

# NE Tibet, 21-28 Aug 2008:

***An at-a-glance list of 165 species of birds & six species of mammals.***

*By Jesper Hornskov \*ALL RIGHTS RESERVED*

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

This brief write-up covers the birds & mammals noted by E Long, E Rhodes & myself during a 'Post-Olympic' private trip to China's Qinghai Province. The trip was – as always – tailored to cover as much different habitat as possible without taking risks on the altitude acclimatization front, and we set an easy pace, frequently setting up the 'scope and assuming wait-and-see postures. We were blessed with the agreeable weather expected at this season, cool-but-not-cold mornings and bright blue skies; only on our last morning did we encounter a bit of rain, slowing down but not preventing our mopping-up of a few additional species before flying back to Beijing.

Thank you for making this trip so enjoyable!

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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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition* (Dickinson 2003), in my opinion by far the most useful one-volume checklist to date.

# **Birds:**

## **Przevalski's Partridge** *Alectoris magna*

Four W of Koko Nor on 26<sup>th</sup> – heard calling, throwing their voices, but were soon located up above looking straight down at us and showing well before disappearing over a ridge.

## **Daurian Partridge** *Perdix dauurica*

A family of ten were found just outside Xining on 21<sup>st</sup>. The juveniles were not quite fully grown.

## **Tibetan Partridge** *Perdix hodgsoniae*

13 near Koko Nor on 27<sup>th</sup>: one heard calling before we'd even finished breakfast; then a family of 12 'scoped. The juveniles, stumbling about and flapping their wings trying to keep up, were around three quarters the size of the adults.

## **Common Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

Four bird-days. Noted on three dates.

## **Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

Two at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

c110+ bird-days. Frequently seen at very close range, this charismatic species was noted on three dates.

## **Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

Two adults at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

685+ bird-days. Noted on three dates – main event 535 at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

One at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

13 bird-days. Noted at Koko Nor on two dates.

## **Chinese Spotbill** *Anas zonorhyncha*

Two at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

7+ at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*

Six at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

c15 at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Common Teal** *Anas crecca*

300+ at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina*

95+ at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Common Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

75+ at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*

7-8 birds at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup> – a pair w/ five still rather small ducklings & a possibly different adult.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

100+ at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Common Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

Five at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Three at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

\*\*\*The pale iris & noticeable difference in vocalizations compared with the Western Palearctic populations suggest that a split may be in order...

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

40+ at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

20+ at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Eastern Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus coromandus*

One at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

12 at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*

Two at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

355+bird-days. Noted at Koko Nor on two dates.

\*\*\*We were wondering – why is it that one leg in a V of cormorants is often longer than the other?

**Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Five bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Eurasian Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

6-7 bird-days. Noted on four dates – several memorable encounters with this exquisite little raptor: birds sitting out, 'scopable...

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

One near Koko Nor on 27<sup>th</sup> unfortunately did not reappear...

**Lammergeier** *Gypaetus barbatus*

One (or possibly two) near Koko Nor on 27<sup>th</sup>... though distant, our state-of-the-art optics allowed us to appreciate this emblematic bird.

**Himalayan Griffon** *Gyps himalayensis*

26+ bird-days. 24+ near Koko Nor on 27<sup>th</sup> – some seen soaring low(-ish) overhead: WOW!

**Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

A 1<sup>st</sup> c-y bird at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup> put on a good show (and in the process helped us discover just how many ducks were lurking deep in the marsh vegetation!).

**Himalayan Buzzard** *Buteo burmanicus*

A 1<sup>st</sup> c-y bird soaring over forest N of Xining on 22<sup>nd</sup> – until the Hobby-in-residence saw it off.

**Upland Buzzard** *Buteo hemilasius*

25 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*

Three bird-days. Noted on two dates W of Koko Nor – an adult carrying a hare on 24<sup>th</sup>, and two adults soaring over our noodle-stop village on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Coot** *Fulica atra*

225+ at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Black-necked Crane** *Grus nigricollis*

7+ bird-days. Undoubtedly the same pair at Koko Nor on two dates – two adults w/ two nearly full-grown juveniles.

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*

One at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

16 at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*

15+ at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

Superb 'scope views of five at Koko Nor on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*

40 bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Lesser Sand Plover** *Charadrius mongolus*

One seen very well at Koko Nor on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Pintail Snipe** *Gallinago stenura*

2-3 at Koko Nor on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**\*\*\*Swinhoe's Snipe** *Gallinago megala*

A snipe at Koko Nor on 26<sup>th</sup> was 'probably' this species.

