

Qinghai, China June 2010



June - July 2010
Bengt-Eric Sjölander

Qinghai 16.6-4.7 2010

Short Itinerary

- 16.6 Flight Beijing-Xining.
- 17.6 Dong Xya. Then via Datong to Xihay.
- 18.6 East Koko Nor, West Koko Nor to Heimahe. Night in Chaka.
- 19.6 Valley in the Dolan Mountains. Back to Chaka.
- 20.6 Desert E Chaka. The Gulag Grove and the Chaka Grove. Chaka Wadi, W Chaka.
- 21.6 Rubber Mountains. Then South Koko Nor Range to Gonghe. Valley close to Gonghe.
- 22.6 Continuing south. Stop at "the Gully". On to Er la Pass. Night in Wenquan.
- 23.6 Er la Pass. Wenquan in the evening.
- 24.6 Wenquan-Madoo-Dayematan-Bayankala Pass-Yushu.
- 25.6 Yushu-"the Gorge". Road towards Nanquen Forest Reserve. Night in Nanquen.
- 26.6 South of Nanquen. "the Pass" and "the Spruce Forest". Night in Nanquen.
- 27.6 Kanda Shan.
- 28.6 "the Spruce Forest" south of Nanquen.
- 29.6 Nanquen-"the Gorge"-Yushu-the lake Longbaotan-Qumarleb.
- 30.6 Qumarleb-Qumahe-the main road between Golmud and Lhasa. Night in Golmud.
- 1.7 Golmud-Chaka with short stops.
- 2.7 Chaka-Heimahe-road north of Koko Nor-Xining.
- 3.7 Xining Beishan. Flight to Beijing in the evening.
- 4.7 Beijing-Copenhagen.

Participants

Jesper Hornskov (Tour guide; goodbirdmail@gmail.com)

Ola Elleström

Erik Hirschfeld

Nils Kjellén (Bird and Mammal checklist)

Mats Rellmar

Elsy-Britt Schildt

Bengt-Eric Sjölander (Trip report including pictures unless noted as taken by Erik or Mats; bengt-eric@live.com)

Cover page photo

Roborowski's Rosefinch and Tibetan Sandgrouse (Erik)

Detailed Itinerary

16.6 We were five participants that boarded the direct SAS flight from Copenhagen to Beijing in the evening of the 15th and landed the following day in the Chinese capital at noon to catch our connecting 3pm flight to Xining where we landed at 6.30pm. We were picked up at the airport by 2 drivers and our “minder” (that would be with us for the whole trip) and got ourselves into the land-cruisers. On the way a few *Eastern Spot-billed Ducks* flew by. At the Sports hotel (***) we met with Erik (who had arrived in China a few days earlier for some pre-trip birding) and our tour guide Jesper and the team was complete – luggage and all. After checking in, we had our first Chinese dinner and beers in a nearby restaurant and then we were off to bed at a reasonably early hour.

17.6 Up before dawn and leaving the hotel early to be at our first birding destination **Dong Xya** just after dawn. We had our first of many breakfasts at the back of the Toyota land-cruiser – coffee, bread, eggs, chocolate, nuts, spam, etc – whilst spotting our first birds of the trip. We walked around in the semi-open spruce forest and saw from a European perspective familiar birds like *Common Buzzard*, *Hobby*, *Common Pheasants*, *Goldcrest* and *Great Tit* but also less familiar ones like *Oriental Turtle-Dove*, *Olive-backed Pipit*, *Red-flanked Bluetail* and *Siberian Rubythroat*. Definitely Eastern Palearctic species included *Rufous-breasted Accentor*, *White-browed Nuthatch*, *Songar* and *Rufous-vented Tit*, the beautiful *White-throated Redstart* and the equally colourful *Stoliczka's* and *Crested Tit-warbler*. After an hour or so of leisurely birding we ventured a bit further up into the steeper parts and after a quite challenging ascent (Jesper was probably testing our limits already the 1st day) we birded along the ridge – *Grey-headed Bullfinch*, *White-cheeked Nuthatch* (of the race *przewalskii* sometimes treated as a separate species) and *Chestnut Thrush* were added to the list as well as 4 Phylloscopus species: *Gansu Leaf*, *Chinese Leaf*, *Hume's Leaf* and *Yellow-streaked Warbler*. After a steep descent through the forest (no trails) we ended up at our vehicles and had our packed lunch. We continued via Datong to the small city of Xi Hai – birds en route included *Steppe Eagle*, *Black-necked Crane*, *Rosy Pipit*, *Black-faced Bunting*, *Hodgson's Redstart*, the only *Spotted Dove* for the trip and a few *Azure-winged Magpies* - where we spend the night at a hotel in Xi Hai. The daily log was done and followed by another tasty Chinese dinner – this dinner will however be especially remembered because of the riot that broke out between some local Chinese dinner guests at a nearby table.

18.6 We headed out from the hotel early in the morning and drove towards **Koko Nor** situated at around 3,200 msl. Our only *Tibetan Grey Shrike* for the trip (which gave good views before disappearing) prompted our first stop and our first *Black Drongo* and the more common *Rock Sparrow* were along the roadside bushes. We continued towards the eastern end of the lake for breakfast and then later we walked along the marshy edges and noted a large number of wetland related species only seen at Koko Nor but also *Mongolian*, *Long-billed Calandra* and *Hume's Short-toed Lark* and our first 2 (out of 6) species of Snowfinch: *Pere David's* and *Rufous-necked*. Before returning back, we positioned ourselves at a small hill (with biting insects) and there Ola spotted what turned out to be our first *Wolf* (of a handful) for the trip – it had seemingly killed a young goat and dragged the lifeless carcass along the ground but had to pause frequently to rest from the heavy burden. The shepherd had noted what was going and came running down the slope and when the Wolf ran off the goat suddenly came to life much to everyone's surprise (and mostly to Elsy-Britt who in her professional capacity just had declared the poor animal “as dead as dead can be” given its obvious and clear signs of rigor mortis). Back at our cars we drove and birded our way west and had a late lunch at a small, roadside muslim restaurant in Heimahe. Birding along the route before and after lunch gave some additional new birds including our only *Demoiselle Cranes*, *Pale Sand Martin* and *Little Owl* and *Red Fox* and *Asian Badger* were also noted. In the late afternoon we arrived in Chaka after admiring a pair of roadside *Henderson's Ground Jays* and checked into our quite basic hotel (** stars) for the next 3 nights. Daily log and dinner and then off to sleep hoping that the last signs of jetlag would have disappeared during the night.



Bar-headed Goose (Mats)

19.6 The usual morning drill, - getting up and in order, no breakfast but straight into the cars and by 06:00 we were on our way westbound for about an hour towards the **Dolan Mountains**. It had been raining during the night and it would continue basically for most of the day. This meant that the vehicles had to stay at the main road and after breakfast, we got ourselves ready with rubber boots, rain clothing and umbrellas and started to walk the very slippery and muddy access road that took more than an hour. Upon reaching the foothills conditions got a bit better with some grass cover and soon a gravel trail ascended up into a picturesque valley with scattered spruce trees. The target species here is *Przevalski's Redstart* and after diligently scanning the valley in the pouring rain we soon found a few males. Other birds noted before we started our walk back to our cars were *Pine Bunting*, *White-browed Tit*, *White-winged Grosbeak* and *Plain Mountain Finch*. The rain subsided and stopped just when we were back and some coffee and snacks manage to rebuild energy and spirits. Before we started our return back to Chaka, we scoped the plains along the main road and found the rare *Goitered Gazelle* and our first *Blue Sheep*. On the way back, we spotted an *Ibisbill* and a pair of *Water Pipits* at a river normally dried up but given the unusually heavy rains for the season (there were severe floods also in other parts of China at the time) there were plenty of rapids. During other stops we managed to see our first *Blanford's Snowfinch*, *Mongolian Plover* whilst two *Great Rosefinches* flew over our heads, our only *Booted Eagle* and the first *Isabelline Shrike*, *Desert Wheatear* and *Short-toed Lark* (of the subspecies *cheleensis*). We were back at our Chaka hotel in the late afternoon. Whilst most of us took a shower and some pre-dinner rest, Jesper and Mats went out into the local, turd-infested, **Chaka Grove** for half an hour of pre-dusk birding and reported back *Daurian Partridge*, *Forest Wagtail* and *Black-naped Oriole*. Only daily log, dinner remained before it was time to sleep.



