

*Western/Central Asian Site Network
for the Siberian Crane and Other Waterbirds*

Kulykol-Taldykol Lake System Kazakhstan



Date of Designation

18 May 2007

Coordinates

51°23' N, 61°52' E

Area

8,300 ha

Overview

These lakes are representative of the steppe zone of Northern Kazakhstan. These are fresh water lakes, but when the water level lowers the salt concentration increases. The water bodies have seasonally changing water levels and typical border-curtain or mosaic thick reeds.



Photo by Vladimir Potansky

Importance for the Siberian Crane

The site is a stopover of the Siberian Crane during migration. During the last 10 years there were two confirmed sightings of Siberian Cranes: one bird was registered at Kulykol Lake in September 1997, and pair of birds was observed between 18 and 20 August 2003 near Kulykol Lake.



Photo by Vladimir Potansky

Importance for other cranes and waterbirds

The site is important for other crane species, 2-3 pairs of Eurasian Cranes (Taldykol Lake) and 1-2 pairs of Demoiselle Cranes regularly nest here. About one thousand Eurasian Cranes stop at Kulykol Lake during autumn migration. In some years (2000) there are groups of non-breeding birds in the summer.

Kulykol-Taldykol Lake System is one of the most important stop-over site for migratory waterbirds along western/central flyway. When the water level is high up to 450,000 birds stop at the site during autumn migration. The site supports huge flock of geese (over 120 thousand in the end of 1990s). It is key stop-over for the Lesser White-fronted Goose and the Red-breasted Goose. Dominating duck species are Mallards, Pintails, Common Teals, and Coots, in some years – Ruddy Shelducks (up to 10-12 thousand birds), Tufted Ducks, and Smews.



Photo by Vladimir Potansky

Maps of Kulykol-Taldykol Lake System