**Western Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

15 at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

One heard at Koko Nor on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Eight bird-days. Noted at Koko Nor on two dates.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

A gathering of 36 at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup> included 2-3 birds still largely in smart summer plumage.

**Common Redshank** *Tringa tetanus*

45 bird-days. Noted at Koko Nor on two dates.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Three at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Four bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

12 bird-days. Noted at Koko Nor on two dates.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Two at Koko Nor on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

Two juveniles at Koko Nor on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

63 bird-days. Noted only at Koko Nor – main event 61 on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Long-toed Stint** *Calidris subminuta*

One heard & seen in flight at Koko Nor on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** *Calidris acuminata*

One seen well at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

15 at Koko Nor on 26<sup>th</sup> – 1-2 juveniles, the rest adults moulting out of breeding plumage *but nice*.

**Great Black-headed Gull** *Larus ichthyaetus*

146+ bird-days. Noted at Koko Nor on two dates – main event 90 on 26<sup>th</sup>, incl both adults and 1<sup>st</sup> c-y birds flying by at close range.

**Brown-headed Gull** *Larus brunnicephalus*

Three adults at Koko Nor on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*

One adult seen well at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Little Gull** *Larus minutus*

One 2+ c-y bird at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

\*\*\*Possibly only half a dozen or so previous records for Tibet...

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

c32 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*

Three at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Pallas's Sandgrouse** *Syrrhaptes paradoxus*

c65 W of Koko Nor on 25<sup>th</sup>. A couple of flocks in flight some way away; then several on the ground at a drinking spot, and flying by repeatedly at close range. Tingaling!

**Blue Hill Pigeon** *Columba rupestris*

14+ bird-days. Noted on at least four dates.

**Oriental Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis*

Three N of Xining on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

33+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**Common Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

Four bird-days. Noted on four dates – a not fully grown, begging juvenile W of Koko Nor on 25<sup>th</sup> was probably hosted by Richard's Pipit.

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

Two bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Common Swift** *Apus apus*

28 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Fork-tailed Swift** *Apus pacificus*

Two near Koko Nor on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

60+ bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

Two bird-days. A 1<sup>st</sup> c-y female W of Koko on 25<sup>th</sup> & an adult female at Koko Nor on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Grey-headed Woodpecker** *Picus canus*

Two seen well N of Xining on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Isabelline Shrike** *Lanius isabellinus*

Four bird-days. Noted W of Koko Nor on three dates.

**Grey-backed Shrike** *Lanius tephronotus*

20 bird-days. Noted on four dates. Superb views on a number of occasions!

**Black-naped Oriole** *Oriolus chinensis*

One W of Koko Nor on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Azure-winged Magpie** *Cyanopica cyanus*

c45 leaving roost N of Xining on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Common Magpie** *Pica pica*

Eight bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Tibetan Magpie** *Pica (pica) bottanensis*

Two seen well W of Koko Nor on 24<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Henderson's Ground Jay** *Podoces hendersoni*

Singles W of Koko Nor on two dates.

**Hume's Groundpecker** *Pseudopodoces humilis*

75 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

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

**Red-billed Chough** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

c60 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

152+ bird-days. Noted on two dates. Main event 150+ in fields W of Xining on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

15 N of Xining on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Large-billed Crow** *Corvus macrorhynchos*

c46 bird-days. Noted on two dates N of Xining.

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

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

\*\*\*Ssp *minor* is now mostly considered a different species from the familiar garden & woodland bird of NW Europe.

**Rufous-vented Tit** *Parus rubidiventris*

Eight N of Xining on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Songar Tit** *Parus songarus*

17+ bird-days. Noted N of Xining on two dates.

**White-browed Tit** *Parus superciliosus*

Nine bird-days. This striking endemic species was noted W of Koko Nor on two dates.

**Pale Sand Martin** *Riparia diluta*

c100 bird-days. Noted on three dates – main event c80 at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

16 bird-days. 1-7 noted daily W of Koko Nor.

**Eurasian Crag Martin** *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

Two seen very well near Koko Nor on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**White-browed Tit-Warbler** *Leptopoecile sophiae*

12 bird-days. Noted W of Koko Nor on two dates.