20.6 This morning, following our usual open-air breakfast after a lie-in until 6 am, the birding started at the nearby desert-like **Chaka plains** east of the city. We walked through the open area down towards lake Chaka Yanhu (salt extraction) and were soon rewarded with *Pallas's Sandgrouse* both on the ground and flying – 22 birds all in all. Our next destination was only 15 minutes away by car - an area of planted trees around a small farming village that goes by the name **The Gulag Grove**. According to Jesper during spring and autumn migration one can experience proper falls here. Being in the middle of the summer we did not expect too much but saw *White-breasted Waterhen*, *Brown Shrike*, *Arctic Warbler*, *Crested Honey Buzzard* and *Daurian Redstart* before Mats spotted a male redstart amongst the commoner *Hodgson's* that turned out to be a *Common Redstart* – apparently the first record for Tibet. When our packed lunches had been finished, we headed west again past Chaka and stopped at the foot of the mountain range just beyond. After some birding in the open area at the opening of the **Chaka Wadi** (*Mongolian Trumpeter Finch* and *Cinereous Vulture*) we had to walk high up in the wadi before we managed to see our target bird *Przevalski's Partridge* calling from its vantage point - supporting birds included *Rock Thrush* and *Godlewski's Bunting*. The whole team revisited the local **Chaka Grove** and the birds of yesterday were still present as well as the only *Asian Brown Flycatcher* for the trip. This was our 3rd and final night at Chaka before heading south.



21.6 The main birding of the day was at nearby Rubber Mountains in between Chaka and Heimahe at Koko Nor. It is a key birding site with open grass fields and low bushes that is the habitat of birds such as *Robin Accentor*, *Blue-fronted Redstart*, *Beautiful* and *Eastern Great Rosefinch*, *Pink-tailed Bunting*, the *weigoldi* race of *Dusky* (or is it *Smoky*?) *Warbler* and the recent split *West Chinese Leaf Warbler* (from Tickell's). Quite pleased with scoring all key birds we headed for lunch at our Heimahe restaurant and then took the road south through the Koko Nor Range to Gonghe (btw, this town is remarkably clean and tidy in comparison to most other cities or villages we visited). A brief stop along the road resulted in our first *Himalayan Rubythroat* with Koko Nor

scenically in the background. We checked into a ****star hotel in Gonghe mid afternoon and most of the team then headed out to a valley with fields and pastures close to Gonghe – new birds included *Margelanica Whitethroat*, *Crested Lark*, a few *Yellow Wagtails* among the more common *Citrine*, and *Grey-headed Woodpecker*.

22.6 We left Gonghe at dawn and headed south on the Tibetan plateau. The roads were good and the traffic was unusually heavy for a special reason: it consisted mostly (90%) of lorries linked to the relief operations after the earthquake in Yushu earlier in the year – lorries going south were fully loaded (by Chinese standards) with all kinds of building material and the ones coming back north were either empty or had metal scrap from the buildings torn down or another empty lorry on them. After a few hours on the road we made our breakfast stop at "the Gully". We birded the surroundings of the small river and had a number of repeats from yesterday but new birds included *Asian House Martin* (of particular interest to Nils), *River Chat*, and *White-throated Dipper* (both brown and black-and-white birds). We pressed on towards the **Er la Pass** (4499 msl) and after coffee and some snacks headed up the very steep eastern slope. The high altitude made itself evident and we moved slowly uphill pausing every other 50 steps or so. Just beyond the first ridge we spotted and observed at length a small group of *Roborovski's Rosefinches* - much to everyone's relief since one of the target birds of the trip was in the bag (Elsy-Britt did not join us all the way up but she repeated the ascent the following day and saw the birds then). Given that we had some quite birding time left we decided to continue up the slope to the plateau at 4806 msl which is the habitat where Tibetan Sandgrouse can be seen – nowadays more infrequently though. We managed to spot our first *Güldenstädt's Redstarts*, *Tibetan Snowfinches* and *Brandt's Mountain Finches* but no Sandgrouse. After heading down to the pass to catch our vehicles, we drove the short distance to the small village of Wenquan with one stop en route though since Nils spotted a *Pallas's Cat* on a hillside that then provided good scoping views for all. The hotel rooms and the outside toilet facilities (less than *-star) were a far cry from the comfort of last night – and here we had to stay for two nights! The daily log was done in the hotel restaurant (which seemed to serve also as the living room of the restaurant owners!) where we had a very decent dinner including a popular roesti-inspired dish. Then we were all off to bed.



23.6 We drove back up to the **Er la Pass** (4499 msl) in the first morning light, had breakfast at the roadside whilst mentally preparing for today's climb. Elsy-Britt went up to the Roborovski spot whilst the rest of us started the long ascent up to the plateau. There had been snow during the night and it continued during the day mostly in the form of rain. We crossed the plateau and adjacent mountain ridges whilst diligently scanning for the Sandgrouse – around noon we tried as best to get some cover and stayed for a couple hours hoping for an improvement in the weather and trying to keep warm. In the end this did not happen and we got back to our vehicles around 3pm after a very quiet day bird-wise but also the disappointing confirmation that the Sandgrouse was not

present on either of these two days. On the way back we had our first *Red-rumped Swallow* and when most of us took a walk in the village or enjoyed a beer after a hard day Jesper and Mats walked around the village and were rewarded with the trip's first *Wallcreeper* before the daily log and dinner activity.

24.6 We departed at 6am and headed towards Yushu passing the first bridge (now under re-construction) of the Yellow River at Madoo and continuing through the Bayankala Pass making stops along the way. The vast plains are inhabited only during summer when the nomads bring their large herds of yaks and goats and you could see their (the nomads that is) tented camps evenly spread across the gently sloping hillsides. *Upland Buzzards* were everywhere present (95 during the day) with smaller numbers of *Sakers* (6) and a few *Steppe Eagles*, in the wet areas ducks and shorebirds and *Black-necked Cranes* were present and along the streams *Goosander* and *Ibisbill* was an interesting combination. At the Yellow River stop, Nils spotted another *Wolf* and a *Lynx* whilst along the route herds of *Tibetan Gazelles* and *Kiangs* grazed and *Black-lipped Pikas* were all around. It was mid-afternoon when we descended down into the valleys around the Yangtse-Kiang and then drove along this mighty river itself - a roadside stop produced the first *Tibetan Partridges*. It was not long before we saw the first blue relief tents (of thousands) that had been provided in the aftermath of the earthquake. Coming into Yushu itself gave views of piles of rubbles where houses had previously been, open areas where the rubble had been removed or was being cleared and also buildings half torn-down. Yushu hotel where we should have stayed was closed and when passing by it was obvious why – even though the 4-storey building (or so) still stood upright there were numerous cracks so it probably needed to be torn down as well. Instead we stayed in a provisional hotel opened up just a few days earlier – it was made up of blue relief tents fully furnished making it quite comfortable but also a very tangible reminder of what had happened. The day ended with dinner and daily log in a restaurant surrounded by rubble sites.



