

Birding in
Xinjiang,
China

29 July –
24 August
2005

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Summary

From late July-late August I made a 27-day birding visit to Xinjiang, China's northwestern-most province. I was traveling with the Chinese ground agent, Wang Qingyu, who organizes the Sunbird/Wings bird watching tours that I lead to various destinations in China. Together with us was Qingyu's eight year old daughter who was on holiday from school and as a consequence I didn't go birding all day, every day. Nevertheless I spent a considerable amount of time 'in the field' and enjoyed my trip enormously. I've no doubt that I'll return to Xinjiang, for a more 'hard core' late spring-early summer birding trip, in the near future.

Although I'd already traveled quite widely in China this was my first visit to Xinjiang and I was keen to see some of the region's specialties. I was particularly keen to see the following three species, Xinjiang Ground-jay, Azure Tit and Saxaul Sparrow all of which were new to me. All three were easily seen. Other highlights included – White-winged Woodpecker, Pallid Scops Owl, Tibetan Sandgrouse, Pallas's Fish and White-tailed Eagles and Lesser Kestrel. I encountered five species regarded as globally threatened by BirdLife International and these are detailed in the bird report as are some notes on three taxa of birds that have possibly not been encountered in China before – a *thunbergi* Yellow Wagtail near Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 31st July 2005, a Hume's Whitethroat *Sylvia althaea* near Jia Si Xiang, west of Kashi on the 3rd August 2005 and an *erythronotus* Long-tailed Shrike at Taheman Xiang north of Tashikurgan on both the 6th and 8th August 2005.

Xinjiang, covering 1,660,000 kms² (about one-sixth of China's total area!) and stretching for a massive 1500 kilometres from north to south and 1870 kilometres from east to west, is China's largest province. Its altitudinal range is equally huge, ranging China's lowest elevation (minus 154 metres) in the Turpan Depression, to the mighty peaks of the Altai, Tian Shan, Pamir and Kunlun Mountains several of which rise to well over 7000 metres.

I have absolutely no hesitation in recommending Wang Qingyu as a guide, ground agent and all-round fixer. She can be contacted at –

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Beijing,
China 101100

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Very few birders have visited Xinjiang, and even fewer have written reports on their visits and I had rather little information to follow in advance of my trip. I used the following sources –

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Costs

Exchange rates

In July 2005	£1	=	15.1 yuan
	\$1US	=	8.2 yuan

The three main expenses were our return flights between Beijing and Urumqi and the one-way flight from Urumqi down to Kashi, our accommodation and the vehicles.

The flight from Urumqi down to Kashi was relatively cheap at 580 yuan/person (this was a discounted price and we had to pay the same for eight-year-old Chenchen).

Several birders visiting Xinjiang previously have rented 4-wheel drive vehicles from travel agencies in Urumqi, keeping these for the duration of their visits. We decided not to do this, the prices that we were given for the rent of 4-wheel drives were based on kilometre rates and worked out too expensive given that I was picking up the entire bill. Instead we opted to rent taxis on a daily basis – this gave us a great deal more freedom, and undoubtedly saved us a lot of money. However we ran in to problems getting to Gong Nai Si and the Bayinkulusi Grasslands (also known as the Bayinbaluke Grasslands or the ‘Swan Lake’ area). We’d hoped to have driven up and over the Tian Shan mountains to Gong Nai Si from Kuche, but we couldn’t – the road was too rough for a taxi (and debatably open even to 4-wheel drives). Instead we moved on to Kuche and attempted to drive to Gong Nai Si from there. Our taxi driver knew that the road was rough, but thought that we’d be able to manage it – however we couldn’t. A 4-wheel drive vehicle could definitely have driven along this route however. Note that 4-wheel drives can be rented in Korla itself – we saw a guy in the city centre standing besides his 4-wheel drive which had an advertisement in it, offering to take tourists anywhere and everywhere in Xinjiang! Similar vehicles could undoubtedly also be rented through some of the larger travel agents in this and other towns and cities.

I have little hesitation in recommending the following two taxi drivers that we used –

Kashi: Mr. Hu – mobile telephone 13579328610

Korla: Mr. Gao - mobile telephone 13565062998

Chinese settlement designations

In order of ascending scale settlements in China are classified in the following order –
Chun Xiang Zhen Xian Shi (city)

Climate

Average Temperatures and the Rainfall in Urumqi.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average High (°C)	-9	-6	3	16	23	28	31	29	23	14	2	-6
Average Low (°C)	-19	-16	-6	5	11	16	18	19	11	3	-7	-16

Rainfall (mm) 8 12 23 32 33 33 27 23 23 23 18 12

Brief Itinerary

2005

July

- Friday 29:** Flew Beijing – Urumqi (Urumuqi or Wulumuqi), Xinjiang.
Saturday 30: All day in Urumqi – Shui Shang Le Yuan and Urumqi Renmin Gongyuan.
Sunday 31: All day around Urumqi - Wulabo Reservoir and Wadi, Lun Tai Cheng and Shui Mo Gou Gongyuan.

August

- Monday 1:** Urumqi to Nan Shan (briefly). Evening flight south to Kashi (Kashgar).
Tuesday 2: All day down NH 315 southeast of Kashi.
Wednesday 3: All day along provincial road S309 west of Kashi.
Thursday 4: All day southeast of Kashi.
Friday 5: All day west of Kashi – drove to Bositan Lieke.
Saturday 6: Drove south from Kashi to Tashikurgan.
Sunday 7: All day around Tashikurgan.
Monday 8: Drove from Tashikurgan back to Kashi.
Tuesday 9: Kashi to Bachu via Tuokaeyi and Xikerer Reservoirs.
Wednesday 10: Bachu to Aksu via Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir.
Thursday 11: All day south of Aksu – visiting ‘Matan Marsh’, Yinshawan and Shang You Reservoirs.
Friday 12: All day southeast of Aksu - visiting Sheng Li Reservoir.
Saturday 13: Day off in Aksu.
Sunday 14: Drove from Aksu to Kuche and on to Korla.
Monday 15: South-south-west of Korla – Puhui Dunes and Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun
Tuesday 16: Korla towards Gong Nai Si and back to Baluntai.
Wednesday 17: Baluntai back to Korla via Bosten Hu.
Thursday 18: South-south-west of Korla to Puhui dunes and Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun.
Friday 19: South-south-east of Korla to Qia La and Da Xi Haizi Reservoirs.
Saturday 20: All day near Korla – morning at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu.
Sunday 21: Korla to Urumqi.
Monday 22: Shui Shang Le Yuan, Urumqi.
Tuesday 23: Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi.
Wednesday 24: Flew Urumqi back to Beijing.

DAILY DIARY

Friday 29 July 2005. Flew from Beijing to Urumqi, Xinjiang.

My Air China flight left Beijing on time at 11:55hrs and arrived in Urumqi, after a flight of 2630 kilometres, four hours later at 16:00hrs. I then waited for Wang Qingyu and spent 50 minutes birding in a few bushes close to the domestic terminal. Qingyu was flying from Xining, and she arrived ten minutes early at 17:40hrs. We then transferred to the 5-star Silver Star Hotel near central Urumqi. Qingyu had pre-arranged our room here through a ground-agent contact of hers and this cost 550 yuan/night including two breakfasts. Chenchen, Qingyu’s nine-year-old daughter, also accompanied us and her food and lodging were free.

Common Cuckoo	1 apparently recently fledged juvenile was being fed by an adult male Rufous-tailed Shrike.
Rufous-tailed Shrike	1 was seen feeding a recently fledged juvenile Common Cuckoo!
Barn Swallow	1
White Wagtail	2 fly-overs were racially unidentified.

Saturday 30 July 2005. All day in Urumqi – Shui Shang Le Yuan and Urumqi Renmin Gongyuan

Urumqi.

31 July 2005. Sun rise 06:56
Sun set 21:35

Shui Shang Le Yuan, Urumqi. 43°45.3'N., 87°36.6'E. (935 metres)

Spent about 3.5 hours (10:30-14:00hrs) in this park on the southern edge of Urumqi city. From the site it is 5.99 kilometres at 336° to Urumqi city center. Typically hot (reaching 32°C) today but not at all humid.

A fairly large very park and fun fare that's very popular with locals and Chinese tourists alike (and perhaps especially so at weekends). Centered around a reasonably sized lake (perhaps 700 metres wide and about 1.2 kilometres long) that's thronged with boats and had perhaps 100 fishermen lining its banks the park also has a large number of paved paths as well as numerous small coppices and avenues of trees. There's a small (30 x 80 metre) reed bed at the lake's southern end and a tiny (30 x 50 metre) 'wader scrape' immediately over the ridge to the west of the bungee jumping platform also at the lake's south-western corner.

After time here we headed in to central Urumqi (to buy a few things such as maps and to have lunch at KFC!) before heading to our next site –

Urumqi Renmin Gongyuan

We spent only about 30 minutes casually birding in this very popular city center park – there were thousands of people here this afternoon!

Eurasian Hoopoe	6 – 5 at Shui Shang Le Yuan and 1 in Urumqi Renmin Gongyuan. (940 metres)
Common Cuckoo	1 juvenile at Shui Shang Le Yuan was being fed by a Rufous-tailed Shrike. (940 metres)
Common Swift	2 over Urumqi Renmin Gongyuan. (940 metres)
Rock Pigeon	Common and widespread. Not systematically recorded.
Oriental Turtle Dove	6 in Shui Shang Le Yuan. (940 metres)
Common Moorhen	1 was heard in the reed bed at the southern end of the lake in Shui Shang Le Yuan. (940 metres)
Common Redshank	12 in Shui Shang Le Yuan. (940 metres)
Common Sandpiper	1 in Shui Shang Le Yuan. (940 metres)
Black-winged Stilt	14 in Shui Shang Le Yuan. (940 metres)
Little Ringed Plover	2 in Shui Shang Le Yuan. (940 metres)
Northern Lapwing	3 in Shui Shang Le Yuan. (940 metres)
Little Bittern	1 male flew over the reed bed at the southern end of the lake in Shui Shang Le Yuan. (940 metres)
Rufous-tailed Shrike	12 – 11 in Shui Shang Le Yuan and 1 in Urumqi Renmin Gongyuan. Several recently fledged juveniles were seen. 1 adult was watched feeding a juvenile Common Cuckoo! (940 metres)
Eurasian Blackbird	3 – 2 singles in Shui Shang Le Yuan and 1 in Urumqi Renmin Gongyuan. (940 metres)
Pied Wheatear	1 juvenile on the small arid ridge west of the southern end of the lake in Shui Shang Le Yuan. (980 metres)
Great Tit	15 – 10 in Shui Shang Le Yuan and 5 in Urumqi Renmin Gongyuan. The majority of birds were recently fledged. (940 metres)
Azure Tit	8 in Shui Shang Le Yuan. (940 metres)
Barn Swallow	30 over Shui Shang Le Yuan. (940 metres)
Northern House Martin	15 over Shui Shang Le Yuan. (940 metres)
Eurasian Reed Warbler	5, four seen and at least one other heard, in the reed bed at the southern end of the lake in Shui Shang Le Yuan. (940 metres)
House Sparrow	40. Widespread but mostly in Shui Shang Le Yuan. (940 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	50 in Shui Shang Le Yuan. (940 metres)
White Wagtail	40. Widespread but mostly in Shui Shang Le Yuan. All of those racially identified (nearly all) were <i>M. a. personata</i> 'Masked Wagtail'. Numerous juveniles were seen. (940 metres).
Citrine Wagtail	4 in Shui Shang Le Yuan. Three birds were seen well and of these two were juveniles and one an adult. (940 metres)

Sunday 31 July 2005. All day around Urumqi - Wulabo reservoir and wadi, Lun Tai Cheng and Shui Mo Gou Gongyuan

We had breakfast at 07:30hrs (the earliest that the hotel would do) and headed out, in a locally rented taxi, at 08:50hrs. (This taxi cost 250 yuan for the day, providing that we were back before 18:00hrs, otherwise it would have been 300 yuan).

Weather: Overcast all day. It started to rain, very lightly, almost as soon as we left the hotel and continued to do so, intermittently and always very fine until we returned at 17:50hrs. Temperatures reached 26-27°C.

I essentially visited four sites today – three close together about 15-20 minutes south of the city and the fourth a 'city park' on the eastern edge of Urumqi.

Wulabo Shuiku (Wulabo Reservoir). 09:20-10:30hrs. 43°39.6'N., 87°34.9'E. (1060 metres)

It took only about 20 minutes to drive the 10 kilometres here from our hotel in Urumqi. The site is 16.2 kilometres almost directly due south of Urumqi city center.

Wulabo Reservoir is a fairly sizeable, erratically shaped, reservoir that has numerous narrow limbs but is perhaps 4-5 kilometres long and up to 1 kilometre wide at its widest. There's a large dam at the northern (Urumqi) end and this is where virtually all the birds were. We parked up here and walked about 600 metres down towards the reservoir edge – note that we only got about half-way to the actual water, deep mud and 'sinking sands' prevented us going any further.

Birds here inc. -	
Pallas's Gull	86
Yellow-legged Gull (eastern <i>cachinnans</i>)	2
Black Kite	2

Wulabo wadi

After birding at the reservoir we ventured further on (heading towards Lu Tai Cheng) but drove little over 1 kilometre before stopping again. I birded about 1-1.3 kilometres up a shallow wadi off to the right (west) of the road. This wadi was wet in the bottom where a small stream flowed under the road and presumably then continued down to the reservoir. This stream had created a tiny marsh that contained a few birds while set back between 20-50 metres higher on the either side of the shallow wadi sides there were a few acacia-type bushes and trees.

Birds here inc. -	
Barred Warbler	2 adults
Rusty-rumped Warbler	2 were heard in the small marsh

Lun Tai Cheng (currently also known as Wulabo Gu Cheng). Gu Cheng means 'Old City'. 12:20-13:45hrs. 43°38.3'N., 87°35.0'E. (1100 metres)

Here were parked in the car park besides the obvious castellated desert-fort-style building and I walked around the back of here and then about 400 metres down the western side of the ancient city walls. In doing this I was walking south and staying parallel to the Urumqi to Turpan Expressway which was about 300 metres away to my right. I turned left (heading back east) at the far south-western corner of the old fort walls and 300 metres along here there was a tiny (50 x 80 metre) marsh.

Birds here inc. -	
Barred Warbler	2 - an adult and a separate juvenile.
Yellow Wagtail	2 - 1 of which could be racially assigned to <i>M. f. thunbergi</i> .
Western Marsh Harrier	1 'cream-crown'
Common Kestrel	1 adult male
Tawny Pipit	3 - an adult with 2 almost fully grown juveniles.

Shui Mo Gou Gongyuan. 15:00-17:00hrs. 43°49.6'N., 87°39.6'E. (780-865 metres)

A fairly large 'city park' on the eastern edge of Urumqi. Less appealing for tourists than yesterday's two parks (the Shui Shang Le Yuan and Urumqi Renmin Gongyuan) it was also rather poor for birds.

Birds here inc. -	
Hobby	1 flew over
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	2 juveniles
Azure Tit	9 – a family group of 5 and another party of 4 birds. Only one of three begging juveniles in the first group had a faint yellow wash below, the other two were white below.

Mallard	2 females in the marsh at 'Wulabo wadi'. (1070 metres)
Eurasian Hoopoe	15. These included 1 near Wulabo village, 4 up the 'Wulabo wadi', 6 at Lun Tai Cheng and 2 in Shui Mo Gou Gongyuan. (860-1080 metres)
Common Cuckoo	2 juveniles. 1 of these was being fed by an adult Rufous-tailed Shrike (again!) up the 'Wulabo wadi' and the other was seen in flight over the Shui Mo Gou Gongyuan. (880 and 1070 metres)
Common Swift	35 – all over the Lun Tai Cheng area. (1080 metres)
Rock Pigeon	Present but not counted.
Oriental Turtle Dove	15 - 6 in flight near Wulabo reservoir, 6 more up the 'Wulabo wadi' and 3 more in the Lun Tai Cheng area. (1060-1070 metres)
Common Moorhen	1 juvenile was seen in the small marsh up the 'Wulabo wadi'. (1070 metres)
Common Snipe	1 was flushed from besides the stream up the 'Wulabo wadi'. (1070 metres)
Common Redshank	1 was on the small marsh near Lun Tai Cheng. (1070 metres)
Common Sandpiper	3 – 1 on Wulabo reservoir and 2 on the small marsh near Lun Tai Cheng. (1060 and 1070 metres)
Little Ringed Plover	2 juveniles besides the small stream up the 'Wulabo wadi.' They were both quite young and probably locally fledged. (1070 metres)
Northern Lapwing	3 on the small marsh near Lun Tai Cheng. (1070 metres)
Yellow-legged Gull	2 adults, both apparently 'eastern <i>cachinnans</i> ', were with the large congregation of Pallas's Gulls near the dam at the northern end of Wulabo reservoir. (1060 metres)
Pallas's Gull	86 near the dam at the northern end of Wulabo reservoir. (1060 metres)
Black Kite	3 – 2 near the northern end of Lun Tai Cheng. (1070 metres)
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	1 'cream-crown' was quartering distant fields near Lun Tai Cheng. (1070 metres)
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	2, probably locally fledged, juveniles in Shui Mo Gou Gongyuan on the eastern edge of Urumqi. (865 metres)
Common Kestrel	1 adult male was perched on the ruined walls at Lun Tai Cheng. (1070 metres)
Eurasian Hobby	1 flew over the Shui Mo Gou Gongyuan on the eastern edge of Urumqi. (910 metres)

Great Cormorant	16 near the dam at the northern end of Wulabo reservoir. (1060 metres)
Grey Heron	11 – 9 near the dam at the northern end of Wulabo reservoir and 2 more in flight high over Lun Tai Cheng. (1060 and 1070 metres)
Rufous-tailed Shrike	20. Common and widespread – birds were noted at all four of the sites I visited today (Wulabo reservoir, ‘Wulabo wadi’, Lun Tai Cheng and Shui Mo Gou Gongyuan) as well as from the taxi on route between them. An adult was seen feeding a juvenile Common Cuckoo up the ‘Wulabo wadi’. (840-1080 metres)
Eurasian Blackbird	4 – 2 in Wulabo village and 2 more in the Shui Mo Gou Gongyuan on the eastern edge of Urumqi. (840 and 1040 metres)
Pied Wheatear	1 juvenile near Wulabo village. (1040 metres)
Azure Tit	9, a family group of 5 and another party of 4 birds, in the Shui Mo Gou Gongyuan on the eastern edge of Urumqi. Only one of three begging juveniles in the first group had a faint yellow wash below, the other two were entirely white below. (820-850 metres)
Barn Swallow	100 – common and widespread. (820-1080 metres)
Northern House Martin	8 – all in the Wulabo reservoir-‘Wulabo wadi’- Lun Tai Cheng area. (1060-1080 metres)
Rusty-rumped Warbler	2 birds were heard in the small marsh up the ‘Wulabo wadi’. (1070 metres)
Barred Warbler	4 – 2 adults in scrub about 200 metres up the ‘Wulabo wadi’ and 2 more (another adult and a separate juvenile) in scrub near Lun Tai Cheng. (1070 metres)
House Sparrow	10 – all in the Shui Mo Gou Gongyuan on the eastern edge of Urumqi. (820-890 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	50. Common and widespread.
White Wagtail	30 – common and widespread with birds being seen at all four sites I visited around Urumqi (Wulabo reservoir, ‘Wulabo wadi’, Lun Tai Cheng and Shui Mo Gou Gongyuan) and at numerous sites in between. Birds were also seen in Urumqi city. All of those racially identified (about 20 birds) were <i>M. a. personata</i> (as they were throughout the entire time I was in Xinjiang). (830-1080 metres)
Citrine Wagtail	6 – 2 up the ‘Wulabo wadi’ and 4 on the small marsh near Lun Tai Cheng. (1070 metres)
Yellow Wagtail	2 on the small marsh near Lun Tai Cheng. One of these was racially identified as <i>M. f. thunbergi</i> – a taxa not noted by Cheng (1994) & possibly not previously recorded in China. (1070 metres)
Grey Wagtail	1 flew over the ‘Wulabo wadi’. (1070 metres)
Richard’s Pipit	8 – 5 apparently territorial birds (one of which was carrying food and presumably feeding young still in the nest) up the ‘Wulabo wadi’ and 3 others flew high to the south (and were presumed to be genuine migrants) over Lun Tai Cheng. (1070 metres)
Tawny Pipit	3, an adult and two recently and undoubtedly locally-fledged juveniles, at Lun Tai Cheng. (1070 metres)

Monday 1 August 2005. Urumqi to Nan Shan (briefly). Evening flight to Kashi (Kashgar).

Eurasian Hoopoe	1 at Nan Shan, south of Urumqi.
Common Cuckoo	1 juvenile at Nan Shan, south of Urumqi.
Little Owl	1 at Nan Shan, south of Urumqi.
Rock Pigeon	‘Present’ but not counted between Urumqi and Nan Shan.
Black Kite	1 between Urumqi and Nan Shan.
Common Kestrel	1 at Nan Shan, south of Urumqi.

Our China Southern flight should have left Urumqi at 19:05hrs but was delayed slightly and departed at 19:40hrs, arriving at Kashi, after a flight of 1080 kilometres, almost two hours later at 21:35hrs. We were met at the airport by a ‘friend of a friend’ of Qingyu’s and transferred to the Qinibagh Hotel, 144 Seman Road, Kashi (Tel. 0998 2822103, Fax. 2842299). This, the best hotel in Kashi, claims that its front arch marked the entrance to what was once the British Consulate here in Chinese Turkestan! Rooms here cost 240yuan/night with no breakfast. The hotel is almost two kilometres (direct distance) North-north-east of Kashi town centre.

Qinibagh Hotel, Kashi. (39° 28.5’N., 75° 58.8’E.). 1296 metres.

Tuesday 2 August 2005. All day down NH 315 south-east of Kashi.

Left Kashi at 09:00hrs and drove south-east on NH 315 (the road that circles around the southern side of the massive Taklamakan Desert. We drove for about 80 kilometres heading eventually to Da Hu – a lake about 10 kilometres south Yingjiasha town. On route we drove through the following sites –

Suo Luo Xian (effectively a suburb of Kashi). There are a couple of small, but decent-looking, roadside red beds here.

