

NE Tibet with OBC, 19 July - 08 August 2009.

An at-a-glance list of 225 species of birds & 17 species of mammals.

By Jesper Hornskov

[this draft 18 Aug 2009]

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 by B Beers, R Hoff, K Kjellberg, P Los, D Melville, V Melville, D Myers, P Rostron, D Sargeant, G Tebb & myself during a 2009 OBC Fundraiser trip.

Thank you all for making this trip so enjoyable, and thank you for, by joining, contributing to OBC's Conservation Fund. Special thanks are due to Michael Edgecombe for volunteering to coordinate.

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

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

BIRDS:

Severtzov's Hazel Grouse *Tetrastes sewerzowi*

Two bird-days. An unusually cooperative male made our morning at Nangqian forest reserve on 30th, drawing attention to itself by calling and then presenting itself for extended viewing & photographing.

Szechenyi's Monal Partridge *Tetraophasis szechenyi*

20+ bird-days. Noted on three dates. Noone felt we hadn't earned our excellent views of a pair with two fairly large juveniles...

Tibetan Snowcock *Tetraogallus tibetanus*

No less than 22 in a day - an in many ways classic encounter: we were positioned (holding the proverbial cup of coffee!) well before the birds came out of roost and started calling, then watched them fly off down the hill where they were soon refound and 'scoped for a long while as they squabbled, herded-in their chicks, and kept up constant calling.

Przevalski's Partridge *Alectoris magna*

Ten bird-days. Seen well on two dates...

Daurian Partridge *Perdix dauurica*

Nine bird-days. Noted on three dates – most satisfyingly a pair w/ five chicks were found near Chaka.

Tibetan Partridge *Perdix hodgsoniae*

35 bird-days. Noted on six dates. The species can be remarkably confiding... we were drinking cups of coffee & milling about to keep warm on a frost-crackling morning when our first individual gave itself away by calling.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

One heard (PR, DS) W of Koko Nor on 24th.

***The first record - as far as we're aware - for NE Tibet for five years.

Blood Pheasant *Ithaginis cruentus*

12 bird-days. Noted on three dates. Prolonged views were had by all, and great photos were obtained.

White Eared Pheasant *Crossoptilon crossoptilon*

Ten bird-days. Noted on three dates. Main event eight on 28th: 'we were positioned (holding the proverbial cup of coffee!) well before the birds came out of roost and started calling'... maybe due to the dawn chill many birds in Tibet are not very early risers so being in place before they appear frequently does not preclude keeping quite reasonable hours!

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

36+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

53+ bird-days. Noted at Koko Nor on two dates – main event 50+ on 22nd.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*
c390 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*
Two adults at Koko Nor on 22nd.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*
163+ bird-days. Noted on eight dates. Several pairs with nearly full-grown young were seen.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*
Four at Koko Nor on 22nd.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*
Two at Koko Nor on 22nd.

Chinese Spotbill *Anas zonorhyncha*
9+ bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*
Three 'scoped at Koko Nor on 22nd.

Common Teal *Anas crecca*
Three bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*
104+ bird-days. Noted on three dates – main event 100+ at Koko Nor on 22nd.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*
150+ bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*
Five bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*
130+ bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*
25 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
20+ bird-days. Noted on three dates, incl at Koko Nor w/ four adults & three juveniles on 22nd.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*
460+ bird-days. Noted on four dates – main event 300+ at Koko Nor on 22nd.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*
34 bird-days. Noted on two dates at Koko Nor.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*
One N of Xining on 21st, wading in the shallows of a reservoir.

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*

A bonus bird on any Tibet trip - we saw five when we turned a Force Majeure change of plan to our advantage on 6th. One of them was a 1st c-y, presumably hatched locally.

Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus*

Four on 6th.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

24 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

13 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Five bird-days. Noted only at Koko Nor, w/ three on 22nd & two on 7th.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

c75 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

21 bird-days. Noted on 12 dates.

Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis*

An great-looking 2nd c-y female on a wire on 6th - seen well in late afternoon sunshine, and considered a great bonus not least by some of our high-listing group members.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

6-7 bird-days. Noted on five dates – can be a gone-in-a-flash species of whatever habitat it finds itself in: a 2nd c-y bird hunting over desert W of Koko Nor was an unexpected bonus...

Saker *Falco cherrug*

14 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

A soaring adult on 6th was a bonus – only rarely recorded on summer trips in Tibet.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans lineatus*

15 bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus*

18 bird-days. Noted on no less than nine dates & frequently seen at close range.

Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis*

94+ bird-days. Noted on 14 dates.

Black Vulture *Aegypius monachus*

One seen briefly W of Koko Nor on 24th.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Singletons were noted on four dates.

Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmanicus*

Five bird-days. Noted S of Yushu on four dates.

***Formerly considered a race of Common Buzzard *B. buteo* but genetically closer to Upland Buzzard *B. hemilasius* (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005) from which it is ecologically separated & easily - well, fairly easily! - distinguished...

Upland Buzzard *Buteo hemilasius*

206+ bird-days. Noted on 12 dates.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

Nine bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

18 bird-days. Noted on three dates – sightings included two adults w/ two chicks near Gonghe on 25th.

Common Coot *Fulica atra*

290+ bird-days. Noted on three dates – main event c200 at Koko Nor on 7th.

Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis*

26 bird-days. This Tibetan endemic breeder was noted on four dates... WOW!

Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*

11 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

***Somehow, Ibisbills seen in Tibet feeding on a flowered-over meadow or (as our 1st pair was) 'frozen' against a rushing, icy stream - yaks snorting in the background - are more *real* than the sad one or two which cling on along the last stretch of barely acceptable water close to Beijing in competition with sickly-looking domestic ducks!

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Eight at Koko Nor on 22nd incl a not-yet-full-grown juvenile.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Nine at Koko Nor on 7th.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Eight bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

50+ bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

c37 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Pintail Snipe *Gallinago stenura*

One flying over at Koko Nor on 22nd was early indeed - in previous years returning migrants have been recorded no earlier than 1 Aug (JH *et al.* pers obs)

Western Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

66 bird-days. Noted on three dates – main event 44 S of Maduo on 4th.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

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

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

155+ bird-days. Noted on ten dates.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

One at Koko Nor on 22nd.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

5+ bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Seven bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

57+ bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

31 bird-days. Noted on ten dates.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Four on 25th.

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

Two adults put on a good show at Koko Nor on 22nd.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

One adult at Koko Nor on 7th - not seen particularly well but a pleasing find nonetheless.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Four at Koko Nor on 7th.

Great Black-headed Gull *Larus ichthyaetus*

138+ bird-days. Noted on five dates - c50 approachable ('anyone got a spare memory card?') adults on a stream was a trip highlight.

Brown-headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus*

135 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*

One adult at Koko Nor on 7th.

***Possibly the 1st record for Tibet.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

153+ bird-days. Noted on 12 dates.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

One (maybe two) adults at Koko Nor on 22nd.

Pallas's Sandgrouse *Syrrhaptes paradoxus*

A good session w/ a total of 34 birds – in flight, on the ground, calling - in desert W of Koko Nor on 24th.

***Unfortunately the species' sought-after congener Tibetan Sandgrouse *Syrrhaptes thibetanus* eluded us despite many calories expended searching...

Blue Hill Pigeon *Columba rupestris*

451+ bird-days. Noted on 19 dates.

Snow Pigeon *Columba leuconota*

19 bird-days. Noted S of Yushu on three dates. One of those 'has-to-be-seen-to-be-believed' species...seeing these strikingly patterned birds effortlessly sail along the towering rock faces is a visual treat, the simple beauty of 'em enhancing the grandeur of the setting.

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*

21+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

31 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Red Turtle Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*

One adult on a wire, then flying by on 2nd: a summering 'lost' migrant.

Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus*

One heard [VM] near Gonghe on 25th.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

22+ bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

Eurasian Eagle-Owl *Bubo bubo*

One full-grown juvenile seen well & photographed on 4th: another long-wished-for life bird for several group members – tingaling!

Pere David's Owl *Strix davidi*

Noted on two dates at Nangqian forest reserve - persistence paid off on 31st when a roosting bird was located towards the end of the day.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Ten bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

Common Swift *Apus apus*

385+ bird-days. Noted on seven dates – main event 150+ at Koko Nor on 22nd.

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*

160+ bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Five bird-days. Noted on two dates – one adult male S of Yushu on 3rd was a surprise.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

133+ bird-days. Noted on 17 dates.

Northern Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

One [DM *et al.*] on 6th.

***Prior to 2004 (when one adult seen near Gonghe on 23 June & two juveniles present on 11 July) no breeding season records although Cheng (1987) included E, SE & S Qinghai in the species' summer range.

At Golmud seen in autumn between 31 August and 3 October, with most records first half of September, including at least four birds on 2 September 1994. Remarkably, one was in the poplars next to the town hospital on 18 January 1991 [JH pers. obs.].

