

Birds of Kazakhstan: new and interesting data, part 5

After four previous editions of 'Birds of Kazakhstan: new and interesting data' (Wassink & Oreel 2008, Wassink 2009, 2010, 2013a) 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 Blyth's Rosefinch *Carpodacus grandis* and many range extensions.

Asian White-winged Scoter *Melanitta deglandi stejnegeri*

On 2 August 2011, a female with two pulli was photographed at Katon-Karagay national park in the southern Altai, East Kazakhstan province (Vorobyov 2011). This is a new breeding location in the southern Altai.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

On 25 April 2012, breeding in Bayanaul national park, Pavlodar province, was established for the first time, when a female with pulli was found at Birzhankol lake (Reznichenko 2014). This means a considerable extension of the breeding range.

Altai Snowcock *Tetraogallus altaicus*

On 20 May 2010, one was photographed in the southern Altai, East Kazakhstan province (Vorobyov 2010). This species is hardly ever observed, let alone photographed.

Indian/Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii bacchus*

On 7 December 2013, a first calendar-year was found at Sorbulak lake, Almaty province (Fedorenko 2013). Although the bird was extensively photographed, no consensus on its identification could be reached. At the same location the first Indian Pond Heron for Kazakhstan (adult-summer) was found on 16 July 2009 (Kovalenko 2009, Wassink 2010).

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

On 12 February 2014, one was photographed at Karakol lake at the Caspian coast of Mangghystau province (Katuncev 2014). This is the first winter record in Kazakhstan.

Western Great Egret *Casmerodius albus*

On 6 April 2013, one was photographed at Petropavlovsk, North Kazakhstan province (Zuban 2013). This is the northernmost record in Kazakhstan.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

On 9 December 2013 (Zuban 2013) and 19 January 2014 (Katuncev 2014), one was photographed at Aqtau, Mangghystau province. These are the first winter records in Kazakhstan.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

On 18-19 September 2013, an adult was photographed at Sadyrbay, Aqmola province (Salemgareev 2013, Urazaliyev 2013). This is the second record in the northern half of Kazakhstan.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

On 20 July 2011, two were photographed at Katon-Karagay in the southern Altai, East Kazakhstan province (Vorobyov 2011). This is the second record in the Altai.

Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

On 27 December 2013, one was photographed at the Caspian Sea at Fort Shevchenko, Mangghystau province (Kadirov 2013). This is the first winter record in Kazakhstan.

Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

On 16 May 2013, an adult male was photographed at Korgalzhyn, Aqmola province (Fijen 2013). After two males and a female at the same location on 12-13 May 2012 (Robbe 2012, Wassink 2013), this is the second record in central Kazakhstan.

Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*

On 18 January 2014, an adult was photographed at Zhabagly, South Kazakhstan province (Belousov 2014). This is the third documented winter record in Kazakhstan.

Shikra *Accipiter badius*

On 21 and 24 May 2013, an adult male was photographed and well described at Korgalzhyn, Aqmola province (Fijen 2013; Thijs Fijen in litt). This is the first record for central Kazakhstan and the northernmost ever.

Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax*

On 21 November 2012, a first calendar-year was photographed at Sorbulak lake, Almaty province (Machiel Valkenburg in litt). Since no records were known after early November (Wassink & Oreel 2007), this is the latest in Kazakhstan ever.

Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*

On 9 May 2013, one was found in suitable breeding habitat at the Chagan-Obo river in the



133 Little Bustard / Kleine Trap *Tetrax tetrax*, first calendar-year, Sorbulak lake, Almaty province, Kazakhstan, 21 November 2012 (*Machiel Valkenburg*)

134 Crested Honey Buzzard / Aziatische Wespendif *Pernis ptilorhynchus*, adult male, Korgalzhyn, Aqmola province, Kazakhstan, 16 May 2013 (*Thijs P M Fijen*)



Chiliktinskaya valley, East Kazakhstan province (Vladimir Kolbintsev in litt). This record could indicate breeding at this location.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

On 11 August 2013, an adult was photographed at Sorbulak lake, Almaty province (Dyakin 2013). This is the sixth record (involving eight birds) for Kazakhstan.

Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

On 25 June 2013, a second calendar-year accompanied by a Red-necked Phalarope *P lobatus* was photographed at Karamendy, Qostanay province (Kalashnikov 2013). This is the 15th record for Kazakhstan.

Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

On 8 January 2014, one was found at Öskemen (Starikov 2014). In winter, this species is very rare in Kazakhstan and, in north-eastern Kazakhstan, it had previously only occasionally been recorded at Semey.

Relict Gull *Larus relictus*

On 10 July 2013, an adult was photographed at Gorkoye lake in the Pavlodar Trans-Irtysh region, Pavlodar province (Lyakhov 2013). Since this is only c 35 km away from Aksor lake where the species has been found breeding recently, the record might indicate that it bred again in this region.