**Crested Tit-Warbler** *Leptopoecile elegans*

One male seen well N of Xining on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Mongolian Lark** *Melanocorypha mongolica*

Three W of Koko Nor on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Long-billed Calandra Lark** *Melanocorypha maxima*

Six bird-days. Noted at Koko Nor on two dates.

**Hume's Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella acutirostris*

25 bird-days. Noted on four dates, with clinching close-up views at Koko Nor on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Asian Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella cheleensis*

Two W of Koko Nor on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Oriental Skylark** *Alauda gulgula*

Fairly common on the plateau – not systematically recorded.

**Horned Lark** *Eremophila alpestris*

Fairly common on the plateau – not systematically recorded.

**Chinese Bush Warbler** *Bradypterus tacsanowskii*

Seeing two well N of Xining on 22<sup>nd</sup> was a real bonus.

**Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

Five bird-days. Noted on three dates.

\*\*\*Probably all but certainly the three near Koko Nor on 27<sup>th</sup> were *weigoldi*, the reasonably distinctive breeding taxon.

**Tickell's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus affinis*

119+ bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

**Yellow-streaked Warbler** *Phylloscopus armandii*

35+ bird-days. Noted on two dates N of Xining.

**Gansu Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus kansuensis*

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

**Chinese Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus yunnanensis*

One heard calling and then seen close up N of Xining on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Hume's Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus humei mandelli*

29 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Two heard N of Xining on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Pere David's Laughingthrush** *Garrulax davidi*

23 bird-days. Noted on three dates N of Xining.

**Elliot's Laughingthrush** *Garrulax elliotii*

48+ bird-days. Noted on two dates N of Xining. Superb views on 28<sup>th</sup>...

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

7+ on 22<sup>nd</sup> – mostly heard...

**Chinese Nuthatch** *Sitta villosa*

11 on 22<sup>nd</sup>... 'scope views!

**Przevalski's Nuthatch** *Sitta przewalskii*

No less than seven individuals of this 'difficult', localized and extremely attractive species were recorded N of Xining on 22<sup>nd</sup>... knowing exactly, from earlier in the season, where a pair had nested was a great help!

**Eurasian Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

Five N of Xining on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Rosy Starling** *Sturnus roseus*

One seen briefly W of Koko Nor on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Chestnut Thrush** *Turdus rubrocanus*

Nine bird-days. An individual W of Koko Nor on both 23+24<sup>th</sup> was a rather good find – seven N of Xining on 28<sup>th</sup> was less unexpected, and they showed better!

**Kessler's Thrush** *Turdus kessleri*

12 bird-days. Noted W of Koko on four dates – superb views of a male (which even treated us to a few strophes of its eerie song) on a couple of occasions.

**Siberian Rubythroat** *Luscinia calliope*

Brief views of two N of Xining on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus*

Four N of Xining on 22<sup>nd</sup> - only one, probably a 1<sup>st</sup> c-y bird, was seen, and we were unable to determine if it was a ssp *rufilatus* (the 'normal' breeding race) or a nominate.

\*\*\*The two taxa are increasingly considered different species.

**Przevalski's Redstart** *Phoenicurus alaschanicus*

Eight W of Koko Nor on 24<sup>th</sup>. Repeated encounters with adult males – Tingaling!, and 'mission accomplished'.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

83 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

**Hodgson's Redstart** *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*

Close-up views of two N of Xining on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**White-throated Redstart** *Phoenicurus schisticeps*

Seven bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Blue-fronted Redstart** *Phoenicurus frontalis*

12 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**'Common' Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus*

17 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

\*\*\*Probably all those seen were the local breeding race *przewalskii*, part of the 'Siberian' Stonechat complex.

**Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellina*

31 bird-days. Noted four dates.

\*\*\*Disappointingly, Webster's Third New International Dictionary (1986) omits any mention of the queen's knickers, defining the colour isabella merely as 'a moderate yellowish brown to light olive brown that is lighter and stronger than clay drab or medal bronze'.

**Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti*

Four bird-days. Noted W of Koko Nor on just two dates.

**Common Rock Thrush** *Monticola saxatilis*

Six birds W of Koko Nor on 26<sup>th</sup>... repeated 'scope views of this attractive species was a bonus!

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

Widespread – not systematically recorded.

