius lapponicus***

Pallas's Reed Bunting ◊ ***Emberiza pallasi***

Little Bunting ***Emberiza pusilla***

Rustic Bunting ◊ ***Emberiza rustica***

Black-faced Bunting ***Emberiza spodocephala***

Chestnut-eared Bunting ◊ ***Emberiza fucata***

Meadow Bunting ◊ *Emberiza cioides*

Godlewski's Bunting ◊ *Emberiza godlewskii*

Pine Bunting ◊ *Emberiza leucocephalos*



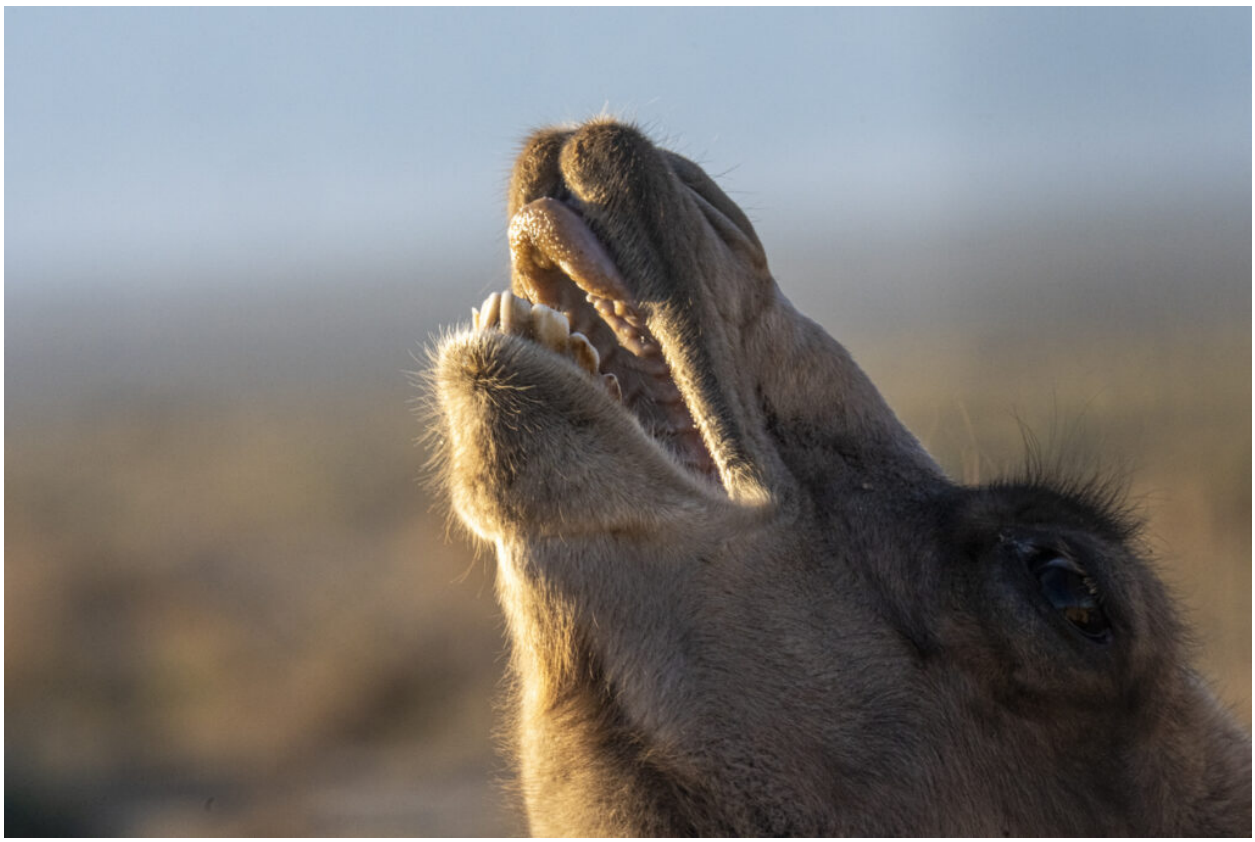
Wild Camels (image by Mark Beaman)



Wild Camel skull (image by Mark Beaman)



Wild Camel (image by Mark Beaman)



Wild Camel (image by Mark Beaman)



Wild Camel (image by Mark Beaman)



Wild Camel (image by Mark Beaman)



Upland Buzzard (image by Mark Beaman)



Tolai Hare (image by Mark Beaman)



Striped Dwarf Hamster (image by Mark Beaman)



Steppe Grey Shrike (image by Mark Beaman)



Steppe Eagle immature (image by Mark Beaman)



Steppe Eagle drinking (image by Mark Beaman)



A local guide searching for Snow Leopards (image by Mark Beaman)



Snow Leopard (image by Mark Beaman)



Snow Leopard, Jargalant Mts, Mongolia 2026 (image by Mark Beaman)



Snow Leopard (image by Mark Beaman)



Snow Leopard (image by Mark Beaman)



Snow Leopard (image by Mark Beaman)



Snow Leopard (image by Mark Beaman)



