

Birds of Kazakhstan: new and interesting data, part 2

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After the first edition of *Birds of Kazakhstan: New and interesting data* (Wassink & Oreel 2008), another selection of data is presented here. It includes the first records of Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*, Western Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros gibraltariensis*, White-capped Redstart *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus* and Large-billed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orinus* for Kazakhstan. I also reviewed reports from publications and trip reports, which resulted in the rejection of several records (for details, see Removed species and rejected records), and the acceptance of the occurrence of Eastern Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe melanoleuca* and Variable Wheatear *O. picata*.

New species and interesting records

Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides*

Between 29 June and 6 July 2006, three Swan Geese were found migrating in the Kara-Irtysh delta (47:49 N, 84:38 E), East Kazakhstan province (Starikov 2007). This is the first record of this species in Kazakhstan since 1967, although local hunters reported it up to 2000 in the Zaysan region, where it formerly bred (Wassink & Oreel 2007).

96 Glossy Ibises / Zwarte Ibiszen *Plegadis falcinellus*, Korgalzhyn nature reserve, Aqmola province, Kazakhstan, 28 May 2008 (Wouter Faveyts)



Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

On 13 February 2006, a flock of six Barnacle Geese was found at the Shoshkakol lakes (43:00 N, 68:33 E), South Kazakhstan province (Kovalenko & Kravchenko 2007). This is the fifth record in Kazakhstan and the first in the southern half.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Between 21 April and 17 May 2006, 390 birds were found at lakes in northern Qostanay province, between 51:00 and 52:00 N. Of these, 320 were found at Big Aksuat lake (51:27 N, 64:29 E), Naurzum nature reserve on 14 May (Berezovikov 2007). The largest number recorded so far was 46 birds in the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region, Aqmola province, in October 2002 (Wassink & Oreel 2007).

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

On 9 December 2006, a Common Quail was found at Karashengel hunting zone (43:44 N, 77:36 E), Almaty province (Bevza 2007). This is the first winter record outside South Kazakhstan province, where it occasionally winters in the Chimkent region (Wassink & Oreel 2007).

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

On 1 May 2007, a Cattle Egret was found at Karakol lake (43:32 N, 51:19 E), Mangghystau province (Grunberg 2007). Apart from breeding in 1992-93 (Wassink & Oreel 2007), this is the fourth record in Kazakhstan.

97 White-tailed Lapwings / Witstaartkieviten *Vanellus leucurus*, Karaoy, Almaty province, Kazakhstan, 29 May 2008 (Jyrki Normaja)



Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

On 28 May 2008, a flock of nine Glossy Ibises was found at Karazhar (50:28 N, 69:33 E), Korgalzhyh nature reserve, Aqmola province (plate 96). This is the third record in the Tengiz-Korgalzhyh region.

Pallas's Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*

On 21 June 2008, a juvenile (second-year) Pallas's Fish Eagle was photographed at Sorbulak lake (43:40 N, 76:34 E), Almaty province (Isabekov 2008a). The species, a breeding bird in Kazakhstan up to at least the 1950s, has been recorded annually now since 2003, all in the Qyzylorda, Almaty and East Kazakhstan provinces (Wassink & Oreel 2007, 2008).

White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus*

On 21-23 July 2006, a juvenile White-tailed Lapwing was found at Karashengel hunting zone, Almaty province, and on 29 May 2008, a copulating pair was photographed at Karaoy (45:52 N, 74:48 E), Ili delta, Almaty province (van den Berg 2008; plate 97), but no further indications of breeding became known. These are the first and second record in Almaty province.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

On 16 May 2005, an adult-summer Red-necked Stint was found at Sholak lake (50:32 N, 69:50 E), Tengiz-Korgalzhyh region, Aqmola province (Kennerley 2005; Peter Kennerley in litt). This is the eighth record in Kazakhstan and the first in spring.

Solitary Snipe *Gallinago solitaria*

On 13 November 2007, a Solitary Snipe was found between Aqtau (43:39 N, 50:12 E) and Fort Shevchenko (44:31 N, 50:16 E), Mangghystau province (Belyalov 2008). The bird could be studied well at a distance of c 10 meter. This is the first record west of South Kazakhstan province (Wassink & Oreel).