Ta Zi Hong 20 minutes from the Qinibagh Hotel in Kashi.

A fairly large river crosses to the east under the road about 5 kilometres north of Ya Pu Quan.

Small roadside marsh 1 kilometre south of the bridge over the river and about 4 kilometres north of Ya Pu Quan.

Ya Pu Quan

On the way back north we stopped at an undistinguished site about 5 kilometres of Ya Pu Quan and walked 800 metres to the west of the road, climbing a 30' high tree-lined bank and finding, quite fortuitously, that the Aral Shuiku was on the western side of this embankment. (See below)

The border between Shule (to the north) and Yingjiasha (to the south) counties is marked on the road by a couple of large signs. The area either side of the road here is an attractive-looking sizeable wetland. There's a very small complex of sand dunes on the right (west) side of the road about 1 kilometre south of here – these are apparently a locally well-known tourist/picnic destination.

Ciytla Gongshe (see below)

Yingjiasha town. (59 kilometres from Kashi)

Da Hu, Yingjiasha county. (38° 53.8'N., 76° 09.7'E.). 1320 metres.

This site lies less than 10 kilometres south of Yingjiasha town and has a large, conspicuously polluting cement plant on its northern shore.

We drove straight past this cement plant and continued another couple of kilometres to a small tourist 'resort' right on the lake edge. This was our final destination – but it was largely bird-less so we only stayed for about 15 minutes before re-tracing our route and heading north back up NH 315. Kashi is 64.8 kilometres at 342° from Da Hu.

Common Tern 3 (two adults and a juvenile)

Ciytla Gongshe, Yingjiasha county. (38° 58.4'N., 76° 11.8'E.). 1270 metres. Km Post 2952.

An area of low scrub plus a few larger trees that borders the road about 4.5 kilometres (or 10 minutes driving time) north of Yingjiasha town. I spent about 3.5 hours here walking north along the road before venturing off in to scrub on the eastern side of the road immediately besides Km Post 2952. I walked perhaps 2-3 kilometres away from the road here returning the very same way. Note that much of the highway here is flanked on either side by fairly large drainage ditches – these are too large to cross and greatly restrict access to this very productive area.

Birds here inc. -	
Common Swift	6 flew south
Black Stork	2 flew casually north
Eurasian Turtle Dove	4
Sykes's Warbler	4 in the scrub
Pallid Scops Owl	1 (photo).
Common Pheasant	1 was heard
Saxaul Sparrow	At least 10 birds were seen – but exclusively from the road!
Golden Oriole	3
Crested Lark	15 inc. 2 family parties

Large marshy area on the border between the Shule and Yingjiasha counties

The border between Shule (to the north) and Yingjiasha (to the south) counties is marked on the road by a couple of large signs. The area either side of the road is an attractive-looking sizeable wetland. There's a very small complex of sand dunes on the right (west) side of the road about 1 kilometre south of here – these are apparently a locally well-known tourist/picnic destination.

I spent about 10 minutes scanning from the road here.

Birds here inc. -	
Black Stork	2 flew north (these were thought to be very probably the same birds that I saw earlier at Ciytla Gongshe)
Pale Martin or Sand Martin	2 distant birds
Common Kestrel	1

Aral Shuiku. Shule county. (39° 08.4'N., 76° 13.3'E.). 1260 metres.

On the way back north we stopped at an undistinguished site about 5 kilometres of Ya Pu Quan and walked 800 metres to the west of the road, climbing a 30' high tree-lined bank and finding, quite fortuitously, that the Aral Shuiku was on the western side of this embankment. Kashi is 41.7 kilometres at 325° from here.

I spent about 1.5-2 hours here exploring the scrub between the highway and the lake as well as 'scoping birds on the lake itself.

Birds here inc.	
Ferruginous Duck	11
Garganey	180
Great crested Grebe	12
Saxaul Sparrow	10

Returned to Kashi arriving back at the hotel at 19:15hrs.

Common Pheasant	1 was heard at Ciytla. (1270 metres)
Mallard	25 – 5 flew over Ciytla. and 20 on the Aral reservoir. (1260-1270 metres)

Garganey	180 on the Aral reservoir. (1260 metres)
Ferruginous Pochard	11 on the Aral reservoir. (1260 metres)
Eurasian Hoopoe	5 widespread birds were noted along NH 315 between Kashi and Da Hu, Yingjiasha county. (1250-1320 metres)
Common Swift	8 flew south over Ciytla. (1260 metres)
Pallid Scops Owl	1 was found near Ciytla. It was roosting in a large tree on the side of a drainage channel 800 metres east of Km Post 2952 on NH 315. (1270 metres)
Rock Pigeon	'Present' but not counted.
European Turtle Dove	4 adults besides NH 315 near Ciytla. (1270 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	25 widespread birds were noted along NH 315 between Kashi and Da Hu, Yingjiasha county. (1250-1320 metres)
Common Moorhen	2 on a marsh besides NH 315 south of Kashi. (1240 metres)
Eurasian Coot	2 on the Aral reservoir. (1260 metres)
Black-winged Stilt	20 on the Aral reservoir. (1260 metres)
Northern Lapwing	1 on the large marsh besides NH 315 and on the border between the Shule and Yingjiasha counties. (1270 metres)
[Brown-headed Gull	2 very distant first-year birds on the Aral reservoir might have been this species. (1260 metres)]
Black-headed Gull	20 on the Aral reservoir. (1260 metres)
Common Tern	3, two adults and a juvenile, on Da Hu, Yingjiasha county. (1320 metres)
Black Kite	1 on the Aral reservoir. (1260 metres)
Common Kestrel	1 over the large marsh besides NH 315 and on the border between the Shule and Yingjiasha counties. (1270 metres)
Eurasian Hobby	1 flew east over the Aral reservoir. (1260 metres)
Great Crested Grebe	12 on the Aral reservoir. (1260 metres)
Black Stork	2 drifted leisurely and high to the north over NH 315 near Ciytla. What were almost certainly these same two birds were later seen over the large marsh besides NH 315 and on the border between the Shule and Yingjiasha counties. (1270 metres)
Rufous-tailed Shrike	20 widespread birds were noted along NH 315 between Kashi and Da Hu, Yingjiasha county. (1250-1320 metres)
Black-billed Magpie	5 besides NH 315 near Ciytla. (1270 metres)
Carrion Crow	40 widespread birds were noted along NH 315 between Kashi and Da Hu, Yingjiasha county. (1250-1320 metres)
Eurasian Golden Oriole	4 – 3 Ciytla and another in flight near there. (1270 metres)
Sand or Pale Martin	2 distant birds were seen over the large marsh besides NH 315 and on the border between the Shule and Yingjiasha counties. (1270 metres)
Barn Swallow	50 widespread birds were noted along NH 315 between Kashi and Da Hu, Yingjiasha county. (1250-1320 metres)
Northern House Martin	6 flew south over NH 315 near Ciytla. (1270 metres)
Sykes's Warbler	6 – five near NH 315 near Ciytla and the other close to the Aral Reservoir. (1270 metres)
[Desert Lesser Whitethroat	1 bird, possibly this species, was heard and seen in flight close to NH 315 near Ciytla. (1270 metres)]
Barred Warbler	10 close to NH 315 near Ciytla. (1270 metres)
Crested Lark	15 widespread birds were noted along NH 315 between Kashi and Da Hu, Yingjiasha county. (1250-1320 metres)
Saxaul Sparrow	25 – 10 besides NH 315 near Ciytla and 15 in scrub near the Aral Reservoir. Birds were often noted together with Eurasian Tree Sparrows. (1260-1270 metres)
[Spanish Sparrow	1 bird, possibly this species, was seen in flight besides NH 315 near Ciytla. (1270 metres)]
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	40 widespread birds were noted along NH 315 between Kashi and Da Hu, Yingjiasha county. Birds were often noted together with Saxaul Sparrows. (1250-1320 metres)
White Wagtail	10 widespread birds were noted along NH 315 between Kashi and Da Hu, Yingjiasha county. (1250-1320 metres)
Citrine Wagtail	6 near NH 315 near Ciytla. (1270 metres)

MAMMALS

Tarim Hare	4 – 2 besides NH 315 near Ciytla and 2 more near the Aral Reservoir. (1260 and 1270 metres)
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Wednesday 3 August 2005. All day along provincial road S309 west of Kashi.

We left the hotel at 07:05hrs.

Shang A Tu Shi Gongshe 07:30hrs

Tu Ka Kou An. 39 kilometres from Kashi. 08:00hrs

The road forks in the village here, provincial road S212 continues on, making a sharp right turn in the village center and heading, apparently after 100 kilometres to the Tajikistan border. We continued straight and took provincial road S309 which also apparently ends up in Tajikistan (but takes a lot longer to get there, crossing the border at Yierkesitan, about 214 kilometres from Kashi). Immediately beyond the village of Tu Ka Kou An there's a broad, gently inclined wadi on the right and from this point on the environment is decidedly stark and arid.

Km post 49. 10 kilometres west of Tu Ka Kou An. (39° 44.2'N., 75° 28.8'E.). 2300 metres.

We stopped just short of the summit of a small pass, 10 kilometres west of Tu Ka Kou An and I spent just over one hour birding here (08:10-09:15hrs). From this site it's 52 kilometres at 123° back to Kashi.

The sun was still low in the sky and the 16°C temperature felt cold!

Birds here inc. –
Isabelline Wheatear

2 mobbing a fox sp.

Mongolian Trumpeter Finch	20 birds in total. Most birds were fly-overs although at least a couple of small family parties were seen on the ground. (2320 metres)
Isabelline Shrike	3
Common Raven	2
Carrion Crow	1 flew right past the Common Ravens as it headed east over the small pass.
fox sp.	1 being mobbed by two Isabelline Wheatears

Km post 55.5. Ke Zhou Ping Yuan Ling Chang Kang Xi Wa Er Fen Chang. (39° 43.2'N., 75° 23.5'E.). 2165 metres.

6.5 kilometres further west we stopped at a sizeable area of 'protected forest'. From this site its 57.3 kilometres at 117° back to Kashi. This strip of woodland when combined with the smaller area of scrub on the right side of the road in the valley bottom is about 3-4 kilometres long and almost 1 kilometre wide. I spent just over two hours here, initially entering the protected woodland via the main gate but soon discovering that there were workmen here and that this was a bit too noisy. Instead I exited the main gate and walked to the left, heading upriver, but stayed inside the forest.

Birds here inc. -	
Common Rosefinch	4 – including a singing male – apart from Crested Lark this was the first singing bird I'd heard in Xinjiang!
Desert Lesser Whitethroat	3
Sykes's Warbler	6
Barred Warbler	10
Azure Tit	15 – in two parties one of five birds and the other of about 10.
Eurasian Blackbird	2
Pied Wheatear	1
Common Swift	15
Black-billed Magpie	6

Kangxiwa chun. Km post 61. 12:10hrs

Km post 68.4. Grassland site 5.5 kms east of Wuqia. (39° 42.4'N., 75° 19.2'E.). 2130 metres.

An extensive area of fairly long (60 cm tall) grassland 5.5 kilometres before (east of) Wuqia. I spent about 30 minutes here. From this site its 62 kilometres at 112° to Kashi.

Birds here inc. -	
Rosy Starling	64 – all juveniles, a few of which were moulting to first-winter. No adults were seen.
Crested Lark	2
Black Kite	1
Isabelline Wheatear	2
Mongolian Trumpeter Finch	heard
Black Stork	1 adult was circling high overhead and eventually headed off east.
Common Swift	6

Wuqia. Km post 74. Had lunch in a small Muslim restaurant immediately before the petrol station.

Kang Su Zhen. Km post 97. 2300 metres.

Km post 105 (?) Gorge 8 kms west of Kang Su Zhen. (39° 45.7'N., 74° 58.2'E.). 2450 metres.

An impressive broad gorge about 8 kilometres west of Kang Su Zhen. I spent about 25 minutes here. From this site its 91.9 kilometres at 108° to Kashi.

Birds here inc. -	
Twite	8
Mongolian Trumpeter Finch	5
Barred Warbler	1
Black Redstart	1 female on roadside telegraph wires.

The road continues to climb beyond this gorge eventually peaking at what's not marked but is known as Aketuodaban (2945 metres). Km 137.

Km post 154. Jia Si Xiang. 2455 metres. 15:30hrs.

Common Cuckoo being fed by a Rufous-tailed Shrike!

Km post 160. 1.5 long roadside marsh with lots of scrub. (39° 48.9'N., 74° 24.9'E.). 2460 metres.

I walked about one kilometre along the road finally departing at 17:00hrs and heading back to Kashi. It took us about 2.5 hrs to reach our hotel.

Birds here inc. -	
Red-billed Chough	2 heard
Common Raven	1 heard
Sykes's Warbler	2
Barred Warbler	6
Desert Lesser Whitethroat	8

Hume's Lesser Whitethroat	1
Common Rosefinch	1 heard singing
Black-billed Magpie	2 heard
Common Cuckoo	1 juvenile at Jia Si Xiang (Km post 154) - it was being fed by a Rufous-tailed Shrike! (2455 metres)
Common Swift	30
Rock Pigeon	'Present' in and immediately around Kashi. (1400 metres)
Black Kite	1 at the grassland site 5.5 kms east of Wuqia (Km post 68.4). (2130 metres)
Common Kestrel	1 about 4 kms east of Wuqia (Km post 70). (2140 metres)
Black Stork	1 circled high over the grassland site 5.5 kms east of Wuqia (Km post 68.4) before heading off east. (2130 metres)
Rufous-tailed Shrike	20 - widespread
Black-billed Magpie	10 - 6 at Ke Zhou Ping Yuan Ling Chang Kang Xi Wa Er Fen Chang (Km post 55.5) and 4 more near Km post 160. (2165 and 2460 metres)
Red-billed Chough	2 were heard near Km post 160. (2460 metres)
Carrion Crow	2 - 1 flew east over the small pass 10 kms west of Tu Ka Kou An (Km post 49) and there was another near Km post 160. (2300 and 2460 metres)
Common Raven	3 - 2 at the summit of the small pass 10 kms west of Tu Ka Kou An (Km post 49) and 1 was heard near Km post 160. (2300 and 2460 metres)
Eurasian Blackbird	2 at Ke Zhou Ping Yuan Ling Chang Kang Xi Wa Er Fen Chang (Km post 55.5) (2165 metres)
Black Redstart	1 female on roadside telegraph wires in the gorge 8 kms west of Kang Su Zhen (Km post 105). (2450 metres)
Pied Wheatear	1 at Ke Zhou Ping Yuan Ling Chang Kang Xi Wa Er Fen Chang (Km post 55.5) (2165 metres)
Isabelline Wheatear	4 - a pair at the summit of the small pass 10 kms west of Tu Ka Kou An (Km post 49) and another pair at the grassland site 5.5 kms east of Wuqia (Km post 68.4). (2300 and 2130 metres)
Rosy Starling	64 at the grassland site 5.5 kms east of Wuqia (Km post 68.4). All were juveniles, a few of which were moulting to first-winter. No adults were seen. (2130 metres)
Azure Tit	20 - 15 (in two parties one of five birds and the other of about 10) at Ke Zhou Ping Yuan Ling Chang Kang Xi Wa Er Fen Chang (Km post 55.5) and 5 about 32 kms from Kashi (approximately 7 kms east of Tu Ka Kou An). (2165 and 1920 metres)
Barn Swallow	8
Sykes's Warbler	8 - 6 at Ke Zhou Ping Yuan Ling Chang Kang Xi Wa Er Fen Chang (Km post 55.5) and 2 near Km post 160. (2165 and 2460 metres)
Desert Lesser Whitethroat	10 - 2 at Ke Zhou Ping Yuan Ling Chang Kang Xi Wa Er Fen Chang (Km post 55.5) and 8 near Km post 160. (2165 and 2460 metres)
Hume's Whitethroat	1 was seen near Km post 160 (six kilometers west of the village of Jia Si Xiang). (2460 metres) This taxa has possibly not been recorded in China before.
Barred Warbler	20. These included 10 at Ke Zhou Ping Yuan Ling Chang Kang Xi Wa Er Fen Chang (Km post 55.5) and 6 near Km post 160. (2165 and 2460 metres)
Crested Lark	2 at the grassland site 5.5 kms east of Wuqia (Km post 68.4). (2130 metres)
White Wagtail	15 - widespread.
Citrine Wagtail	15 - widespread
Twite	8 in the gorge 8 kms west of Kang Su Zhen (Km post 105). (2450 metres)
Mongolian Finch	25 - 20 at the summit of the small pass 10 kms west of Tu Ka Kou An (Km post 49), another was heard at the grassland site 5.5 kms east of Wuqia (Km post 68.4) and at least 5 birds were in the gorge 8 kms west of Kang Su Zhen (Km post 105). (2130, 2300 and 2450 metres)
Common Rosefinch	5 - 4 at Ke Zhou Ping Yuan Ling Chang Kang Xi Wa Er Fen Chang (Km post 55.5) and 1 near Km post 160. (2165 and 2460 metres)

Thursday 4 August 2005. All day south-east of Kashi.

We again left the hotel at 07:00 and drove east-south-east down NH 315 for about 35 kms (30 minutes) before turning off left.

Junction off NH 315	07:30hrs
Ying Er Li Ke xiang	07:40hrs
Hadalike	
Aiximai zhen	08:07hrs
Xiabazha	08:14hrs
Yue Pu Hu xian	08:25hrs
Tieremu xiang	08:45hrs

A sizeable village with numerous street restaurants.

5 Desert Finches - initially seen near the top of one of the taller trees lining the road they soon dropped to the street and ended up picking up roadside scraps along with the Eurasian Tree Sparrows!

Dawakun. 09:30-10:20hrs. (39°03.0'N., 77°29.3'E.). 1170 metres.

A small lake and tourist resort surrounded by (apparently abandoned) fields and a few small fishponds with patches of fragmites. Access to the bird-less lake is through the main gates to the tourist complex where and 30 yuan/person fee is payable. I circumvented this heading left from the car park and turning right down a large drainage channel. From Dawakun it is 103 kms at 294° to Kashi.

Birds here included -	
Ruddy Shelduck	1 flew over
Rose-coloured Starling	3 flew over
Saxaul Sparrow	2 in the car park
Desert Finch	1 was heard in flight over the car park
Hume's Short-toed Lark	1 on the edge of the car park.

Ahonghuku Mu. 10:50-13:30hrs. (39°10.1'N., 77°14.5'E.). 1170 metres.

The two local names translate as 'Ancient graveyard' and 'Thousand year old trees'. Ahonghuku Mu is a compact and surprisingly dense woodland that's reputedly an old or even ancient forest. There are some old graves, that are themselves a locally well-known tourist spot, at the rear of the wood. From here it is 114 kms at 284° to Kashi.

Birds here included -	
Golden Oriole	10
Saxaul Sparrow	30
Barred Warbler	6

Weather: It was raining lightly when the driver picked us up in Kashi at 07:00hrs and continued to do so, on and off, all morning. It also became increasingly windy.

Our taxi had two punctures today – fortunately the second one was just as we'd arrived back in to Kashi at the end of the day. The spare tyre was already being used and we had to find a second vehicle to take us the six kilometres back to the hotel!

Ruddy Shelduck	1 flew over Dawakun, southeast of Kashi. (1170 metres)
Eurasian Hoopoe	2, 1 at Dawakun and the other at Ahonghuku Ma. (1170 metres)
Common Swift	4 at Dawakun. (1170 metres)
Rock Pigeon	'Present' in Kashi.
European Turtle Dove	1 juvenile at Ahonghuku Ma. (1170 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	20 between Kashi, Dawakun and Ahonghuku Ma. (1170-1250 metres)
Black-winged Stilt	6 near Dawakun. (1170 metres)
Black-headed Gull	1 on a river about 15 kms south-east of Kashi. (1230 metres)
Rufous-tailed Shrike	15 between Kashi, Dawakun and Ahonghuku Ma. (1170-1250 metres)
Carrion Crow	30 between Kashi, Dawakun and Ahonghuku Ma. (1170-1250 metres)
Eurasian Golden Oriole	10 – 9 at Ahonghuku Ma and 1 other between there and Dawakun. (1170 metres)
Rosy Starling	3 juveniles at Dawakun. (1170 metres)
Sand Martin	1 at Dawakun. (1170 metres)
Barn Swallow	10 between Kashi, Dawakun and Ahonghuku Ma. (1170-1250 metres)
Barred Warbler	10 at Ahonghuku Ma. (1170 metres)
Hume's Short-toed Lark	1 near the car park at Dawakun. (1170 metres).
Crested Lark	2 at Dawakun. (1170 metres).
Saxaul Sparrow	30 – 2 in the car park at Dawakun and the rest in the woodland at Ahonghuku Ma. (1170 metres).
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	20 between Kashi, Dawakun and Ahonghuku Ma. (1170-1250 metres)
White Wagtail	10 between Kashi, Dawakun and Ahonghuku Ma. (1170-1250 metres)
Citrine Wagtail	4 at Dawakun. (1170 metres)
Desert Finch	6 – 5 in Tieremu xiang and 1 over the car park at Dawakun. (Tieremu xiang is about three-quarters of the way between Kashi and Dawakun and the birds here were initially seen close the top of one of the taller trees lining the road but soon dropped to the street and ended up picking up roadside scraps along with the Eurasian Tree Sparrows!)

Friday 5 August 2005. All day west of Kashi – drove to Bositan Lieke (Bosten Terek of some)

We left the hotel at 07:05hrs and headed west eventually arriving at Bositan Lieke.

35 minutes from Kashi the hard surfaced road finished about 5 kms before Wupaer xiang. (Note however that work was ongoing on this road and its scheduled to be hard surfaced all the way from Kashi to the summit of the Kunjerab Pass and the Pakistan border by August 2006.)

Wupaer xiang 45 minutes drive west of Kashi.

Turn off west (right) at the start of Wupaer xiang – the turning is small and indistinct but is sign posted to the tomb of Mohamood Kashgari. This large tomb is only about 5 minutes off the main road. The route around the tomb and on to the even smaller road out through an increasingly arid desert to Bositan Lieke is not very obvious either.

