

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

Naurzum Lake System Kazakhstan



Date of Designation

18 May 2007

Coordinates

51°32'N, 64°26'E

Area

191,381 ha

Overview

Naurzum Lake System is a natural wetland comprised of large and small lakes scattered in the steppe zone of Northern Kazakhstan. It is system with seasonally changing water levels, comprising, according to hydro-chemical water composition, a variety of water bodies – from fresh water lakes to bitter-salt ones.



Photo by Evgeny Bragin

Importance for the Siberian Crane

The site is the most important stop-over for Siberian Cranes along the Western/Central flyway within Kazakhstan. Siberian Cranes regularly stop over at this territory both in the spring and autumn migration period. In the autumn they may rest at the site for up to one month.



Photo by Evgeny Bragin

Importance for other cranes and waterbirds

The site is a breeding area for two other crane species: Eurasian and Demoiselle Cranes. It is also a stop-over site for migratory cranes. In some years summer groups of molting cranes were recorded. In autumn pre-migratory flocks of Eurasian Cranes consist of up to three thousand and of Demoiselle Cranes up to 132.

During migration the Naurzum Lake System supports a great number of waterfowl, including from 40 to 237 thousand ducks and coots. Depending on water level, the number of flying geese in 1966-2005 fluctuated from 20 to 500 thousand. The site regularly supports more than 7% of the Black Sea - Caspian Sea population of Whooper Swans; not less than 5% of the Siberian-Caspian population of Bewick's Swans; up to 2.5% of the western population of Lesser White-fronted Geese; up to 7% of the population of Red-breasted Geese; more than 1% of the Dalmatian and White Pelican populations of Southwest and South Asia.



Photo by Vladimir Potansky



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Maps of Naurzum Lake System