Baltic Gull *Larus fuscus fuscus*

On 11 April 2013, an adult was photographed at the northern Caspian Sea (Kovshar 2013). This is the third record for Kazakhstan.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

On 21-22 January 2014, a second calendar-year was photographed at Chardara lake, South

Kazakhstan province, in southernmost Kazakhstan (Kovalenko 2014, Nukusbekov 2014). This is the fifth documented record for Kazakhstan.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

On 24 October 2009 and 15 May 2013, a juvenile and adult bird, respectively, were photographed at the Kazakh part of the northern Caspian Sea (Kondratenko, 2009, 2013). These are the seventh and eight record for Kazakhstan.

Ural Owl *Strix uralensis*

In North Kazakhstan province, birds were photographed between Troebatskiy and Presnovka on 5 October 2008, at Petropavlovsk on 4 February 2011 (Zuban 2011) and 10 April 2013 (Zuban 2013). These records indicate that the species breeds in this region.

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

On 14 November 2013, one was photographed at Azatlyk, South Kazakhstan province (Belousov 2013). Apart from winter records in 1961-64 at Almaty, no records were known after early October (Wassink & Oreeel 2007).

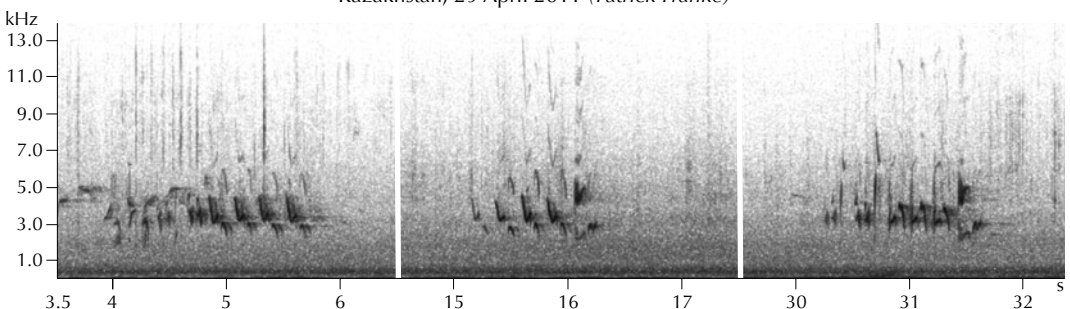
Eurasian Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus jaxarticus*

On 2 June 2013, one was calling north of Birtaban lake, Aqmola province (Fijen 2013). After the finding of an abandoned nest with three eggs in the Nura valley at Korgalzhyn on 2 July 2008 (Bot 2008; Sander Bot in litt), this is the second indication that this species breeds (occasionally?) in this region.

Streaked Scrub Warbler *Scotocerca inquieta*

On 8 November 2013, one was photographed in the Kyzylkum desert, South Kazakhstan province (Timoshenko 2013). Since no records were known

FIGURE 1 Hume's Whitethroat / Humes Braamsluiper *Sylvia althaea althaea*, Ulytau, Qaraghandy province, Kazakhstan, 29 April 2011 (Patrick Franke)



after late September (Wassink & Oreel 2007), this is the latest in Kazakhstan ever.

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus tristis*

On 6 December 2013, one was photographed at Zhabagly, South Kazakhstan province (Belousov 2013). This is the second winter record in Kazakhstan.

Ménétriés's Warbler *Sylvia mystacea*

On 21 April 2009, a male was photographed on an artificial island in the Kashagan oilfield in the north-eastern Caspian Sea (Kovshar 2009). This is the second record in the Kazakh part of the Caspian region. For a discussion on the subspecific identification of this bird, see the ID section on www.birdsofkazakhstan.com.

Asian Desert Warbler *Sylvia nana*

On 11 April 2007, one was photographed at Korgalzhyn, Aqmola province (Koshkin 2007). This is the second record for central Kazakhstan.

Hume's Whitethroat *Sylvia althaea althaea*

On 29 April 2011, one was sound-recorded while singing at Ulytau, Qaraghandy province (Franke 2011), c 500 km north of the nearest breeding location. This is the northernmost record in Kazakhstan ever.

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

On 10 October 2006 and 7 October 2008, one was photographed in the Ural valley at Atyrau, Atyrau province (Saraev 2006, 2008). These are the first records in the lower Ural valley.

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes tianschanicus*

On 29 June 2013, one was singing in the Ivanovskiy mountains between Ridder and the Western Altai nature reserve, East Kazakhstan province (Fijen 2013). After the discovery of breeding birds in the Altai foothills at Buktharma (Wassink 2013), this is an even more northerly breeding location. It seems that this species is rapidly spreading into the Altai.