Bositan Lieke is about a 60-70 minute drive on a stony minor road (as yesterday our taxi, a different one today, had two punctures!) between Wupaer xiang & Bositan Lieke. The desert was remarkably birdless – a handful of Crested and what were probably Hume's Short-toed Larks, Isabelline Wheatears, a single Kestrel and a small westward movement of Barn Swallows and Common Swifts were the only birds of note. Highlight of the drive was undoubtedly a small party of Goitred Gazelles.

Bositan Lieke. (39°19.3'N., 75°04.5'E.). 2153 metres.

We arrived at this surprisingly large and sprawling village at 11:10hrs. There were numerous large trees lining the avenues – these contained good numbers of Azure Tits. The impressive Pamir Mountains started about 7 kilometres to the south of the village and had some fairly impressive conifer forests on their mid-slopes. These looked very difficult to access however.

A dust storm blew up just before midday and became increasingly strong forcing a premature return to Kashi. After a non-stop drive we eventually arrived back at the hotel at 17:00hrs.

Eurasian Hoopoe	5 at Bositan Lieke. (2150 metres)
Common Cuckoo	2 juveniles at Bositan Lieke. 1 was again being fed by a Rufous-tailed Shrike! (2150 metres)
Common Swift	40 high over at Bositan Lieke. (2150 metres)
nightjar sp.	1 bird was seen over the road before dawn about 15 kms west of Kashi. On status it is most likely to have been a Eurasian Nightjar. (1420 metres)
Rock Pigeon	'Present' in several of the towns and larger villages.
Eurasian Collared Dove	5 between Kashi and Bositan Lieke. (1400-2150 metres)
Common Kestrel	1 over the desert close to Bositan Lieke. (2130 metres)
Rufous-tailed Shrike	10 between Kashi and Bositan Lieke. (1650-2150 metres)
Carriion Crow	15 between Kashi and Bositan Lieke. (1650-2150 metres)
Common Raven	2 in the desert close to Bositan Lieke. (1965 metres)
Desert Wheatear	1 male in the desert about 6 kms before Bositan Lieke. (1980 metres)
Isabelline Wheatear	6 in the desert between Wupaer xiang and Bositan Lieke. (1515-2150 metres)
Azure Tit	15 at Bositan Lieke. (2150 metres)
Sand Martin	2 flew west, with Barn Swallows, over the desert near Bositan Lieke. (2020 metres)
Barn Swallow	50 birds were estimated today – there was a steady trickle of birds heading west low over the desert near Bositan Lieke. (1820-2150 metres)
Barred Warbler	5 at Bositan Lieke. (2150 metres)
Hume's Short-toed Lark	6 in the desert near Bositan Lieke. (2020-2150 metres)
Crested Lark	3 in the desert about midway between Wupaer xiang and Bositan Lieke. (1505 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	30 at Bositan Lieke. (2150 metres)
White Wagtail	6 – 2 in Wupaer xiang and 4 at Bositan Lieke. (1400 and 2150 metres)
Citrine Wagtail	2 were heard at Bositan Lieke. (2150 metres)

MAMMALS

Goitred Gazelle	A party of 6 (including 1 adult male and 1 youngster) were seen in the desert two-thirds of the way from Wupaer xiang to Bositan Lieke. (39°19.9'N., 75°19.0'E.). (1580 metres). From this site it is 57.8 kms at 72° to Kashi. (Photo)
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About 12 small lizards were also seen – one was photographed.

Saturday 6 August 2005. Drove south from Kashi to Tashikurgan.

We left the hotel at 07:05hrs and headed south towards the Kunjerab Pass and the Pakistan border. We made numerous stops as we drove south, some of them brief, some not and eventually arrived at Tashikurgan at 19:10hrs. The road was poor for more than half of the drive – being un-surfaced and stony. Note however that its currently being worked on and is expected to be completely hard surfaced all the way to the Pakistan border by the end of August 2006.

Note also that NH 314 from Kashi to Tashikurgan (alternatively Tashkurgan) is kept open all year round – it closes each winter once or twice after heavy snowfall (and occasionally with landslides) but is, according to our taxi driver, rarely closed for more than two or three days at a time. The continuation of this road from Tashikurgan to the summit of the Kunjerab Pass is only open from April to October. Note that foreigners and Chinese alike MUST obtain a travel permit from the police station in Kashi even to drive to Tashikurgan. These permits are free and both quick and easy to obtain – but you'll need your passport. Foreigners are NOT allowed to travel beyond Tashikurgan unless they have a Pakistan entry visa in their passport. The Kunjerab Pass is about 127 kms from Tashikurgan and even Chinese citizens are only allowed to travel the first 100 kms of this road – they also need a Pakistan entry visa to proceed further. Even if you have a Pakistan entry visa another travel permit for

the road from Tashikurgan to the Kunjerab Pass must also be obtained in Tashikurgan. We were told, unofficially, that this permit can take a couple of days to obtain!

Kashi to Tashikurgan is about 300 kms (Kashi is at Km post *Ca.* 1464 and Tashikurgan at Km post *Ca.* 1750). Several Kashi taxi drivers told us that its currently about a seven hour, non-stop drive. I think that it might be closer to eight hours.

Left Kashi 07:05hrs

San Bei Protected Woodland – an attractive area of roadside scrub and small trees 1.5 hrs drive south of Kashi (and about 40 minutes south of the turning to Bositen Lieke). (1610 metres)

Aoyitake cun (or alternatively Aoyitagh). 2 hrs south of Kashi. 1775 metres. A small village with trees and scrub. Km post 1549.

Gaizi gorge and Gaizi river is immediately south of Aoyitake cum.

Tuo Mu Yi. 2000 metres. Km post 1567. 09:25hrs.

Gaizi. 10:05hrs. Km post 1589. 2350 metres. There's a military manned check post here where road permits and passports are checked. PHOTOGRAPHY IS PROHIBITED HERE.

Km post 1602.5. Area of low scrub on shallow scree slope up to the west of the road. (38°45.8'N., 75°11.5'E.). 2810 metres.

We spent about 40 minutes at this site. From here its 102 kms at 37° to Kashi.

Birds here inc. -	
Sulphur-breasted Warbler	2
Mongolian Finch	2
Plain Mountain Finch	8
Common Rosefinch	3

Bulunkou Hu (alternatively Liu Sha He). Km post 1620. (38°43.5'N., 75°00.6'E.). 3280 metres.

From here its 116 kms at 42° to Kashi.

Birds here inc. -	
Desert Wheatear	2
Mongolian Finch	2
Common Sandpiper	3
Green Sandpiper	1
Common Merganser	3 redheads

Tibetan Sandgrouse site at Km post 1629. (38°40.4'N., 74°58.5'E.). 3383 metres.

I stopped on the road beyond the southern end of Bulunkou Hu to view another marsh down slope to the west. While scooping the marsh I heard an unfamiliar noise upslope behind me. I soon found the culprits – a pair of Tibetan Sandgrouse that were flying south. The birds circled a couple of times (and continued to call constantly) before landing way up on the scree slope above the road. They landed near a large and very conspicuous rectangular (3.5 metres x 3.5 metres x 4 metres) rock about 1.38 kms off the road. Despite a two-hour search I couldn't find them.

Birds here inc. -	
Tibetan Sandgrouse	2, a pair, flew in from the south and circled around calling before dropping on to the scree slope above Km post 1629 on NH 314. They landed near a large and very conspicuous rectangular (3.5 metres x 3.5 metres x 4 metres) rock about 1.38 kms off the road upslope. Seen at exactly 12:30hrs I couldn't re-find them despite a two-hour search. (38°40.4'N., 74°58.5'E.). (3380 metres)
Mongolian Finch	2. (3390 metres)
Desert Wheatear	2. (3385 metres)
Horned Lark	2 males. (3380 and 3400 metres)
Hume's Short-toed Lark	8 besides the road. (3380 metres)

Kalakuli Hu. Km post 1655. (38°40.2'N., 74°58.3'E.). 3654 metres.

There are two lakes here – a smaller and lower northern one and a larger, more touristy southern one.

Birds here included -	
White-winged Snowfinch	6, a family party, near the smaller Kalakuli Hu at Km post 1655. (3650 metres)
Common Merganser	7 redheads on the larger, upper Kalakuli Hu at Km post 1656. (3660 metres)
Mallard	5
Common Pochard	2
Tufted Duck	2
Pallas's Gull	1 juvenile moulting to first-winter
Common Coot	2

Summit of the Shubashi Daban Pass. Km post 1685.

This pass, about 65 kms north of Tashikurgan, marks the boundaries of the Aketo county to the north and Tashikurgan county to the south. A small dirt track leads off to the left (east) immediately after the summit and is sign posted to 'Muztaga Ice Mountain' a spectacular, massive peak.

Sightings here inc. -

Red Marmot

Ca.20 around the summit of the Shubashi Daban Pass near Km post 1685. (3960-4080 metres)

Reyake Police Station. 3360 metres. 18:08hrs. A small station surrounded by trees.

Taheman xiang.

Fields at southern end of Taheman xiang - at Km post 1735 on NH 314. (37°55.1'N., 75°10.8'E.). 3085 metres.

We spent about 15 minutes at this site. From here its 184 kms at 19° back to Kashi.

Birds here inc. -

Northern House Martin	8.
Sand Martin	1.
House Sparrow	10.
Long-tailed Shrike	1.

Turning to Xiabandi HEP station. 3060 metres. 18:50hrs.

The roadside / riverside area from 3 kms south of the turning to Xiabandi HEP station all the way to Tashikurgan looks very promising. The valley bottom is green and lush with healthy looking crops, bushes and stands of trees. It all looks like a very promising migration site. Perhaps the best singles area is centred around Tiziyipu xiang (3060 metres).

Arrived Tashikurgan Police Station at 19:10hrs and went to enquire about access further south along NH314.

Arrived at the Bengleixin Hotel, Tashikurgan 19:30hrs.

Tashikurgan. Km post 1754 on NH 314. (37°46.7'N., 75°13.2'E.). 3105 metres.

Mallard	5 on the larger, upper Kalakuli Hu at Km post 1656 on NH 314. (3660 metres)
Common Pochard	2 on the larger, upper Kalakuli Hu at Km post 1656 on NH 314. (3660 metres)
Tufted Duck	4 on the larger, upper Kalakuli Hu at Km post 1656 on NH 314. (3660 metres)
Common Merganser	10 redheads - 3 on Bulunkou Hu near Km post 1620 and 7 more on the larger, upper Kalakuli Hu at Km post 1656 on NH 314. (3280 and 3660 metres)
Eurasian Hoopoe	2 - both were in the agricultural area immediately south of Kashi. (1510 and 1560 metres)
Common Cuckoo	8 juveniles were noted along NH 314 between Kashi and Tashikurgan. (1545-3295 metres)
Common Swift	10 in the Gaizi gorge south of Aoyitake cun and 2 hours drive south of Kashi on NH 314. (1965 metres)
Rock Pigeon	'Present' at least in the agricultural areas south of Kashi.
Hill Pigeon	10 in the desert about 10 kms after Kalakuli Hu (Km post 1656 on NH 314). (3795 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	10 - all in the agricultural area south of Kashi.
Eurasian Coot	2 on the larger, upper Kalakuli Hu at Km post 1656 on NH 314. (3660 metres)
Tibetan Sandgrouse	2, a pair, flew in from the south and circled around calling before dropping on to the barren, large-rock scree slope above Km post 1629 on NH 314 between Kashi and Tashikurgan. They landed near a large and very conspicuous rectangular (3.5 metres x 3.5 metres x 4 metres) rock about 1.38 kms off the road upslope. Seen at exactly 12:30hrs I couldn't re-find them despite a two hour search. (38°40.4'N., 74°58.5'E.). The altitude, 3380 metres, seems to be exceptionally low - Rasmussen, P. and Anderton, C. (2005) <i>Birds of South Asia: The Ripley Guide</i> give the (extralimital) altitudinal range in Ladakh and Lahul (N. Himachal), India as '4200-5400m, perhaps as low as 3800m in winter.' Surprisingly Tibetan Sandgrouse has not been recorded in Pakistan!
Green Sandpiper	1 at Bulunkou Hu near Km post 1620 on NH 314. (3280 metres)
Common Sandpiper	3 near Km post 1620 on NH 314 at Bulunkou Hu. (3280 metres)
Pallas's Gull	1 juvenile moulting to first-winter was seen on the larger, upper Kalakuli Hu at Km post 1656 on NH 314. (3660 metres)
Common Kestrel	1 in the agricultural area immediately south of Kashi. (1510 metres)
Rufous-tailed Shrike	10 - these included several in the agricultural fields south of Kashi. The highest was at 2095 metres.
Long-tailed Shrike	1 at Km post 1735 on NH 314 near Taheman xiang and about 18 kms by road north of Tashikurgan. (3085 metres). Having a blue-grey crown and nape, prominent blackish eye mask with a barely perceptible narrow white supra-ocular line above this and a pale grey mantle that shaded in to extensively rufous scapulars the bird clearly belonged to <i>L. schach erythronotus</i> of the NW Himalayas and, as such, might be a new taxa for China. Note that the altitude significantly exceeds that give for this species in MacKinnon and Phillipps of 'up to 1600m' and is even slightly higher than the extralimital South Asian altitudinal range quoted in Rasmussen, P. and Anderton, C. (2005) <i>Birds of South Asia: The Ripley Guide</i> of 'up to 3000m.'
Black-billed Magpie	5 in the agricultural area immediately south of Kashi.
Yellow-billed Chough	15 - all of these were in the area near Km post 1597.5 towards the southern end of the Gaizi gorge on NH 314. All of these birds were well up slope to the right (west) of the road. (2770-2970 metres)

Carrion Crow	20 - with birds widely scattered between the agricultural area immediately south of Kashi erratically all the way to Tashikurgan. (2370-3215 metres)
Common Raven	10 – these included 2 near Kalakuli Hu at Km post 1656 and most of the remainder in Tashikurgan town. (3715, 3765 metres)
Black Redstart	12. The first 2 were at Km post 1572. (2080 metres to at least 2655 metres)
Pied Wheatear	8 in the area in and immediately south of the Gaizi gorge (south of Aoyitake cun) and 2 hours drive south of Kashi. Birds were noted between Km posts 1561 and 1571. (1940, 2065, 2100, 2155, 2225 and 2355 metres)
Desert Wheatear	10. These included 2 near Km post 1620 at Bulunkou Hu, 2 at the ‘Tibetan Sandgrouse site’ at Km post 1629, 2 near Kalakuli Hu at Km post 1656 and 2 near the summit of the Shubashi Daban Pass. (3280-4070 metres)
Rosy Starling	A flock of 30 about 1.5 hrs drive south of Kashi. (1715 metres)
Sand Martin	1 about 20 kms north of Tashikurgan at Km post 1734 on NH 314. (3085 metres)
Eurasian Crag Martin	1 besides NH 314 between Kashi and Tashikurgan. (3340 metres)
Northern House Martin	9 - 1 in the Gaizi gorge south of Aoyitake cun (and 2 hours south of Kashi) and 8 others about 20 kms north of Tashikurgan at Km post 1734 on NH 314. (1955 and 3085 metres)
Sulphur-bellied Warbler	2 on the scrubby hillside near Km post 1602.5 (3-4 kms above Gaizi). (2810 metres)
Barred Warbler	4 in roadside trees and scrub at Aoyitake – 2 hrs drive south of Kashi and near Km post 1549. (1775 metres)
Hume's Short-toed Lark	8 besides the road at the ‘Tibetan Sandgrouse site’ at Km post 1629. (3380 metres)
Horned Lark	6 – these included 2 at the ‘Tibetan Sandgrouse site’ at Km post 1629 and others near the summit of the Shubashi Daban Pass. (3380-4070 metres)
House Sparrow	20 – 10 about 20 kms north of Tashikurgan at Km post 1734 on NH 314 and at least 10 more in Tashikurgan itself. (3085 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	5
White-winged Snowfinch	8 – these included a family party of 6 near the smaller Kalakuli Hu at Km post 1655. (3650 metres)
White Wagtail	10
Citrine Wagtail	10. (3085-3340 metres)
Twite	4 on the scrubby hillside near Km post 1602.5. (2810 metres)
Plain Mountain Finch	8 – all on the scrubby hillside near Km post 1602.5 (3-4 kms above Gaizi). (2810 metres)
Mongolian Finch	6 - 2 on the scrubby hillside near Km post 1602.5 (3-4 kms above Gaizi), 2 more near Km post 1620 at Bulunkou Hu and 2 more at the ‘Tibetan Sandgrouse site’ at Km post 1629. (2810, 3280 and 3390 metres)
Common Rosefinch	3 on the scrubby hillside near Km post 1602.5 (3-4 kms above Gaizi). (2810 metres)

MAMMALS

Woolly Hare	4 at the ‘Tibetan Sandgrouse site’ up slope from Km post 1629. (3380-3420 metres)
Red Marmot	Ca.20 around the summit of the Shubashi Daban Pass near Km post 1685. (3960-4080 metres)

Sunday 7 August 2005. All day around Tashikurgan.

We left the hotel at 08:00hrs intending to spend a short amount of time birding immediately around Tashikurgan before heading back to Kashi. In the event there were lots of birds here and we changed our plans to stay another day. I birded until about 13:00hrs, by which time it was very hot (probably about 33°C) and rather quiet.

Common Quail	1 was heard, tape recorded and subsequently seen in fields only about 200 metres from the Benglexin hotel, on the northern edge of Tashikurgan. Heard calling almost as soon as I left the hotel at 08:00hrs it had stopped calling by 09:15hrs. (3105 metres)
Eurasian Hoopoe	12 in and around Tashikurgan. (3105 metres)
Common Cuckoo	8 juveniles in and around Tashikurgan. (3105 metres)
Common Swift	5 over Tashikurgan. (3100 metres)
Rock Pigeon	Common in and around Tashikurgan.
Hill Pigeon	At least 150 in and around Tashikurgan. (3105 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	3 near the Benglexin hotel, Tashikurgan. (3105 metres)
Common Tern	1 adult in the marsh flanking the river on the eastern side of Tashikurgan. (3080 metres)
‘Red-capped’ Peregrine Falcon	1 juvenile was seen hunting over fields on the edge of Tashikurgan. (3105 metres). The race concerned, <i>babylonicus</i> , is often treated as a subspecies of Barbary Falcon <i>F. peregrinoides</i> but I follow Rasmussen and Anderton in treating it as a form of Peregrine Falcon. <i>F. peregrinus babylonicus</i> .
Red-billed Chough	At least 100 birds, in several flocks, flew east over Tashikurgan on the early morning. What were undoubtedly these same birds were later seen feeding in fields towards the river on the town’s eastern edge. (2980-3110 metres)
Carrion Crow	15 in and around Tashikurgan. (3105 metres)
Common Raven	1 flew south over the centre of Tashikurgan. (3105 metres)
Rosy Starling	A flock of 15 juveniles were seen in the Tashikurgan fields. (3105 metres)
Azure Tit	8 birds were seen in the trees lining the main NH 314 on the northern edge of Tashikurgan. (3105 metres)
Mountain Chiffchaff	10 in and around Tashikurgan. Birds were widespread and were seen in trees lining NH 314 to the south of the village and in on the eastern side of town, down between the ruined old fort walls and the marsh besides the river. Several birds were seen feeding young and one even gave a couple of brief song strophes. (2980-3105 metres)
Barred Warbler	1 juvenile was seen on the southern edge of Tashikurgan. (3105 metres)
Hume's Short-toed Lark	2 flew south over Tashikurgan. (3105 metres)
House Sparrow	At least 150 birds were noted in and around Tashikurgan. (3105 metres)
White Wagtail	10 in and around Tashikurgan. (3105 metres)
Citrine Wagtail	20 in and around Tashikurgan. (3105 metres)
Twite	2 singles were seen in fields on the northern edge of Tashikurgan. (3105 metres)
Mongolian Finch	2 flew over the southern edge of Tashikurgan. (3105 metres)
Common Rosefinch	6 in and around Tashikurgan. (3105 metres)

Monday 8 August 2005. Drove from Tashikurgan back to Kashi.

We left Tashikurgan in heavy rain at 08:15hrs and headed back to Kashi. It continued to rain until the mid-afternoon and the road, difficult enough when dry, was a real challenge for the driver. We eventually arrived back at Kashi at about 17:45hrs – having made very few stops of any consequence.

The stops I did make today included -

Fields at southern end of Taheman xiang - at Km post 1735 on NH 314. (37°55.1'N., 75°10.8'E.). 3085 metres.

We spent about 30 minutes at this site. From here its 184 kms at 19° back to Kashi.

Birds here inc. -	
Long-tailed Shrike	1
Rock Sparrow	4
Rose-coloured Starling	6 juveniles

Kalakuli Hu at Km post 1655. (38°40.2'N., 74°58.3'E.). 3654 metres.

There are two lakes here – a smaller and lower northern one and a larger, more touristy southern one.

We spent about 15 minutes scanning the upper, larger lake.

Birds here inc. –	
Great Crested Grebe	2 adult-summers
Black-necked Grebe	2 adult-summers
Mallard	5
Northern Shoveler	1
Northern Pintail	1
Tufted Duck	4
Common Merganser	11 - 5 redheads and another redhead with 5 tiny (and locally fledged?) young.
Common Coot	1
Redshank	1 juvenile
Common Sandpiper	5
Common Tern	4 adult-summers

Bulunkou Hu (alternatively Liu Sha He). Km post 1620. (38°43.5'N., 75°00.6'E.). 3280 metres.

From here its 116 kms at 42° to Kashi.