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Ten bird-days. Noted on no less than five dates.

Three-toed Woodpecker *Picoides tridactylus*

Two on 29th.

***"Taxonomy: needs re-evaluation. Nearctic and Palearctic races recently split into two species, *P. dorsalis* and *P. tridactylus*, without discussion of status of the very distinct *funnebris*." Rasmussen & Anderton (2005). The latter is listed by Zheng (ed., 2005) for Gansu, NE Qinghai, E Xizang, NW Yunnan & Sichuan. The 'N Palearctic' species is represented in China by *tianshanicus* (Tian Shan & Altai: Cheng 1987), *tridactylus* (NE Inner Mongolia & N Manchuria: Cheng 1987) & *kurodai* (SE Manchuria: Dickinson 2003 – Cheng (1987) did not list *kurodai*, including birds in this area with *tridactylus*).

Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius*

Nine bird-days. Noted only at Nangqian forest reserve - it was pretty special to get prolonged encounters with vocal birds on several occasions.

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*

13 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus tsaidamensis*

12+ bird-days. Noted on three dates, incl near Gonghe where rare.

Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus*

107+ bird-days. Noted on 17 dates..

Tibetan Grey Shrike *Lanius (sphenocercus) giganteus*

Three bird-days. Noted on two dates. A low-density species, wide-ranging and often inconspicuous even when present (and thus easily missed), we were fortunate to see it well.

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*

Singles en route on four dates.

'Eastern' Azure-winged Magpie *Cyanopica cyanus*

36+ bird-days. Noted on three dates in NE Qinghai.

***Fairly common around the grounds of our hotel in Beijing...

***Apparently (G Pettersson pers com) the Iberian taxon, *C. (c.) cooki*, has been shown to be sufficiently differentiated genetically to merit elevation to full species status. In addition to the ones we saw, *kansuensis* in NE Tibet & *interposita* at Beijing, the eastern species includes a further five taxa (Dickinson 2003)...

Common Magpie *Pica pica sericea*

38 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Tibetan Magpie *Pica (pica) bottanensis*

92 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

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

Henderson's Ground Jay *Podoces hendersoni*

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

Hume's Groundpecker *Pseudopodoces humilis*

169 bird-days. Noted on 14 bird-days.

***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*

178+ bird-days. Noted on 15 dates.

Alpine Chough *Pyrrhocorax graculus*

7+ bird-days. Seen (& heard!) on two dates S of Yushu.

Daurian Jackdaw *Corvus dauuricus*

39 bird-days. Noted on three days S of Yushu.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

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

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

21+ bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

56+ bird-days. Noted on six dates.

***All the ones seen would have been ssp *tibetosinensis* (Cheng 1987).

Common Raven *Corvus corax*

45 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

'Great' Tit *Parus major minor*

22 bird-days. Noted on seven dates - ssp *minor* near Xining & ssp *tibetanus* S of Yushu.

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

Rufous-vented Tit *Parus rubidiventris*

47 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Songar Tit *Parus songarus*

35 bird-days. Noted on six dates N of Xining (ssp *affinis*) & S of Yushu (ssp *weigoldicus*).

White-browed Tit *Parus superciliosus*

13 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Grey Crested Tit *Parus dichrous*
26 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Pale Sand Martin *Riparia diluta*
99 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
Five bird-days. Noted W of Koko Nor on three dates.

Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*
14 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus*
78+ bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*
35+ bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus vinaceus*
35+ (= several family groups) were seen on 6th.

White-browed Tit-Warbler *Leptopoecile sophiae*
27 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Crested Tit-Warbler *Leptopoecile elegans*
36+ bird-days. Noted on five dates - on 2nd a group of at least six birds 'delayed' us in the most memorable way: a couple of males sitting out in perfect light at <10m, females feeding in nuthatchey fashion... TINGALING!

***Typically not a species that draws attention to itself - however, patience and persistence can be amply rewarded... I've leafed through the dictionary and two Birdquest brochures in search of a superlative which fully does justice to this jewel, but in vain.

Mongolian Lark *Melanocorypha mongolica*
Eight bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Long-billed Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha maxima*
19 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Hume's Short-toed Lark *Calandrella acutirostris*
11 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Asian Short-toed Lark *Calandrella cheleensis*
23 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*
Widespread – not systematically recorded.

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*
Widespread – not systematically recorded.

Chinese Hill Warbler *Rhopophilus pekinensis leptorhynchus*

This enigmatic species made a rare appearance on a NE Tibet trip list with an active and comparatively showy group of 3+ seen.

