

Mammals & Birds of N Tibet: 27 Oct – 4 Nov 2006

An at-a-glance list of 12 spp of mammals & 136 spp of birds recorded.

*By Jesper Hornskov * ALL RIGHTS RESERVED*

[this draft 7 Nov 2006]

Please note that the following list is best considered a work in progress. It should not be quoted without consulting the author.

Based mostly on my own field notes, this brief write-up covers the birds & mammals noted on a trip undertaken by A Bassett, D Heintz & myself.

Thank you for making the journey so enjoyable!

In the species list the concept "bird-days" is used - it is the avian equivalent of man-hours: for example, separate flocks of ten and 15 Henri's Snowfinches moving through score 25 bird-days, as would the same single individual seen daily for 25 days. The sum of day totals - a handy measure of relative abundance, nothing more.

The sequence of the bird list follows *The Howard and Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World – 3rd Edition* (Dickinson 2003), in my opinion by far the most useful one-volume checklist to date. Taxonomic 'innovations' mostly follow *Birds of South Asia – The Ripley Guide* (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005), the recommended field guide for trips in Tibet.

Initials in brackets after a couple of single-observer sightings does not imply that I have doubts as to the correctness of the ID.

Birds noted near Beijing on 26th are included in the following – nine additional species seen brings the trip total to 145 spp.

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Mammals:

Wolf *Canis lupus*

Four N of Huashixia on 31st could very well have been the same individuals which we in '05 were fortunate enough to watch hunt down and kill a Tibetan Gazelle. Just as we arrived they were doing a tentative but in the end unsuccessful run, and then split up to amble around eyed warily by the gazelles.

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

Singles on 30th (one hunting at c4,700m, apparently trying to flush out pikas from under snow on a fairly steep slope) & 31st (S of Huashixia).

Tibetan Fox *Vulpes ferrilata*

Nine on 31st. One N of Huashixia was scoped as it was yelping over and over, throwing its head back as it emitted the far-carrying sound - other individuals were seen even closer as they went about their business quite unwarily, on the look-out for pikas & repeatedly stopping to scent-mark.

Kiang *Equus kiang*

282 animals on 31st.

Red Deer *Cervus elaphus*

A female seen well on 2nd.

Goitred Gazelle *Gazella subgutturosa*

Eight W of Chaka on 2nd.

Tibetan Gazelle *Procapra picticaudata*

Ten (incl three plus one in snowfields at >4,800m) on 30th & 1,244 on 31st.

Przevalski's Gazelle *Procapra przewalskii*

Nine (two males & seven females) on 2nd, close to where nine individuals (a buck with four females each with a youngster) were seen in Oct 2005 (JH *et al.* pers obs).

***According to the IUCN Redlist less than 250 mature individuals remain, making it "the most endangered hoofed mammal in the world". However, according to a news report (www.chinadaily.com.cn/en/doc/2004-01/11/content_297845.htm) three additional groups were found during surveys in autumn/winter 2003, two of which were in Tianjun county, somewhat closer to our site than the 130+ kms estimated distance from the nearest "known" site NW of Koko Nor. Both Tianjun "gazelle communities" "are relatively in good conservation with a larger number of members" according to the report, which however does not even give an estimate of the numbers involved.

Blue Sheep *Pseudois nayaur*

A group of 11 on 2nd – not exactly close but the crisply crystalline air typical of this time of the year (combined with state-of-the-art optical equipment!) allowed us to thoroughly enjoy these animals as they moved around, coming over a shoulder onto a sunny hillside, running briefly in alarm, and finally retreating into the shadows amongst crags.

Black-lipped Pika *Ochotona curzoniae*

Fairly widespread on the Plateau.

?Gansu Pika *Ochotona cansus*

A few individuals believed to be this species were seen N of Xining on 27th.

Woolly Hare *Lepus oiostolus*

A few were seen.

Birds:

Przevalski's Partridge *Alectoris magna*

Four seen well – ‘scope views of calling birds as we were having breakfast by the car – on 2nd.

Daurian Partridge *Perdix dauurica*

c20 at drinking spot near Chaka on 3rd was a great bonus, the birds being so obliging as well as unexpected (none seen there over 30+ visits) .