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

On 16 May 2005, an adult-summer Long-billed Dowitcher was found at Sholak lake, Tengiz-Korgalzhyh region, Aqmola province (Kennerley 2005; Peter Kennerley in litt). This is a new species for Kazakhstan.

Description & identification

Underparts deep reddish-brown, extending from upper breast down to belly, through legs to undertail-coverts. Flank distinctly barred darker brown, most obviously in front of wing bend and on lower flank. Side of head similar in colour but crown darker, browner and lacking reddish tones. Indistinct supercilium extending from bill base to rear of ear-coverts. Mantle and scapulars darker brown, conspicuously fringed whitish or light buff. Tertiaries uniform brown and unmarked and appearing to still be non-breeding feathers. Bill long, c two times head length with slightly paler, greenish base and dark tip. Legs seeming greenish when bird walking into shallow water, but most of time walking in water up to belly, feeding with characteristic vertical feeding action. Size similar to Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*. In flight,

isolated white patch on lower back and uniform wings.

Short-billed Dowitcher *L. griseus* could be eliminated by the bill, that appeared to be too long, the reddish underparts extending to the undertail-coverts and the conspicuously barred flanks. Asian Dowitcher *L. semipalmatus* is much larger than Long-billed Dowitcher, similar in size to Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, with an entirely black, and proportionately longer and thicker bill and black legs, and lacks a supercilium behind the eye and flank barring.

Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

On 13 May 2006, a summer-plumaged male Red Phalarope was found at Sulykul lake (51:24 N, 61:58 E), Qostanay province (Berezovikov 2007). This is the first record in Qostanay province and the first in Kazakhstan since 2002 (Wassink & Oreel 2007).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

On 16 October 2006, an immature Pomarine Skua was found at Shalkar-Karashetay lake (50:29 N, 61:06 E), Aqtöbe province (Arkhipov & Zhuralev 2007). This is the sixth record in Kazakhstan.

Relict Gull *Larus relictus*

In early October 2006, 30 Relict Gulls were found in the Karasuk depression (53:30 N, 77:08 E), Pavlodar province (Sklyarenko et al 2008). This is the first record in October and the latest ever. Although these birds are regarded as migrants, they could have originated from a breeding location elsewhere in the Pavlodar Trans-Irtysh region, where in 2005 a colony of 25-30 birds was found at Aksor lake (51:27 N, 77:51 E) (Wassink & Oreel 2007).

Five pairs of Relict Gulls nested on Sredniy island (46:07 N, 81:51 E) at Alakol lake, East Kazakhstan province in 2008 (Annenkova 2008), where the species bred in 2001-03 and 2005. Although it was observed several times between April and June 2006-07 (Kovalenko 2007b, Ashby & Ashby 2007), the species did not breed in these years (Berezovikov & Levinskiy 2007, 2008, contra Sklyarenko et al 2008).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

On 1 October 2006, a (sub)adult Glaucous Gull was found at Koibagar lake (52:33 N, 65:37 E), Qostanay province (Berezovikov 2007). This is the third record in Kazakhstan.

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*

On 7 August 2006, an Eastern Oriental Turtle Dove *S. o. orientalis* was found south of Zhanaturmys (47:04 N, 81:58 E), East Kazakhstan province (Kovalenko 2007a). This is the third record in Kazakhstan. The previous two were both spring records at Chokpak ringing station, Zhambyl province (Wassink & Oreel 2007).

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

On 13 November 2007, a Great Spotted Woodpecker was found at Fort Shevchenko (44:31 N, 50:16 E), Mangghystau province (Belyalov 2008). This is the first record in Mangghystau province.



98 Probable hybrid Black-headed x Black-backed Citrine Wagtail / waarschijnlijke hybride Balkankwikstaart x Zwartrugcitroenkwikstaart, male, *Motacilla feldegg* x *citreola calcarata*, Topar lakes, Almaty province, Kazakhstan, 27 May 2008 (Tom Lindroos)

Pale Sand Martin *Riparia diluta*

On 16 May 2008, a Pale Sand Martin was found at Karazhar (50:28 N, 69:33 E), Korgalzhyn nature reserve, Aqmola province (Dijkstra 2008). This is the first record in Aqmola province and the northernmost in Kazakhstan.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

On 4 October 2008, a Richard's Pipit was found at Dzhabagly (42:25 N, 70:28 E), South Kazakhstan province (Wassink 2008). The species is a rare migrant in the western Tien Shan foothills.