Birds here inc. -	
Common Merganser	3 redheads on the small pool near Km post 1624
Desert Wheatear	16 on the southern, silted up end of Bulunkou Hu – around Km post 1626.5. (3290 metres)

San Bei Protected Woodland

An attractive area of roadside scrub and small trees 1.5 hrs drive south of Kashi (and about 40 minutes south of the turning to Bositen Lieke). (1610 metres)

Birds here inc. –	
Barred Warbler	6
Common Cuckoo	1 juvenile

Mallard	5 on Kalakuli Hu (Km post 1655 on the Tashikurgan to Kashi NH 314). (3654 metres).
Northern Shoveler	1 adult male on Kalakuli Hu (Km post 1655 on the Tashikurgan to Kashi NH 314). (3654 metres).
Northern Pintail	1 on Kalakuli Hu (Km post 1655 on the Tashikurgan to Kashi NH 314). (3654 metres).
Tufted Duck	4 on Kalakuli Hu (Km post 1655 on the Tashikurgan to Kashi NH 314). (3654 metres).
Common Merganser	14 – six redheads, one with five tiny (and locally fledged?) young on Kalakuli Hu (Km post 1655 on the Tashikurgan to Kashi NH 314) and 3 more redheads on Bulunkou Hu (alternatively Liu Sha He) (Km post 1620). (3654 and 3280 metres respectively).
Eurasian Wryneck	1 near Tashikurgan. (3105 metres)
Eurasian Hoopoe	6 from NH 314 between Tashikurgan and Kashi.
Common Cuckoo	2 juveniles from NH 314 between Tashikurgan and Kashi.
Common Swift	10 over the San Bei Protected Woodland, 1.5 hours drive south of Kashi.
Rock Pigeon	'Present'
Hill Pigeon	At least 10 in and around Tashikurgan.
Eurasian Collared Dove	5 in the lowlands close to Kashi.
Eurasian Coot	1 on Kalakuli Hu (Km post 1655 on the Tashikurgan to Kashi NH 314). (3654 metres).
Common Redshank	1 juvenile besides Kalakuli Hu (Km post 1655 on the Tashikurgan to Kashi NH 314). (3654 metres).
Common Sandpiper	5 besides Kalakuli Hu (Km post 1655 on the Tashikurgan to Kashi NH 314). (3654 metres).
Common Tern	4 summer plumaged adults over Kalakuli Hu (Km post 1655 on the Tashikurgan to Kashi NH 314). (3654 metres).
Great Crested Grebe	4 – 2 adult-summers on Kalakuli Hu (Km post 1655 on the Tashikurgan to Kashi NH 314) and 2 more on Bulunkou Hu (alternatively Liu Sha He) (Km post 1620). (3654 and 3280 metres respectively).
Black-necked Grebe	2 summer plumaged adults on Kalakuli Hu (Km post 1655 on the Tashikurgan to Kashi NH 314). (3654 metres).

Rufous-tailed Shrike	2 besides the San Bei Protected Woodland, 1.5 hours drive south of Kashi.
Long-tailed Shrike	1 again near Taheman xiang (Km post 1735 on NH 314) and about 18 kms by road north of Tashikurgan. (3085 metres).
Carrion Crow	15 between Tashikurgan and Kashi.
Common Raven	2 near the summit of the Shubashi Daban Pass at Km post 1685.
Black Redstart	1 besides the road about 5 kms south of Gaizi.
Desert Wheatear	20 including 16 on the southern, silted up end of Bulunkou Hu – around Km post 1626.5. (3290 metres)
Rosy Starling	6 near Taheman xiang (Km post 1735 on NH 314) and about 18 kms by road north of Tashikurgan. (3085 metres).
Barn Swallow	4 in the lowlands near Kashi.
Mountain Chiffchaff	1 was heard singing at Tiziyipu xiang about 8 kms south of Tashikurgan. (3060 metres)
Barred Warbler	6 in the San Bei Protected Woodland, 1.5 hours drive south of Kashi.
Hume's Short-toed Lark	2 near Taheman xiang (Km post 1735 on NH 314) and about 18 kms by road north of Tashikurgan. (3085 metres).
Horned Lark	4 near the summit of the Shubashi Daban Pass at Km post 1685.
House Sparrow	30 between Tashikurgan and Kashi.
Rock Sparrow	4 near Taheman xiang (Km post 1735 on NH 314) and about 18 kms by road north of Tashikurgan. (3085 metres).
White Wagtail	25 between Tashikurgan and Kashi.
Citrine Wagtail	20 between Tashikurgan and Kashi.
Grey Wagtail	1 near Taheman xiang (Km post 1735 on NH 314) and about 18 kms by road north of Tashikurgan. (3085 metres).
Mongolian Finch	1 near Taheman xiang (Km post 1735 on NH 314) and about 18 kms by road north of Tashikurgan. (3085 metres).

Tuesday 9 August 2005. Kashi to Bachu via Tuokaeyi and Xikerer reservoirs.

We left Kashi at 07:00hrs and drove north to Bachu. We'd intended to visit Xiao Hai Zi reservoir and then drive on to Aksu for three nights however we stumbled across the bird-thrugged Tuokaeyi reservoir an hour's drive north of Kashi and stayed there until the early afternoon. This made it impossible for us to continue with our planned visit to visit Xiao Hai Zi reservoir and get to Aksu for the night.

Our driver told us, once we'd discovered Tuokaeyi reservoir, that it is a seven hour, non-stop drive up NH 314 from Kashi to Aksu and that there are a total of three reservoirs on route. Tuokaeyi is the southernmost and smallest, Xikerer is in the centre and finally the largest and northernmost is Xiao Hai Zi.

Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county. Km post 1403. (39°46.8'N., 76°20.9'E.). 1235 metres.

I spent about five hours (07:40-12:45hrs) birding around this reservoir (also known as Ahu Reservoir) a site that is only a 40 minute drive (Ca.64 kms) up NH 314 from Kashi. (Direct distance it is 48.2 kms at 219° back to Kashi).

It's a fairly small (3 kilometre diameter), sort of circular (and possibly quite shallow?) reservoir lying about 800 metres off the right (east) side of NH 314. The reservoir is about 6-8kms north (Aksu side of) the county town of Atushi and about 2-3 kms south (Kashi side) of the small village of Ba Qiang and 3-4 kms south of the large Ba Qiang Da Qiao (Ba Qiang Bridge).

I initially stopped the taxi near Km post 1405 and walked, across the main Urumqi to Kashi railway line, down towards the edge of the reservoir. However access right to the shoreline here is prevented by a fairly large dyke and I had to 'scope birds from about 50 metres short of the reservoir's western shoreline. After birding here for a while I returned to the taxi and we drove north a couple of kilometres finding a small dirt road off to the right (east) at Km post 1403. This track soon led to the reservoir's embankment and we drove around the top of this for a couple of kilometres stopping regularly. There's a complex of fishponds with reed beds and willow trees /diversifolius poplars at the northeast corner of the reservoir and perhaps 100 gulls congregated here to feed and roost. At the eastern edge of the reservoir there's a small (100 metre x 30 metre) reed bed that held a number of *acrocephalus* warblers and a party of confiding Bearded Parrotbills.

Highlights included large numbers (2000+) of waterfowl, especially Garganey and Ruddy Shelduck, on the reservoir; three decent raptors (two Long-legged Buzzards [the first I'd seen in Xinjiang] and a single White-tailed Eagle and a Lesser Kestrel), a party of very confiding Bearded Parrotbills and at least three Blyth's Reed Warblers in the same marsh as at least two *fuscus* Eurasian Reed Warblers! The whole area was excellent and would certainly have repaid more visits.

Birds here inc. -	
Ruddy Shelduck	585
Gadwall	46
Mallard	85
Northern Shoveler	4
Northern Pintail	27
Garganey	1150
Red-crested Pochard	8, including one eclipse male.
Common Pochard	24
Ferruginous Pochard	37
Tufted Duck	8
Eurasian Wigeon	2
Common Merganser	2 redheads
Common Coot	60+
Eurasian Kingfisher	1
Common Redshank	20

Common Greenshank	7
Wood Sandpiper	1
Temminck's Stint	1 flew over
Black-winged Stilt	30
Pied Avocet	6
Kentish Plover	20
Pallas's Gull	53 including perhaps 15 juveniles several of which were still begging from their parents.
Common Tern	100+
Little Tern	8 – all of those seen close enough to be aged were juveniles.
White-winged Black Tern	1 moulting summer plumaged adult
White-tailed Eagle	1 immature (perhaps a second calendar-year bird?)
Long-legged Buzzard	2 (one of which was an adult)
Lesser Kestrel	1, a first-summer male, was seen well as it was perched on electricity wires besides the road at Km post 1403.
Eurasian Hobby	1 juvenile
Great Crested Grebe	100+
Black-necked Grebe	3
Grey Heron	37
Blyth's Reed Warbler	3 very vociferous birds in the reed bed at the north-eastern side of the reservoir
Eurasian Reed Warbler	At least 2 in the reed bed at the north-eastern side of the reservoir
Bearded Parrotbill	A party of 11 in the reed bed at the north-eastern side of the reservoir and at least two others in one of the reed filled drainage ditches near the fishponds on the northern edge.

Leaving the Tuokaeyi Reservoir at 12:45hrs we continued on up NH 314 towards Aksu. (Note that Aksu is at Km post 1000 on NH 314). The road soon heads through a very desolate rocky and barren area and stays in very arid countryside as far north as Sanchakou (Km 1218).

Hong Qi Nong Chang Km post 1399 on NH 314

Ba Pan Shui Mo Km post 1371 on NH 314. 13:15hrs (30 minutes from the Tuokaeyi Reservoir)

There's an attractive area of scrubby bushes on the eastern side of NH 314 at Km post 1364 (less than 5 minutes north of Ba Pan Shui Mo).

Xikerer Reservoir. Km post 1320. (39°48.8'N., 77°17.5'E.). 1430 metres.

We arrived at this large reservoir at 13:50hrs (1 hour after leaving the Tuokaeyi Reservoir). I initially stopped adjacent to the reservoir's south-western end and again walked across the railway line and down to the shoreline. It was immediately obvious that there were far fewer birds here than at the previous stop – just a few gulls and rather little else. The reservoir's much larger than the one at Tuokaeyi – its probably 4.5-6 kms long and not quite as wide. The reservoir is named after Xikerer xiang, a small village on NH 314 that has numerous restaurants that are famed for their locally caught fish and chicken dishes, and a basic guest house (that charges 10 yuan/room). Note that the reservoir had about five small fishing boats out on it and numerous strings of fishing nets and fish traps – there was nothing like that at Tuokaeyi reservoir, just a handful of fishermen sitting around the embankment.

A small river flows in to the reservoir's north-western corner making access to here awkward. There's a very extensive area of small bushes (diversifolius poplars?) in the wetlands at the reservoir's western end. It was already 30°C when I arrived and there was considerable heat haze over the reservoir – however there really weren't very many birds here and the haze didn't really spoil what was already a disappointing visit. After birding here we drove on in to the village, turning right in the centre and heading down the eastern embankment. I walked a short distance down here before we returned to the village for lunch/dinner. There are a few stands of tall reeds well out in the reservoir's eastern end. After the riches at Tuokayi this was a disappointing site.

Birds here inc. -	
Common Greenshank	18
Great Crested Grebe	20
Pallas's Gull	25+
Eurasian Nightjar	1 was flushed from under bushes along the reservoir's eastern embankment. It soon landed and afforded excellent views. (Photos)
Laughing Dove	3 in Xikerer village. A pair were seen copulating.

We finally left Xikerer at 17:00hrs continuing northeast up NH 314.

Junction off to the right at Km post 1246. It leads, after about 15 kilometres, to Bachu Jianyu (Bachu Prison). 17:55hrs.

Toll booth (the third of the day – though all were unfinished and no tolls were being collected – not for much longer though) at Km post 1231. 18:00hrs.

Sanchakou zhen. Km post 1218. 18:15hrs (1hour and 15 minutes north-east of Xikerer). This village again has quite a number of roadside restaurants, a petrol station and a couple of small guest houses. We spent 10 minutes here before turning off NH 314 on to Provincial Road S215 that leads, after 23 kms, to Bachu. The road apparently continues on to Shache (207 kms from Bachu).

Anakule xiang - a small village that's surrounded by attractive, rich-looking agricultural fields between Kms 13-15.5 on the Sanchakou zhen to Bachu portion of S215. The fields here looked very inviting ornithologically.

Bachu railway station is at about Km post 16 on route S215.

We arrived in Bachu at 18:45hrs (1 hour and 45 minutes after leaving Xikerer). We quickly found what was reputedly the best hotel in town, the Luxiang hotel and checked in.

Luxiang Hotel, Bachu. (39°47.1'N., 78°32.4'E.). 1122 metres.

From the hotel it's 211 kms at 40° to Aksu and 223 kms at 258° to Kashi.

Ruddy Shelduck	600 – 585 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314) and about 15 on Xikerer Reservoir (Km post 1320 on NH 314). (1235 and 1430 metres).
Gadwall	46 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Eurasian Wigeon	2 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Mallard	85 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Northern Shoveler	4 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Northern Pintail	27 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Garganey	1150 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Red-crested Pochard	8, including one eclipse adult male, on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Common Pochard	24 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Ferruginous Pochard	37 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Tufted Duck	8 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Common Merganser	2 redheads on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Eurasian Hoopoe	2 singles flew south over the marsh at the eastern side of Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Common Kingfisher	1 in the drainage channel along the south-western side of Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Common Swift	10 over Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Eurasian Nightjar	1 female was flushed from but soon relocated under diversifolius poplar scrub along the eastern embankment of Xikerer Reservoir (Km post 1320 on NH 314). (1430 metres). (Photos).
Rock Pigeon	'Present' between Kashi and Bachu.
Laughing Dove	3 birds were seen on house roofs in the centre of Xikerer village (Km post 1315 on NH 314). (1430 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	1 in Bachu town. (1125 metres)
Common Moorhen	1 was heard in reeds in the fishponds immediately north of Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Eurasian Coot	60 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Common Redshank	20 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Common Greenshank	27 – 7 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314) and 20 on Xikerer Reservoir (Km post 1320 on NH 314). (1235 and 1430 metres).
Wood Sandpiper	1 over Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Common Sandpiper	1 was heard at Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Temminck's Stint	1 flew over Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Black-winged Stilt	60 – 30 on both Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314) and Xikerer Reservoir (Km post 1320 on NH 314). (1235 and 1430 metres).
Pied Avocet	6 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Kentish Plover	20 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Pallas's Gull	78 - 53, including perhaps 15 juveniles several of which were still begging from their parents, on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314) and 25 on Xikerer Reservoir (Km post 1320 on NH 314). (1235 and 1430 metres).
Black-headed Gull	150 – 100 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314) and 50 on Xikerer Reservoir (Km post 1320 on NH 314). (1235 and 1430 metres).
Common Tern	At least 100 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Little Tern	8 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). All of those seen close enough to be aged were juveniles. (1235 metres)
White-winged Black Tern	1 moulting adult summer-plumaged birds was on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
White-tailed Eagle	1 immature, probably a second calendar-year bird, was causing havoc among the waterfowl on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Long-legged Buzzard	2, one of which was an adult, were seen near Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). On status it was very probably another Long-legged Buzzard – this was the only <i>buteo</i> that I saw during my entire Xinjiang trip. (1235 metres)
buzzard sp.	1 was seen near Km post 1411 (about eight kms south of Tuokaeyi Reservoir on NH 314) before sunrise. (1240 metres)
Lesser Kestrel	1, a first-summer male, was perched on electricity wires besides the road at Km post 1403 close to Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county, on NH 314. (1240 metres)

Eurasian Hobby	1 juvenile was hunting over the fish ponds area immediately to the east of Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Great Crested Grebe	100 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Black-necked Grebe	3 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Grey Heron	37 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Rufous-tailed Shrike	20 between Kashi, Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Xikerer Reservoir and Bachu.
Carriion Crow	4 near Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Common Raven	6 between Kashi, Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Xikerer Reservoir and Bachu. (at least 1175 and 1235 metres)
Isabelline Wheatear	1 near Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Barn Swallow	40 over Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Eurasian Reed Warbler	2 in the small reed bed on the north-eastern side of Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Blyth's Reed Warbler	3 in the small reed bed on the north-eastern side of Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Bearded Parrotbill	13 - a party of 11 (mostly juveniles but including at least one adult male) in the reed bed at the north-eastern side of Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314) and at least two others in one of the reed filled drainage ditches near the fishponds on the reservoir's northern edge. (1235 metres)
Barred Warbler	3 in scrub near Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314). (1235 metres)
Hume's Short-toed Lark	6 - with 'several' near Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (Km post 1403 on NH 314) and 'several' more near Xikerer Reservoir (Km post 1320 on NH 314). (1235 and 1430 metres).
House Sparrow	30 between Kashi, Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Xikerer Reservoir and Bachu. (at least 1175-1430 metres)
White Wagtail	20 between Kashi, Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Xikerer Reservoir and Bachu. (at least 1175-1430 metres)
Citrine Wagtail	20 between Kashi, Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Xikerer Reservoir and Bachu. (at least 1175-1430 metres)

Wednesday 10 August 2005. Bachu to Aksu via Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir.

We left the Bachu hotel at 07:00hrs and drove straight to Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. We birded two areas of this massive reservoir – and although the first site was largely a waste of time, the second site was very enjoyable.

We turned right off local road X594, avoiding Mushuke, at a junction 17 kilometres from Bachu. This new road is un-numbered but leads to Gailimike Jianyu (Gailimike Prison). 10 minutes down here we arrived at Bei Zha Shui Guan Zhan (literally 'Northern Water Station'), a small settlement based around a large sluice gate at one corner of the huge Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir.

Site 1 - Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir: Bei Ku Qu on the Bei Zha Shui Guan Zhan Causeway. (39°47.5'N., 78°45.5'E.). 1100 metres.

From here it's 199 kms at 36° to Aksu (Ssw of Aksu) and 241 kms at 259° to Kashi (west of Kashi). We arrived at 07:40hrs having driven for 40 minutes from Bachu. Our driver persuaded the reservoir guard to unlock the barrier and allow us to drive around the reservoir's embankment. This we did for nine kilometres taking almost two hours to do so before turning around (at 09:25hrs) and heading to site 2.

Bird here inc. –	
Greylag Goose	18
Ruddy Shelduck	1
Red-crested Pochard	18
Garganey	12
Green Sandpiper	1
Great Crested Grebe	8
Long-legged Buzzard	1 juvenile
Pallas's Gull	38
Black-headed Gull	50
Common Tern	20
Collared Dove	1
Saxaul Sparrow	2
Asian Short-toed Lark	1 juvenile

We drove back in to Bei Zha Shui Guan Zhan and then on past a junction to Xi Hai Wan (sign posted as 7 kms).

Sixijutuan Zhen (literally '49th Army Town). 10:10hrs – 30 minutes from Bei Zha Shui Guan Zhan. There's a small guest house here.

Site 2 - Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir: Nan Ku Qu. (39°46.3'N., 78°58.9'E.). 1100 metres.

I stopped near Km post 85.4 on this small road – about five kms west of the sluice gate. From here it's 189 kms at 31° to Aksu (Ssw of Aksu), 260 kms at 260° to Kashi (west of Kashi) and 18.4 kms at 275° to the previous site, Bei Ku Qu. We arrived at 10:30hrs having driven for 20 minutes from Sixijutuan Zhen and for almost one hour from Bei Ku Qu. I spent just over two hours here, leaving at 12:45hrs.

This was an excellent site and one that I wished we'd been at in the early morning. It was already hot when we arrived and was an uncomfortable 35°C in the shade by the time we left!

The road runs west to east here and is effectively a causeway between the huge Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir to the south and an area of wetland to the north. The wetlands are probably seasonally inundated – the water flow is controlled by a sluice gate at the eastern end of the 'causeway' creating some attractive flooded grass. A smaller complex of fish ponds lines the northern edge of the road. The wetlands are large – perhaps 8-10 kilometres from north to south and at least that from east to west. Perhaps half of this is wet and its all rather poorly utilized – I saw perhaps 200 grazing cattle well spread out and probably no more than 30 people in the entire area.

Birds here inc. -	
Greylag Goose	22
Ruddy Shelduck	Ca.100
Mallard	6
Northern Shoveler	4
Northern Pintail	1
Garganey	40
Red-crested Pochard	28
Common Redshank	5
Common Greenshank	15
Wood Sandpiper	1
Terek Sandpiper	1
Black-winged Stilt	50
Northern Lapwing	2
Pallas's Gull	25
Common Tern	150
Pallas's Fish Eagle	2, an adult and a probable second-calendar year bird
Common Kestrel	1 adult male
Eurasian Hobby	1
Great Crested Grebe	8
Great Cormorant	23
Grey Heron	32
Great Egret	10
Black Stork	4
White-browed Chinese Warbler	2 were heard in the reed bed adjacent to Km post 85.4
Bearded Parrotbill	2 were heard in a reed bed adjacent to Km post 87.
Desert Lesser Whitethroat	10 in the reed bed and small diversifolius poplars
[Asian Short-toed Lark	5 birds, possibly this species, were heard and seen poorly at various sites around Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir, especially at Nan Ku Qu. (1100 metres)]
Crested Lark	3

Leaving the Nan Ku Qu site at 12:45hrs (Km post 85.4) we headed east crossing over the sluice gate before turning north.

Long San Shi Cement Works Km post 77

Yong An Ba Km post 74. (1095 metres). Laughing Dove here.

Road junction 5 kms after Long An Ba – turn left and its 42 kms back to Bachu, turn right and its only 5 kms to Tu Mu Shu Ke Shi. We turned right.

Tu Mu Shu Ke Shi.

Tiny Yi Jian Fang (literally 'one house village') is at Km post 1177 besides the junction of this side road with NH 314 (the main Kashi to Aksu road). 13:50hrs. Kashi is 297 km back west, Aksu is 117 km further east.

Aqia Km post 1117. 14:50hrs. (2 hours drive from Nan Ku Qu).

Sha Jingzi Km post 1060. 15:40hrs. (1070 metres)
 Desert Finch 3
 Common Moorhen 1 was heard in a reed-fringed roadside pool on the western edge of the village

Sha Yimaili chun Km post 1035. 16:10hrs. (1085 metres)

Arrived at the 4-star International Hotel (Guoji Hotel), No. 1 middle Wenzhou road, Aksu at 16:40hrs. Heavily discounted (via Qingyu's contact in an Urumqi travel service) rooms here cost 220 yuan/night including two breakfasts!