25.6 We checked out from our tents whilst it was still dark and started towards Nanquen. The breakfast stop was at a beautiful valley with fields and pastures (named “**the Gorge**”) that overlooked mountain peaks on almost all sides. We scoped the peaks and slopes area for high altitude birds as well as the chance of a Snow Leopard passing by (as might be expected this was in vain but *Red Deer* and *Blue Sheep* were seen so not all bad). A male *Grandala* put in a very brief appearance and *Yellow-billed Chough*, *Alpine Accentor*, *Red-breasted Rosefinch* and *Snow Pigeon* were also new additions. After a couple of hours, we continued our journey but stopped to scan the mountain ridges a couple of times and managed to get a small group of *Himalayans Snowcocks* in our scopes. A bit further down the road at a small village our first *Daurian Jackdaws* showed up. We took a detour from the main road to make a visit to an area close to **Nanquen Forest Reserve**. From the road we scanned the hillsides and soon had a group of *White Eared Pheasants* walking around. To catch up with the other target bird in this area, we walked up the opposite side of the road and almost immediately managed to get our eyes on a group of *Kozlov’s Babax*. The walk along the bushy slope was quite birdy with several species of Rosefinch and *Phylloscopus* warblers including *Lemon-rumped*, *Hume’s Yellow-browed* and *Yellow-streaked*. Quite satisfied with the outcome, after a few hours we turned back and after a short roadside stop with *Glover’s Pika* and *Ibisbill* we were once again on the main road. After driving cross the plateau, we descended into a very narrow gorge and had to stop for the scenery alone (even though some of us were still missing Wallcreeper) and then suddenly we were at the famous but also muddy Mekong river. After crossing the bridge we entered the city that proved to be a direct opposite of Gonghe – the streets were either all mud or under water and on top of this the streets had trenches almost everywhere resulting in no sidewalks. We checked into the only decent hotel in the city and initially it all looked quite OK – until we got into to our rooms to find out that there was no water (which explained all the digging outside) and would be no water during our 4 nights stay! In the end Jesper and our minder managed to arrange water to be brought to our rooms in jerrycans to allow us at least to wash ourselves and flush the toilet. After an hour we had the water delivered and it was clear, as indicated by the muddy touch, where it came from – the Mekong. Anyhow, there was no other option than to adjust to the situation but it was actually as bad as Wenquan – the things one can put up with to see *Kozlov’s Bunting*. The restaurant across the street was convenient though and the food tasted well (so we would be there on four consecutive nights). Today was Midsummer’s Eve – Erik had brought some local Chinese snaps with him but despite his good and highly commendable intention it tasted awful so nobody took him up on the offer of a refill and then you know for sure it was really bad!

26.6 We followed the Mekong and after a few kilometres the road was under re-construction – even the landcruisers had difficulties navigating the muddy surface and we passed a taxi stuck in the middle of the road (it was gone when we returned though). One of the reliable sites for *Kozlov's Bunting* along this road goes by the name of **the Pass** (4423 msl) so we parked the vehicles here and had our first bunting within a few minutes. We prepared ourselves for a long if not steep walk up the mountain. In the quite pleasant weather, some decided to go all the way to the top at around 5040 msl whereas others spread out on the slope and birded more at leisure. Other birds of note during the morning were breeding *Grandala* for the climbers and good views for all of *Rosy Pipit*, *Alpine Accentor*, *Eastern Great Rosefinch* and all in all more than a dozen of *Kozlov's Buntings*. We continued further along the road to find some good forest habitat since the normal spot for forest birds was closed because of the earthquake and road construction work. After a few kilometres we stopped and went down into the roadside semi-open **Spruce forest** – we enjoyed a few hours of good birding and managed to see some forest birds from our very first day including superb views of *Crested Tit-Warbler* but also new additions like *Northern Goshawk*, *Himalayan Bluetail* (split from Red-flanked), *Grey Crested Tit* and *Giant Laughing Thrush* (heard). Beyond the roadside forest there was a steep forested ravine, a riverine valley and on the other side an even bigger forest patch – we decided that this would be our destination the day after tomorrow. Late afternoon we were back at our cars for the return drive – we had some rain and thunder on the way back. Restaurant across the street, log in the lobby and then back to our rooms to sleep.



27.6 This morning we again followed the Mekong and after a while turned right and drove on to a valley by the name **Kanda Shan**. After the outdoor breakfast, Elsy-Britt birded the lower part of the valley along the road whilst the rest of us took shoes and trousers off to cross a stream (everyone manage to stay upright) and then gradually worked our way up in the valley. Almost immediately a *Blood Pheasant* showed well and during the morning we had a handful of different individuals and also managed to see two handfuls of *White Eared Pheasants* and hearing *Szechenyi's Monal Partridge*. A bit further up in the bushy gully new birds included *White-bellied Redstart* and sight observations of *Chinese Fulvetta* and *Giant Laughingthrush* (both only heard before). We continued all the way up above the tree-line and enjoyed our packed lunch at a scenic ridge in sunny weather from close to a nomad camp from where an elderly woman with her grandson came walking down. We followed the gentle upper slope onto the other side of the valley and circled back downhill and then hit the small stream again – overall good repeat views of birds encountered before such as *Himalayan Rubythroat*, our highest daily count of *Hill Blue Pigeon* (80) and good opportunities to study the similar *Beautiful* and *Pink-rumped Rosefinch*. On the way back to our hotel, an *Ibisbill* in a small stream was the only bird of note. Dinner at our restaurant and the daily log in the hotel lobby completed the day.



28.6 An early start, driving back south along the same stretch as two days earlier before and stopping at **the Spruce forest** spot a few kilometres past the Pass we had identified – today was the day for the special forest birds in the province. We had our roadside breakfast, put our packed lunches and water in our rucksacks and then set off downhill to the steep ravine. During the steep climb down the ravine we stopped frequently and had good views of singing *Buff-barred Warblers* and even *Szechenyi's Monal Partridge*. The ravine opened up into a gently sloping hillside and after crossing the bridge over the stream we headed up the fields on the other side and up to the forest edge. In the open areas we saw close to 20 *White-eared* and a handful of *Blood Pheasants* and

heard a few song phrases from *Long-tailed Thrush*. After lunch – and after explaining to a couple of Chinese people on a motorbike that we were birders and not poachers – we walked into the forested valley and soon new birds came thick and fast (even though some of the target birds would remain elusive): singing *Wren*, a brief *Maroon-backed Accentor* (Nils), a handful of *Himalayan Bluetails*, *Sooty Flycatcher* (*rothschildi* subspecies), *Common Treecreeper* and a pair of *Przevalski's Nuthatch* before it was time to head back. In the ravine on the way back most of us managed to see *Severtzov's Grouse* after it was flushed from a bush and then unobtrusively walked around the forest floor. This was together with our walks at the Er la pass the most challenging trek of the trip and everyone was pleased to be back at the roadside for coffee and snacks. An un-eventful drive back to Nanquen was followed by dinner and daily log and our last and 4th and final night at the jerrycan hotel.

After a few days of discussions we at dinner finally decided together with Jesper to change the itinerary for the last part of the trip – reason being (i) that we had missed Tibetan Sandgrouse at Er la Pass and (ii) that the Forest Reserve was closed meaning that we would probably miss out on some of the target forest species because of this. Instead of going back north across the Er la Pass we would follow a different route from Yushu and then return back east towards Xining by way of Chaka.

29.6 We set off at an early hour (5.30 am) and drove fairly quickly to the Gorge (that we visited on the 25th) where we walked the road birding for a few hours and had repeat views of many birds seen only here but nothing new. We continued to retrace our steps back towards Yushu where once more we could see the devastation and relief efforts in and around the city but also the return of normal life with lots of people present at the local markets. Out of the city northwest-bound, we once again were in uninhabited land rarely visited by birders and stopped in various places during the day e.g. at **lake Longbaotan** that held quite a number of wetland birds otherwise only seen at Koko Nor. Sightings included our first and only *Tundra Bean Goose* for the trip, the first *Great Egret* and a total of 60 *Black-necked Cranes*. We also had the highest count of *Lammergeier* (6) and *Himalayan Griffon* (120). The roads were quite good but with very limited traffic (no relief lorries were coming this way) and we passed only a few villages during the whole drive. Towards the end of the day we entered into Qumarleb where we stayed in a very decent (****star) hotel. We had dinner in a restaurant on the hotel grounds and daily log.