Spotted Bush Warbler *Bradypterus thoracicus*

No less than six singing (of which two were seen well) N of Xining on 20th was a bit of a bonus.

Oriental Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis*

12 on 8th – a real bonus!

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus weigoldicus*

Four in the S Koko Nor range on 22nd.

***Martens (2008) unconvincingly aligns *weigoldicus* with Smoky Warbler *P. fuliginifer*

http://globiz.sachsen.de/snsd/publikationen/vertebrate-zoology/vz58-2/06_Martens.pdf

Tickell's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus affinis*

106 bird-days. Noted on 11 dates.

***Martens (2008) elevates part of this species to full species status as *P. occisinensis*

http://globiz.sachsen.de/snsd/publikationen/vertebrate-zoology/vz58-2/06_Martens.pdf

Yellow-streaked Warbler *Phylloscopus armandii*

81 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

Buff-barred Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher*

20 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Gansu Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus kansuensis*

16 birds were noted N of Xining on 20th.

***This attractive warbler has only recently been reaccepted as a valid species, and its winter quarters remain to be discovered...

Chinese Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus yunnanensis*

8-9 bird-days. Noted on three dates N of Xining.

'Eastern' Lemon-rumped Warbler *Phylloscopus 'forresti'*

28 bird-days. Noted S of Yushu on five dates.

***Martens *et al.* 2004 (*vide* Rheindt 2006) elevated *forresti*, considered a synonym of *chloronotus* by Cheng (1987), to full species status, splitting it from *chloronotus* (of Nepal) which, with *simlaensis*, becomes Western Lemon-rumped Warbler. The two differ "dramatically in song and mitochondrial DNA (4.2% cytochrome-b divergence)": Rheindt (2006). Given that the type locality for *forresti* is Lijiang, in Yunnan (Cheng 1987) it is not obvious that "Sichuan Leaf Warbler" is preferable to 'Eastern Lemon-rumped Warbler'. "Presumably the hitherto unknown border between both species lies somewhere in Yunnan, Burma or north-eastern India.": Rheindt (2006). *Ahem?*

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*

68 bird-days. Noted on six dates – main event 45+ N of Xining on 20th.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

67 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

'Margelanica' Desert Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia (minula) margelanica*

One was seen well W of Koko Nor on 24th (where two were present in early June: JH *et al* pers obs) - a somewhat obscure taxon...

Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus erythrocnemis dedekeni*

17 bird-days. Noted at Nangqian forest reserve on four dates.

***Collar (2006) elevated *odicus* (of NE and E Burma, N Indochina, S Yunnan and Guizhou (except N), *decarlei* (of 'E Xizang', SW Sichuan, and NW Yunnan), '*dedekensi* [sic]' (of '(N)E Xizang', W Sichuan, and NW Yunnan), *gravivox* (of S Gansu, S Shaanxi, S Shanxi, NW Henan, and N Sichuan), and *cowensae* (of C and E Sichuan, N Guizhou, and W Hubei) to species status on morphological grounds, a 'new arrangement, which clearly rests on uncertain foundations and is in need of considerable fortification (which is not supplied by morphometric analysis, as this shows as much variation within the new species as between them, notably a remarkably long tail in *dedekensi* [sic]...). In the absence of DNA analysis and a thorough study of the notoriously varied vocalizations of these birds, such rearrangement seems fairly meaningless...

Kozlov's Babax *Babax koslowi*

13 bird-days. Noted on four dates - occupying a restricted range this was one of our main targets. Often a rather tricky one to dig out but this time the species could hardly have surrendered itself more easily: we got superb views of the localised endemic on more than one occasion.

Pere David's Laughingthrush *Garrulax davidi*

50+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Giant Laughingthrush *Garrulax maximus*

c76 bird-days. Noted on five dates. This superb-looking species has an impressive range of calls, some subdued, some anything but, yet others direct or derived mimicry – duetting birds are often a striking component in the dawn chorus, and throughout the day groups traveling through the pristine forest will mark their progress with sessions of loud calling.

Elliot's Laughingthrush *Garrulax elliotii*

144+ bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

Chinese Fulvetta *Alcippe striaticollis*

3+ seen well at Nangqian forest reserve - a pleasant surprise as we'd been unable to find any on our visits earlier in the season...

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

23 bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Northern Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

12 bird-days. Noted on four dates – main event seven N of Xining on 21st.

Chinese Nuthatch *Sitta villosa*

12 birds N of Xining on 20th incl several seen very well.