Greylag Goose	40 on Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir – 18 at Bei Ku Qu and 22 at Nan Ku Qu. (1100 metres)
Ruddy Shelduck	100 on Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir – 1 at Bei Ku Qu and the rest at Nan Ku Qu. (1100 metres)
Mallard	10 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)

Northern Shoveler	4 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
Northern Pintail	1 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
Garganey	52 on Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir – 12 at Bei Ku Qu and 40 at Nan Ku Qu. (1100 metres)
Red-crested Pochard	46 on Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir – 18 at Bei Ku Qu and 28 at Nan Ku Qu. (1100 metres)
Common Cuckoo	1 juvenile close to Aksu. (1085 metres)
Common Swift	5 over Bei Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
Rock Pigeon	'Present' but not counted.
Laughing Dove	1 in Yong An Ba, about 11 kms by road east of Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1095 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	6 – 2 at Bei Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir and 4 others between Sha Jingzi, Sha Yimaili and Aksu (Kms 1060, 1035 and 1000 on NH 314). (1085-1100 metres)
Common Moorhen	1 was heard in a small, reed-fringed pool at Sha Jingzi (Km 1060 on NH 314). (1070 metres)
Common Redshank	5 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
Common Greenshank	15 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
Green Sandpiper	1 was heard at Bei Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
Wood Sandpiper	1 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
Terek Sandpiper	1 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
Common Sandpiper	1 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
Black-winged Stilt	50 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
Northern Lapwing	2 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
Pallas's Gull	63 on Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir – 38 at Bei Ku Qu and 25 at Nan Ku Qu. (1100 metres)
Black-headed Gull	150 on Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir – 50 at Bei Ku Qu and 100 at Nan Ku Qu. (1100 metres)
Common Tern	170 on Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir – 20 at Bei Ku Qu and 150 at Nan Ku Qu. (1100 metres)
Pallas's Fish Eagle	2, an adult and a probable second-calendar year bird, at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (39°46.3'N., 78°58.9'E.). (1100 metres)
Long-legged Buzzard	1 juvenile at Bei Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
Common Kestrel	1 adult male at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
Eurasian Hobby	1 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
Great Crested Grebe	16 on Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir – 8 at both Bei Ku Qu and Nan Ku Qu. (1100 metres)
Great Cormorant	23 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
Grey Heron	32 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
Great Egret	10 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
Black Stork	4 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
Rufous-tailed Shrike	15 between Bachu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir and Aksu.
Carrion Crow	10 between Bachu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir and Aksu.
Desert Wheatear	3 between Nan Ku Qu at Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir and Aksu. Single birds were seen 2 kms west of the Long San Shi cement works (6 kms east of Nan Ku Qu), near the junction on to the main NH 314 at Km post 177 and at Km 1124 on NH 314. 9. (1090-1105 metres)
Barn Swallow	50 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
White-browed Chinese Warbler	2 were heard in the reed bed adjacent to Km post 85.4 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
Bearded Parrotbill	2 were heard in the reed bed adjacent to Km post 87 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
Desert Lesser Whitethroat	10 in the reed bed and small stand of diversifolius poplars at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
Asian Short-toed Lark	5 birds, possibly this species, were heard and seen poorly at various sites around Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir, especially at Nan Ku Qu. (1100 metres)
Crested Lark	5 at Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir – 2 at Bei Ku Qu and 3 at Nan Ku Qu. (1100 metres)
Saxaul Sparrow	2 at Bei Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
House Sparrow	20 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	20 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
White Wagtail	10 at Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
Citrine Wagtail	20 at Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
Grey Wagtail	1 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir. (1100 metres)
Desert Finch	3 at Sha Jingzi 60 kms west of Aksu (Km 1060) on NH 314. (1070 metres)

Thursday 11 August 2005. All day south of Aksu – visiting 'Matan Marsh', Yinshawan and Shang You Reservoirs.

We left Aksu at 07:00hrs and headed south on local road X300. We spent much of the day driving through an extensive cotton growing area.

Kalata zhen. 07:40hrs. 1040 metres.

Matan chun. 08:00hrs. 1035 metres.

'Matan Marsh' - Marsh between Matan chun and Qi Tuan. (40°40.5'N., 80°39.2'E.). 1024 metres.

08:00-09:25hrs. From this site it is 64.2 kms at 326° back to Aksu (Sse of Aksu).

Its an area of grassland and a rather small reed bed about 5 minutes drive south of the small village of Matan cun and about 1.5 kms before the 'T'-junction at the tiny settlement of Qi Tuan. I walked about 800 metres along the road.

Birds here inc.

Red-crested Pochard 23

Common Kingfisher 1

Green Sandpiper	1
Pallas's Gull	5 flew over
Common Tern	2
Great Cormorant	5 flew over
Black Kite	1
Grey Heron	5
Great Egret	1
Little Bittern	1 male was seen and 2 other birds were heard
Rose-coloured Starling	13 flew over
Common Starling	1 moulting juvenile
White-browed Chinese Warbler	1 was seen and at least 3 others heard
Paddyfield Warbler	1
Great Reed Warbler	3
Bearded Parrotbill	2 were heard
Desert Lesser Whitethroat	1
Spanish Sparrow	1 male
Richard's Pipit	2 singles flew south
Reed Bunting	2

We drove on from here about another 10 kms to the day's second site –

Duo Lang Reservoir. (40°40.5'N., 80°43.2'E.). 1020 metres.

We birded the reservoir here, on the road between Qi Tuan and Alaershi, from 10:10-12:30hrs. Note that the reservoir is also known as Yinshawan reservoir since its at the northern end of the Yinshawan Liu You Dujiachun (Yinshawan Tour and Holiday Village). From this site it is 67.2 kms at 322° back to Aksu (Sse of Aksu) and 217 kms at 54° to Kuche (Kuqa).

The moderately large reservoir on the left (east) side of the road is impounded at it's southern end and there's also a one kilometre long pool on the right (west) side of the same road. There's a small, but locally well-known, tourist complex that straddles both sides of the road about two kilometres from the reservoir's northern end. The northern end of the reservoir was very good – the water's shallow and there were large numbers of birds. The shallow pool on the western side of the road was also good, especially for Pied Avocets and Grey Herons. The broad muddy fringe around this western pool's northern edge held a number of other shorebirds especially Kentish Plovers. Further south, and beyond the tourist complex, the reservoir is deeper and held large numbers of Great Crested Grebe and a few diving ducks – Ferruginous and Red-crested Pochards.

Birds here inc.	
Greylag Goose	10
Mallard	404
Northern Shoveler	2
Northern Pintail	18
Garganey	550
Red-crested Pochard	120
Ferruginous Pochard	17
Black-tailed Godwit	2
Spotted Redshank	2 summer plumaged birds
Common Redshank	5
Common Greenshank	10
Wood Sandpiper	1
Terek Sandpiper	2
Common Sandpiper	2
Temminck's Stint	2
Black-winged Stilt	95
Pied Avocet	120
Little Ringed Plover	15
Kentish Plover	256
Yellow-legged Gull	9
Pallas's Gull	47
Black-headed Gull	220
Common Tern	80+
Little Tern	40+
Pallas's Fish Eagle	1 adult
Long-legged Buzzard	1
Great Crested Grebe	394
Great Cormorant	25
Grey Heron	46
Great Egret	8

Leaving here at 12:30hrs (it was already 35°C in the shade!) we continued south and drove, over a series of rough dirt roads, taking (it later turned out) numerous wrong turns, to Shang You Reservoir.

Shang You Reservoir. (40°40.5'N., 80°43.2'E.), 1015 metres.

We birded the northern end of this huge reservoir, near the tiny tourist complex and boating site, for one hour from 14:30-15:30hrs. From this site it is 92.4 kms at 331° back to Aksu (Sse of Aksu) and 233 kms at 48° to Kuche (Kuqa).

Birds here inc. –	
Greylag Goose	180
Mallard	50
Red-crested Pochard	15
Black-tailed Godwit	10
Black-winged Stilt	50
Pallas's Gull	10
Black-headed Gull	250
Common Tern	100
Little Tern	20
Great Crested Grebe	25
Great Cormorant	35
Grey Heron	32

Greylag Goose	190 - 10 at Duo Lang Reservoir and 180 at Shang You Reservoir. (1020 and 1015 metres)
Mallard	450 - 404 at Duo Lang Reservoir and 50 at Shang You Reservoir. (1020 and 1015 metres)
Northern Shoveler	2 at Duo Lang Reservoir. (1020 metres)
Northern Pintail	18 at Duo Lang Reservoir. (1020 metres)
Garganey	550 at Duo Lang Reservoir. (1020 metres)
Red-crested Pochard	158 - 23 over 'Matan Marsh', 120 at Duo Lang Reservoir and 15 at Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1025 metres)
Ferruginous Pochard	17 at Duo Lang Reservoir. (1020 metres)
Eurasian Hoopoe	1 near Aksu
Common Kingfisher	1 at 'Matan Marsh'. (1025 metres)
Rock Pigeon	'Present'
Eurasian Collared Dove	20 between Aksu, 'Matan Marsh', Duo Lang Reservoir and Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1025 metres)
Common Moorhen	4 between Aksu, 'Matan Marsh', Duo Lang Reservoir and Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1025 metres)
Eurasian Coot	4 on 'Matan Marsh'. (1025 metres)
Black-tailed Godwit	12 - 2 at Duo Lang Reservoir and 10 at Shang You Reservoir. A summer plumaged male at Shang You was probably of the large, long billed, bright nominate subspecies, <i>L. limosa limosa</i> - a taxa not yet definitely recorded in China. (1015-1020 metres)
Spotted Redshank	2 summer plumaged birds at Shang You Reservoir. (1015 metres)
Common Redshank	10 in total at Duo Lang Reservoir and Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1020 metres)
Common Greenshank	10 at Duo Lang Reservoir. (1020 metres)
Green Sandpiper	1 flew over 'Matan Marsh'. (1025 metres)
Wood Sandpiper	1 at Duo Lang Reservoir. (1020 metres)
Terek Sandpiper	2 at Duo Lang Reservoir. (1020 metres)
Common Sandpiper	2 at Duo Lang Reservoir. (1020 metres)
Temminck's Stint	2 at Duo Lang Reservoir. (1020 metres)
Black-winged Stilt	150 - with 95 at Duo Lang Reservoir and 45 at Shang You Reservoir and 10 others inbetween. (1015-1020 metres)
Pied Avocet	120 at Duo Lang Reservoir. (1020 metres)
Little Ringed Plover	15 at Duo Lang Reservoir. (1020 metres)
Kentish Plover	256 at Duo Lang Reservoir. (1020 metres)
Yellow-legged Gull	9 at Duo Lang Reservoir. (1020 metres)
Pallas's Gull	62 - 5 over the 'Matan Marsh', 47 at Duo Lang Reservoir and 10 at Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1025 metres)
Black-headed Gull	500 - with 220 at Duo Lang Reservoir and 250 at Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1020 metres)
Common Tern	180 - with 80 at Duo Lang Reservoir and 100 at Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1020 metres)
Little Tern	60 - 40 at Duo Lang Reservoir and 20 at Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1020 metres)
Black Kite	1 at 'Matan Marsh'. (1025 metres)
Pallas's Fish Eagle	1 adult at Duo Lang Reservoir. (1020 metres)
Long-legged Buzzard	1 at Duo Lang Reservoir. (1020 metres)
Great Crested Grebe	419 - with 394 at Duo Lang Reservoir and 25 at Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1020 metres)
Great Cormorant	65 - with 5 over 'Matan Marsh', 25 at Duo Lang Reservoir and 35 at Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1025 metres)
Grey Heron	83 - with 5 over 'Matan Marsh', 46 at Duo Lang Reservoir and 32 at Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1025 metres)
Great Egret	9 - 1 over 'Matan Marsh' and 8 at Duo Lang reservoir. (1020-1025 metres)
Little Bittern	5 - 3 at 'Matan Marsh' and 2 at Shang You Reservoir. Only one bird was seen, the other four were only heard. (1015-1025 metres)
Rufous-tailed Shrike	15 between Aksu, 'Matan Marsh', Duo Lang Reservoir and Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1025 metres)
Carrion Crow	15 between Aksu, 'Matan Marsh', Duo Lang Reservoir and Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1025 metres)
Rosy Starling	13 flew over 'Matan Marsh'. (1025 metres)
Common Starling	1 moulting juvenile was seen on the road close to 'Matan Marsh'. (1025 metres)
Barn Swallow	100 during the day with at least 50 over the Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1025 metres)
White-browed Chinese Warbler	4 in and around the 'Matan Marsh'. (1025 metres)
Paddyfield Warbler	1 in 'Matan Marsh'. (1025 metres)
Great Reed Warbler	3 in 'Matan Marsh'. (1025 metres)
Bearded Parrotbill	2 in 'Matan Marsh'. (1025 metres)
Desert Lesser Whitethroat	1 in 'Matan Marsh'. (1025 metres)
Crested Lark	5 during the day with sightings near 'Matan Marsh', Yinshawan and Shang You Reservoirs. (1015-1025 metres)
House Sparrow	20 between Aksu, 'Matan Marsh', Duo Lang Reservoir and Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1025 metres)
Spanish Sparrow	1 male with other unidentified sparrows in 'Matan Marsh'. (1025 metres)

Eurasian Tree Sparrow	15 between Aksu, 'Matan Marsh', Duo Lang Reservoir and Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1025 metres)
Citrine Wagtail	15 during the day between Aksu, 'Matan Marsh', Duo Lang Reservoir and Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1025 metres)
Richard's Pipit	2 singles flew south over 'Matan Marsh'. (1025 metres)
Reed Bunting	2 in 'Matan Marsh'. (1025 metres)

Friday 12 August 2005. All day to Sheng Li Reservoir, south-east of Aksu.

We left the hotel at 07:005hrs and headed southwest to Sheng Li Reservoir, a site that we had failed to find the pervious day! Using a different taxi driver we had much more success today finding the reservoir after three hours driving. However we still didn't take the best route! We believe that we returned by the quickest route – coming back from the Sheng Li Reservoir via the Tanan Zong Ganqu toll bridge over the Hetian He, then the Shang You Prison, Xin Kai Ling and Kalatale zhen to Aksu.

Departed Aksu 07:05hrs

Kalatale zhen 07:40hrs

We turned left (east) in the village centre (this took us back via the imaginatively named '68 Kilometre Village' to the Duo Lang Reservoir, which we visited yesterday, and from there we headed to Alaershi crossed the Talimu He to Nankou zhen). The reservoir was 20 minutes from there. Instead of going this lengthy circuitous route we should have continued straight on in Kalatale zhen taking the road to Xin Kai Ling, then past the small Shang You Prison, and on to the Tanan Zong Ganqu toll bridge over the Hetian He. Sheng Li reservoir is about 15 kms from here – take the small, dirt road that parallels the canal.

Duo Lang Reservoir. (40°40.5'N., 80°43.2'E.). 1020 metres.

We spent just 10 minutes here – birding from a couple of roadside stops. There were far, far fewer ducks here today than yesterday.

Birds seen inc. -	
Greylag Goose	10
Mallard	30
Red-crested Pochard	20
Black-winged Stilt	30
Pied Avocet	20
Yellow-legged Gull	7
Pallas's Gull	4
Black-headed Gull	20
Pallas's Fish Eagle	1 juvenile was seen on a roadside telegraph pole about 4 kms south of the tourist complex – the Yinshawan Liu You Dujiachun (Yinshawan Tour and Holiday Village).
Long-legged Buzzard	1
Great Crested Grebe	100+
Great Cormorant	76
Grey Heron	15

Sheng Li Reservoir. (40°29.3'N., 81°05.6'E.). 1000 metres.

We were here from 10:30-14:00hrs before heading back to Aksu.

From this site it is 103 kms at 314° back to Aksu (Se of Aksu) and 205 kms at 44° to Kuche [Kuqa] (Sw of Kuche). Arriving at 'Shang Li Shuiku Yi Dui', literally Shang Li Reservoir First Station, at the northern end of the reservoir I spent about 20 minutes scooping birds on the huge reservoir. It was clearly a deep-water reservoir and there was a rather limited variety of birds visible – large numbers of Great Crested Grebe and a few Red-crested Pochard but little else. There's a good quality dirt road that surrounds (at least) the northern end of the reservoir and we drove west around this stopping occasionally to climb the bank and 'scope for birds. After 8-9 kms we arrived at Shang Li Shuiku Er Dui - literally Shang Li Reservoir Second Station. Here I walked directly away from the reservoir, past the cluster of small houses towards the stand of large (diversifolius poplars?) trees. I spent about 45 minutes birding here, not being able to reach the woodland because of flooding and more significantly an aggressive dog. Nevertheless I had fabulous looks at my first Xinjiang White-winged Woodpecker and Stock Doves.

After here we continued to drive around the reservoir's 'embankment road' stopping again near the shallower western end where there was an extensive dry area with numerous grassy islands, bushes and scrub.

I suspected that this 'embankment road' goes entirely around the reservoir. If it does it must be about 25-30 kilometres long!

Birds here inc. -	
Greylag Goose	10
Gadwall	78 including about 20, clearly locally fledged, young.
Mallard	10
Northern Shoveler	2
Northern Pintail	5
Garganey	150
Common Teal	3

Red-crested Pochard	105, including about 30, clearly locally fledged, young.
Common Pochard	1
Ferruginous Pochard	23
White-winged Woodpecker	1
Stock Pigeon	4
European Turtle Dove	1
Common Moorhen	4
Eurasian Coot	40
Green Sandpiper	1
Terek Sandpiper	1
Black-headed Gull	20
Common Tern	50
Little Tern	40
Whiskered Tern	5 – two adults and three juveniles
Black Kite	1
Long-legged Buzzard	2
Great Crested Grebe	798 including numerous clearly locally fledged, young and several birds still sitting on nests.
Black-necked Grebe	5 summer plumaged adults
Great Cormorant	7
Grey Heron	4
Great Egret	1
Common Starling	13 in two family parties.
White-browed Chinese Warbler	2 were heard
Desert Lesser Whitethroat	1
Hume's Short-toed Lark	1
Crested Lark	10
Richard's Pipit	3

We left Sheng Li Reservoir at 14:00hrs and drove straight to Aksu, arriving back at our hotel at 16:15hrs. In all we'd driven almost exactly 300 kilometres today – 170 out and 130 back via a more direct (and 45 minutes faster) route.

Weather: It remained overcast all day today and the temperature never exceeded a comfortable 28°C.

Greylag Goose	20 – 10 on both Duo Lang Reservoir and Sheng Li Reservoir. (1020 and 1000 metres)
Gadwall	78 including about 20, clearly locally fledged, young on Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
Mallard	34 – 30 on Duo Lang Reservoir and 4 on Sheng Li Reservoir. (1020 and 1000 metres)
Northern Shoveler	2 on Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
Northern Pintail	5 on Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
Garganey	150 on Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
Common Teal	3 on Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
Red-crested Pochard	125 - 20 on Duo Lang Reservoir and 105, including about 30, clearly locally fledged, young on Sheng Li Reservoir. (1020 and 1000 metres)
Common Pochard	1 on Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
Ferruginous Pochard	23 on Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
White-winged Woodpecker	1 juvenile near Shang Li Shuiku Er Dui, Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
Eurasian Hoopoe	1 on Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
Stock Pigeon	4, two adults and two immatures, near Shang Li Shuiku Er Dui, Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
European Turtle Dove	1 flew over on Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	20 between Aksu, Duo Lang Reservoir and Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000-1030 metres)
Common Moorhen	5 between Aksu, Duo Lang Reservoir and Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000-1030 metres)
Eurasian Coot	40 on Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
Common Redshank	5 on Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
Green Sandpiper	2 singles were seen on Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
Terek Sandpiper	1 on Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
Common Sandpiper	2 on Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
Temminck's Stint	1 on Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
Black-winged Stilt	70 - 30 on Duo Lang Reservoir and 40 on Sheng Li Reservoir. (1020 and 1000 metres)
Pied Avocet	20 on Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
Little Ringed Plover	3 on Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
Yellow-legged Gull	7 on Duo Lang Reservoir. (1020 metres)
Pallas's Gull	4 on Duo Lang Reservoir. (1020 metres)
Black-headed Gull	40 – 20 on both Duo Lang Reservoir and Sheng Li Reservoir. (1020 and 1000 metres)
Common Tern	90 - 40 on Duo Lang Reservoir and 50 on Sheng Li Reservoir. (1020 and 1000 metres)
Little Tern	70 - 30 on Duo Lang Reservoir and 40 on Sheng Li Reservoir. (1020 and 1000 metres)
Whiskered Tern	5, two adults and three juveniles, at Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
Black Kite	1 flew west over Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
Pallas's Fish Eagle	1 juvenile was seen on a roadside telegraph pole about 4 kms south of the tourist complex – the Yinshawan Liu You Dujiachun (Yinshawan Tour and Holiday Village). (1020 metres). (Photo).
Long-legged Buzzard	3 – 1 at Duo Lang Reservoir and 2 besides Sheng Li Reservoir. (1020 and 1000 metres)
Great Crested Grebe	900 - 100 on Duo Lang Reservoir and 798 including numerous clearly locally fledged young as well as several birds still sitting on nests on Sheng Li Reservoir. (1020 and 1000 metres)
Black-necked Grebe	5 summer-plumaged adults on Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
Great Cormorant	83 – 76 on Duo Lang Reservoir and 7 besides Sheng Li Reservoir. (1020 and 1000 metres)

Grey Heron	19 – 15 on Duo Lang Reservoir and 7 besides Sheng Li Reservoir. (1020 and 1000 metres)
Great Egret	2 on Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
Rufous-tailed Shrike	20 between Aksu, Duo Lang Reservoir and Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000-1030 metres)
Carrion Crow	10 between Aksu, Duo Lang Reservoir and Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000-1030 metres)
Common Starling	14 - 1 moulting juvenile near '68 Kilometre Village' close to Kalatale zhen and 13, in two family parties, at Sheng Li Reservoir. (1040 and 1000 metres)
Sand or Pale Martin	1 flew over Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
Barn Swallow	100 between Aksu, Duo Lang Reservoir and Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000-1030 metres)
White-browed Chinese Warbler	2 were heard close to near Shang Li Shuiku Er Dui, Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
Desert Lesser Whitethroat	1 close to near Shang Li Shuiku Er Dui, Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
Hume's Short-toed Lark	2 besides Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)
Crested Lark	15 between Aksu, Duo Lang Reservoir and Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000-1030 metres)
House Sparrow	20 between Aksu, Duo Lang Reservoir and Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000-1030 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	100 between Aksu, Duo Lang Reservoir and Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000-1030 metres)
Citrine Wagtail	20 between Aksu, Duo Lang Reservoir and Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000-1030 metres)
Richard's Pipit	3 at Sheng Li Reservoir. (1000 metres)

Saturday 13 August 2005. Day off in Aksu.