30.6 Another day's drive across the vast and largely uninhabited plateau. We stopped here and there to sample the birds. As yesterday very few cars but today we came across a group of 5 cyclists including one elderly (60+) American on their way from Shanghai to Lhasa! They had started in February and planned to reach their destination in October – there are some crazy people in this world who are not birders! Birds along the route were pretty much the same as earlier with good numbers of the everywhere present *Hume's Groundpecker* (75), *White-rumped Snowfinch* (200) but also *Upland Buzzard* (60) and *Saker* (9). During the day we also saw 100+ *Tibetan Antelope*.



We lunched at the tidy town of Oumahe with a Tibetan Antelope sculpture in the main square where we also had close-up views of *Great Rosefinch*. We were not yet in the area but sandgrouse anticipation was already building – at a stop at a flat semi-desert area Jesper suddenly heard the Canada Goose like cackling sound made by *Tibetan Sandgrouse* and sure enough – two birds came flying by! After a few minutes of cheering we started to scope the area for the possibility of more birds and in the end we had no less than 14 adult birds including pairs with chicks. The birds offered close-up views and after we had “enough” we continued to Golmud instead of overnighing in the village. We soon were driving along the Golmud-Lhasa highway that runs parallel to the railway connection between these cities (in the mountain areas, the tracks were partially on pillars for kilometres and then through numerous tunnels - this surely must have been a sizeable investment to link Tibet with the rest of China). We checked into hotel Zhung Shan (***stars) and then had a short walk to a restaurant celebrating our good plan and fortune.

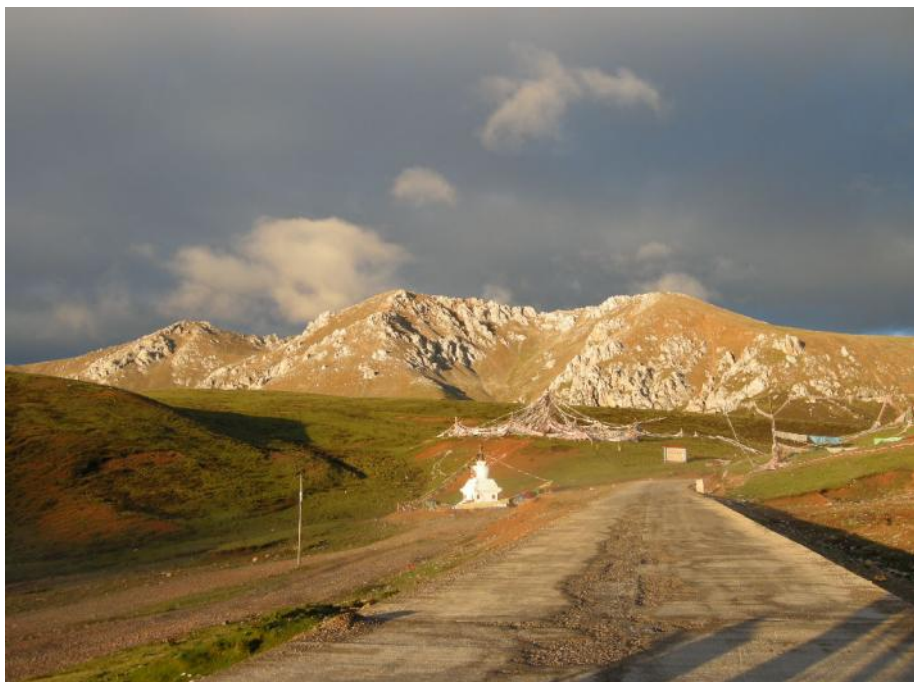


1.7 Basically a day of transport between Golmud and Chaka where we now somewhat unexpectedly would spend another night. We had a bit of sleep-in and after breakfast at a nearby restaurant started only at 10 am and made a few brief stops along the way and saw *Margelanian Whitethroats*, *Henderson's Ground Jay*, *Isabelline Shrikes* and *Desert Wheatears* in the dry desert-like habitat. In a grove near the road we managed to see our only *Rose-coloured Starlings* of the trip as well as *European Hobby*. We arrived at our Chaka hotel well in time for dinner and the briefest daily log so far.

2.7 We continued our journey back to Xining and again saw all the shorebirds, gulls, ducks, larks and snow-finches already seen in the beginning of our trip in the Koko Nor area. We decided to take the northerly route around the lake since very few birders go here (this was even the first time ever for Jesper). We had our first *Little Tern* and once again saw flocks of beautiful *Greater Black-headed Gulls* and *Black-necked Cranes* - a *Steppe Polecat* was seen and a *Wolf* was hunting backwards and forwards along the shoreline. We entered into Xining and ended up at our hotel from the first night.

3.7 Our last day of birding was in the mountains just outside the city limits – we arrived early at the gates of Xining Beishan and our minder had to convince the wardens to let us in before the official opening hour. We drove up the serpentine road and stopped for our last outdoor Toyota breakfast at a viewpoint. We then walked up the road for a few kilometres birding in the light drizzle and managed to secure two new birds for the trip, *Sinai Rosefinch* of the race *beicki* and *Meadow Bunting*, whilst *Wallcreeper* (and *Great Tit*) now at last was seen by the whole team. A *Tolai Hare* was the final addition to our mammal list that would total 19 species. We left just after noon and got back to our hotel to pack and get ourselves in shape for our return flight. En route to the airport though we had a formal farewell lunch with the chef preparing our Peking Duck in our presence whilst we sampled the delicious starters – at the airport we said goodbye to our drivers and minder and presented them with a well deserved tip before we checked in. The late afternoon flight was delayed so we had a long wait at the airport and thus plenty of time to do the daily log which ended up at xxx bird species seen or heard. After all Chinese food the temptation of a burger was impossible to resist for some of us. In the end we managed to get to our airport hotel in Beijing by 11pm (Jesper's wife picked us up in a minivan) but our plan to watch a Soccer World Championship and enjoy a few beers came to nothing – the electricity was out in the whole area so we had to fumble our way to our rooms and beds using our headlamps.

4.7 We all enjoyed a nice and leisurely western-style breakfast in the hotel garden before it was time to say good-bye and many thanks to Jesper and his wife for a well planned and executed journey. We were then off to the airport where we checked in at noon for our 14:55 departure – a direct SAS flight back to Copenhagen where we landed on time 18:40 the same day.



Bird List (Compiled by Nils Kjellén – mainly based on Clements Dec 2010 update)

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis poggei*

10 E Koko Nor 18.6 and 1 Koko Nor 2.7.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps c. cristatus*

70 Koko Nor 18.6, 70 en route 24.6, 5 Longbaotan 29.6 and 10 Koko Nor 2.7.

Black-necked Grebe *P. n. nigricollis*

80 E Koko Nor 18.6.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*

800 Koko Nor 18.6 and 700 there 2.7.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis coromandus*

1 E Koko Nor 18.6, 5 the Gulag Grove 20.6, 15 en route 24.6, 9 en route 25.6, 75 Longbaotan 29.6 and 1 Koko Nor 2.7.

Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus*

1 E Koko Nor 18.6, 1 the Gulag Grove 20.6 and 1 Yushu 29.6.

Great Egret *Ardea alba modesta*

1 Longbaotan 29.6 and 1 Koko Nor 2.7.

Grey Heron *A. cinerea jouyi*

6 E Koko Nor 18.6.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

1 E Koko Nor 18.6.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

1 breeding pair E Koko Nor 18.6.