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

c100 bird-days. Noted on three dates N of Xining (main event c61, scattered across terraced fields & flying out from roost, on 4th), near Koko Nor & near Gonghe.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

25+ at Koko Nor on 28th.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

c220 bird-days: nine at Koko Nor on 28th, and on 31st c200 S of Maduo & nine S of Huashixia.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus Cygnus*

Five adults at Koko Nor on 28th.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

c204 bird-days. Noted on five dates. Main event c100 S of Maduo on 31st.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*
c200 at Koko Nor on 28th.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*
18+ bird-days. Noted on two dates - main event 8+ at Koko Nor on 28th.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*
185+ bird-days. Noted on two dates – on 28th ten en route & 100+ at Koko Nor, and on 4th 75+ on the river E of Xining (with 10+ 'duck sp').

Chinese Spotbill *Anas zonorhyncha*
Eight at Koko Nor on 28th.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*
On 28th one en route & 100+ at Koko Nor.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*
200+ at Koko Nor on 28th & five S of Maduo on 31st.

Baikal Teal *Anas formosa*
One in flight in a flock of Common Teal at Koko Nor on 28th.
***Not listed for W China / Tibet by Cheng (1987). Possibly just one previous record from Qinghai/Xizang: at the same site in Sep 2005 (P I Holt pers comm.).

Common Teal *Anas crecca*
Five en route & 700+ at Koko Nor on 28th.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*
690+ bird-days. Noted on two dates – on 28th 60 en route & 600+ at Koko Nor, and 29 S of Maduo on 31st.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*
Four seen well at Koko Nor on 28th.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*
Noted only on 28th, with 300+ en route & 400+ at Koko Nor.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*
40 bird-days on 28th – ten en route & 30 at Koko Nor.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*
40 bird-days. Noted on two dates – main event 35 at Koko Nor on 28th.

*****Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
Four – an adult w/ three juveniles – at Beijing on 26th.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Two en route & 15 at Koko Nor on 28th.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Two en route & one at Koko Nor on 28th.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

One along the river N of Xining on 27th [DH] & six at Koko Nor on 28th.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Six at Koko Nor on 28th & one (looking rather lost at c4,300m) on 31st.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

c275 bird-days. Noted on five dates. Of especial interest were c230 migr (c110 at 08h48, c70 at 08h57, 28 at 09h00 & 23 at 09h21) S of the South Koko Nor range on 29th – the timing and flock sizes suggest that we may have caught only the tail end of the movement...

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

35 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Three bird-days. Noted only at Koko Nor with singles, possibly involving just two individuals, on three dates.

Saker *Falco cherrug*

36 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus*

22 bird-days, concerning no less than 21 individuals noted on two dates, with a number of individuals offering feather-by-feather views in superb light. Most memorable perhaps the adult which approached from behind – what gave it away was the hiss of wind through the primaries!

Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis*

74 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Black Vulture *Aegypius monachus*

Five bird-days. Noted on three dates. On 31st one dropped in next to the road ahead of where we were watching a Tibetan Fox – when we approached we were able to watch it alongside four Steppe Eagles (which looked rather small next to the bulky vulture) before it flew off, and then in flight with 1-2 Steppe Eagles and eventually another Black Vulture.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

14 bird-days. Noted on five dates. Three were adult males – one attracted no less than three Sakers (we were watching a presumed family of four perched on a utility post), which briefly took turns harassing the exotic-looking harrier...

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Six bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Three bird-days. Noted on two dates: one perched on a fence post at Koko Nor on 28th, and on 4th one adult male in flight N of Xining & one perched along the river E of town.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo japonicus*

One near Chaka on 3rd.

***In addition, two were seen en route at Beijing on 26th.

Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmanicus*

One N of Xining on 27th - seen only perched - appeared to be this species rather than *japonicus*.

Upland Buzzard *Buteo hemilasius*

146 bird-days. Noted on six dates. Main event 105 on 31st. One WOW! view after another...

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

One over Wenquan late in the afternoon of 30th.

*** At Golmud 17 bird-days during 1988-1992 (involving a minimum of ten birds) between 24 October and 15 April: JH unpublished. These appear to have been the first records for Tibet (Vaurie 1972; Cheng 1987). The birds all showed the characters of ssp. *lagopus* which is known to winter in west and northwest Xinjiang (Cheng 1987).

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*

57 bird-days. Noted on four dates, with 'field guide views' on several occasions.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

Four bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Common Coot *Fulica atra*

500+ at Koko Nor on 28th.