Sunday 14 August 2005. Drove from Aksu to Kuche and on to Korla

We left the hotel at 09:05hrs and had intended to drive to Kuche where we would spent the night. I'd hoped to be able to drive from there in to the Tian Shan Mountains (to Gong Nai Si and the Bayinkulusi Grasslands [or Bayinbaluke Grasslands/Swan Lake]) the following day. However it wasn't until we arrived in Kuche that we discovered that the road to Gong Nai Si was closed, at least to small vehicles and they were apparently repairing it after a series of landslides. We decided to continue east and to head to Korla for the night.

In all we drove about 547 kilometres today – taking about seven hours to do this (and thus averaging about 80 kms/hour).

Today's journey took us around the northwestern side of the Tarim Basin for most of the drive and, after we'd left the agricultural area that extended about 20 kms along NH 315 east of Aksu, it was not surprisingly that almost the entire journey was through rather barren desert.

Aksu	Km post 1000	09:05hrs	
Xiao You Le	Km post 810	11:23hrs	
(A small oasis style village where we started to see trees and a richer agricultural area again. This habitat lasted, through to Xinhe [Km post 788])			
Xinhe	Km post 788	11:40hrs	860 metres
A sizeable town.			
Wei Gan He	Km post 767 (45 kms west of Kuche)		
Kuche (Kuqa, Kucha)	Km post 742	Arr. Kuche Hotel 12:25.	890 metres
We'd no sooner arrived here and dismissed our Aksu taxi than we discovered that the Gong Nai Si road up and over the Tian Shan mountains was closed! We then rented another taxi and continued west, driving a further 280 kms to Korla.			
Korla	Km post 456		

We arrived at the 4-star Tarim Petroleum Hotel, Shi Hua Street, Korla, 841000 (tel: 996 217 3170, fax: 996 217 3167) at 17:30hrs. From the hotel it is 1.56 kms at 280° to Korla city centre. Note that on our second visit we stayed at the significantly better Silver Star Hotel in Korla.

Tarim Petroleum Hotel, Korla. (41°45.1'N., 86°09.2'E.). 922 metres.

Korla is the second largest city in Xinjiang and is close to both the western end of Bosten Hu and the northern border of the massive Tarim Basin.

Rock Pigeon	'Present'
Eurasian Collared Dove	20 between Aksu, Kuche and Korla. (820-860 metres)
Black Kite	4 singles were noted between Kuche and Korla – 1 was seen about 80 kms east of Kuche (Km 620 on NH 315), another 49 Km before Korla (Km post 505), another 21 kms before Korla (Km post 477) and the fourth bird 19 kms before Korla (Km post 475). (815, 820 and 840 metres)

Common Kestrel	2 – 1 just east of the small village of Bosten (Km post 791 on NH 315 – 49 kms west of Kuche) and the other closer to Korla. (840 and 855 metres)
Rufous-tailed Shrike	5 between Aksu, Kuche and Korla. (820-860 metres)
Carriion Crow	10 between Aksu, Kuche and Korla. (845 metres)
[Isabelline Wheatear	1 bird, probably this species, was seen near Kuche].
Common Starling	3 near the small village of Teraklik (Km post 795 on NH 315 and about 53 kms west of Kuche). (855 metres)
Barn Swallow	6 in Korla. (820 metres)
Crested Lark	1 near Korla. (820 metres)
House Sparrow	20 between Aksu, Kuche and Korla. (845 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	'Present' between Aksu, Kuche and Korla. (845 metres)

Monday 15 August 2005. South-south-west of Korla – Puhui Dunes and Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun

We left Korla at 07:10hrs and drove south-south-west down local road X230 to Puhui. It took us about 30-35 minutes to reach the small town. We birded two sites today -

Puhui Dunes. (41°26.4'N., 85°54.3'E.). 878 metres.

We parked up besides Km post 42 on local road X230 and walked off southeast. This site is 39.5 kms south-south-west of Korla (205° back to the city) and 1.67kms at 46° from the roundabout in the centre of Puhui. We spent 2.5 hours here – searching, successfully, for Xinjiang Ground-jay. It took us one hour and forty minutes to find the jay, and we found a pair of vocalizing adults.

Birds here inc.-	
White-winged Woodpecker	1 juvenile
Stock Pigeon	6 flew over
European Turtle Dove	2 singles flew over
Black Kite	3
['Red-capped' Peregrine Falcon	1 bird, possibly this species, was seen poorly.]
Xinjiang Ground-jay	2 – see below
Desert Wheatear	3 including one adult male
Desert Lesser Whitethroat	15
Asian Short-toed Lark	4
Saxaul Sparrow	15
Richard's Pipit	1 flew south-west
Tarim Hare	3

Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. ('Puhui Diversifolius Poplars Tourist Resort'). (41°27.5'N., 85°51.4'E.). 880 metres.

After almost three hours in the increasingly hot dunes we headed back in to the centre of Puhui, straight across the roundabout in the village centre and turned right immediately over the drainage channel at the far end of the settlement. We drove about five kilometres along here to the second site that we birded today. This site is a small scale tourist resort – there's a tall watch tower (presumably used for looking for forest fires), a complex of small lakes (a couple of which are used for boating), a few tiny yurt-style tourist bungalows and a small café here. The whole area is surrounded by an expanse of large (and presumably quite old, diversifolius poplar trees while just outside the 'reserve' there are several orchards and quite a few small reed-beds on the edges of a number of the lakes and pools. It was very hot here and there was very little bird activity. It currently costs 5 yuan/person to enter this site.

Birds here inc.-	
Gadwall	3 on one of the lakes at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun
White-winged Woodpecker	2
nightjar sp.	1 bird, probably a Eurasian Nightjar was accidentally flushed from the diversifolius poplar forest. It could not be refound.
Stock Pigeon	4, two pairs.
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	1
Booted Eagle	1 dark morph bird was seen in flight.
Black Stork	3
Saxaul Sparrow	ca.20 – most immediately around the entrance barrier.

We left here at 14:45hrs and headed back to our hotel in Korla arriving 45 minutes later.

Gadwall	3 on one of the lakes at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (878 metres)
White-winged Woodpecker	5 – 1 juvenile in the Puhui Dunes, 2 in the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun and another 2 in an orchard between these two sites. (880 metres)
Eurasian Hoopoe	2 – 1 flew over the Puhui Dunes and another was seen in an orchard on the edge of Puhui village. (880 metres)
nightjar sp.	1 bird, probably a Eurasian Nightjar was accidentally flushed from the diversifolius poplar forest at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. It could not be refound. (880 metres)
Rock Pigeon	'Present' between Korla and Puhui. (880-920 metres)

Stock Pigeon	10 – 6 flew over Puhui Dunes and another 4 (two pairs) were in Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
European Turtle Dove	3 - 2 singles flew over Puhui Dunes and another over the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	15 between Korla and the Puhui area. (880-920 metres)
Common Moorhen	2 singles were seen around the edges of a couple of pools close to the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
Common Redshank	1 was heard near the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
Black-winged Stilt	6 – with birds being seen in both the Puhui Dunes and the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
Common Tern	3 over one of the pools in the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
Black Kite	3 over the Puhui Dunes. (880 metres)
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	1 was seen over the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
Long-legged Buzzard	1 between Korla and Puhui. (905 metres)
Booted Eagle	1 dark morph bird was seen over the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres) (A second raptor that was vocalizing strongly from trees in the forest at the same time I was watching this flying bird was thought to probably be a second Booted Eagle).
['Red-capped' Peregrine Falcon	1 bird, probably this species, was seen poorly over the Puhui Dunes. (880 metres)]
Great Cormorant	3 on one of the pools at the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
Great Egret	1 over the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
Black Stork	3 were circling high over the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
Rufous-tailed Shrike	10 between Korla and the Puhui area. (880-920 metres)
Xinjiang Ground-jay	2 birds, a pair, were seen in the Puhui Dunes. The first bird was seen at 10:40hrs in the dune complex exactly 980 metres east of Km post 42 on local road X230. It was calling loudly (an unfamiliar far-carrying call that reminded me more of a kestrel or Little Owl than anything else) from the ground underneath the edge of a bush at the top off the largest sand dune in the area. I tape recorded the vocalizations and the bird, as well as its mate, responded quite well to subsequent playback. They showed again a couple of times and then went silent and disappeared completely. Note that the pair were quite wide-ranging – covering an area that was at least 600 metres across. The exact site that I first saw the birds is close to the Korla (north-eastern) end of this small complex of dunes and is best accessed by walking in along the border of the dunes and the cotton fields adjacent to Km post 41. The birds performed well calling several times from the ground or on top of one of the 2-4 feet tall bushes in the area. (880 metres)
Carrion Crow	5 between Korla and the Puhui area. (880-920 metres)
Desert Wheatear	3 in the Puhui Dunes. (880 metres)
Barn Swallow	30 between Korla and the Puhui area. (880-920 metres)
White-browed Chinese Warbler	10 in the Puhui area – with sightings in the Puhui Dunes, the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun and in the orchards between these two sites. Note that although a couple of the various call notes of this distinctive, pale western subspecies <i>R. p. albosuperciliaris</i> are similar to the two western subspecies the song certainly isn't. (880 metres)
Desert Lesser Whitethroat	25 in the Puhui area - with sightings in the Puhui Dunes, the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun and in the orchards between these two sites. (880 metres)
Barred Warbler	5 were seen in orchards between Puhui and the Korla (north-eastern) end of this small complex of dunes and is best accessed by walking in along the border of the dunes and the cotton fields adjacent to Km post 41. The birds performed well calling several times from the ground or on top of one of the 2-4 feet tall bushes in the area. (880 metres)
Asian Short-toed Lark	4 birds were seen well in the Puhui Dunes. (880 metres) On range they should be referable to subspecies <i>seebohmi</i> .
Saxaul Sparrow	30 in the Puhui area - with sightings in the Puhui Dunes, the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun and in the orchards between these two sites. (880 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	10 in the Puhui Dunes. (880 metres)
White Wagtail	10 in the Korla to Puhui area. (880-920 metres)
Citrine Wagtail	10 in the Puhui area - with sightings in the Puhui Dunes, the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun and in the area between these two sites. (880 metres)
Richard's Pipit	1 flew south-west over the Puhui Dunes. (880 metres)
<u>MAMMALS</u>	
Tarim Hare	3 in the Puhui Dunes. (880 metres)

Tuesday 16 August 2005. Korla towards Gong Nai Si and back to Baluntai.

We left Korla at 07:00hrs and headed north and then west towards Gong Nai Si, close to the Bayinbuluke (Bayanbulak) Swan Nature Reserve in the Tian Shan Mountains.

NH 314 climbs quite quickly out of Korla but descends equally rapidly once over the surreal lunar landscape of the Kulu Shan (a small range of hills) immediately to the north of the city.

Note that it currently takes about six hours to drive the 500 kms from Korla to Urumqi and that an Expressway is currently under construction between the two – one driver told us that this road is scheduled for completion in late 2006, another that it should be finished by the start of October 2005!

Huadan / Qikexing Zhong Dui. Km post 639 on NH 218. 1150 metres. This area is famous for tomato growing and the road leads to Qinghai – but in the opposite direction to what we were travelling.

Barunhaermodun zhen (previously known as Shang You) Km post 618 on NH 218. 1135 metres.

Kaidu He Km post 614 on NH 218. 1120 metres. 08:00hrs (one hour's drive from Kashi).
This lake is the main conduit for water from the Tian Shan Mountains to Bosten Hu.

Haermodun Grasslands. (42°17.3'N., 86°08.7'E.). 1100 metres.

We birded this roadside area of extensive grasslands and small marsh (with very little open water) from 08:08-09:15hrs. I walked about one kilometre north along NH 218 from Km post 618 (4 kms north of the bridge over the Kaidu He). From here it's 59.2 kms at 178° back to Korla (due north of Korla).

Birds seen inc. -	
Common Quail	1 was heard
Eurasian Hoopoe	4
Common Moorhen	1
Common Snipe	2
Green Sandpiper	1
Common Sandpiper	1
Northern Lapwing	3
Great Cormorant	3
Grey Heron	1
Great Egret	1
Rufous-tailed Shrike	2
Bluethroat	2
Crested Lark	4
White Wagtail	5
Citrine Wagtail	15
Grey Wagtail	1
Richard's Pipit	5
Pallas's Bunting	1 juvenile

The road started to climb in to the mountains after about Km post 601 (17 kilometres beyond the Haermodun Grasslands) on NH 218.

Huang Shui Gou (Shui Wen Zhan) (HEP station) Km post 591 09:35hrs 1320 metres

'Lower' Baluntai Km post 563 10:00hrs 1580 metres
The road forks here, turn right is one route to Urumqi. We turned left and headed further in to the Tian Shan Mountains.

There's some very attractive scrub and woodland in the gorge bottom around Km post 554 on NH 218 (9 kms north of the 'lower' Baluntai village and immediately below the 'upper' Baluntai village). (1680 metres)

'Upper' Baluntai Km post 553. This village is slightly larger and has a guest house.

Roadside fields near Km post 535 - 1 hour's drive above Baluntai. (42°52.7'N., 86°20.7'E.). 2051 metres.

We birded this roadside area of wheat and cabbage fields and the sparse patches of dry scrub on the adjacent hillside about 18 kms drive north of Baluntai from 11:05-11:44hrs. I walked about one kilometre north along NH 218 from about Km post 535 (no posts were present so this is an estimate). From here it's 126 kms at 185° back to Korla (almost due north of Korla).

Birds here inc. -	
Chukar	1 heard about 3 kms further up the road (at Km 532)

Cliff face at 2344 metres on NH 218 between Baluntai and the summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass. (42°54.8'N., 86°15.2'E.).

From here it's 129 kms at 182° back to Korla (almost due north of Korla), 148 kms at 31° to Changji and 146 kms at 44° to Urumqi.

Birds here inc. -	
Himalayan Griffon	22
Lammergeier	2 adults
Golden Eagle	2
Northern Wheatear	2

Summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass (Camel Cage Pass). (43°03.1'N., 85°58.8'E.). 3320 metres.

From here it's 145 kms at 172° back to Korla (almost due north of Korla) and 154 kms at 54° to Urumqi.

Birds here inc. -	
Saker Falcon	1
Common Redshank	2 on a roadside pool within 400 metres of the summit
Himalayan Griffon	2
Common Raven	1 flew over

Haeruoermu Chang

16:20hrs.

2945 metres

From here we were told that it was at least another 100 kms to Gong Nai Si – where the only accommodation within 150 kms was! The road was being worked on and was in a terrible state – suitable for 4-wheel drive vehicles and nothing less! We were currently making progress at the rate of about 15 kms/hour and reluctantly decided to turn around and head back to Baluntai. This we did arriving back at the guest house there at 21:30hrs – the driver had been ‘on the go’ for 15 hours!

Chukar	1 was heard on an arid hillside near Km post 532 (21 kms above Baluntai on NH 218). (2270 metres)
Common Quail	1 was heard in the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
Eurasian Hoopoe	4 – all at the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
Common Cuckoo	1 juvenile about 45 minutes drive above Baluntai. (1970 metres)
Common Swift	10 – including 4 over the Haermodun Grassland, 3 near Km post 535 on NH 218 (18 kms above Baluntai) and 2 over the Luotuo Juan Pass. (1100, 2050 and 3240 metres)
Rock Pigeon	‘Present’ between Korla and towards Gong Nai Si.
Laughing Dove	2 in the village of Huadan / Qikexing Zhong Dui – about 40 minutes drive north of Korla (near Km post 639) on NH 218. (1150 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	5 in the agricultural lowlands along NH 218 between Korla and Baluntai. (1000-1320 metres)
Common Moorhen	1 was heard in the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
Common Snipe	2 singles in the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
Common Redshank	2 on a roadside pool about 200 metres west of the summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass. (3300 metres)
Green Sandpiper	1 at the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
Common Sandpiper	1 at the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
Northern Lapwing	3 at the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
Lammergeier	3 – 2 adults about midway between Baluntai and the summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass and another adult actually over the same pass. (2500 and 3350 metres)
Himalayan Griffon	24 – 22 about midway between Baluntai and the summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass and another 2 actually over the same pass. (2500 and 3350 metres)
Long-legged Buzzard	1 about five kms north of the village of Huadan / Qikexing Zhong Dui – about 40 minutes drive north of Korla (near Km post 634) on NH 218. (1170 metres)
Golden Eagle	2 about midway between Baluntai and the summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass. (2500 metres)
Saker Falcon	1 was seen from the summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass. (3350 metres)
Great Cormorant	3 at the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
Grey Heron	1 at the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
Great Egret	1 at the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
Rufous-tailed Shrike	4 – 2 at the Haermodun Grassland and 2 more singles about 22 and 30 kms above Baluntai. (1100, 2230 and 2490 metres)
Red-billed Chough	6 between the raptor site midway between Baluntai and the summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass and within about 25 kms west of the summit of the same pass. (2660 and 3190 metres)
Common Raven	1 flew west over the summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass. (3340 metres)
Bluethroat	2 were seen perched on over head wires at the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
Black Redstart	1 about 25 minutes drive above Baluntai. (1890 metres)
White-winged Redstart	3 – an adult male and a juvenile and another juvenile at two sites about 12 and 17 kms west of the summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass. (3165 metres)
Northern Wheatear	15 between Km post 530 on NH 218 (23 kms above Baluntai) and beyond the summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass. (2160-3210 metres)
Pied Wheatear	3 about 40 minutes drive above Baluntai. (1900 metres)
Sand Martin or Pale Martin	4
Barn Swallow	100 – including at least 50 at the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
Northern House Martin	15 including 3 over the Haermodun Grassland, 7 more about 15 minutes drive above Baluntai village and 5 near Km post 535 on NH 218 (18 kms above Baluntai). (1100, 1825 and 2050 metres)
Sulphur-bellied Warbler	1 near Km post 535 on NH 218 (18 kms above Baluntai) (2050 metres)
Crested Lark	5 at the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
Horned Lark	4 – all within about 15 kms west of the summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass. (2925-3150 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	50. The highest was at 2445 metres.
White-winged Snowfinch	19, in parties of 5 and 14 birds, were seen within 20 kms down on the western side of the Luotuo Juan Pass. (3165 metres)
White Wagtail	20 widespread birds were noted between Korla and towards Gong Nai Si. (1100-3235 metres)
Citrine Wagtail	40 widespread birds were noted between Korla and towards Gong Nai Si. (1100-3165 metres)
Grey Wagtail	4 between the Haermodun Grassland, Baluntai village and towards Gong Nai Si. (1100-3105 metres)
Richard's Pipit	5 in the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
Rosy Pipit	15 between Km post 535 on NH 218 (18 kms above Baluntai) and about 20 kms west of the summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass. (2050-3090 metres)
Common Rosefinch	30 between Baluntai and about Km 530. These included about 20 in crops near Km post 535 on NH 218 (18 kms above Baluntai). (1740-2300 metres)
Grey-necked Bunting	2 males – 1 on the dry hillside near Km post 535 and the other above Km post 532 on NH 218 (18 and 21 kms above Baluntai respectively). (2050 and 2255 metres)
Pallas's Bunting	1 juvenile was in the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)

MAMMALS

Tian Shan Marmot	10 (All above 3200 metres)
ground squirrel sp.	4 (3095 metres and above)
hare sp.	1 was glimpsed from the taxi near the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)

Wednesday 17 August 2005. Baluntai back to Korla via Bosten Hu.

We left Baluntai at 06:50hrs, fixed a tyre in a nearby garage and headed back down to Korla. We made several stops on route – the main ones being the Haermodun Grasslands and a couple of sites on the southern side of Bosten Hu. We arrived back in Korla at about 17:10hrs. We checked in at the 4-star Silver Star Hotel, 36 East Renmin Road, Korla (Tel: 996 2028888. Fax: 996 2216868) where our room cost 400 yuan/night including two breakfasts. [Note that breakfast here was from 08:00-11:00hrs!] We found on our trip throughout Xinjiang that most hotels do not start to serve breakfast until 08:00hrs – the only exceptions that we found were the two 5-star hotels in Urumqi - the Silver Star Hotel started their buffet breakfast at 07:30hrs, the Yin Du Hotel at 07:00hrs.

Weather: It was 18°C in the Haermodun Grassland at 09:00hrs. (1100 metres)

Haermodun Grasslands. (42°17.3'N., 86°08.7'E.). 1100 metres.

I spent almost 1.5 hours (08:05-09:30hrs) birding the area near Km post 591 on NH 218

Birds seen inc. -	
Long-legged Buzzard	2
Eurasian Hobby	1
Common Kestrel	1
Richard's Pipit	15
Pacific Golden Plover	5
Great Egret	2
Grey Heron	1
Rusty-rumped Warbler	10 – four were seen (including two juveniles) and at least 6 others were heard.

We turned off NH 218, at Km post 673, at 10:45hrs (1 hour and 15 minutes after leaving the Haermodun Grasslands) and headed towards the southwestern corner of Bosten Hu.

Lian Hua Hu, Bosten Hu. (41°48.3'N., 86°21.5'E.). 1036 metres.

After leaving NH 218 we drove 8 kms down to where they are constructing what appears as though it will be an entrance gate / toll booth across this road. We turned left almost immediately after this entrance gate / toll booth and drove 600 metres down to the left, following signs to the car park. Parking up here we walked to the back right of the small car park and across a footbridge (a fee of 8 yuan/person was payable here) on to a small 'touristy island' where drinks and souvenirs could be bought and boat rides taken out in channels through the reed bed. There are very few birds just here so I walked to the left (west) about 200-300 metres and across two sluice gates. This unpaved road had no traffic and led, for several kilometers, through some very extensive reed beds. I spent three hours here (11:00-14:00hrs). From the site it is 19.3kms at 251° to Korla.

