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**AVIFAUNA BIODIVERSITY IN SOME RESERVOIRS OF KALMYKIA
UNDER THE MODERN CLIMATE CHANGE
AND INCREASING ANTHROPOGENIC LOAD**

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In this paper, we examine the state of avifauna of several wastewater and drainage water reservoirs, as well as man-made reservoirs of the Republic of Kalmykia, in 2025. We studied the composition and structure of the coastal bird communities of Lake Manych-Gudilo, Lake Ded-Khulsun, and the Chogray Reservoir, as well as several smaller reservoirs of local significance, since they are considered key bird areas of Russia. The water of some of these reservoirs, such as Manych-Gudilo and Ded-Khulsun, are specially protected natural areas of federal and regional significance, which facilitates their monitoring. We provided a current assessment of the diversity of the avifauna and bird populations of these reservoirs and their shores, including species composition, abundance, and abundance indicators. We also assessed the contribution of these reservoirs to the conservation and enrichment of regional biodiversity. We then made recommendations for managing their hydrological regime to maintain and preserve coastal ecosystems, including populations of rare and vulnerable bird species.

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Keywords: steppe zone, desert zone, water reservoir, aridization, hydrological regime, climate, ecosystem, ornithocomplexes, bird population, rare bird species, key ornithological areas, specially protected natural areas, Red Data Book, risk of species extinction, factors affecting populations of near-water bird species, anthropogenic impact.

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