**Rock Sparrow** *Petronia petronia*

27 bird-days. Noted W of Koko Nor on three dates.

**Himalayan Snowfinch** *Montifringilla adamsi*

Three on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**White-rumped Snowfinch** *Onychostruthus taczanowskii*

Five bird-days. Noted on two dates – several right next to our vehicle at our very first stop on the Plateau was a hard act to follow!

**Pere David's Snowfinch** *Pyrgilauda davidiana*

Two along Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Rufous-necked Snowfinch** *Pyrgilauda ruficollis*

Five bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Blanford's Snowfinch** *Pyrgilauda blanfordi*

Four bird-days. Noted W of Koko Nor on two dates – one of three in the desert en route on 24<sup>th</sup> proved very obliging.

**Robin Accentor** *Prunella rubeculoides*

Four showed well near Koko Nor on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Rufous-browed Accentor** *Prunella strophiatea*

Singles were noted on two dates.

**Brown Accentor** *Prunella fulvescens*

28 bird-days. Noted W of Koko Nor on three dates.

**Forest Wagtail** *Dendronanthus indicus*

A single individual W of Koko Nor on 25+26<sup>th</sup>... gave its distinctive call a few times and allowed close approach on both dates.

\*\*\*There are apparently less than ten previous records from Tibet, of which none were in autumn.

**Western Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

One at Koko Nor on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*

58 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

92 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

\*\*\*Only *leucopsis*, the taxon breeding in the general area, was identified.

**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus richardi*

15 bird-days. Noted on three dates. Diagnostic call apart we did get a couple of frame-fillers which allowed us to see the exceptionally long hind claw and the distinctive median covert markings.

**Blyth's Pipit** *Anthus godlewskii*

12 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

**Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni*

Six bird-days. Noted on three dates.

**Rosy Pipit** *Anthus roseus*

Eight bird-days. Noted on three dates. Although not unexpected it seemed a bonus to find two 'scopable birds at the end of our stroll to get closer to the cranes...

**Oriental Greenfinch** *Carduelis sinica*

Four bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris*

20 bird-days. Noted on four dates – memorable views of several birds coming in to drink from puddles at the edge of the road...

**Mongolian Trumpeter Finch** *Bucanetes mongolicus*

17 W of Koko Nor on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Przevalski's Rosefinch** *Urocynchramus pylzowi*

A pair was 'scoped W of Koko Nor on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrurus*

Eight bird-days. Noted on two dates – 'scope views of a fully adult male on 25<sup>th</sup>!

**Chinese Beautiful Rosefinch** *Carpodacus davidianus*

Five bird-days. Noted W of Koko Nor on two dates.

**Sinai Rosefinch** *Carpodacus synoicus*

Seven near Xining on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Chinese White-browed Rosefinch** *Carpodacus dubius*

Four in forest N of Xining on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Eastern Great Rosefinch** *Carpodacus rubicilloides*

Three (an adult male w/ two juveniles) near Koko Nor on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Red Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

6+ N of Xining on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Several frame-fillers – WOW!

**Grey-headed Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula erythaca*

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

**White-winged Grosbeak** *Mycerobas carniceps*

One heard W of Koko Nor on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Pine Bunting** *Emberiza leucocephalos*

11 W of Koko Nor on 24<sup>th</sup> – superb 'scope views of several of 'em.

**Eastern Rock Bunting** *Emberiza godlewskii*

Three bird-days. Noted on two dates.

**Meadow Bunting** *Emberiza cioides*

Four near Xining on 21<sup>st</sup> – a family party... the male obliged by sitting out, preening.

**Black-faced Bunting** *Emberiza spodocephala*

Singles were noted on two dates.

## **Mammals:**

**Himalayan Marmot** *Marmota himalayana*

Eight were noted.

**Plateau (= Black-lipped) Pika** *Ochotona curzoniae*

Seen in several places along & close to Koko Nor.

**Chinese Red Pika** *Ochotona erythrotis*

One seen well W of Koko Nor on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Woolly Hare** *Lepus oiostolus*

At least seven individuals were seen

**Red Fox** *Vulpes vulpes*

One on the Koko Nor flower meadows on 26<sup>th</sup> – nice!

**Goitred Gazelle** *Gazella subgutturosa*

Seven W of Koko Nor on 24<sup>th</sup> allowed prolonged 'scope views at a reasonable distance.