Black-headed x Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla feldegg* x *citreola*

On 27 May 2008, a probable hybrid male Black-headed Wagtail x Black-backed Citrine Wagtail *M c calcarata* was photographed at the Topar lakes (44:57 N, 75:33 E), Almaty province (van den Berg 2008, plate 98). The bird was identified by the very broad and white wing-bars and black feathers on the scapulars, mantle and back. It was paired with a female Citrine Wagtail *M c citreola* (Tom Lindroos in litt). Hybrids between these taxa have not been described before.

White-headed Wagtail *Motacilla leucocephala*

On 9 May 2008, a male White-headed Wagtail was photographed at Kolshengel (44:20 N, 75:33 E), Almaty province (Dijkstra 2008; plate 99). It seems that in spring

Kolshengel (in the Taukum desert) is the best place and the first half of May the best time to look for this rare passage migrant.

Himalayan x Masked Wagtail *Motacilla himalayensis* x *personata*

On 21-30 May 2008, a probable hybrid Himalayan x Masked Wagtail was photographed at Dzhabagly, South Kazakhstan province (Bot 2008). Although the mantle and back were blackish and only slightly contrasting with the black crown and nape, the rump and uppertail-coverts were dark grey, excluding pure Himalayan Wagtail (see Rejected records).

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

On 13 January 2008, two White Wagtails were photographed in the Ters valley (42:40 N, 70:54 E), Zhambyl province (Yevgeny Belousov in litt). This is the third winter record in Kazakhstan. Both previous records were from South Kazakhstan province (Wassink & Oreel 2007)

East Siberian Wagtail *Motacilla ocularis*

On 26 May 2008, a first-summer East Siberian Wagtail was photographed at Aydarly (44:02 N, 79:31 E), Almaty province (Normaja 2008; plate 100). This is the fourth record in Kazakhstan.

Winter Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

On 19 and 20 November, single Winter Wrens *T t troglo-*



99 White-headed Wagtail / Witkopkwikstaart *Motacilla leucocephala*, first-summer male, Kolshengel, Almaty province, Kazakhstan, 9 May 2008 (*Laurens Steijn*) **100** East Siberian Wagtail / Siberische Kwikstaart *Motacilla ocularis*, first-summer, Aydarly, Almaty province, Kazakhstan, 26 May 2008 (*Jyrki Normaja*) **101** Collared Flycatcher / Withalsvliegenvanger *Ficedula albicollis*, first-summer male, Tengiz, Atyrau province, Kazakhstan, 21 April 2008 (*Cliff Peterson*) **102** Long-tailed Rosefinch / Langstaartroodmus *Uragus sibiricus*, first-winter, Taraz, Zhambyl province, Kazakhstan, 9 November 2008 (*Yevgeny Belousov*)

dytes were found at Zharmysh (44:09 N, 52:28 E) and Beyneu (45:19 N, 55:12 E), Mangghystau province, respectively (Belyalov 2008). These are the second and third record in Mangghystau province.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

On 2 May 2006, a Dunnock was found at Öskemen (49:59 N, 82:37 E), East Kazakhstan province (Scherbakov 2008). This is the third record in the eastern half of Kazakhstan.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochrurus*

On 1 November 2006, an adult male Western Black Redstart *P. o. gibraltariensis* was photographed on a platform in the Caspian Sea, 30 km north of Buzachi peninsula (45:10 N, 51:50 E), Mangghystau province (Gistsov 2007). On 23-29 March 2007, a male was found at Karazhar, Korgalzhyn nature reserve, Aqmola province

(Koshkin 2008). On 14 November 2007, a female-type bird was found at the Shakpak-Ata necropolis (44:26 N, 51:08 E), Tub-Karagan peninsula, Mangghystau province. These are the first to third record in Kazakhstan and outside the Western Palearctic for this subspecies.

White-capped Redstart *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*

On 8 September 2008, an adult male White-capped Redstart was photographed in the Almaarasan gorge (43:04 N, 76:55 E), Ili-Alatau national park, Almaty province (Isabekov 2008b). This is a new species for Kazakhstan.