Birds seen inc. –	
Great Bittern	1
Great Egret	3
Grey Heron	3
Little Bittern	3
Water Rail	1 was heard in the reed bed
Common Coot	1
Red-crested Pochard	4
Ferruginous Pochard	3
Mallard	4
Long-legged Buzzard	2 flew over
Temminck's Stint	1
Yellow-legged Gull	3 (1 adult and 2 juveniles)
Common Tern	8
Whiskered Tern	3 (1 summer plumaged adult and 2 juveniles)
White-winged Black Tern	1 juvenile
Paddyfield Warbler	8
Bearded Tit	8 – three singles and a couple were seen with three other birds only being heard.
House Martin	8 over the car park
Reed Bunting	1
Tree Pipit	1 seen on the dirt road eventually flew off north

Leaving Lian Hua Hu we continued to drive east along the southern shore of the massive Bosten Hu lake. Access to the bulk of the lake (it was practically all reed bed until the next site) is made difficult by the presence of a large drainage channel that parallels the road.

Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (41°49.3'N., 86°45.1'E.). 1037 metres.

This site is approximately one-quarter of the way east along the lake's southern side and is where an un-paved, dirt road bisects it from north to south. To the west of this road is a very large reed bed, to the right mostly open water (with a few fishing boats and a small number of fishing nets). A small expanse of mud in the extreme southwestern corner of this 'eastern lake' held a few shorebirds and I spent 45 minutes (14:30-15:15hrs) here. This site is 45 km from the main NH 218 and from here its 51.6kms at 260° to Korla.

Birds seen here inc. -	
Greylag Goose	12
Great Cormorant	14
Great Egret	3
Grey Heron	3
Common Moorhen	10
Common Coot	6
Garganey	15
Red-crested Pochard	6
Mallard	40
Eurasian Curlew	2
Common Redshank	6
Kentish Plover	10
Little Stint	6 (5 juveniles and 1 adult)
Temminck's Stint	13
Yellow-legged Gull	2 adults
Gull-billed Tern	1 adult flew west
Asian Short-toed Lark	5

From Yang Shui Zhan we drove another 13 kms east. After one kilometre we passed the entrance gate where a 12 yuan/person fee was payable. There was a pool about 4-5 kilometres east of here and I birded this from 15:30-15:55hrs before heading back to Korla.

Large pool about 4-5 kilometres east of Yang Shui Zhan.

Birds seen here inc. -	
Great Cormorant	7
Great Egret	41
Garganey	10
Red-crested Pochard	10
Mallard	150
Black-winged Stilt	40
Black-tailed Godwit	14
Pacific Golden Plover	2 summer plumaged adults
Black-headed Gull	250

Greylag Goose	12 at Bosten Hu – all were at Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 metres)
Mallard	190 on Bosten Hu – 4 at Lian Hua Hu, 40 at Yang Shui Zhan and 150 on the large pool 4-5 kms east of Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 metres)
Garganey	25 on Bosten Hu – 15 at Yang Shui Zhan and 10 on the large pool 4-5 kms east of Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 metres)
Red-crested Pochard	20 on Bosten Hu - 4 at Lian Hua Hu, 6 at Yang Shui Zhan and 10 on the large pool 4-5 kms east of Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 metres)
Ferruginous Pochard	3 at Bosten Hu – all three were at Lian Hua Hu. (1035 metres)
Eurasian Hoopoe	2 in the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
Common Swift	1 flew over Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Rock Pigeon	'Present'
Hill Pigeon	5 in the hills south of Baluntai. (1590 and 1610 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	3 besides NH 218 in the 'lowlands' between the Haermodun Grassland and the edge of Bosten Hu. (1050-1100 metres)
Water Rail	1 was heard at Lian Hua Hu, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Common Moorhen	20 on Bosten Hu – nearly all of these were at Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 metres)
Eurasian Coot	8 on Bosten Hu – all eight were at Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 metres)
Black-tailed Godwit	14 at Bosten Hu – all were on the large pool 4-5 kms east of Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 metres)
Eurasian Curlew	2 flew east at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Common Redshank	8 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Green Sandpiper	1 was heard over the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
Little Stint	6, five juveniles and an adult, at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Temminck's Stint	15 at Bosten Hu – 1 at Lian Hua Hu and 14 at Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 metres)
Black-winged Stilt	40 at Bosten Hu – birds were seen at all three sites we visited - Lian Hua Hu and Yang Shui Zhan but most of them were on the large pool 4-5 kms east of Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 metres)
Pacific Golden Plover	7 – 5 at the Haermodun Grassland and 2 summer plumaged adults were on the large pool 4-5 kms east of Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 and 1100 metres)
Kentish Plover	18 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Northern Lapwing	4 – 2 on the Haermodun Grassland and 2 more at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 and 1100 metres)
Yellow-legged Gull	8 at Bosten Hu.
[Brown-headed Gull	1 first-winter, possibly this species, was seen distantly at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)]
Black-headed Gull	250 at Bosten Hu – all of these were on the large pool 4-5 kms east of Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 metres)
Gull-billed Tern	1 flew west over the causeway at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Common Tern	11 – 1 at the Kaidu He and 10 at various sites along the southern edge of Bosten Hu. (1035 and 1095 metres)

Whiskered Tern	3, one adult and two juveniles, at Lian Hua Hu, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
White-winged Black Tern	1 juvenile at Lian Hua Hu, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Black Kite	1 flew over the road between Lian Hua Hu and Yang Shui Zhan along the southern edge of Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Long-legged Buzzard	9 – 2 over the Haermodun Grassland, 3 more in the desert area between there and Barunhaermodun, 4 at Bosten Hu (2 over Lian Hua Hu, 1 between there and Yang Shui Zhan and the last bird was just east of Yang Shui Zhan). (1035-1140 metres)
Common Kestrel	1 over the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
Eurasian Hobby	1 over the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
Great Crested Grebe	2 adults at Yang Shu Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Great Cormorant	24 – 3 at Lian Hua Hu, 14 at Yang Shui Zhan and 7 on the large pool 4-5 kms east of Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 metres)
Grey Heron	9 – 1 over the Haermodun Grassland and the rest along the southern edge of Bosten Hu. (1035 and 1100 metres)
Great Egret	53 – 2 in the Haermodun Grassland and the rest along the southern edge of Bosten Hu. Of these 51 birds 3 were at Lian Hua Hu, 3 more at Yang Shui Zhan and 41 on the large pool 4-5 kms east of Yang Shui Zhan and there were several others at various spots in between. (1035 and 1100 metres)
Little Bittern	3 at Lian Hua Hu, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Great Bittern	1 was seen in flight on three occasions within about 50 minutes at Lian Hua Hu, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Rufous-tailed Shrike	20 between Baluntai, the Haermodun Grassland and Bosten Hu. (1035-1200 metres)
Desert Wheatear	1 adult male near the large pool 4-5 kms east of Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Barn Swallow	100 – these included 50 over the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
Northern House Martin	10 – 3 over the Haermodun Grassland and 7 at Lian Hua Hu, Bosten Hu. (1035 and 1100 metres)
Rusty-rumped Warbler	10 – 4 (including two juveniles) were seen and at least 6 others were heard in the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
Paddyfield Warbler	8 at Lian Hua Hu, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Bearded Parrotbill	8 at Lian Hua Hu, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Asian Short-toed Lark	5 at Yang Shu Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Crested Lark	4 in the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
House Sparrow	2 at Lian Hua Hu, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	150 – all were in single a maize field in the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
White Wagtail	10 widespread birds were noted - but most of these were in the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
Citrine Wagtail	20 widespread birds were noted - but most of these were in the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
Richard's Pipit	15 in the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
Tree Pipit	1 seen on the dirt road through the reed bed at Lian Hua Hu, Bosten Hu eventually flew off north. (1035 metres)
Reed Bunting	1 at Lian Hua Hu, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)

Thursday 18 August 2005. South-south-west of Korla to Puhui dunes and Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun.

I left the hotel at 06:20hrs and drove back to Puhui. I spent the morning there, birding the two sites that I'd first explored on the 15 August – the Puhui Dunes and Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun ('Puhui Diversifolius Poplar Tourist Resort') area. I arrived at the first site at 07:10hrs – it was still a bit too dark to see much but I headed off in to the dunes, this time intending to explore the area to the north of the road (local road X230). There were hundreds of mosquitoes this morning (it had apparently rained a bit during the night) and despite using repellent I was eaten alive. In the event I only spent 40 minutes here, leaving at 07:50hrs to drive to the second Puhui site.

Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. ('Puhui Diversifolius Poplar Tourist Resort'). (41°27.5'N., 85°51.4'E.). 880 metres.

Arriving at 08:00hrs I headed off in to the trees immediately to the west of the tourist complex. I spent almost four hours here (08:00-11:45hrs) though much of that was given over to taping and photographing a family party of Booted Eagles. I then headed back to the Silver Star Hotel, Korla.

Weather: There were a few spots of rain just as we arrived at the Puhui Dunes and it remained overcast all morning. It started to rain again once I'd returned to Korla.

Mallard	2 were seen in flight at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
White-winged Woodpecker	11 including a party of five birds (1 male and four female-plumaged individuals) at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
Eurasian Hoopoe	2 in Puhui Dunes. (890 metres)
nightjar sp.	1 was seen from the car on the night time drive between Korla and Puhui. (880 metres)
Rock Pigeon	'Present'
Stock Pigeon	4 at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	4 between Korla and Puhui. (880-910 metres)
Common Moorhen	6 at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
Common Redshank	1 was heard at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
Black-winged Stilt	4 at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
Yellow-legged Gull	2 juveniles flew over Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
Common Tern	1 at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)

Black Kite	5 at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
Pallas's Fish Eagle	1 juvenile flew over the tourist complex at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
Booted Eagle	3, an adult and two recently fledged, very vocal juveniles, at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. Both juveniles were free flying but one of them was later seen back in the nest. (880 metres)
Eurasian Hobby	1 at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
Great Cormorant	1 was seen in flight at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
Rufous-tailed Shrike	20 between Korla and Puhui. (880-910 metres)
Carrion Crow	3 at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
Rosy Starling	1 was heard at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
Barn Swallow	15 at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
White-browed Chinese Warbler	4 were heard at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
[Eurasian Reed Warbler	1 bird, probably this species, was heard at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)]
Desert Lesser Whitethroat	15 – with birds in both the Puhui Dunes and at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
Asian Short-toed Lark	1 was heard in Puhui Dunes. (880 metres)
Saxaul Sparrow	25 at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	20 between Korla and Puhui. (880-910 metres)
White Wagtail	10 between Korla and Puhui. (880-910 metres)
Citrine Wagtail	10 at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)

MAMMALS

Tarim Hare	1 at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
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Friday 19 August 2005. South-south-east of Korla to Qia La and Da Xi Haizi Reservoirs.

We left the Silver Star Hotel, Korla at 06:55hrs and drove south-south-east on NH G218. This road heads, south bordering the eastern edge of the Taklamakan Desert and the western side of the Turpan Basin. It eventually goes to Ruoqiang (Charklik) and then forks, one limb heading east in to Qinghai, the other circling west around the southern side of the Desert.

Yulixian	Km post 738	07:40hrs	930 metres
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Road comes close to the Talimu He (Talimu River) at Km post 785

Oia La Reservoir. (41°01.0'N., 86°40.4'E.), 870 metres.

I birded two sites on the western side this long slim reservoir that is set back about 15-20 metres from the left side of NH 218 – these sites were adjacent to Km posts 788 and 790. The reservoir appears to be slightly deeper towards its southern end. I spent almost an hour here (08:10-09:00hrs). From here its 93.5 kms at 329° back to Korla and note that there are several more places to access the reservoir – a couple of which are closer to the small village of Ta He Shui Guan Chu at Km 800.5. I didn't stop at any of these other sites however.

Birds seen here inc. -	
Greylag Goose	44
Garganey	3
Common Teal	4
Ferruginous Duck	3
Red-crested Pochard	15
Great Cormorant	2
Great Egret	9
Grey Heron	8
Black Stork	1
Great Crested Grebe	10
Yellow-legged Gull	6
Pallas's Gull	3
Common Tern	8
White-winged Black Tern	2 moulting summer plumaged adults
Osprey	1
Long-legged Buzzard	1
Temminck's Stint	3
White-browed Chinese Warbler	2
Common Starling	8
Desert Lesser Whitethroat	2

San Shi Yi Tuan	Km post 819	09:00hrs	865 metres
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Previously an army base – hence the unimaginative name.

Da Xi Haizi Reservoir.

We birded two separate sites on the eastern side of this large, sprawling reservoir – Da Shi Haizi Er Hao Ku Chun (Da Shi Haizi No. 2 Station) and Da Shi Haizi Yi Hao Ku Chun (Da Shi Haizi No. 1 Station).

The site that we visited first, Da Shi Haizi Er Hao Ku Chun, was the southernmost of the two and was accessed by turning right off NH 218 at the sign post about 100 metres south of Km post 880. We stayed on this dirt track for about 3-4 kms driving to a small village, turned left at the 'T'-junction, continued through the village (stopping at the pool – see below) and continued on for about another 3-4 kms to a sluice gate at the reservoir edge.

'Half-Way' Village Pool near Da Xi Haizi Reservoir. (40°36.9'N., 87°33.1'E.). 832 metres

I spent 50 minutes here (09:50-10:40hrs) and from here its 174 kms at 315° back to Korla.

Birds seen here inc. –	
Water Rail	3, one seen and two heard.
Ferruginous Pochard	2
Common Coot	20
Moorhen	20, mostly juveniles
Little Tern	2
Bearded Tit	3
Great Egret	3
Common Starling	8
Common Tern	10 including several juveniles
Long-legged Buzzard	1 adult
White-winged Woodpecker	1 was heard

Da Shi Haizi Er Hao Ku Chun. (40°35.3'N., 87°33.5'E.). 835 metres.

We spent about 1.5 hours here. From the sluice gate its 176 kms at 316° back to Korla. Besides the two adult eagles there were excellent numbers of both Red-crested Pochard and Great Cormorant on this part of the reservoir.

Birds seen here inc. –	
Gadwall	12
Northern Shoveler	8
Northern Pintail	3
Garganey	15
Red-crested Pochard	1090
Ferruginous Pochard	3
Eurasian Coot	35
Yellow-legged Gull	85
Pallas's Gull	20
Black-headed Gull	120
Common Tern	170
Little Tern	15
Whiskered Tern	34
Black Kite	5
Pallas's Fish Eagle	1 adult
White-tailed Eagle	1 adult
Long-legged Buzzard	2
Great Crested Grebe	36
Great Cormorant	1250
Grey Heron	6
Great Egret	2
Common Greenshank	15
Common Redshank	9
[Xinjiang Ground Jay	1 dead first-year bird was found tangled in some fishing nets. These nets were hung about 1.5 metres high along the side of the road next to where the fishermen were drying their fish. They were trying to 'discourage' the Common Terns from stealing their catch - and there were also a couple of dead adult Common Terns in the same 15 metre stretch of fishing net!]
Reed Bunting	1

Da Shi Haizi Yi Hao Ku Chun. (40°37.5'N., 87°25.7'E.). 835 metres.

From here we returned to the main highway (G218) and headed back north for six kilometres. We turned off west at Km post 874 and drove about 2 kilometres down here to where the road bent right slightly at the first houses. We turned off left on to a dirt track here and kept on this, driving parallel to a drainage channel on the left, for about 3-4 more kilometres. We parked up at another sluice gate and spent about 45 minutes here (15:00-15:45hrs). From the sluice gate its 166 kms at 318° back to Korla. There were no ducks on this relatively small and seemingly isolated part of the reservoir – but a lot of Little Terns and two immature Pallas's Fish Eagles.

Birds seen here inc. –	
Common Tern	30
Little Tern	35
Black Kite	2
Pallas's Fish Eagle	2 birds were seen - an immature (probably a second calendar year bird since it looked ostensibly like a dark juvenile with a reduced dark ear covert patch and was just starting to moult its inner primaries) was sitting on the top of a sand dune overlooking the reservoir while the second bird, a definite juvenile, flew high to the west overhead.
Long-legged Buzzard	1
Pied Wheatear	1

Leaving Da Shi Haizi Yi Hao Ku Chun we headed back to the main road (G218) and continued on our way back to Korla. We detoured off east to our final site close to Korla.

Xinier Reservoir. (41°35.1'N., 86°14.2'E.). 880 metres.

A small tourist style reservoir close to Korla. From here its 20.8 kms at 334° back to Korla. We spent 30 minutes here (18:00-18:30hrs).

Birds seen here inc. –	
Greylag Goose	27
Yellow-legged Gull	15
Pallas's Gull	1 juvenile
Black-headed Gull	35
Common Tern	18
Great Crested Grebe	32
Great Cormorant	78
Grey Heron	11
Great Egret	5

In all we drove 460 kms today and arrived back at the Silver Star Hotel, Korla at about 19:05hrs.

Greylag Goose	71 – with 44 on Qia La Reservoir and 27 on Xinier Reservoir. (870 and 880 metres)
Gadwall	12 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir – all of these were with the other waterfowl at Er Hao Ku Chun. (835 metres)
Mallard	3 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir – all of these were with the other waterfowl at Er Hao Ku Chun. (835 metres)
Northern Shoveler	8 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir – all of these were with the other waterfowl at Er Hao Ku Chun. (835 metres)
Northern Pintail	3 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir – all of these were with the other waterfowl at Er Hao Ku Chun. (835 metres)
Garganey	18 – with 3 on Qia La Reservoir and 15 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir (all of the latter were with the other waterfowl at Er Hao Ku Chun). (835-880 metres)
Common Teal	4 on Qia La Reservoir. (870 metres)
Red-crested Pochard	1105 – with 15 on Qia La Reservoir and a massive 1090 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir (all of the latter were with the other waterfowl at Er Hao Ku Chun). (835-870 metres)
Ferruginous Pochard	8 – with 3 on Qia La Reservoir, 3 on the 'Half-Way' Village Pool (near Da Xi Haizi Reservoir) and 3 more on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir (all of the latter were with the other waterfowl at Er Hao Ku Chun). (835-870 metres)
White-winged Woodpecker	1 was heard in the village near the 'Half-Way' Village Pool, close to Da Xi Haizi Reservoir. (832 metres)
Eurasian Hoopoe	4 between Korla and Da Xi Haizi Reservoir. (835-920 metres)
Rock Pigeon	'Present' between Korla and Da Xi Haizi Reservoir. (835-920 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	5 between Korla and Da Xi Haizi Reservoir. (835-920 metres)
Water Rail	3 (one seen and two others only heard) on the 'Half-Way' Village Pool, near Da Xi Haizi Reservoir. (832 metres)
Common Moorhen	30 – these included 20 on the 'Half-Way' Village Pool, near Da Xi Haizi Reservoir. (832 metres)
Eurasian Coot	75 – these included 20 on the 'Half-Way' Village Pool, near Da Xi Haizi Reservoir and 35 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir – most of the latter were with the other waterfowl at Er Hao Ku Chun. (830-835 metres)
Common Redshank	9 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir – all of these were with the other waterfowl at Er Hao Ku Chun. (835 metres)
Common Greenshank	15 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir – all of these were with the other waterfowl at Er Hao Ku Chun. (835 metres)
Green Sandpiper	1 was heard over Qia La Reservoir. (870 metres)
Wood Sandpiper	1 was heard at over Qia La Reservoir. (870 metres)
Common Sandpiper	2 at Xinier Reservoir. (880 metres)
Temminck's Stint	3 over Qia La Reservoir. (870 metres)
Black-winged Stilt	40 – with birds being noted at most of the wet land sites we visited between Korla, Qia La Reservoir Da Xi Haizi Reservoir and at Xinier Reservoir. (835-880 metres)
Yellow-legged Gull	106 – with 6 on Qia La Reservoir, 85 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir (most of these were at Er Hao Ku Chun) and 15 on Xinier Reservoir. (835-880 metres)
Pallas's Gull	24 – with 3 on Qia La Reservoir, 20 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir (all of these were at Er Hao Ku Chun) and 1 juvenile on Xinier Reservoir. (835-880 metres)
Black-headed Gull	155 – with 120 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir (all of these were at Er Hao Ku Chun) and 35 on Xinier Reservoir. (835-880 metres)
Common Tern	180 – with 6 on the Taliman He about three kilometres north of Qia La Reservoir, 6 more on Qia La Reservoir, 10 on the 'Half-Way' Village Pool, near Da Xi Haizi Reservoir, 150 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir (120 of these were at Er Hao Ku Chun and the remaining 30 at Yi Hao Ku Chun) and finally there were 18 on Xinier Reservoir. (830-880 metres)
Little Tern	87 – with 2 on the 'Half-Way' Village Pool, near Da Xi Haizi Reservoir, 50 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir (15 of these were at Er Hao Ku Chun and the remaining 35 at Yi Hao Ku Chun). (830-835 metres)
Whiskered Tern	34 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir – all of these were at Er Hao Ku Chun. (835 metres)
White-winged Black Tern	2 moulting summer plumaged adults on Qia La Reservoir. (870 metres)
Osprey	1 was seen in flight over Qia La Reservoir. It was carrying a large fish. (870 metres)
Black Kite	10 – 7 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir (5 of these were at Er Hao Ku Chun and 2 at Yi Hao Ku Chun) and 3 others between there and Korla. (835 metres)
Pallas's Fish Eagle	3 - an adult at Da Shi Haizi Reservoir Er Hao Ku Chun and two birds at Yi Hao Ku Chun. Of these two an immature, probably a second calendar year bird since it looked ostensibly like a dark juvenile with a reduced dark ear covert patch and was just starting to moult its inner primaries, was sitting on the top of a sand dune overlooking the reservoir while the second bird, a definite juvenile, flew high to the west overhead. (835 metres)
White-tailed Eagle	1 adult at Da Shi Haizi Reservoir – it was at Er Hao Ku Chun. (835 metres)

Long-legged Buzzard	10 – these included 2 between Korla and Qia La Reservoir, 2 actually at Qia La Reservoir itself, 1 near the ‘Half-Way’ Village Pool, 3 near Da Shi Haizi Reservoir (2 Er Hao Ku Chun and another at Yi Hao Ku Chun), 2 more between there and Korla. (830-870 metres)
Great Crested Grebe	78 – with 10 on Qia La Reservoir, 36 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir (all of these were with the other waterfowl at Er Hao Ku Chun) and 32 on Xinier Reservoir. (835-880 metres)
Great Cormorant	1330 birds were noted – with 2 on Qia La Reservoir, a massive 1250 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir (all of these were at Er Hao Ku Chun where a large number [80+] of disused tree nests were seen) and 78 at Xinier Reservoir. (835-880 metres)
Grey Heron	25 – with 8 on Qia La Reservoir, 6 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir (all of these were at Er Hao Ku Chun) and 11 on Xinier Reservoir. (835-880 metres)
Great Egret	19 – with 9 on Qia La Reservoir, 3 on the ‘Half-Way’ Village Pool (near Da Xi Haizi Reservoir), 2 at Da Shi Haizi Reservoir (both were at Er Hao Ku Chun) and 5 on Xinier Reservoir. (830-880 metres)
Black Stork	1 on Qia La Reservoir. (870 metres)
Rufous-tailed Shrike	20 between Korla and near Da Shi Haizi. (835-890 metres)
[Xinjiang Ground-jay	1 dead first-year bird was found tangled in some fishing nets along the side of Da Shi Haizi Reservoir (at Er Hao Ku Chun). The bird appeared to have been dead for quite a few days. These nets were hung about 1.5 metres high along the side of the road next to where the fishermen were drying their fish. They were trying to ‘discourage’ the Common Terns from stealing their catch - and there were also a couple of dead adult Common Terns in the same 15 metre stretch of fishing net!]
Carrion Crow	20 between Korla and near Da Shi Haizi. (835-890 metres)
Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush	1 juvenile near Da Shi Haizi – it was close to Yi Hao Ku Chun. (835 metres)
Pied Wheatear	1 near Da Shi Haizi – it was also close to Yi Hao Ku Chun. (835 metres)
Common Starling	16 – with 8 near Qia La Reservoir and 8 more on the ‘Half-Way’ Village Pool, near Da Xi Haizi Reservoir. (870 and 830 metres)
Barn Swallow	40 between Korla and near Da Shi Haizi. (835-890 metres)
White-browed Chinese Warbler	2 were heard near Qia La Reservoir. (870 metres)
Bearded Parrotbill	3 on the ‘Half-Way’ Village Pool, near Da Xi Haizi Reservoir. (832 metres)
Desert Lesser Whitethroat	10 – with birds being noted at several sites between Korla and near Da Shi Haizi. (835-890 metres)
Asian Short-toed Lark	2 near Da Shi Haizi – Yi Hao Ku Chun. (835 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	40 between Korla and near Da Shi Haizi. (835-890 metres)
White Wagtail	15 between Korla and near Da Shi Haizi. (835-890 metres)
Citrine Wagtail	20 between Korla and near Da Shi Haizi. (835-890 metres)
Reed Bunting	1 at Da Shi Haizi Reservoir – it was at Er Hao Ku Chun. (835 metres)

Saturday 20 August 2005. All day near Korla – morning at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu.