Red-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis*

On 22 February 2014, a second calendar-year male was photographed at Baiserke, Almaty province (Fedorenko 2014). This is the fourth record for Kazakhstan.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus bonapartei*

On 19 January 2014, one was photographed at



135 Pied Flycatcher / Bonte Vliegenvanger *Ficedula hypoleuca*, second calendar-year male, Maishukur, Aqmola province, Kazakhstan, 30 April 2013 (Arend Wassink)

Petropavlovsk, North Kazakhstan province (Kalashnikov 2014). Previously, this subspecies was only known to winter in south-eastern Kazakhstan (Wassink & Oreel 2007).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata sarudnyi*

On 15 June 2013, a nest was found in the Urgaity gorge at Akterek in the Zhetyzhol mountains, Almaty province (Fedorenko 2013). This is the first breeding record in the northern Tien Shan.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Between 30 April and 21 May 2013, at least eight were found in the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region, Aqmola province (Fijen 2013, Wassink 2013b). Previously, only very few were recorded in this region annually. These records indicate that this species is more common in this region than previously known.

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*

On 4-5 July 2013, singing birds were found in the southern Altai, East Kazakhstan province, at Rakhmanovskiy lake and Berel, respectively (Fijen 2013). These records indicate that the species breeds in this mountain range, from which previously only summer records were known. On 19 December 2013, a first calendar-year was photographed at Almaty (Isabekov 2013). This is the first winter record for Kazakhstan.

Masked Wagtail *Motacilla personata*

On 18 June 2013, a pair with juveniles was found at Zhangyzkuduk, Aqmola province (Fijen 2013;



136 Nest of Pallas's Reed Bunting / Pallas' Rietgors *Emberiza pallasii*, Rachmanovskiy lake, East Kazakhstan province, Kazakhstan, 3 July 2013 (Thijs P M Fijen)

Thijs Fijen in litt). This is the second breeding record in Aqmola province.

Siberian Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens japonicus*

On 20 October 2013, one was photographed at Sorbulak lake, Almaty province (Kovalenko 2013). This is the 12th record for Kazakhstan, of which three in spring (extreme dates 2 and 24 April) and nine in autumn (extreme dates 7 and 21 October).

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

On 22 June 2013, a nest was found in the Urgaity gorge at Akterek in the Zhetyzhol mountains, Almaty province (Belyalov 2013). This is the first breeding record in the northern Tien Shan. Previously, only summer records were known from this region (Wassink & Oreel 2007).

Two-barred Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera*

On 18 December 2013, two were photographed at Petropavlovsk, North Kazakhstan province (Zuban 2013). On 10 January 2014, two were photographed at Qostanay, Qostanay province (Timoshenko 2014). These are the sixth and seventh documented records for Kazakhstan, coinciding with a notable invasion of this species into western Europe during autumn 2013 and the winter of 2013/14.

Asian Rosy Finch *Leucosticte arctoa*

On 7 June 2013, an adult carrying food was photographed at Katon-Karagay national park

(Vorobyov 2013) and, on 13 July 2013, one was photographed north-east of Koshkol lake (Zametnaya 2013). These records indicate that this species breeds more widely in the southern Altai than previously known.

Spotted Great Rosefinch *Carpodacus severtzovi kobdensis*

On 3 March 2014, a female was photographed at Katon-Karagay national park in the southern Altai, East Kazakhstan province (Vorobyov 2014). This is the second of this subspecies in Kazakhstan.

Blyth's Rosefinch *Carpodacus grandis*

From 12 January to 24 February 2014, an adult male and a female stayed at Zhabagly in the western Tien Shan foothills, South Kazakhstan province (Belousov 2014). This is a new species for Kazakhstan.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

On 9 and 10 July 2013, an adult with a begging juvenile was found at Ushbulak in the Zhungarskiy Alatau foothills, East Kazakhstan province (Fijen 2013). Since the subspecies *C c humii* breeds in the Chinese part of this mountain range and the nearest breeding location of nominate *C c coccothraustes* is at least 400 km away, at Buran in the Chyerniy Irtysh valley, it is most likely that the record refers to the former. Since the behaviour of the bird clearly indicated breeding, this is the first proof of breeding outside the Ugam valley in the western Tien Shan.

Pallas's Reed Bunting *Emberiza pallasii*

On 3 July 2013, three pairs, of which two nests could be located, were found at Rachmanovskiy lake, East Kazakhstan province (Fijen 2013). This is a new breeding location in the southern Altai.

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*

On 1 August 2013, a juvenile was photographed at Borly lake in the Pavlodar Trans-Irtysh region, Pavlodar province (Lyakhov 2013). This species, formerly a common breeding bird in northern parts of Kazakhstan, was not recorded in Kazakhstan after 2007, when a probable breeding pair was found at Kachyri, also in the Pavlodar Trans-Irtysh region, near the border with Russia (Kamp et al 2008).

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Sander Bot, Thijs Fijen, Patrick Franke, Geert Groot Koerkamp, Justin Jansen, Vladimir Kolbintsev, Alexei Koshkin and Machiel

Valkenburg for contributing to this paper in various ways.

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*Arend Wassink, Postweg 64, 1795 JR De Cocksdorp, Texel, Netherlands
(arendwassink@kpnmail.nl)*