Tundra Bean Goose *Anser serrirostris*

(Split by Clements from Taiga Bean Goose *A. fabalis*)

1 Longbaotan 29.6.

Greylag Goose *A. anser rubrirostris*

30 E Koko Nor 18.6. Also 1 hybrid with Bar-Headed Goose there.

Bar-headed Goose *A. indicus*

1000 Koko Nor 18.6, 50 en route 21.6, 8 en route 22.6, 800 en route 24.6, 500 Longbaotan 29.6, 30 en route 30.6 and 3000 Koko Nor 2.7.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Seen on 11 days. Highest number 200 Koko Nor 18.6 and 2.7.

Common Shelduck *T. tadorna*

5 Koko Nor 18.6 and 5 there 2.7.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

5 Koko Nor 18.6.

Gadwall *A. s. strepera*

10 Koko Nor 18.6.

Common Teal *A. c. crecca*

20 Koko Nor 18.6 and 10 there 2.7.

Mallard *A. p. platyrhynchos*

100 Koko Nor 18.6, 10 Chaka 20.6, 10 Longbaotan 29.6 and 30 Koko Nor 2.7.

Yellow-nibbed (Eastern Spot-billed) Duck *A. zonorhyncha*

(Clements splits Eastern Spot-billed Duck *zonorhyncha* from Indian Spot-billed Duck *poecilorhyncha* that includes *haringtoni*.)

3 Xining 16.6 and 1 there 2.7 + 5 E Koko Nor 18.6.

Northern Pintail *A. acuta*

15 Koko Nor 18.6 and 3 en route 24.6.

Northern Shoveler *A. clypeata*

15 Koko Nor 18.8 and 6 en route 24.6.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

150 Koko Nor 18.6, 3 Longbaotan 29.6 and 500+ Koko Nor 2.7.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

100 Koko Nor 18.6 and 10 there 2.7.

Ferruginous Duck *A. nyroca*

15 Koko Nor 18.6, 35 Longbaotan 29.6 and 2 Koko Nor 2.7.

Tufted Duck *A. fuligula*

100 Koko Nor 18.6, 2 en route 24.6 and 30 Koko Nor 2.7.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala c. clanga*

7 Koko Nor 18.6.

Goosander *Mergus merganser orientalis*

2 en route 24.6 and 2 en route 29.6.

Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus orientalis*

1 pair the Gulag grove 20.6.

Black Kite *Milvus (migrans) lineatus*

A total of 13 seen on eight days.

Lammergeier *Gypaetus b. barbatus*

A total of 21 on seven days. Highest number 6 on 29.6.

Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis*

Seen on 14 days. Highest number 120 north of Yushu 29.6.

Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*

2 W Chaka 20.6.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis schvedowi*

1 the Spruce Forest 26.6 and 2 there 28.6.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *A. nisus melaschistos*

1 Nanquen 25.6 and 1 Kanda Shan 27.6.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo refectus*

2 Dong Xya 17.6, 1 the Spruce Forest 26.6 and 1 there 28.6.



Upland Buzzard *B. hemilasius*

Seen on 13 days. Highest numbers 95 en route 24.6 and 60 en route 30.6. (Photo: Mats)

Steppe Eagle *Aquila n. nipalensis*

1 NE Koko Nor 17.6 and 2 en route 24.6.

Golden Eagle *A. chrysaetos daphanea*

A total of 17 seen on eight days.

Booted Eagle *A. pennatus*

1 dark W Chaka 19.6.

Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus interstinctus*

A total of 16 seen on nine days.

Eurasian Hobby *F. s. subbuteo*

1 Dong Xya 17.6, 1 the Gulag Grove 20.6, 1 grove en route Golmud-Chaka 1.7 and 2 en route 2.7.



Saker *F. cherrug milvipes*

2 en route 22.6, 6 en route 24.6, 2 en route 25.6, 5 en route 29.6, 9 en route 30.6 and 2 Koko Nor 2.7. Seems to have decreased – in 1993 a total of 47 were seen along basically the same route (BES). (Photo: Mats)

Severtzov's Grouse *Bonasa sewerzowi*

1 male the Spruce Forest 28.6.

Szechenyi's Monal Partridge *Tetraophasis szechenyii*

5 heard Kanda Shan 27.6 and 4 the Spruce Forest 28.6.

Tibetan Snowcock *Tetraogallus tibetanus henrici*

8 en route 25.6, 10 the Pass 27.6, heard 28.6 and heard 29.6.

Przevalski's Partridge *Alectoris magna*

Heard en route 19.6, 1 Chaka Wadi 20.6 and 7 Xining Beishan 3.7.



Daurian Partridge *Perdix dauurica suschkini*
4 the Grove, Chaka 19-20.6. (Photo: Mats)

Tibetan Partridge *P. hodgsoniae sifanica*

2 N Yushu 24.6, 2 en route 25.6, 10 Kanda Shan 27.6 and 4 the Gorge 29.6.

Blood Pheasant *Ithaginis cruentus*

6 Kanda Shan 27.6 and 6 the Spruce Forest 28.6.

White Eared Pheasant *Crossoptilon crossoptilon dolani*

12 the road towards Nanquin Forest Reserve 25.6, heard the Spruce Forest 26.6, 10 Kanda Shan 27.7 and 20 the Spruce Forest 28.6.

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus vlangalii*

20 Dong Xya and en route 17.6, 3 Gonghe 21.6, 3 Xining 2.7 and 5 Xining Beishan 3.7.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus korejewi*

2 E Koko Nor 18.6.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis p. phoenicurus*

1 the Gulag Grove 20.6.

Coot *Fulica a. atra*

50 Koko Nor 18.6 and 3 Longbaotan 29.6.

Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis*

3 NE Koko Nor 17.6, 7 + 3 pulli E Koko Nor 18.6, 2 Rubber Mountains 21.6, 9 en route 24.6, 60 Longbaotan + 2 en route 29.6, 6 en route 30.6 and 27 Koko Nor 2.7.

Demoiselle Crane *Anthropoides virgo*

2 Heimahe, Koko Nor 18.6.

Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*

1 en route W Chaka 19.6, 4 en route 24.6, 1 the Gorge 25.6, 1 Kanda Shan 27.6 and 7 the Gorge 29.6.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

30 Koko Nor 18.6.

Kentish Plover *C. a. alexandrinus*

30 Koko Nor 18.6, 2 en route 24.6 and 50 Koko Nor 2.7.

Mongolian Plover *C. mongolus schaeferi*

6 W Chaka 19.6, 1 E Chaka 20.6, 20 en route 24.6 and 20 Koko Nor 2.7.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

1 E Koko Nor 18.6.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*
4 E Koko Nor 18.6.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa limosa*
1 E Koko Nor 18.6.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata orientalis*
25 Heimahe, Koko Nor 18.6 and 20 Koko Nor 2.7.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*
Common breeder seen on 10 days, with maximum 100 Koko Nor 18.6 and 2.7.

Green Sandpiper *T. ochropus*
1 E Koko Nor 18.6.

Wood Sandpiper *T. glareola*
2 E Koko Nor 18.6, 1 en route 24.6 and 30 Koko Nor 2.7.

Great Black-headed Gull *Larus ichthyaetus*
2050 Heimahe, Koko Nor 18.6, 2 en route 24.6 and 1240 Koko Nor 2.7.

Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus*
12 Koko Nor 18.6 and 1 there 2.7.

Brown-headed Gull *L. brunnicephalus*
50 Koko Nor 18.6, 50 en route 24.6, 20 en route 29.6 and 200 Koko Nor 2.7.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo minussensis/tibetana*
Fairly common, seen on 13 days. Highest number 200 Koko Nor 18.6.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons sinensis*
2 Koko Nor 2.7.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida swinhoei*
30 E Koko Nor 18.6 and 2 en route 24.6.

Pallas's Sandgrouse *Syrrhaptes paradoxus*
22 E Chaka 20.6.



Tibetan Sandgrouse *S. tibetanus*
14 + several pulli en route 30.6.
(Photo: Bengt-Eric)

Domestic Pigeon *Columba livia neglecta*

Seen on 9 days.

Blue Hill Pigeon *C. r. rupestris*

Common, seen on all days. Maximum 80 on 27.6.

