Hunting and Diet

The Winged Desert-creeper is a proficient predator with a range of adaptations that enable it to thrive in the Gobi Desert. It predominantly feeds off Mongolian snow leopards and the Bactrian camel; it will need to consume two to three leopards per week or one to two camels to survive. Being an animal with flying abilities, the Desert-creeper is ideally adapted with a feathered wingspan of up to six metres, which allow it to glide silently above the desert ground. As a result, it can stalk its prey, undetected before swooping to grasp the unsuspecting animal below. The flying predator uses its large, razor-sharp talons in conjunction with its pointed beak-like mouth to maintain an incredibly tight grip on its prey while returning to its nest to consume its meal. The Winged Desert-creeper has a highly effective digestive system: It separates its meal into two parts. The softer, muscular tissue is then absorbed for nutrients and the bones, teeth and fur (non-absorbable materials) are excreted. This highly effective predator spends the majority of its time hunting and has adapted over thousands of years to ensure it gains the nutrients it needs for survival in the harsh landscape of Mongolia.