Common Crane *Grus grus*

Seven flying E at 12h00 at Koko Nor on 28th.

Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis*

Six (four adults and two 1st c-y birds) at Koko Nor on 28th.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

21 at Koko Nor on 28th.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

20 at Koko Nor on 28th.

***Latest autumn record for Golmud was 24 Oct: JH unpublished.

Common Redshank *Tringa tetanus*

One at Koko Nor on 28th.

***Latest autumn record for Golmud 10 Oct: JH unpublished.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

One at Koko Nor on 28 Oct.

***Recorded at Golmud no later than 23 Sep: JH unpublished.

Small wader sp

A small wader briefly flying with Spotted Redshanks on 28th was probably a Dunlin *Calidris alpina*.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

An adult *heinei* flew E at Koko Nor on 28th.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Three on 28th – a 1st c-y en route & two adults at Koko Nor.

Great Black-headed Gull *Larus ichthyaetus*

75+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

***In addition, five gulls flying S at Er La pass on 29th were either this species or a “Herring” Gull sp.

Brown-headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus*

16 at Koko Nor on 28th & 15 S of Maduo on 31st.

Common Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

16 (of which 15 – one flock – migr) at Koko Nor on 28th.

Pallas’s Sandgrouse *Syrrhaptes paradoxus*

c66 bird-days near Chaka. Noted on two dates, with flying-away flocks of ten and 11 on 2nd much improved upon the following day when a group of 21 was located on the ground, permitting us to approach to c50 meters. We watched these birds in bright morning light as they fed, milled about, stretched their wings, and preened, taking in such subtle details as the peachy underwing coverts and the white tips to all but the elongated central pair of tail feathers. The birds only flew off when a shepherd whom we had been aware of for some time as he pulled his heavy motorbike along a desert track - his woman limping along behind as best she could – parked up and walked over to try and bum a liter of gas off us for his ride into town...

Blue Hill Pigeon *Columba rupestris*
c151 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*
Nine N of Xining on 27th.
***In addition, two en route at Beijing on 26th.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*
33 bird-days. Noted on four dates en route to Koko Nor (15 on 28th), in Chaka (13 on 2nd), in poplar shelterbelts (two on 3rd), W of Xining (one on 3rd) & N of Xining (two on 4th).

Red Turtle Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*
Four bird-days: one en route to Koko Nor on 28th & three in Chaka on 2nd.

*****Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis*
One at Beijing on 26th.

Eurasian Eagle-Owl *Bubo bubo*
One on 29th.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*
Five bird-days.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*
One N of Gonghe on 28th.

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*
One in valley N of Xining on 27th.

Chinese Grey Shrike *Lanius sphenocercus*
16 bird-days (incl one seen only by ZN). Noted on four dates.

Tibetan Grey Shrike *Lanius (s.) giganteus*
One seen well N of Er La on 29th.

*****Azure-winged Magpie** *Cyanopica cyanus*
50+ at Beijing on 26th.

*****Red-billed Blue Magpie** *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*
Three at Beijing on 26th. Tingaling!

Common Magpie *Pica pica*
21 bird-days. Noted on three dates.
***In addition, 10+ at Beijing on 26th.

Tibetan Magpie *Pica (pica) bottanensis*

Three on 2nd.

***The two *Pica* taxa occupy mutually exclusive ranges and display a number of vocal, morphological & habitat differences.

Henderson's Ground Jay *Podoces hendersoni*

Ten birds near Chaka over 2nd & 3rd. Having failed to locate any on the windy afternoon of 1st we'd been at The Spot on 2nd barely a minute before one appeared, on cue, in unbeatable light, and within 50m of our vehicle. It being a major Dreambird we all but ignored the also-present Chinese Grey Shrikes and watched the bird intently as it treated us to a fine run (at one stage, with the breeze behind it, it seemed to get up too much momentum and had to apply the brakes urgently; it then went to work, pecking vigorously at the base of a clump of vegetation, stretching tall at short intervals to make sure all remained well. Before we knew it there were five birds together, probably a family... what a way to end a fine day: Tingaling!

Hume's Groundpecker *Pseudopodoces humilis*

70 bird-days.

***Apparently most closely related to *Paridae* (Dickinson 2003; B King pers comm.) but please let us refrain from concocting a new English name such as Tibetan Ground-tit!