Snow Pigeon *C. leuconota gradaria*

10 the Gorge 25.6, 2 en route 26.6, 4 the Spruce Forest 28.6 and 30 the Gorge 29.6.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia d. decaocto*

Seen on 8 days, primarily in small villages.

Red Turtle Dove *S. tranquebarica humilis*

1 Chaka 19.6.

Oriental Turtle Dove *S. o. orientalis*

15 Dong Xya 17.6, 1 the Gulag Grove 20.6, 1 Grove en route Golmud-Chaka 1.7 and 1 en route 3.7.

Spotted Dove *S. c. chinensis*

1 en route 17.6.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus bakeri*

Common, seen on 14 days with up to 15 birds.

Little Owl *Athene noctua impasta*

2 en route 17.6, 1 Koko Nor 18.6, 1 en route 22.6, 3 en route 25.6, 5 en route 29.6, 2 en route 30.6 and 1 en route 2.7.

Common Swift *Apus apus pekinensis*

Seen on 8 days, highest number 50 Xining 3.7.

Fork-tailed Swift *A. pacificus pacificus/kanoi*

Seen on 9 days with maximum 100 on 29.6.

Hoopoe *Upopa epops saturata*

A total of 62 seen on 9 days. Highest number 25 on 25.6.

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus kogo*

2 Gonghe 21.6, 1 en route 25.6, 1 the Spruce Forest 26.6 as well as 28.6 and 2 Kanda Shan 27.6.

Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius khamensis*

1 the Spruce Forest 26 and 28.6.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major stresemanni/cabanisi*

6 the Gulag Grove + Chaka Grove 20.6 and 1 Kanda Shan 27.6.

Long-billed Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha maxima*

A total of 75 seen on 10 days. Highest number 20 Koko Nor 2.7.

Mongolian Lark *M. mongolica*

3 en route 17.6, 10 Koko Nor 18.6, 1 en route 21.6, 4 en route 22.6 and 10 Koko Nor 2.7.

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

15 Koko Nor 18.6, 5 E Chaka 20.6, 20 en route 24.6, 3 en route 29.6 and 30 Koko Nor 2.7.

Asian Short-toed Lark *C. (rufescens) cheleensis*

(In Clements treated as subspecies of Short-toed Lark; sometimes given specific status as Asian Short-toed Lark)

5 W Chaka 19.6, 5 E Chaka 20.6 and 1 Golmud-Chaka 1.7.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata magna*

3 Gonghe 21.6.

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula inopinata*
Common, seen on 13 days.

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris nigrifrons*
Common, seen on 15 days.

Pale Sand Martin *Riparia diluta tibetana*
Seen on 9 days with maximum 50 Koko Nor 18.6.

Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*
1 Chaka Wadi 20.6, 10 en route 24 as well as 25.6, 15 Kanda Shan 27.6, 1 the Spruce Forest 28.6 and 10 en route 29.6.

Barn Swallow *H. rustica mandschurica*
A total of 24 seen on 7 days.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica (nominata, japonica or nipalensis)*
1 en route 23.6, 5 en route 24.6, 30 en route 25.6 and 50 en route 29.6.

Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus cashmiriensis*
10 the Gully 22.6, 10 en route 24.6, 20 en route 25.6, 10 the Spruce Forest 26.6 and 20 en route 29.6.



Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi ussuriensis*
2 en route 17.6, 1 Chaka 19.6, 10 the Gulag Grove + 5 Chaka Grove 20.6, 3 Gonghe 21.6, 2 en route 22.6 and 10 Koko Nor 2.7. (Photo: Mats)

Olive-backed Pipit *A. h. hodgsoni*
15 Dong Xya 17.6, 8 en route 25.6, 1 the Spruce Forest 26.6 and 8 there 28.6 + 8 Kanda Shan 27.6.

Rosy Pipit *A. roseatus*
10 en route 17.6, 5 on 21.6 and 2 the Pass 26.6.

Water Pipit *A. spinoletta blakistoni*
2 W Chaka 19.6.

Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus*
1 singing Chaka Grove 19-20.6.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*
2 breeders Gonghe 21.6. Subspecies uncertain.

Citrine Wagtail *M. citreola calcarata*
Fairly common, seen on 6 days with up to 10 birds on four different dates.

White Wagtail *M. alba*

Fairly common, seen on 14 days. Subspecies *leucopsis* in the north and *alboides* in the south.

White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus przewalskii*

A total of 31 seen 22-30.6. A mixture of brown and black-and-white birds.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes nipalensis*

2 heard the Spruce Forest 28.6.

Maroon-backed Accentor *Prunella immaculata*

1 the Spruce Forest 28.6.

Rufous-breasted Accentor *P. s. strophciata*

5 Dong Xya 17.6, heard the Spruce Forest 26.6 and 2 there 28.6, 1 Kanda Shan 27.6 and 4 the Gorge 29.6.

Brown Accentor *P. fulvescens khamensis*

Fairly common, seen on 10 days with up to 10 birds.

Robin Accentor *P. rubeculoides fusca*

5 Rubber Mountains + 5 en route 21.6, 15 on 22.6, 1 Er la Pass 23.6, 3 en route 24.6 and 5 en route 25.6.

Alpine Accentor *P. collaris tibetana*

2 the Gorge 25.6 and 7 the Pass 26.6.

Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope*

12 Dong Xya 17.6 and 1 Rubber Mountains 21.6.

Himalayan Rubythroat *L. pectoralis tschebaiewi*

2 en route 21.6, 1 heard en route 25.6, 5 Kanda Shan 27.6, 2 the Pass 28.6 and 3 heard en route 29.6.

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger c. cyanurus*

10 heard Dong Xya 17.6.

Himalayan Bluetail *Tarsiger rufilatus*

1 the Spruce Forest 26.6 and 8 there 28.6.

Przevalski's Redstart *Phoenicurus alashanicus*

6 Dolan Mountains 19.6.

Black Redstart *P. ochruros rufiventris*

Common, seen on all days.

Common Redstart *P. phoenicuroides*

1 2 cal. year male the Gulag Grove 20.6. Possibly the first record in Tibet according to Jesper.

Hodgson's Redstart *P. hodgsoni*

10 en route to Xihay 17.6, fairly common in the south 25-29.6, 1 en route 2.7 and 1 Xining 3.7.

Blue-fronted Redstart *P. frontalis*

5 Rubber Mountains 21.6, 1 en route 24.6 and 25.6, 5 the Spruce Forest 26 and 28.6 and 5 Kanda Shan 27.6.

White-throated Redstart *P. schisticeps*

10 Dong Xya 17.6, 2 Dolan Mountains 19.6, 10 en route 25.6, 5 the Spruce Forest 26.6 and 10 there 28.6 plus 15 Kanda Shan 27.6.

Daurian Redstart *P. aureus leucopterus*

1 the Gulag Grove 20.6 and 1 Xining Beishan 3.7.

White-winged (Güldenstädt's) Redstart *P. erythrogastrus grandis*
4 Er la Pass 22.6, 2 Er la Pass 23.6, 2 en route 24.6 as well as 25.6, 2 the Pass 26.6.

River Chat *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*
A total of 51 seen with maximum 30 Kanda Shan 27.6.

White-bellied Redstart *Hodgsonius phoenicuroides ichangensis*
3 Kanda Shan 27.6 and 1 heard the Spruce Forest 28.6.



Grandala *Grandala coelicolar*
1 the Gorge 25.6, 2 pairs the Pass 26.6 and 1 the Gorge 29.6.
(Photo: Mats)

Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus przewalskii*
5 en route 17.6, 1 Koko Nor 18.6, 2 Rubber Mountains 21.6 and 2 Koko Nor 2.7.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*
Common Koko Nor and Chaka regions. 5 en route 22.6.