Eastern Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe melanoleuca*

According to, for instance, Gavrilov & Gavrilov (2005) and Wassink & Oreel (2007), Pied Wheatear *O. pleschanka* and Eastern Black-eared Wheatear breed sympatrically from the coast of Mangyshlak peninsula



103-104 Large-billed Reed Warbler / Humes Karekiet *Acrocephalus orinus*, juvenile male (collected at Zharkent, Almaty province, Kazakhstan, on 17 August 1900), American Museum of Natural History, Washington, USA (Margaret Hart/AMNH)

(44:11 N, 52:16 E) east to the western edge of the Ustyurt desert (46:04 N, 57:35 E), Mangghystau province. In fact, this region is inhabited by a polymorphic population of hybrid origin consisting of Pied x Eastern Black-eared, completely spatially isolated from Eastern Black-eared (Panov 2005). All records of Eastern Black-eared in Kazakhstan (all from Mangghystau province) therefore likely refer to this population.

Variable Wheatear *Oenanthe picata*

According to, for instance, Gavrilov & Gavrilov (2005) and Wassink & Oreel (2007), two subspecies of Variable Wheatear, *O p capistrata* and *O p opistholeuca*, breed in southern South Kazakhstan province (43:30 N, 68:30 E). In fact, the entire population of Variable in Kazakhstan is a polymorphic population of hybrid origin consisting of these two subspecies (Panov 2005). All records of Variable in Kazakhstan therefore likely refer to this population.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

On 11-20 April 2007, a male Blue Rock Thrush was

found at Karazhar, Korgalzhyn nature reserve, Aqmola province. This is the second record in Aqmola province.

Large-billed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orinus*

A juvenile male Large-billed Reed Warbler, collected on 17 August 1900 at Zharkent (44:10 N, 80:00 E), Almaty province, was recently found in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH; plate 103-104). As four out of 10 museum specimens that were discovered recently were collected in Afghanistan, it is assumed that Large-billed Reed probably breeds in Central Asia (Svensson et al 2008). This is a new species for Kazakhstan. For more information on its history, see Ibis 144: 259-267, 2002, Dutch Birding 28: 180, 2006, 29: 55, 183, 2007, 30: 260, 2008, 31: 59, 2009, BirdingAsia 9: 10, 2008).

Asian Desert Warbler *Sylvia nana*

On 11 April 2007, an Asian Desert Warbler was found at Karazhar, Korgalzhyn nature reserve, Aqmola province (Koshkin 2008). This is the second record in Aqmola province.



105 Meadow Bunting / Weidegors *Emberiza cioides*, male, Kornilovka, South Kazakhstan province, Kazakhstan, 17 November 2008 (Yevgeny Belousov)

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

On 18 May 2008, a singing male Blackcap was found at Karazhar, Korgalzhyn nature reserve, Aqmola province (Laurens Steijn in litt). This is the third record in Aqmola province.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

On 17 May 2007, two Dusky Warblers were found at Konshengel, Taukum desert, Almaty province (Kovshar 2008). This is only the fourth record away from the Altai, where the species breeds.

Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis*

On 21 April 2008, a first-summer male Collared Flycatcher was photographed at Tengiz (46:19 N, 53:25 E), Atyrau province (Peterson 2008; plate 101). This is the sixth record in Kazakhstan and the first in Atyrau province. All previous records were in West Kazakhstan province (Wassink & Oreel 2008).

European Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

On 20 November 2007, a European Blue Tit was found at Beyneu (45:19 N, 55:12 E), Mangghystau province. This is the first record in Mangghystau province. Previously, it has been recorded in winter south to Atyrau (47:07 N, 51:53 E) in the Ural delta, Atyrau province (Wassink & Oreel 2007).

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

On 28 July 2006, a family of Coal Tits *P a ater* consisting

of two adults and six juveniles was found at Amankaragay forest (52:26 N, 63:57 E), Qostanay province (Moiseev & Timoshenko 2007). This is the first breeding record outside East Kazakhstan province.

Red-tailed Shrike *Lanius phoenicuroides*

On 12-14 June 2007, five pairs and a single Red-tailed Shrike (formerly Turkestan Shrike) were found in the surroundings of Kyzyl-Kapkan (48:38 N, 50:34 E), Volga-Ural region, West Kazakhstan province. At least one bird was photographed and a nest containing young was found (Bidashko & Parfyonov 2007, Bidashko et al 2008, Fyodor Bidashko in litt). These are the first breeding records in West Kazakhstan province (in the area between the Volga and Ural rivers which is part of Europe) and the Western Palearctic.