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

56 bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

c95 bird-days. Noted on two dates N of Xining – main event c75 at village threshing ground on 27th.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

14 bird-days N of Xining – noted on two dates. Also seen at Beijing on 26th.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*

31 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

'Great' (= 'Japanese') Tit *Parus (major) minor*

Ten bird-days. Noted on three dates.

***Two taxa occur in Qinghai. Both belong with *minor*, one on 3-4 'Great Tit' species in China. Keep your fingers crossed the name 'Japanese' Tit doesn't stick!

Rufous-vented Tit *Parus rubidiventris*

24+ bird-days N of Xining: 23 on 27th & 1+ heard on 4th.

*****Marsh Tit** *Parus palustris*

1+ at Beijing on 26th.

Songar Tit *Parus songarus affinis*

32 bird-days N of Xining: 26 on 27th & six on 4th.

White-browed Tit *Parus superciliosus*

Two W of Chaka on 2nd.

White-browed Tit-Warbler *Leptopoecile sophiae*

29 bird-days. Noted on five dates. Several memorable encounters with sparkling males...

Crested Tit-Warbler *Leptopoecile elegans*

Five N of Xining on 27th.

Mongolian Lark *Melanocorypha mongolica*

26 bird-days. Noted on four dates at/near Koko Nor, S of Gonghe & near Chaka.

Long-billed Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha maxima*

Five bird-days. Noted on two dates, with memorable views on 28th.

Asian Short-toed Lark *Calandrella cheleensis*

Five bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*

Fairly common – not systematically recorded.

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

Not systematically recorded – fairly common to abundant.

*****Chinese Bulbul** *Pycnonotus sinensis*

Three at Beijing on 26th.

*****Pallas's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus*

20 at Beijing on 26th.

*****Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

One heard 'behind the toilets' at Beijing on 26th.

Pere David's Laughingthrush *Garrulax davidi*

15+ bird-days N of Xining: 5+ heard on 27th & ten seen on 4th.

Elliot's Laughingthrush *Garrulax elliotii*

c72 bird-days N of Xining: 37 on 27th & c35 on 4th.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Ten bird-days. Noted N of Xining with eight on 27th & two on 4th.

Chinese Nuthatch *Sitta villosa*
11 N of Xining on 27th.

Przevalski's Nuthatch *Sitta przewalskii*
Seven N of Xining on 27th.

Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria*
One N of Xining on 4th [DH].

Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*
11 N of Xining on 27th.

White-cheeked Starling *Sturnus cineraceus*
Six at Chaka on 2nd.

***Latest autumn date for Golmud 13 Nov: JH unpublished.

Eurasian Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*
One at Koko Nor on 28th.

***Latest autumn date for Golmud 17 Nov: JH unpublished.

Kessler's Thrush *Turdus kessleri*
Three – two males & a female – on 2nd.

Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis*
Three bird-days – one in poplar shelterbelts on 3rd & two N of Xining on 4th.
***In addition, a bird seen in poor light on 27th was perhaps this species rather than *T. ruficollis*.

Red-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis*
20+ bird-days. Noted only N of Xining with 5+ on 27th & 15+ on 4th.

Naumann's Thrush *Turdus naumanni*
One *eunomus* N of Xining on 4th.

Himalayan Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger rufilatus*
One female-type N of Xining on 27th.

***Strictly speaking, it could have been a migrant Siberian Bluetail *T. cyanurus*...

***The split (accepted by e.g. Rasmussen & Anderton 2005) from the Siberian taxon is based mainly on morphological and vocal differences. While I have no real problem with the split it may be worth bearing in mind that there seem to be consistent differences in song between birds in NE Qinghai and those in the SE.

Przevalski's Redstart *Phoenicurus alaschanicus*
14 N of Xining on 27th. This localized endemic – 'arguably the prettiest in the genus and undoubtedly the one fewest birdwatchers have seen' – treated us to unforgettable views....

White-throated Redstart *Phoenicurus schisticeps*
13 bird-days N of Xining: 11 on 27th & two on 4th.

*****Daurian Redstart** *Phoenicurus aureus*
Two at Beijing on 26th.

Guldenstadt's Redstart *Phoenicurus erythrogastrus*
13 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis*
Two N of Xining on 27th.

White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*
Six bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*
Common and widespread – not systematically recorded.

Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*
3,500+ bird-days. Noted on five dates. Main events flocks of 500+ & 3,000+ near/at Koko Nor on 28th & 1st, respectively.