Snow Leopard and cubs (image by Mark Beaman)



Snow Leopard and cubs (image by Mark Beaman)



Siberian Ibex (image by Mark Beaman)



Gobi saxaul trees at sunrise (image by Mark Beaman)



Saker Falcon (image by Mark Beaman)



A male Saiga antelope (image by Mark Beaman)



The male Saiga's proboscis-like snout is something weird and wonderful (image by Mark Beaman)



Saigas graze on the sparse semi-desert vegetation (image by Mark Beaman)



A Saiga in the desert-like lands below the snowy Altai range (image by Mark Beaman)



Rustic Bunting (image by Mark Beaman)



The rare Relict Gull (image by Mark Beaman)



First-winter Relict Gull (image by Mark Beaman)



Relict Gull, one of the most sought-after Mongolian birds (image by Mark Beaman)



Przewalski's Horses (image by Mark Beaman)



Przewalski's Horses (image by Mark Beaman)



Przewalski's Horses (image by Mark Beaman)



Przewalski's Horse (image by Mark Beaman)



Pine Bunting (image by Mark Beaman)



Pere David's or Small Snowfinch (image by Mark Beaman)



Pallas's Sandgrouse (image by Mark Beaman)



Pallas's Reed Bunting (image by Mark Beaman)



Pallas's Pika (image by Mark Beaman)



Pallas's Pika (image by Mark Beaman)



Pallas's Fish Eagle (image by Mark Beaman)



After sunset, Pallas's Cats become more active (image by Mark Beaman)



I am just a rock, so you voles and gerbils don't need to worry... (image by Mark Beaman)



Pallas's Cat (image by Mark Beaman)



Pallas's Cat (image by Mark Beaman)



Pallas's Cat (image by Mark Beaman)



Pallas's Cat (image by Mark Beaman)



Pallas's Cat in its den (image by Mark Beaman)



A Pallas's Cat tasting the wind (image by Mark Beaman)



A Pallas's Cat bursts from cover (image by Mark Beaman)



I am just a rock... (image by Mark Beaman)



Pallas's Cat (image by Mark Beaman)



Northern Three-toed Jerboa (image by Mark Beaman)



Naumann's Thrush adult male (image by Mark Beaman)



Naumann's Thrush (image by Mark Beaman)



Mongolian Lark (image by Mark Beaman)



Mongolian Ground Jays like carrots (image by Mark Beaman)



Mongolian or Henderson's Ground Jay (image by Mark Beaman)



Mongolian Gerbils 'kissing' (image by Mark Beaman)



Mongolian Gerbil or Jird (image by Mark Beaman)



Mongolian Gazelles (image by Mark Beaman)



Mongolian Gazelles (image by Mark Beaman)



Mongolian Gazelles (image by Mark Beaman)



Long-tailed Rosefinch (image by Mark Beaman)



Long-eared Owl (image by Mark Beaman)



Long-eared Owl (image by Mark Beaman)



Long-eared Hedgehog (image by Mark Beaman)



Khustai (or Hustai) National Park (image by Mark Beaman)



The Khalzan steppe (image by Mark Beaman)



One of the Snow Leopard watchpoints after overnight snow, soon to melt (image by Mark Beaman)



One of the Snow Leopard watchpoints in the Jargalant Mountains (image by Mark Beaman)



The Jargalant Mountains (image by Mark Beaman)



High in the Jargalant Mountains (image by Mark Beaman)



The Jargalant at sunrise (image by Mark Beaman)



The Altai range after the first snow (image by Mark Beaman)



Jargalant scenery (image by Mark Beaman)



Jargalant scenery (image by Mark Beaman)



Jargalant scenery (image by Mark Beaman)



Jargalant scenery (image by Mark Beaman)



The Altai at sunrise (image by Mark Beaman)



Our group with the wonderful team at the Jargalant (image by Mark Beaman)



Our ger camp in the Jargalant (image by Mark Beaman)



Ice crystals encrust the autumn grass (image by Mark Beaman)



The striking Güldenstädt's Redstart (image by Mark Beaman)



Greater Sand Plover (image by Mark Beaman)



Sunrise in the Gobi Desert (imnage by Mark Beaman)



Gobi Desert scenery (image by Mark Beaman)



Gobi Desert scenery (image by Mark Beaman)



Our camp in the Gobi (image by Mark Beaman)



The nomadic life lives on in Mongolia (image by Mark Beaman)



The huge Eurasian Eagle-Owl (image by Mark Beaman)



The huge Eurasian Eagle-Owl (image by Mark Beaman)



Siberian Elk at sunrise (image by Mark Beaman)



Siberian Elk (image by Mark Beaman)



Siberian Elk (image by Mark Beaman)



Siberian Elk at dawn (image by Mark Beaman)



Siberian Elk (image by Mark Beaman)



A Siberian Elk tastes the wind (image by Mark Beaman)



Siberian Elk (image by Mark Beaman)



A Siberian Elk stag bugles during the rut (image by Mark Beaman)



A Siberian Elk stag bugles during the rut (image by Mark Beaman)