Desert Wheatear *O. deserti oreophila*
20 W Chaka 19.6, 15 E Chaka 20.6, 1 en route 30.6 and 5 Golmud-Chaka 1.7.

Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*
7 Chaka Wadi 20.6.

Long-tailed Thrush *Zoothera dixonii*
1 heard the Spruce Forest 28.6.

Chestnut Thrush *T. rubrocanus gouldi*
7 Dong Xya 17.6.

Kessler's Thrush *T. kessleri*
Singles in the Koko Nor region. Common in the south 24-29.6.

Margelanic Whitethroat *Sylvia margelanica*
(Split by Clements from Lesser Whitethroat *curruca*)
1 Gonghe 21.6 and 4 Golmud-Chaka 1.7.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus t. trochiloides/obscuratus*
5 heard Dong Xya 17.6, 4 the Gulag Grove + 2 Chaka Grove 20.6. Common in the south 25-29.6.

Arctic Warbler *P. borealis*
2 the Gulag Grove + 1 Chaka Grove 20.6.

Buff-barred Leaf Warbler *P. p. pulcher*
10 the Spruce Forest 28.6.

Lemon-rumped Warbler *P. c. chloronotus*
4 the road towards Nanquen Forest Reserve 25.6, 2 heard the Spruce Forest 26.6 and 15 there 28.6 plus 7 Kanda Shan 27.6.

Gansu Leaf Warbler *P. kansuensis*

40 Dong Xya 17.6.

Chinese Leaf Warbler *P. sichuanensis*

1 heard Dong Xya 17.6.

Hume's Leaf Warbler *P. humei mandellii*

70 Dong Xya 17.6, 5 heard the road towards Nanquen Forest Reserve 25.6, 10 the Spruce Forest 26.6 and 15 there 28.6 plus 8 Kanda Shan 27.6.

Yellow-streaked Warbler *P. a. armandii*

20 heard Dong Xya 17.6, 25 on 25.6, 5 Kanda Shan 27.6, 1 the Spruce Forest 28.6 and 8 heard Xining Beishan 3.7.

Dusky Warbler *P. fuscatus weigoldi*

(Subspecies sometimes considered as better placed with Smoky Warbler *P. fuligiventer*)
5 Rubber Mountains 21.6.

West Chinese Leaf Warbler *P. occisinensis*

(A recent split from Tickell's Leaf Warbler *P. affinis* but not yet recognized by Clements)
Common, seen on 9 days. Maximum 20 on 21.6.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus yunnanensis*

10 Dong Xya 17.6 and 3 the Spruce Forest 28.6.

Stoliczka's Tit-warbler *Leptopoecile sophiae obscurus*

1 Dong Xya 17.6, 5 Rubber Mountains 21.6, 7 the road towards Nanquen Forest Reserve 25.6 and 5 Kanda Shan 27.6.

Crested Tit-warbler *L. elegans*

5 Dong Xya 17.6, 2 the Spruce Forest 26.6 and 4 there 28.6.

Sooty Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica rothschildi*

3 the Spruce Forest 28.6.

Asian Brown Flycatcher *M. dauurica*

1 Chaka Grove 20.6.

Slaty-backed Flycatcher *Ficedula hodgsonii*

4 Dong Xya 17.6, 8 the Spruce Forest 26.6 and 6 there 28.6.

Kozlov's Babax *Babax k. koslowi*

3 the road towards Nanquen Forest Reserve 25.6 and 7 Kanda Shan 27.6.

Pere David's Laughingthrush *Garrulax d. davidi*

8 Dong Xya 17.6 and 10 Xining Beishan 3.7.

Giant Laughingthrush *G. maximus*

2 heard the Spruce Forest 26.6 and 5 heard there 28.6 plus 3 Kanda Shan 27.6.

Elliot's Laughingthrush *G. elliotii przewalskii*

Common in more forested areas, seen in Dong Xya and in the south 24-29.6.

Chinese Fulvetta *Alcippe striaticollis*

1 heard the road towards Nanquen Forest Reserve 25.6 and 2 Kanda Shan 27.6.

White-browed Tit *Parus superciliosus*

1 Dolan Mountains 19.6, 2 Rubber Mountains 21.6, 1 heard 25.6, heard the Spruce Forest 26.6 & en route 29.6.

Songar Tit *P. songarus weigoldicus/affinis*

10 Dong Xya 17.6, 2 on 25.6, 2 the Spruce Forest 26.6 and 3 there 28.6 plus 5 Kanda Shan 27.6.

Grey Crested Tit *P. dichrous dicroides*
3 the Spruce Forest 26.6 and 8 there 28.6.

Rufous-vented Tit *P. rubidiventris beavani*
5 Dong Xya 17.6 and 5 the Spruce Forest 28.6.

Great Tit *P. major minor/ tibetanus*
4 Dong Xya 17.6, 1 Gonghe 21.6 and 3 Xining Beishan 3.7.

Chinese Nuthatch *Sitta villosa bangsi*
5 Dong Xya 17.6.

Przevalski's Nuthatch *S. (leucopsis) przewalskii*
(Clements treats Przevalski's Nuthatch *przewalskii* as subspecies of White-cheeked Nuthatch)
4 Dong Xya 17.6 and 2 the Spruce Forest 28.6.

Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria nepalensis*
1 Wenquan 23.6, 1 the Gorge 25.6, 1 Kanda Shan 27.6, 1 the Gorge 29.6 and 2 Xining Beishan 3.7.

Common Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris hodgsoni*
3 the Spruce Forest 28.6.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis diffusus*
3 Chaka Grove 19-20.6.



Brown Shrike *Lanius c. cristatus*
1 the Gulag Grove + 1 Chaka grove 20.6 and 2 Rubber Mountains 21.6. (Photo: Mats)

Isabelline Shrike *L. isabellinus tsaidamensis*
4 W Chaka 19.6, 2 the Gulag grove + 3 Chaka Grove 20.6 and 10 Golmud-Chaka 1.7.

Grey-backed Shrike *L. tephronotus lahulensis*
Fairly common, seen on 13 days. Maximum 20 on 25.6.

Tibetan Grey Shrike *L. (sphenocercus) giganteus*
(Clements treats Tibetan Grey Shrike *giganteus* as a subspecies to Chinese Grey Shrike.)
1 E Koko Nor 18.6.

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus cathoecus*
1 E Koko Nor 18.6, 1 en route 19.6, 1 long dead Chaka Grove 20.6, 1 en route 28.6 and 1 en route 29.6.

Azure-winged Magpie *Cyanopica cyanus kansuensis*
5 N Xining 17.6 and 1 Gonghe 21.6. (Common at the hotel in Beijing).

Common Magpie *Pica pica bactriana*
Fairly common in the north down to Gonghe. Subspecies *bottanensis* with 2 Dolan Mountains 19.6 and common in the south 24-29.6.

Henderson's Ground Jay *Podoces hendersoni*

2 E Chaka 18.6, 10 W Chaka 19.6, 2 E Chaka 20.6, 1 W Golmud 30.6 and 1 Golmud-Chaka 1.7.

Hume's Ground-pecker *Pseudopodoces humilis*

Common, seen on 14 days with up to 75 on 29 as well as 30.6.

Yellow-billed Chough *Pyrhocorax graculus digitatus*

6 the Gorge 25.6, 2 Kanda Shan 27.6 and 4 the Gorge 29.6.

Red-billed Chough *P. pyrrhocorax himalayanus*

Fairly common, seen on 16 days.

Daurian Jackdaw *Corvus dauuricus*

90 en route 25.6, 3 en route 26.6, 8 Kanda Shan 27.6, 2 en route 28.6, 5 en route 29.6 and 8 W Xining 2.7.

Rook *C. frugilegus pastinator*

Common N Xining 17.6 and 5 W Xining 2.7.

Large-billed Crow *C. macrorhynchos tibetosinensis*

20 Dong Xya 17.6 and a total of 19 in the south 25-29.6.

Raven *C. corax tibetanus*

A total of 78 seen on 10 days.

