

A NOTE ON A PAIR OF BREEDING NORTHERN GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis* IN TERELJ NATIONAL PARK IN MONGOLIA

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хураангуй. 2011 оны зун бид Горхи-Тэрэлжийн Байгалийн цогцолбор газарт нэг хос үлэг харцага үүрлэж буйг олж тэмдэглэсэн юм. Энэ хос 3 ангаахай амжилттай өсгөсөн. Үүр өндөр хар модонд байрласан байв. Монгол орны умард хэсгийн ой бүхий нутгаар үлэг харцага үүрлэдэг гэх боловч үүрлэж байгаа харцагатай таарсан мэдээлэл маш ховор байдаг.

Түлхүүр үг: үлэг харцага, ховор тохиолдол

abstract. We found a pair of Northern Goshawk breeding in Gorkhi-Terelj National Park in summer of 2011. They successfully raised 3 nestlings. The nest was located in a tall Siberian larch tree. The breeding record of Northern Goshawks are very rare in Mongolia.

Keywords: northern goshawk, rare records

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Northern Goshawks breed in all of the northern forests of Mongolia and some birds also winter (Shagdarsuren 1983, Fomin and Bold 1991, Stubbe *et al* 2010). However, there are very few records of breeding goshawks in Mongolia.

Kleinstäuber and Succov (1978) recorded one pair in Noyon Uul Mountain in Batsumber soum of Tov aimag in mid-April 1965, but they never found the nest at that time. Later they recorded one young bird at the same place on 28th July 1966, which would possibly be the pair previously observed was breeding. K.Schleicher recorded a young recently fledged goshawk on 24th June 2007, near a nest in a larch tree near Tsetserleg in Arkhangai aimag (Stubbe *et al* 2010). Andreas Buchheim saw an adult bird in June 2004 in Terelj and another adult end of May at Khuvsgol Nuur in 2005. Also a bird tightly incubating was found in Altai Tavan Bogd National Park in the forest above Khoton Nuur, Bayan Ölgii Aimag in 2015 (Andreas Buchheim, *pers. obs.*). Such summer records do only make sense if the birds seen do breed near the observation site.

In this note, we describe our three visits to a nest of Northern Goshawk in Gorkhi-Terelj National Park. We found the nest, located at 47.973265° N; 107.386536° E on 25th in June 2011. It was located in a tall Siberian Larch (*Larix sibirica*) about 100

m from the edge of the forest. The nest was on a branch 6 m above the ground. The nest looked as newly built because it was full of new nest materials.

Northern goshawks add new branches, preferably with green leaves, every year, even in long existing nests and even if the pair is breeding there for many years (Lauri *et al*, 2003). However, we could not confirm this. On the day we discovered the nest, it was raining so we could not check its contents. White washes covering the outer parts of the nest were visible from ground. Parts of nestlings' body were visible from higher ground through a spotting scope and binoculars. Based on Boal (1994) and our best guess, the chicks were about 2 weeks old. We recorded the nest coordinate point by a handheld GPS and collected some information about the nest site. On our second visit on 01st July, 6 days after our first visit, we climbed the tree. The age of nestlings was estimated as 18-21 days following Boal (1994). Our third visit was made on 15th July, when the chicks had fully grown feathers. During the 3rd visit, we saw both adult birds near the nest and the male was alarming more aggressive than the female. Two nestlings were still on the nest while the third, the biggest, was perching on the branch near the nest. We measured and banded the

two nestlings at the nest. The third bird already flew very well and we could not find it again. In general, all nestlings were in juvenile plumage ready to fledge (Figure 1).



Figure 1. A Goshawk nestling on the nest at Terelj NP on 15th July, 2011

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