Przevalski's Nuthatch *Sitta przewalskii*

Ten bird-days. Noted on four dates – a species which invariably makes the hypothetical Bird of the Trip shortlist!

Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria*

Six bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Seven birds N of Xining on 20th.

Hodgson's Treecreeper *Certhia hodgsoni*

Eight bird-days. Noted daily at Nangqian forest reserve.

***This new-ish split "embraces the Sino-Himalayan [taxa] *hodgsoni* Brooks, 1874 (W Himalayas), *mandellii* Brooks, 1874 (E Himalayas) and *khamensis* Bianchi 1903 (SW & W China [N as far as the road between Jiuzhaigou & Sungpan in N Sichuan])" : D T Tietze *et al.* (2006)

White-cheeked Starling *Sturnus cineraceus*

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

***A bit of a rarity in this part of the world...

Long-tailed Thrush *Zoothera dixonii*

Three singing birds were noted at Nangqian forest reserve on 29th – one seen in flight...

Chestnut Thrush *Turdus rubrocanus*

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

Kessler's Thrush *Turdus kessleri*

79+ bird-days. This emblematic species was noted on nine dates.

Chinese Song Thrush *Turdus mupinensis*

One seen N of Xining on 21st.

Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope*

26 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Himalayan Rubythroat *Luscinia pectoralis*

20 bird-days. Noted on three dates – a very cooperative male on 27th allowed our team photographers to go to work.

Himalayan Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger rufilatus*

17 bird-days. Noted S of Yushu on four dates.

***In addition, a 1st c-y bird N of Xining on 20th may also have been this species.

***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 are consistent differences in song between birds in NE Qinghai and those in the SE.

Przevalski's Redstart *Phoenicurus alaschanicus*

Some of the eight birds seen W of Koko Nor allowed us prolonged looks at point-blank range... Noone argued against my only-half-in-jest assertion that this is the prettiest member of the genus: WOW!

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

84 bird-days. Noted on 17 dates.

Hodgson's Redstart *Phoenicurus hodgsoni*

37 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

White-throated Redstart *Phoenicurus schisticeps*

23 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus aureus*

Five bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Guldenstadt's Redstart *Phoenicurus erythrogastrus*

23 bird-days. Noted on five dates this extremely attractive high-mountain specialist put on a good show for us.

Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis*

31 bird-days. Noted on ten dates.

White-bellied Redstart *Hodgsonius phaenicuroides*

Eight bird-days. Noted on three dates – this notorious skulker managed to stay hidden from most of us despite prolonged tape sessions...

River Chat *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*

39 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

Grandala *Grandala coelicolor*

Noted on two dates: a pair led us on on the 1st longish stroll of the trip, eventually rewarding us with nice views; later on a group of six birds disappeared around a corner, disappointingly not to reappear...

'Common' Stonechat *Saxicola 'torquatus' przewalskii*

Four bird-days. Noted on three dates.

***Spp *maurus*, *prezawalskii* & *stejnegeri* occur in China / Tibet. Dickinson (2003): "proposed splits of this complex species seem unsatisfactory if only in how the forms are ascribed to species".

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

21 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*

Five bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*

4+ bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Sooty Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica*

18 bird-days. Noted at Nangqian on three dates.

***Work on vocalizations may well lead to suggestions that the distinctive *rothschildi* be elevated to full species status...

Slaty-backed Flycatcher *Ficedula hodgsonii*

16 bird-days. Noted on five dates – three adult males showing well N of Xining on 20th made an impression...

White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Eight bird-days. Noted on five dates – birds of both colour morphs were seen well.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Widespread – not systematically recorded.

Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*

57+ bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

Henri's Snowfinch *Montifringilla henrici*

63+ bird-days. Noted on four dates – main event 42+ at Er La.

Tibetan (=Himalayan) Snowfinch *Montifringilla adamsi*

27 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

***Rather plain on the ground but spectacular in flight, this species is blessed with no less than four English names...

White-rumped Snowfinch *Onychostruthus taczanowskii*

26 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Pere David's Snowfinch *Pyrgilauda davidiana*

c25 near Koko Nor on 22nd.

Rufous-necked Snowfinch *Pyrgilauda ruficollis*

130+ bird-days. This pretty bird was noted on the High Plateau on six dates.

Blanford's Snowfinch *Pyrgilauda blanfordi*

16 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris*

Nine bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Robin Accentor *Prunella rubeculoides*

29 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Rufous-browed Accentor *Prunella strophiate*

29 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

Brown Accentor *Prunella fulvescens*

26 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Maroon-backed Accentor *Prunella immaculate*

26 bird-days. Noted on three dates - this retiring species was seen well in above-average numbers...