European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

In 2007, several pairs of European Greenfinch *C c chloris* were breeding at Atyrau (47:07 N, 51:53 E), Atyrau province (Karpov 2007b). These are the first breeding records in Atyrau province, 600 km south of the upper Ural valley, the only previously known breeding area in Kazakhstan (Wassink & Oreel 2007).

Desert Finch *Rhodospiza obsoleta*

On 12 June 2006, two Desert Finches were found at Karazhar, Korgalzhyn nature reserve, Aqmola province (Ashby & Ashby 2007, Koshkin 2007). This is the third record in Aqmola province.

Long-tailed Rosefinch *Uragus sibiricus*

On 9 November 2008, a first-winter Long-tailed Rosefinch was photographed at Taraz (42:53 N, 71:21 E), Zhambyl province (Yevgeny Belousov in litt; plate 102). On 23 February and 1 March 2009 respectively, two (photographed) and one bird(s) were found at Beskainar (43:19 N, 77:12 E), Zailiyskiy Alatau foothills, Almaty province (Machiel Valkenburg in litt). On 15 March 2009, four birds were found at Twentyseventh Razedz lake (43:01 N, 71:12 E), Zhambyl province (Vladimir Kolbintsev in litt). Although the species has been recorded as far west as Tashkent, Uzbekistan (Wassink & Oreel 2007), it is a rare winter visitor in the Tien Shan, including its foothills. The records therefore suggest that in winter 2008/09 an invasion took place in southern parts of Kazakhstan.

Godlewski's Bunting *Emberiza godlewskii*

On 5 August 2006, two family groups (adults feeding young) of Godlewski's Bunting *E g decolorata* were found at Kakpak (42:48 N, 79:54 E), Terskey Alatau mountains, Almaty province (Karpov 2007a). These are the second and third breeding record in Kazakhstan.

Meadow Bunting *Emberiza cioides*

On 17 November 2008, a male Meadow Bunting was photographed at Kornilovka (42:33 N, 70:10 E), South Kazakhstan province (Yevgeny Belousov in litt; plate 105). This is the third record in South Kazakhstan province. Both previous records (collected birds) were in nearby Aksu-Dzhabagly nature reserve (Wassink & Oreel 2007).

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

On 19 May 2008, a Corn Bunting was found at Karazhar, Korgalzhyn nature reserve, Aqmola province (Dijkstra 2008). This is the second record in Aqmola province.

Removed species and rejected records

Siberian Crane *Grus leucogeranus*

On 3 April and 21 April 2006, according to a local huntsman, one and two Siberian Cranes were reported at Burevestnik (51:06 N, 63:35 E) and Baytuma lake (51:54 N, 64:26 E), Qostanay province, respectively (Berezovikov 2007). These are only hear-say records and there are no descriptions or photographs supporting the identification of this very rare species.

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

On 29 May 2008, a Lesser Sand Plover was reported between Kolshengel and Nurlı (43:35 N, 79:00 E), South Kazakhstan province (Andersen 2008). There is no description, sound-recording or photograph supporting the identification.

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Between 21 and 23 May 2004, a total of 10 Steppe Whimbrels *N p alboaxillaris* was reported at three locations between the Mugodzhary mountains (48:45 N, 58:48 E) and the upper Emba valley (48:48 N, 58:08 E),

Aqtöbe province (Korzhev & Pazhenkov 2007). It seems odd that the authors did not make any notice of the presence of *N p phaeopus*, a common passage migrant in that region. Furthermore, there are no descriptions or photographs supporting the identification of this very rare and elusive taxon.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

In June 2006, Green Sandpiper was reported breeding in the Ural-Emba interfluvium (Kovshar et al 2006; Sklyarenko et al 2008). In 2007, the species was reported breeding in the Paradise valley mountain plateau (50:18 N, 84:06 E), West-Altai nature reserve, East Kazakhstan province (Sklarenko 2008). Apart from being recorded, no details suggesting breeding are given. Furthermore, it seems odd that Scherbakov & Scherbakov (2008) did not make any notice of the first breeding record(s) in West-Altai nature reserve that year. In the former case, the area does not suit the species' breeding habitat requirements. The only confirmed breeding in Kazakhstan took place at Borovoye in the Koksetay upland, Aqmola province, in 1932 (Wassink & Oreel 2007).

