

## Birds of Kazakhstan: new and interesting data, part 4

After three previous editions of *Birds of Kazakhstan: new and interesting data* (Wassink & Oreel 2008, Wassink 2009, 2010) and the publication documenting four new species for Kazakhstan (Wassink et al 2011), another selection of new data for Kazakhstan is presented here, including the first records of Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*, Japanese Waxwing *Bombycilla japonica*, Plumbeous Water Redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosus* and Arctic Redpoll *Acanthis hornemanni*.

### **Crested Honey Buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

On 12 and 13 May 2012, two males (one photographed, plate 53) and a female, respectively,

were observed at Korgalzhyn, Aqmola province (Koshkin 2011, Robbe 2012; Ignaas Robbe in litt). This is the first record outside the known migration range, ie, south-eastern and eastern Kazakhstan, although a hybrid female Crested x European Honey Buzzard *P apivorus* was photographed at the same location by Klemens Steiof on 18 May 2010 (Johannes Kamp in litt). For a discussion about the latter bird, see 'ID issues' on [www.birdsofkazakhstan.com](http://www.birdsofkazakhstan.com).

### **Cinereous Vulture** *Aegypius monachus*

On 18 September 2011, an immature was observed at the Aktolagay mountain in Aqtöbe province (Saraev 2012), one of the most north-western records ever.



53 Crested Honey Buzzard / Aziatische Wespendiff *Pernis ptilorhynchus*, adult male, Korgalzhyn, Aqmola province, Kazakhstan 12 May 2012 (*Ignaas Robbe*)



54 Red-necked Stint / Roodkeelstrandloper *Calidris ruficollis*, juvenile, Sorbulak lake, Almaty province, Kazakhstan, 23 September 2012 (*Machiel Valkenburg*)

**Macqueen's Bustard** *Chlamydotis macqueenii*

On 3 August 2011, one was photographed in the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (Koshkin 2012). This is the fourth record for central Kazakhstan.

**Sociable Lapwing** *Vanellus gregarius*

On 5 November 2012, a first calendar-year was photographed north of Fort Shevchenko, Mangghystau province (Kadirov 2012). This is the latest record in Kazakhstan ever.

**Lesser Sand Plover** *Charadrius atrifrons*

On 23 May 2011, an adult male was observed at Temirastau lake, Aqmola province (Kamp 2011, Koshkin 2012; Johannes Kamp in litt). For a full description, see 'News' on [www.birdsofkazakhstan.com](http://www.birdsofkazakhstan.com). After the first record on 4 July 2009 (Koshkin 2010), this is the second in the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region. Between 9 May and 10 June 2012, three birds were photographed at Sorbulak lake, Almaty province (Dyakin 2012, Fedorenko 2012, Fokina 2012). On 28 July 2012, an adult was photographed at Sorbulak lake, Almaty province (Dyakin 2012). Formerly regarded a vagrant, the species seems to be a rare passage migrant in Kazakhstan.

**Red Knot** *Calidris canutus*

On 8 July 2010, three adults were found at Tuzkol lake, Almaty province (Ridzon 2010; Jozef Ridzon in litt). On 30 May 2011, six birds were found at Aktogay, East Kazakhstan province (Jérôme Dubos et al/NARC-IFHC in litt). These are the fourth and fifth record for Kazakhstan.

**Red-necked Stint** *Calidris ruficollis*

On 23 September 2012, a juvenile was identified and photographed (plate 54) at Sorbulak lake, Almaty province. This is the ninth record, totalling 12 birds, for Kazakhstan.

**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

On 19 September 2006, one was observed at eastern Kushmurun lake, Qostanay province (Erokhov et al 2011). This is a new species for Kazakhstan.

**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*

On 16 January 2009, a second-winter was photographed at the Caspian coast at Aqtau, Mangghystau province (Kovshar 2009; Victoria Kovshar in litt). This is the fourth record for Kazakhstan.

**Daurian Shrike** *Lanius isabellinus*

On 26 October 2012, a first-winter was photographed in the western Betpak-Dala desert, 50 km north-west of Zhuantobe, South Kazakhstan province. This is the latest record in Kazakhstan ever.

**Long-tailed Shrike** *Lanius schach*

On 22 May 2012, one was found at Fetisovo (Judas/NARC-IFHC 2012). This is the second record for Mangghystau province.

**Pale Martin** *Riparia diluta*

On 18 May 2011, one was observed at Karazhar, Korgalzhyn nature reserve (Koshkin 2012). This is the second record for central Kazakhstan.

**Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica*

On 2 May 2012, one was observed at Fetisovo

(Gouraud/NARC-IFHC 2012a). This is the second record for Mangghystau province.

**Japanese Waxwing** *Bombycilla japonica*

On 3 January 2013, a first-winter male showing no signs of captivity was trapped from a flock of Bohemian Waxwings *B garrulus* at the Astronomical Observatory, Ili-Alatau national park, Almaty province (Afanasiev 2013). This record is likely to be part of an invasion of this species, bringing them far west of their usual wintering range, for instance Lake Baikal, Russia (Igor Feletov in litt to Axel Braunlich). Japanese Waxwing is a new species for Kazakhstan.