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

41 bird-days. Noted on 12 dates.

***Only ssp *calcarata* was identified.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

One – possibly two – male(s) were present at Nangqian forest reserve on 30th.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba leucopsis* & *M. a. alboides*

162 bird-days. Noted on 15 dates.

***Dickinson (2003) evidently consider without merit the idea that *lugens* is a valid species. Alstrom & Mild (2003) also concludes that various factors “suggest that the White Wagtail is best treated as a single species under the BSC”.

Richard’s Pipit *Anthus richardi*

23+ bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

22 bird-days. Noted on eight dates.

Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseus*

9+ bird-days. Noted on three dates.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

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

Oriental Greenfinch *Carduelis sinica*

12 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

Eurasian Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Four N of Xining included two fine males – one treated us to a spectacular, rarely seen song-flight.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

134 bir-days. Noted on 12 dates.

Plain Mountain Finch *Leucosticte nemoricola*

c49 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Brandt’s Mountain Finch *Leucosticte brandti*

26 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Mongolian Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes mongolicus*

Eight W of Koko Nor on 24th - a rather unpredictable species but this time found without undue effort.

***A pair was seen copulating & collecting nest material.

Przevalski’s Rosefinch *Urocynchramus pylzowi*

Four birds were found near Koko Nor - seen extremely well & even noted doing its famed parachute display flight... Now considered to represent a monotypic family this pretty bird can prove hard to find.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

52 bird-days. Noted on nine dates.

***Local breeders are ssp *roseatus* (Dickinson 2003) which differs markedly from at least the nominate...

Chinese Beautiful Rosefinch *Carpodacus davidianus*

16 bird-days. Noted on six dates – ‘scope views of males on several occasions...

Pink-rumped Rosefinch *Carpodacus eos*

29 bird-days. Noted on five dates.

Sinai Rosefinch *Carpodacus synoicus*

Nine near Xining on 19th – 'scope views of a male was exactly what we'd come hoping for!

***It seems likely that *beicki* will be proved specifically distinct from at least the nominate.

Three-banded Rosefinch *Carpodacus trifasciatus*

14 bird-days. Noted on four dates at Nangqian forest reserve.

Chinese White-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus dubius*

87 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

Eastern Great Rosefinch *Carpodacus rubicilloides*

35 bird-days. Noted on six dates.

***Several close encounters with adult males, rewarding in their own right, left us well prepared to recognize a Spotted Great Rosefinch *Carpodacus severtzovi*... but no luck with that one!

Red-fronted Rosefinch *Pyrrhospiza punicea*

15-16 bird-days. Noted on no less than three dates.

***Dickinson (2003) include 'our' area in the range of ssp *longirostris*.

Roborovski's Rosefinch *Kozlowia roborowskii*

8-9 bird-days. Noted on three dates...

Crimson-browed Finch *Pinicola subhimachala*

Three bird-days. Different singletons noted on three dates - we all got excellent views of this sought-after species when a male responded well to the tape on 29th.

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

43+ bird-days. Noted N of Xining & S of Yushu on five dates.

***Clements (1993) include our area in the range of ssp *himalayensis*.

Grey-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythaca*

31 bird-days. Noted on four dates.

White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas carniceps*

15 bird-days. Noted on seven dates.

Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos*

Six W of Koko Nor on 23rd... for several group members seeing males well was a delightful way of putting a long-standing bogey bird to rest!

Eastern Rock Bunting *Emberiza godlewskii*

71 bird-days. Noted on 13 dates.

Meadow Bunting *Emberiza cioides*

Six bird-days. Noted on two dates.

Tibetan Fox *Vulpes ferrilata*

Between us we saw close to ten different animals...

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

Two were seen well.

Alpine (= Mountain) Weasel *Mustela altaica*

Some of us saw one near Nangqian.

Kiang *Equus kiang*

28 animal-days.

Red Deer *Cervus elaphus*

Two males on 29th – a below-average showing.

Goitred Gazelle *Gazella subgutturosa*

16 W of Koko Nor on 22nd...two individuals engaged in semi-serious sparring.

Tibetan Gazelle *Procapra picticaudata*

107+ animal-days. Noted on six dates.

Blue Sheep *Pseudois nayaur*

161+ animal-days. Noted on five dates – main event 115+ on 2nd: WOW! views had by all...