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus*

3 grove en route Golmud-Chaka 1.7.

White-cheeked Starling *S. cineraceus*

2 the Gulag Grove + 1 Chaka Grove 20.6 and 3 grove en route Golmud-Chaka 1.7.

House Sparrow *Passer d. parkini*

3 the Gulag Grove + 1 Chaka Grove 20.6 and 1 en route 24.6.

Tree Sparrow *P. montanus kansuensis*

Common.

Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia brevirostris*

Fairly common, seen on 9 days. Maximum 100 on 2.7.



Blanford's Snowfinch *Pyrgilauda*

blanfordi barbata

2 W Chaka 19.6, 5 E Chaka 20.6, 2 Wenquan 23.6 and 3 en route 30.6. (Photo: Mats)

Rufous-necked Snowfinch *P. r. ruficollis*

Fairly common, seen on 10 days. Maximum 75 en route 24.6.

Pere David's Snowfinch *P. d. davidiana*
5 E Koko Nor 18.6 and 10 Koko Nor 2.7.

White-rumped Snowfinch *P. taczanowskii*
Fairly common, especially in the south. Highest number 200 en route 30.6.

Black-winged Snowfinch *Montifringilla a. adamsii*
(Formerly Tibetan Snowfinch but given split of *henrici* English name becomes Black-winged Snowfinch.)
2 Rubber Mountains + 4 en route 21.2, 10 en route 22.6, 3 Wenquan 23.6, 20 en route 25.6, 20 en route 29.6, 2 en route 30.6 and 2 W Koko Nor 2.7.



Tibetan Snowfinch *M. henrici*
(Split by Clements from White-winged (European) Snowfinch *M. nivalis*.)
12 Er la Pass 22.6, 20 there 23.6, 4 en route 24.6, 5 en route 29.6 and 2 W Koko Nor 2.7. (Photo: Mats)

Oriental Greenfinch *Carduelis s. sinica*
20 on 17.6, 5 Koko Nor 18.6, 1 the Gulag Grove 20.6, 1 Gonghe 21.6 and 5 Xining 3.7.

Eurasian Siskin *C. spinus*
1 Dong Xya 17.6.

Twite *C. flavirostris miniakensis*
Common, seen on 14 days.

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra himalayensis*
50 Dong Xya 17.6 and 5 the Spruce Forest 28.6.

Plain Mountain Finch *Leucosticte n. nemoricola*
Fairly common, seen on 7 days. Maximum 15 on 26.6.

Brandt's Mountain Finch *L. brandti pallidior*
20 Er la Pass 22.6 and the same number there the following day, 5 the Gorge 25.6 and 5 there 29.6.

Mongolian Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes mongolicus*
30 Chaka Wadi 20.6 and 3 Golmud-Chaka 1.7.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus roseatus*
1 Koko Nor 18.6, 1 Chaka 19.6 + fairly common in the south 25-29.6.

Beautiful Rosefinch *C. pulcherrimus argyrophrys*
5 Rubber Mountains 21.6, 10 the Gully 22.6, 5 en route 25.6, 4 Kanda Shan 27.6, 2 the Spruce Forest 28.6 and 3 the Gorge 29.6.

Pink-rumped Rosefinch *C. eos*
20 en route 25.6, heard the Spruce Forest 26.6 and 5 there 28.6 plus 30 Kanda Shan 27.6.

Sinai (Pale) Rosefinch *C. synoicus beicki*
2 females Xining Beishan 3.7.

White-browed Rosefinch *C. thura dubius*
20 Dong Xya 17.6, 3 Dolan Mountains 19.6, 5 road towards Nanquen Forest Reserve 25.6, 5 the Spruce Forest 26.6 and 20 there 28.6 plus 12 Kanda Shan 27.6.



Eastern Great Rosefinch *C. r. rubicilloides*
3 Rubber Mountains 21.6, 6 the Gully 22.6, 3 road towards Nanquen Forest Reserve 25.6, 1 the Pass 26.6 and 6 en route 29.6. (Photo: Erik)

Great Rosefinch *C. rubicilla severtzowi*
2 W Chaka 19.6 and 2 Qumahe 30.6.

Red-breasted Rosefinch *C. puniceus longirostris*
7 the Gorge 27.6, 2 the Pass 26.6 and 10 the Gorge 29.6.

Roborovski's (Tibetan) Rosefinch *Kozlowia roborowskii*
8 Er la Pass 22.6 and 5 there 23.6 plus 2 Bayankala Pass 24.6.

Przevalski's Rosefinch *Urocynchramus pylzowi*
4 Rubber Mountains 21.6.

Grey-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula e. erythaca*
5 Dong Xya 17.6.

White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas c. carniceps*
2 Dolan Mountains 19.6, 8 the road towards Nanquen Forest Reserve 25.6, 2 the Spruce Forest 26.6 and 5 there 28.6.

Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala sordida*
10 en route 17.6, 1 Koko Nor 18.6 and 4 N Gonghe 21.6.

Kozlov's (Tibetan) Bunting *E. koslowi*
17 the Pass 26.6.

Pine Bunting *E. leucocephalos fronto*
1 Dong Xya 17.6 and 8 Dolan Mountains 19.6.

Godlewski's Rock Bunting *E. godlewskii khamensis*
2 Chaka Wadi 20.6, fairly common in the south 25-29.6 and 5 Xining Beishan 3.7.

Meadow Bunting *E. cioides weigoldi*
10 Xining Beishan 3.7.

Mammal List (Compiled by Nils Kjellén)

Wolf *Canis lupus*

1 E Koko Nor 18.6, 1 the bridge over Huang Ho 24.6, 1 the road towards Nanquen Forest Reserve 25.6, 1 en route 30.6 and 1 Koko Nor 2.7.

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

1 en route 17.6, 1 E Koko Nor + 2 Heimahe 18.6, 2 Longbaotan 29.6 and 2 Koko Nor 2.7.

Tibetan Fox *V. ferrilata*

5 en route 24.6, 1 en route 25.6 and 5 en route 30.6.

Steppe Polecat *Mustela eversmanni*

1 Koko Nor 2.7.

Asian Badger *Meles leucurus*

1 Heimahe, Koko Nor 18.6 and 1 the road towards Nanquen Forest Reserve 25.6.

Pallas's Cat *Felis manul*

1 NE Koko Nor 17.6 and 1 Wenquan 22.6.

Lynx *F. lynx*

1 the bridge over Huang Ho 24.6.

Kiang *Equus kiang*

129 en route 24.6 and 208 en route 30.6.

Red Deer *Cervus elaphus*

46 the Gorge 25.6.

Tibetan Antelope *Panthalops hodgsoni*

116 en route 30.6.

Tibetan Gazelle *Procapra picticaudata*

4 Er la Pass 23.6, 352 en route 24.6, 10 en route 25.6, 3 en route 26.6, 4 en route 29.6 and 164 en route 30.6.

Goitered Gazelle *P. subgutturosa*

1 below Dolan Mountains 19.6.

Prezewalski's Gazelle *P. przewalski*

18 W Chaka 1.7.

Blue Sheep *Pseudois nayaur*

15 Dolan Mountains 19.6, 18 Er la Pass 23.6, 50 en route 25.6, 80 en route 26.6, 20 Kanda Shan 27.6, 63 en route 28.6, 128 en route 29.6 and 1 en route 30.6.

Himalayan Marmot *Marmota himalayana*

Common, seen on 12 days. Maximum 100 on 25 and 30.6.

Black-lipped Pika *Ochotona curzoniae*

Locally very common.

Glover's Pika *O. gloveri*

3 Kanda Shan 27.6 and 4 en route S the Gorge 29.6.

Tolai Hare *Lepus tolai*

3 Xining Beishan 3.7.

Woolly Hare *L. oiostolus*

Common, seen on 15 days.



Glover's Pika (Bengt-Eric)