**Eurasian Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes tianschanicus*

In June 2012, two singing territorial males were found in the Altai foothills near Buktharma (Jochen Roeder/Heidelberg Cement in litt). This constitutes a considerable northward extension of the breeding range. Previously, this species was known to breed up to the Tarbagatai, Manrak and Saur mountains (Wassink & Oreel 2007).

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

On 10 October 2012, a first calendar-year male/female or adult female was found in the Betpak-Dala desert, 50 km north-west of Zhuantobe, South Kazakhstan province (Villaeiev/NARC-IFHC 2012a). This is only the fourth record outside the Altai, where the species breeds.

**Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis*

On 29 May 2011, one was photographed at Korgalzhyn (Johannes Kamp & Ruslan Urazaliev in litt) and, on 2 June 2011, one was found at Karazhar, Korgalzhyn nature reserve (Koshkin 2012), both in the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region. These are the 10-11th record for Kazakhstan.

**Plumbeous Water Redstart** *Rhyacornis fuliginosus*

On 9 June 2011, a male was photographed at the Ayaguz river near Qopa, East Kazakhstan province (Papp/NARC-IFHC 2011; Gabor Papp in litt). This is a new species for Kazakhstan.

**Western Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros gibraltariensis*

On 1-3 April 2012, one adult and two second calendar-year males were found at Karazhar, Korgalzhyn nature reserve, Aqmola province (Koshkin 2012). These records confirm the recent eastward expansion of this taxon (Wassink 2011).

**Pied Bush Chat** *Saxicola caprata*

On 27 April 2010, a male was found at Fetisovo, Mangghystau province (Jacky Judas/NARC-IFHC in litt). A first-summer male was observed at Fetisovo on 6-7 and 21 May 2012. Presumably, the same bird was present at the Caspian shore, 30 km away from Fetisovo, on 25 May 2012 and at the Kenderli-Kayasan plateau on 3-4 June 2012 (Gouraud/NARC-IFHC 2012b, Villaeiev/NARC-IFHC 2012b). After a first-summer female on 17-24 May 2009 (Le Nevé et al/NARC-IFHC 2010, Wassink 2010), it seems that this species is a very rare annual spring migrant at this coastal site.

**Taiga Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicilla*

On 12 June 2012, a singing first-summer male was photographed at Nurly, Almaty province (Holmstedt 2012; Michael Westerbjerg Andersen in litt, www.birdsofkazakhstan.com). On 14 June 2012, a singing first-summer male was found in low pine and willow forest at Buktharma lake, c 4 km southwest of Buktharma, East Kazakhstan province (Jochen Roeder/Heidelberg Cement 2012 in litt). These are the first documented records of this species outside the Altai.

**Semicollared Flycatcher** *Ficedula semitorquata*

On 23-24 April 2012, a male and a first-summer female were photographed at Fetisovo, Mangghystau province (Gubin 2012, Gouraud/NARC-IFHC 2012c). The species is a very rare but regular spring migrant at this coastal site.

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

On 18 May 2011, one was found at Karazhar, Korgalzhyn nature reserve (Huijzers 2011, Koshkin 2012). It concerns the first spring record for central Kazakhstan.

**Buff-bellied Pipit** *Anthus rubescens*

On 7 October 2012, a Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit *A r japonicus* was photographed at Maly Sorbulak lake, Almaty province (Isabekov 2012). On 20 October, another one was photographed at Sorbulak lake (Kovalenko 2012). These are the 12-13th record for Kazakhstan and the first two documented field records. All previous records referred to birds identified in the collection of the Zoological Institute in Almaty.

**Arctic Redpoll** *Acanthis hornemanni*

In December 2011, an adult male was photographed in the Zailiyskiy Alatau foothills at Almaty, Almaty province (Ottaviani 2012; Ottaviani in litt). It concerns the first documented record for

Kazakhstan. Previous records (Dolgushin 1974, Wassink and Oreeel 2009) were all undocumented and, therefore, rejected. This includes a skin of a first-winter male collected at Katon-Karagay and retained in the collection of Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, the Netherlands, since it is without year.

### Desert Finch *Rhodopechys obsoleta*

After four previous records there between early April and mid-June (Balmer & Betton 2005, Heinicke et al 2006, Koshkin 2007, 2011, Wassink 2009), an invasion took place in the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region in 2011, starting in mid-May with flocks of up to 11 birds, totalling 10s of birds (Huijzers 2011, Koshkin 2012). This resulted in a breeding pair at Korgalzhyn but unfortunately the nest with 4-5 eggs was predated by a cat (Ullman 2011, Koshkin 2012; Johannes Kamp in litt).

### Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

On 13-17 September 2012, one was observed at an artesian well in the Betspak-Dala desert, 50 km north-west of Zhuantobe, South Kazakhstan province (Kovalenko 2012, Villaeiev/NARC-IFHC 2012c). On 29 September 2012, one was found at Kyzylkol lake, South Kazakhstan province (Mats Waern in litt). These are the 11-12th record for Kazakhstan.

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*Arend Wassink, Postweg 64, 1795 JR De Cocksdorp, Texel, Netherlands  
(a.wassink@texel.com)*