

# Colour aberration in Horned Larks *Eremophila alpestris albigula* observed in Kyrgyzstan

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On 8 September 2014, on the southern shore of Chatyr-Kul lake, Naryn province, Kyrgyzstan, a flock of some 3000 Horned Larks *Eremophila alpestris albigula* was seen. Amongst the flock were three colour-aberrant Horned Larks, one of which was photographed (Plate 1). The following day, on the eastern shore of the lake (40° 40.623' N, 075° 24.240' E), to the north of the Torugart border crossing in the Torugart-Ashuu pass and at an elevation of c3541 m AMSL, a further leucistic individual was sighted in a flock of some 20 Horned Larks. Altogether c3300 Horned Larks were counted around the lake.

Hein van Grouw (*in litt*, see also van Grouw 2010, 2013) on inspection of Plate 1 considered the bird most likely exhibited a form of progressive greying. In Pätzold's (1987) species monograph of the Horned Lark, no mention is made of colour anomalies.

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**Plate 1.** Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris* with colour aberration, 8 September 2014, lake Chatyr-Kul, Kyrgyzstan. © Rolf Nessing