Pallid Scops Owl *Otus brucei*

On 16 May and 26 June 2006, a Pallid Scops Owl was reported to be singing, and, from 28 July to 18 August, two juveniles were reportedly being fed by adults at Dzhabagly (42:25 N, 70:28 E), Talasskiy Alatau foothills, South Kazakhstan province. There are no descriptions, photographs or sound-recordings supporting the identification. Breeding in the western Tien Shan foothills seems unlikely because the area does not suit the species' breeding habitat requirements (Wassink & Oreel 2007).

Eurasian Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium passerinum*

On 1 June 2006, a Eurasian Pygmy Owl was reportedly calling at Ili-Alatau national park (43:10 N, 77:50 E), Almaty province (Ashby & Ashby 2007). There is no photograph, description or sound-recording supporting the identification. There is one record from Almaty province (2 January 1992, Medeo, Zailiyskiy Alatau mountains) (Wassink & Oreel 2007).

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*

On 11 February 2006, a Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit *A r japonicus* was reported at Chardara reservoir (41:13 N, 68:11 E), South Kazakhstan province (Kovalenko & Kravchenko 2007). There is no description or photograph supporting the identification. This would be the first winter record and the first one identified in the field in Kazakhstan. All 11 records (collected in April and October) concern specimens in the collection of the Zoological Institute in Almaty, re-identified by Per Alström and Lars Svensson (Gavrilov & Gavrilov 2005).

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

On 18 December 2006, a Water Pipit was reportedly found at Karashengel hunting reserve (43:43 N, 77:44 E), Almaty province (Bevza 2007). There is no description or photograph supporting the identification. This would be the first winter record in Kazakhstan.

Himalayan Wagtail *Motacilla himalayensis*

On 30 May 2007, a male Himalayan Wagtail was photographed at Kaskelen (23:12 N, 76:37 E), Almaty province (Wassink & Oreel 2008). The probable hybrid Himalayan x Masked Wagtail (see above under 'new species and interesting records') gave reason to review that record and, since the rump and uppertail-coverts were not described, a hybrid cannot be excluded. Consequently, Himalayan Wagtail has been removed from our systematic list of the birds of Kazakhstan.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

On 28 June 2008, a male Unspotted Bluethroat *L s magna* was reported at Karazhar, Korgalzhyn nature reserve, Aqmola province (Koshkin 2008). However, in the populations of, for instance, the subspecies *L s pallidogularis* and/or *L s svecica* (both occurring in Kazakhstan) completely blue-bibbed-morph birds ('*wolfii*') occur. Therefore, it is much more likely that the record refers to such a bird than to the subspecies *magna*.

Eastern Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe melanoleuca*

On 7 May 1894, an Eastern Black-eared Wheatear was reported at the confluence of the Emba and Temir rivers (48:31 N, 57:26 E) rivers, Aqtöbe province (Gavrilov & Gavrilov 2005, Wassink & Oreel 2007). There is no description or photographic evidence supporting the identification. See also above.

Finsch's Wheatear *Oenanthe finschii*

On 28 May 2008, a male Finsch's Wheatear was reported at the Sharyn canyon (43:37 N, 79:18 E), Almaty province (Andersen 2008), what would be the first record in eastern Kazakhstan. The nearest breeding area is c 1000 km away in the Kyzylkum desert (42:30 N, 67:30 E), South Kazakhstan province. There is no description or photograph supporting the identification.

Variable Wheatear *Oenanthe picata*

On 11 July 1881 a Variable Wheatear *O p opistholeuca* was reported at the upper Chingirlau valley (51:10 N, 52:55 E) (Gavrilov & Gavrilov 2005, Wassink & Oreel 2007) and, on 22 August 1892, several birds were reported at Fort Shevchenko (44:31 N, 50:16 E), Mangghystau province (Mitropolskiy 2007; this record was erroneously reported in literature from Aqtau on 10 August 1892). There is no written or photographic evidence supporting the identification. In case of the latter record, the cliffs on which these birds were observed suit the habitat requirements for the locally common Finsch' Wheatear *O finschii*, rather than for Variable.

