

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

Tyuntyugur-Zhanshura Lake System Kazakhstan



Date of Designation

18 May 2007

Coordinates

52°40'N, 65°46'E - Tyuntyugur Lake
52°36'N, 65°52'E - Zhanshura Lake

Area

10,000 ha

Overview

The site is located within the large Koibagar-Tyuntyugur Lake group in Northern Kazakhstan. These fresh water lakes are characterized by seasonal changes in water levels caused by flooding cycles, which is typical for steppe zone.



Photo by Vladimir Potansky

Importance for the Siberian Crane

The site was an important migration stopover area for the Siberian Crane along its western and central flyways. Some lakes of the group, with shallower water and partly open shores, are quite suitable for Siberian Cranes as places to rest and feed. As a result of a questionnaire among local hunters, two sightings have been identified for the last 10 years: two adult birds in September 1992 on Biesoygan Lake and two birds in April 2006 at Alabota Lake.



Photo by Vladimir Potansky

Importance for other cranes and waterbirds

When the lakes are filled with water, Eurasian Cranes nest at Zhanshura Lake. Groups of non-breeding Eurasian Cranes (up to 40-50 birds) have been recorded at Tyuntyugur Lake in the summer. During autumn migration the lake serves as a stop-over site for migratory Eurasian Cranes (in 2002-2003 - 400-500).

During migration the site supports nearly 100 thousand waterbirds. During spring migration tens of thousands of sandpipers stop over at the shores of Tyuntyugur Lake. In the years with favorable ecological conditions Tyuntyugur and Zhanshura Lakes support some endangered species, such as Lesser White-fronted Geese and Red-breasted Geese. In some years the number of Whooper Swans and some other waterbirds exceeds 1% of the global populations.



Photo by Vladimir Potansky

Maps of Tyuntyugur-Zhanshura Lake System