Dusky Thrush (image by Mark Beaman)



Dusky Thrush (image by Mark Beaman)



Demoiselle Cranes (image by Mark Beaman)



Demoiselle Cranes (image by Mark Beaman)



Demoiselle Cranes (image by Mark Beaman)



Demoiselle Cranes often mix with domestic animals in Mongolia (image by Mark Beaman)



Demoiselle Cranes (image by Mark Beaman)



Daurian Partridges (image by Mark Beaman)



Daurian Partridge (image by Mark Beaman)



Corsac Fox (image by Mark Beaman)



Cinereous Vulture (image by Mark Beaman)



Chukar Partridge (image by Mark Beaman)



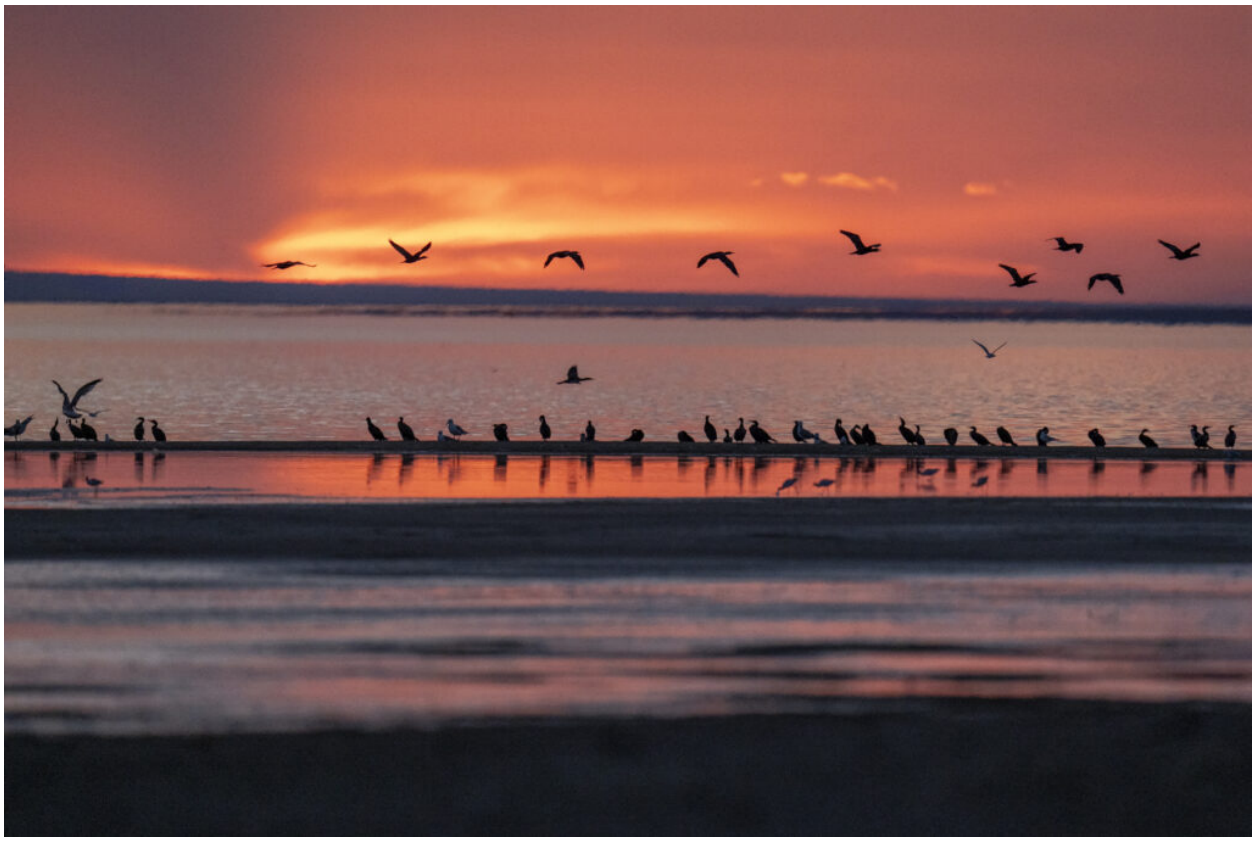
Chinese Grey Shrike (image by Mark Beaman)



A Buddhist rock painting in the Gobi Altai (image by Mark Beaman)



Brown Accentor (image by Mark Beaman)



Boon Tsagaan Nuur at sunset (image by Mark Beaman)



Black-throated Thrush (image by Mark Beaman)



Black-throated Accentor (image by Mark Beaman)



Black-throated Accentor (image by Mark Beaman)



Black-throated Accentor (image by Mark Beaman)



Bactrian Camels (image by Mark Beaman)



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Bactrian Camels (image by Mark Beaman)



Azure Tit (image by Mark Beaman)



Asian Short-toed Lark (image by Mark Beaman)



Argali wild sheep (image by Mark Beaman)



Argali wild sheep (image by Mark Beaman)



Angora Goats, the source of cashmere wool (image by Mark Beaman)