Henri's Snowfinch *Montifringilla henrici*
Surprisingly, just three seen – briefly - on 31st.
***DNA studies apparently demonstrate this species to be more closely related to *M. adamsii* than to *M. nivalis* with which it was lumped in the past.

Himalayan (= Tibetan) Snowfinch *Montifringilla adamsi*
14 bird-days. Noted on three dates.
Rather unspectacular on the ground but truly striking in flight, this species is blessed with no less than four English names...

White-rumped Snowfinch *Onychostruthus taczanowskii*
37+ bird-days. Noted on five dates. The first – at Koko Nor on 28th – made a particular impression...

Pere David's Snowfinch *Pyrgilauda davidiana*
c159 bird-days. Noted on three dates. Main event c120 at small pool on 29th.

Rufous-necked Snowfinch *Pyrgilauda ruficollis*
c1,228 bird-days. Noted on four dates. Impressive flocks of up to c350 birds were seen at close range.

Blanford's Snowfinch *Pyrgilauda blanfordi*
20+ bird-days. Noted on two dates. Birds at the small pool, drinking, on 29th & 1st yielded memorable views.

Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris*

One heard N of Xining on 4th.

Robin Accentor *Prunella rubeculoides*

29 bird-days. Noted on seven dates. Many satisfying looks at this emblematic species but none perhaps sweeter than the first, one which – perched on a haystack – kind of jump-started our Plateau birdwatching on 28th.

Rufous-browed Accentor *Prunella strophciata*

28 bird-days. Noted N of Xining on two dates: 22 on 27th & six on 4th.

Brown Accentor *Prunella fulvescens*

30 bird-days. Noted on three dates. Main events 15 in scrub near Gonghe on 28th & 11 W of Chaka on 2nd.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

A 1st c-y offered excellent views at Koko Nor on 28th.

***Latest autumn date for Golmud was 29 Oct: JH unpublished.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

Nine N of Xining on 27th.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Five bird-days. Noted on three dates – one dropping in to drink on 3rd offered instructive views.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Singles heard N of Xining on 27th & W of Chaka on 2nd.

Oriental Greenfinch *Carduelis sinica*

Seven N of Xining on 27th.

Eurasian Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

One heard N of Xining on 27th.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

680 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

Brandt's Mountain Finch *Leucosticte brandti*

c96 bird-days. Noted on two dates – superb views of birds coming in to roost on 29th & 30th.

Mongolian Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes mongolicus*

Seven coming in to drink on 1st & 3rd – great views of a species we had not been expecting to see...

Przevalski's Rosefinch *Urocynchramus pylzowi*

Six on 31st was just one highlight of an unforgettable day.

Chinese Beautiful Rosefinch *Carpodacus davidianus*

c75 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Chinese White-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus dubius*

c32 bird-days. Noted on two dates N of Xining.

Eastern Great Rosefinch *Carpodacus rubicilloides*

16 bird-days. Noted on three dates. Main event 12 N of Xining on 4th – we heard and located a couple of singing males within a minute of getting out of our car: Tingaling!

Spotted Great Rosefinch *Carpodacus severtzovi*

Five bird-days. One briefly on 30th; then two males and two female-types on 1st.

***Split from *C. rubicilla* (of the Caucasus) following Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

32 birds N of Xining on 27th.

***Also one at Beijing on 26th!

Grey-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythaca*

Nine bird-days. Noted N of Xining on two dates – persistence paid on 4th when we managed unsurpassable views of a feeding male.

White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas carniceps*

190+ bird-days. Noted on three dates: 170+ N of Xining on 27th was a good count indeed, but better views were obtained of birds seen on 2nd & 4th!

Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos*

Three bird-days. Two W of Chaka on 2nd & one N of Xining on 4th.

Eastern Rock Bunting *Emberiza godlewskii*

14 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Meadow Bunting *Emberiza cioides*

Four near Gonghe on 28th was considered a bonus.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Three N of Xining on 27th.

***In addition, a bird heard at Chaka on 2nd may well have been this species.

Common Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Two at Koko Nor on 28th.

***Presumably the birds were ssp *parvirostris* (recorded as a winter visitor at Golmud between 14 Oct and 28 Mar: JH unpublished). Birds of the *zaidamensis* /*pyrrhuloides*/ *passerina/incognita* assemblage show a characteristic swollen bill...