Dusky Thrush *Turdus eunomus*

On 22 February 2007, a Dusky Thrush was reported at Almaty (43:15 N, 76:57 E), Almaty province (Karpov 2007c). The description does not, for instance, exclude a hybrid. Furthermore, there is no photographic evidence supporting the identification.

Upcher's Warbler *Hippolais languida*

On 24 May 2006 and 9 July 2007, single Upcher's

Warblers were reported at Karaoy, Ili delta, Almaty province (Andersen 2006, 2007, Wassink & Oreel 2007, 2008). The observers are now questioning the identification of these birds (Annika Forsten in litt).

Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*

On 21-22 May 2007, respectively three and one singing Aquatic Warblers were reported at a lake at Iskrinskii pine forest (52:08N, 72:01E), Koksetau upland, Aqmola province (Skylarenko et al 2008, Igor Karyakin in litt), what would be the first record of this species in Kazakhstan (a record at Gogolskiy (47:06 N, 52:18 E) in the lower Ural valley on 19 September 1932 has been rejected by Gavrilov & Gavrilov (2005)). There are no photographs or sound-recordings and, therefore, Igor Karyakin (one of the observers) advised the reports to be regarded as unconfirmed, pending further research at the site.

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*

On 21 May 2007, a male Brown Shrike was reported at Kamyshzavod (50:27 N, 69:40 E), Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region, Aqmola province (Koshkin 2008). There is no description or photograph supporting the identification. Previous reports of this species in the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region have been rejected by Gavrilov & Gavrilov (2005).

New names and taxonomic treatments

Western Great Egret *Casmerodius albus*

The name Great Egret has been changed into Western Great Egret, following elevation to species level of Eastern Great Egret *C modestus* (Christides & Boles 2008).

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

The name *Larus ridibundus* has been changed into *C ridibundus* (Gill & Wright 2006, Gill et al 2008).

Pallas's Gull *Larus ichthyæetus*

The name Great Black-headed Gull has been changed into Pallas's Gull (Gill & Wright 2006, Gill et al 2008).

Lilith's Owl *Athene noctua*

Following studies by König & Weick (2008) and Wink (2008), Little Owl *A noctua indigena* has been provisionally placed as a subspecies under Lilith's Owl *A glaux* (formerly *A noctua glaux*). In Kazakhstan, Lilith's Owl occurs in the Volga-Ural region (West Kazakhstan and Atyrau provinces), west to the Ilek valley (Aqtöbe province) (Wassink & Oreel 2007).

Eastern Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos golzii*

The subspecies name *L m golzii* has priority over *hafizi* and has therefore been changed (Dickinson 2008).

Red-tailed Shrike *Lanius phoenicuroides*

The name Turkestan Shrike has been changed into Red-tailed Shrike (Gill & Wright 2006, Gill et al 2008).

Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus*

The name *Sturnus roseus* has been changed into *P roseus* (Lovette et al 2008, Zuccon 2008).

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Samenvatting

VOGELS VAN KAZACHSTAN: NIEUWE EN INTERESSANTE GEGEVENS, DEEL 2 In dit artikel wordt een overzicht gegeven van interessante vogelwaarnemingen in Kazachstan. Ook wordt een aantal waarnemingen vermeld waarvan de documentatie volgens de auteur onvoldoende is. Het overzicht bevat vier nieuwe taxa voor Kazachstan, Grote Grijsz Snip *Limnodromus scolopaceus*, Zwarte Roodstaart *Phoenicurus ochruros gibraltariensis*, Rivierroodstaart *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus* en Humes Karekiet *Acrocephalus orinus*. Verder wordt beschreven dat Oostelijke Blonde Tapuit *Oenanthe melanoleuca* en Picatatapuit *O picata* in Kazachstan tot polymorfe populaties met een hybride oorsprong behoren, respectievelijk van Bonte x Oostelijke Blonde Tapuit, en van de ondersoorten *capistrata* en *opistholeuca*. Een soort, Himalayakwikstaart *Motacilla himalayensis*, is door de auteur van de nationale lijst afgevoerd vanwege het feit dat de documentatie niet meer volledig wordt geacht.

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