I left the hotel at 06:30hrs and drove back to Yang Shui Zhan, a site that I had visited three days previously, on the south-eastern edge of Bosten Hu. I turned off the main Korla to Urumqi highway (G314), at Km post 673, 25 minutes after leaving the hotel and arrived at the site 25 minutes after that. I arrived at 07:20hrs and spent the morning there, leaving at about 13:00hrs. I had hassle with the police here today. I was alone and they claimed that I should not be there – the fact that there were dozens of other tourists (all Chinese) at the same tourist site did not seem important. They took my passport and visa details and, after I’d made several phone calls to Qingyu, and she to them and their superiors, they finally let me go – but not until I’d been detained for 1.5 hours!

I spent all morning walking along the causeway that separates the two parts of the lake – reed bed to the west and open water to the right.

Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (41°49.3’N., 86°45.1’E.). 1037 metres.

Greylag Goose	25 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Gadwall	76 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Mallard	75 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Northern Pintail	2 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Garganey	18 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Red-crested Pochard	94 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Ferruginous Pochard	19 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Eurasian Hoopoe	1 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Common Swift	1 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Rock Pigeon	‘Present’ between Korla and Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	2 near Bosten Hu. (1050 metres)
Common Moorhen	20 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Eurasian Coot	10 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Common Snipe	1 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Eurasian Curlew	2 flew east at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Common Redshank	23 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Common Greenshank	1 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Green Sandpiper	2 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Terek Sandpiper	6 (five juveniles and one adult) at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Common Sandpiper	3 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Little Stint	8 (seven juveniles and one adult) at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Temminck’s Stint	60 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. 58 birds were seen well enough to be aged and of these 30 were juvenile and 28 adult. (1035 metres)

Dunlin	1 juvenile at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Curlw Sandpiper	7 juveniles at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Broad-billed Sandpiper	1 juvenile at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Black-winged Stilt	15 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Pacific Golden Plover	1 was heard at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Little Ringed Plover	2 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Kentish Plover	24 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Northern Lapwing	1 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Yellow-legged Gull	22 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Pallas's Gull	1 juvenile at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Black-headed Gull	60 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Gull-billed Tern	1 summer plumaged adult at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Common Tern	25 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Little Tern	4 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Whiskered Tern	2 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	2 (an adult female and a juvenile male) were seen low over the reed beds at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu right at dawn. They had probably roosted locally overnight. (1035 metres)
Great Crested Grebe	4 (two adults and two attendant juveniles) at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Great Cormorant	8 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Grey Heron	15 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Great Egret	63 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. About four birds were 'present' throughout the period I was there and a total of 59 others flew high to the west. The latter had presumably been roosting somewhere to the east of Yang Shui Zhan and were heading out in to the reed bed to feed during the day. (1035 metres)
Little Bittern	5 birds were noted (three heard and two juveniles seen) at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Rufous-tailed Shrike	10 at Bosten Hu – most of these were at Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 metres)
Barn Swallow	350 at Bosten Hu – most of these were at Yang Shui Zhan. Most of them were heading south east over the base of the causeway shortly after dawn and had presumably roosted in the adjacent reed bed overnight. (1035 metres)
Northern House Martin	4 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Paddyfield Warbler	1 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Eurasian Reed Warbler	2 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Great Reed Warbler	3 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Bearded Parrotbill	12 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Asian Short-toed Lark	3 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	'Present' in Korla and at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (920-1035 metres)
White Wagtail	20 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Citrine Wagtail	30 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Grey Wagtail	1 flew over at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Richard's Pipit	1 flew over at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 metres)
Reed Bunting	18 birds were noted, in singles and parties of two or three birds, at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. Surprisingly all were flying east. This movement went on throughout the morning and did not appear to be due to birds leaving a reed bed roost. (1035 metres)

Sunday 21 August 2005. Korla to Urumqi.

We left the Silver Star Hotel, Korla at 07:00hrs and drove north on NH G314 to Urumqi. We made numerous stops on route and finally arrived at the 5-star Yin Du Hotel, 39 Xibei Road, Urumqi (tel: 991 4536688. fax: 991 4517166. email: yindu@yinduhotel.com http://www.yinduhotel.com) at 15:20hrs. Rooms here cost 700 yuan including two breakfasts. Note that breakfasts here started at 07:00hrs and that this hotel was better than the previous Urumqi hotel that we'd used (the Silver Star Hotel). The food here was excellent.

Km 673 turning to Bosten Hu 07:30hrs

Small roadside pool on left (west) side of NH 314 at Km post 430 about 2 kms south of Si Shi Li Cheng village.

Great Egret	1
Great Cormorant	4 flew south east

Larger roadside pool on left (west) side of NH 314 at Km post 427 about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng village. (41°55.7'N., 86°25.2'E.). 1029 metres.

This pool is about 2-3 kms south of where NH314 first crosses over the top of and on to the right (east) side of the newly constructed (and still) not opened Korla to Urumqi Expressway. According to our current driver this expressway is apparently due to open 1 October 2005. I spent 20 minutes here (08:00-08:20hrs). From here its 30.5kms at 228° back to Korla.

Birds here inc. -	
Great Egret	27
Grey Heron	4
Great Cormorant	6
Red-crested Pochard	45 including about 10 recently fledged birds in two family parties
Great Crested Grebe	6 including two recently fledged birds
Black-winged Stilt	15
Common Tern	15

Common Moorhen	30
Common Coot	2

Er Shi Qi Tuan (literally '27th Settlement') 08:15hrs

Tomato Processing Plant Km post 415.
There were about 150 trucks and trailers fully laden with what must have been millions of tomatoes lining the road here!

Kaidu He 08:20hrs. On the northern side of the river is Yanqi xian.

Marsh and, just to the north, an extensive reed bed on west (left) side of road between Kms 389-386.5
Great Egret 2
Grey Heron 9

Wu Shi Ta La Xiang. 09:30hrs Km post 329

Its possible to see the north-eastern corner of Bosten Hu well of in the distance from Km post 325.

Yushugou 10:05hrs Km posts 283-271
The Expressway descends from 1480-1145 metres through a real mid-west 'Badlands'-style area

Kumishibin Zhan 10:36hrs Km post 252 905 metres

Stopped at the Tuokexun Xian Services in the Pendi Depression 12:00-12:25hrs Km post 158 15 metres!
From the services it is 139 kms at 321° to Urumqi, 52.7 kms at 67° to Turpan and 234 kms at 239° to Korla.

Cai Wo Pu Hu. (43°31.8'N., 87°53.4'E.). 1073 metres.

A fairly large lake of to the western side of the Kashi to Urumqi Expressway right at the southern end of the Urumqi wind farm. Its apparently 45 kms by road from here to Urumqi – from here its 39.4 kms at 318° directly to the city. We spent about 45 minutes (13:49-14:33hrs) at the small tourist resort at the northern end of the reservoir. I scanned the lake from the boat mooring platform and then walked south past the meteorological station continuing for about 300 metres down the north-eastern side of the reservoir, staying close to the reed bed.

Birds here inc. -	
Great Crested Grebe	15
Black-headed Gull	20
Common Tern	5
Common Starling	12 flew south down the side of the reed bed.
Eurasian Reed Warbler	4
Eurasian Blackbird	1 male
Bluethroat	1 male
Lesser Whitethroat	1

Gadwall	3 on the large roadside pool about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng (Km post 427 on NH 314). (1029 metres)
Mallard	2 on the large roadside pool about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng (Km post 427 on NH 314). (1029 metres)
Red-crested Pochard	45, including about 10 recently fledged birds in two family parties, on the large roadside pool about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng (Km post 427 on NH 314). (1029 metres)
Eurasian Hoopoe	2 between Korla and Urumqi. 1 of these was in the Pendi Depression near Km post 154 on NH 314. (55 metres)
Rock Pigeon	'Present' between Korla and Urumqi.
Hill Pigeon	9 – a flock of eight in the desert about 6 kms south of Yushugou (at about Km 291 on NH 314) and a single bird 23 kms further north. (1045 and 1360 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	3 singles between Korla and Urumqi.
Common Moorhen	30 – all of these were on the large roadside pool about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng (Km post 427 on NH 314). (1029 metres)
Eurasian Coot	2 on the large roadside pool about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng (Km post 427 on NH 314). (1029 metres)
Black-winged Stilt	20 – 15 of these were on the large roadside pool about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng (Km post 427 on NH 314). (1029 metres)
Black-headed Gull	20 – all were on Cai Wo Pu Hu Reservoir about 40 kms south-east of Urumqi. (1073 metres)
Common Tern	20 – 15 on the large roadside pool about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng (Km post 427 on NH 314) and 5 on Cai Wo Pu Hu Reservoir about 40 kms south-east of Urumqi. (1029 and 1073 metres)
Black Kite	3 singles were seen from NH 314 between the Cai Wo Pu Hu Reservoir and Urumqi (all were quite close to Wulabo). (1115 metres)
Long-legged Buzzard	1 in the Pendi Depression near the Tuokexun Xian services on NH 314. (15 metres)
Common Kestrel	2 singles were noted in the Pendi Depression near the Tuokexun Xian services on NH 314. (15 and 25 metres)
Great Crested Grebe	6 on the large roadside pool about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng (Km post 427 on NH 314) and 15 on 314), 6 on the large roadside pool about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng (Km post 427 on NH 314) and 15 on Cai Wo Pu Hu Reservoir about 40 kms south-east of Urumqi. (1020-1073 metres).
Great Cormorant	25 – 4 flew south-east over the small pool about 2 kms south of Si Shi Li Cheng village (Km post 430 on NH 314), 6 on the large roadside pool about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng (Km post 427 on NH 314) and 15 on Cai Wo Pu Hu Reservoir about 40 kms south-east of Urumqi. (1020-1073 metres).

Grey Heron	13 – with 4 on the large roadside pool about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng (Km post 427 on NH 314) and 9 on the roadside marsh at Km 387. (1025 metres)
Great Egret	30 – with 1 on the small pool about 2 kms south of Si Shi Li Cheng village (Km post 430 on NH 314), 27 on the large roadside pool about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng (Km post 427 on NH 314) and 2 on the roadside marsh at Km 387. (1020 metres)
Rufous-tailed Shrike	15 between Korla and Urumqi. (15-1320 metres)
Common Raven	19 between Korla and Urumqi. Singles and parties of 2-4 birds were seen in the desert area roughly centred around Kumishibin Zhan (and approximately half-way along NH 314 between Korla and Urumqi). Birds were noted at the following altitudes – 945, 1045, 1075, 1150, 1170, 1300 and 1600 metres.
Eurasian Blackbird	1 male at Cai Wo Pu Hu Reservoir about 40 kms south-east of Urumqi. (1073 metres)
Bluethroat	1 male at Cai Wo Pu Hu Reservoir about 40 kms south-east of Urumqi. (1073 metres)
Common Starling	15 – 3 were seen on the road about 3 kms south of Wu Shi Ta La Xiang (Km post 332 on NH 314) and 12 more flew south at Cai Wo Pu Hu Reservoir about 40 kms southeast of Urumqi. (1073 metres)
Barn Swallow	100 between Korla and Urumqi.
Eurasian Reed Warbler	5 in the reed bed at the north-eastern corner of Cai Wo Pu Hu Reservoir about 40 kms south-east of Urumqi. (1073 metres)
Lesser Whitethroat	1 at Cai Wo Pu Hu Reservoir about 40 kms southeast of Urumqi. (1073 metres)
Crested Lark	3 near the large roadside pool about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng (Km post 427 on NH 314). (1025 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	80 between Korla and Urumqi. At least 50 of these were in the gardens of the Tuokexun Xian Services in the Pendi Depression. (15-1300 metres)
White Wagtail	20 between Korla and Urumqi. (15-1650 metres)
Citrine Wagtail	15 between Korla and Urumqi.

Monday 22 August 2005. Shui Shang Le Yuan, Urumqi.

Shui Shang Le Yuan, Urumqi. 43°45.3'N., 87°36.6'E. (935 metres)

I revisited this park (a site I first visited on the 31 July 2005) and spent about 1.5 hours (13:30-15:00hrs) here in sweltering the heat. Weather: hot (reaching 33°C) today. There were far fewer birds in the park today than on my previous visit. This was undoubtedly partly due to the time of day and the heat and also because the pool that previously held a nice assortment of waders was now very disturbed.

Eurasian Hoopoe	1 in Shui Shang Le Yuan Park, Urumqi. (935 metres)
Rock Pigeon	'Present' in and around Urumqi. (900-960 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	2 in Shui Shang Le Yuan Park, Urumqi. (935 metres)
Northern Lapwing	16 besides the pool in Shui Shang Le Yuan Park, Urumqi. (935 metres)
Black Kite	1 in Shui Shang Le Yuan Park, Urumqi. (935 metres)
Rufous-tailed Shrike	1 in Shui Shang Le Yuan Park, Urumqi. (935 metres)
Barn Swallow	80 in Shui Shang Le Yuan Park, Urumqi. (935 metres)
House Sparrow	4 in Shui Shang Le Yuan Park, Urumqi. (935 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	30 in Shui Shang Le Yuan Park, Urumqi. (935 metres)
White Wagtail	10 in Shui Shang Le Yuan Park, Urumqi. (935 metres)
Citrine Wagtail	3 in Shui Shang Le Yuan Park, Urumqi. (935 metres)
Grey Wagtail	1 in Shui Shang Le Yuan Park, Urumqi. (935 metres)

Tuesday 23 August 2005. Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi.

We left the hotel at 07:45hrs and drove straight to Wulabo reservoir, a site I visited previously (on the 31 July 2005). It took us 25 minutes to get there and we stayed in that general area (birding around the reservoir, some agricultural fields near there and at the small pool near the ruined fort at Lun Tai Cheng) until about 12:45hrs when we drove back to Urumqi.

Wulabo Shuiku (Wulabo Reservoir) area. 08:20-12:45hrs. 43°39.6'N., 87°34.9'E. (1060 metres)

Ruddy Shelduck	2 on Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Eurasian Wigeon	1 on Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Mallard	63 on Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Northern Pintail	1 on Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Garganey	4 on Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Common Teal	7 on Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Red-crested Pochard	12 on Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Eurasian Hoopoe	5 at and around Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Common Cuckoo	1 juvenile near Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Rock Pigeon	'Present' between Urumqi and Wulabo Reservoir. (935-1080 metres)
Oriental Turtle Dove	5 near Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Eurasian Collared Dove	14 between Urumqi and Wulabo Reservoir. (935-1080 metres)
Common Snipe	2 at Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Common Redshank	5 at Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Green Sandpiper	1 near Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)

Common Sandpiper	3 at Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Temminck's Stint	2 at Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Black-winged Stilt	13 at Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Little Ringed Plover	4 at Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Kentish Plover	18 at Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Northern Lapwing	15 at Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Yellow-legged Gull	2 (an adult and a juvenile) at Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Pallas's Gull	12 at Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Black-headed Gull	8 at Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Common Tern	6 at Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Whiskered Tern	1 juvenile at Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Black Kite	7 at and around Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	1 adult female flew over 'Wulabo Wadi'. (1090 metres)
Common Kestrel	1 adult male at Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Great Cormorant	7 at Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Rufous-tailed Shrike	6 around Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Barn Swallow	30 between Urumqi and Wulabo Reservoir. (940-1080 metres)
Horned Lark	1 at Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
House Sparrow	10 with large numbers of Eurasian Tree Sparrows in a sunflower field at at Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	150 in a sunflower field at Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
White Wagtail	35 at Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Citrine Wagtail	20 at Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Grey Wagtail	1 at Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Richard's Pipit	15 at Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)
Common Rosefinch	3 at Wulabo Reservoir. (1060 metres)

Bird List

Two sets of parentheses are presented after each bird name. Four figures are given in the first set of parentheses - the first of these four figures details how many days (out of a maximum of 25) that particular species was seen in Xinjiang. The third figure notes the highest daily count & the third the number of bird-days. Hence the entry for Greylag Goose reads (6/25 190 358) (metres) - birds were noted on 6 of the 25 days that I went birding in Xinjiang, with up to 190 individuals on any one date & with a total of 358 bird-days.

Taxonomy & nomenclature mostly follow those of Inskipp, T. et al. *An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of the Oriental Region*. Oriental Bird Club. 1996.

CHUKAR *Alectoris chukar*

(1/25 1 3) (2270 metres)

1 was heard on an arid hillside near Km post 532 (21 kms above Baluntai on NH 218), north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (2270 metres)

COMMON QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

(2/25 1 2) (1100 & 3105 metres)

1 was heard, tape recorded & subsequently seen in fields only about 200 metres from the Benglexin hotel, on the northern edge of Tashikurgan on the 7/8/2005. Heard calling almost as soon as I left the hotel (at 08:00hrs) it had stopped calling by 09:15hrs. (3105 metres)

1 was heard in the Haermodun Grassland, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (1100 metres)

COMMON PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*

(1/25 1 1) (1270 metres)

1 was heard at Ciytla, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1270 metres)

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

(6/25 190 358) (870-1100 metres)

40 on Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005 – 18 at Bei Ku Qu & 22 at Nan Ku Qu. (1100 metres)

190 south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005 – 10 at Duo Lang Reservoir & 180 at Shang You Reservoir. (1020 & 1015 metres)

20 southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005 – 10 on both Duo Lang Reservoir & Shan Li Reservoir. (1020 & 1000 metres)

12 at Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005 – all were at Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 metres)

71 Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – with 44 on Qia La Reservoir & 27 on Xinier Reservoir. (870 & 880 metres)

25 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea*

(4/25 600 703) (1060-1430 metres)

1 flew over Dawakun, southeast of Kashi on the 4/8/2005. (1170 metres)

600 between Kashi & Bachu on the 9/8/2005 – 585 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) & about 15 on Xikerer Reservoir (Km post 1320 on NH 314). (1235 & 1430 metres).

100 on Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005 – 1 at Bei Ku Qu & the rest at Nan Ku Qu. (1100 metres)

2 on Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

(6/25 78 218) (835-1235metres)

46 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)

78 including about 20, clearly locally fledged, young on Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)

3 on one of the lakes at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005. (878 metres)

12 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir, Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – all of these were with the other waterfowl at Er Hao Ku Chun. (835 metres)

76 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

3 on the large roadside pool about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng (Km post 427 on NH 314), between Korla & Urumqi, on the 21/8/2005. (1029 metres)

EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope*

(2/25 2 3) (1060 & 1235 metres)

2 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)

1 on Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

(14/25 450 951) (835-1270 & 3660 metres)

2 females in the marsh at 'Wulabo wadi', south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005. (1070 metres)

25 southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005 – 5 flew over Ciyta. & 20 on the Aral reservoir. (1260-1270 metres)

5 on the larger, upper Kalakuli Hu (at Km post 1656 on NH 314) between Kashi & Tashikurgan on both the 6th & 8/8/2005. (3660 metres)

85 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)

10 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)

450 south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005 – 404 at Duo Lang Reservoir & 50 at Shang You Reservoir. (1020 & 1015 metres)

34 southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005 – 30 on Duo Lang Reservoir & 4 on Shan Li Reservoir. (1020 & 1000 metres)

190 on Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005 – 4 at Lian Hua Hu, 40 at Yang Shui Zhan & 150 on the large pool 4-5 kms east of Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 metres)

2 were seen in flight at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 18/8/2005. (880 metres)

3 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir, Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – all of these were with the other waterfowl at Er Hao Ku Chun. (835 metres)

75 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

2 on the large roadside pool about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng (Km post 427 on NH 314), between Korla & Urumqi, on the 21/8/2005. (1029 metres)

63 on Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

NORTHERN SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

(6/25 8 21) (835-1235 & 3654 metres)

1 adult male on Kalakuli Hu (Km post 1655 on the Tashikurgan to Kashi NH 314) on the 8/8/2005. (3654 metres).

4 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)

4 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)

2 at Duo Lang Reservoir south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1020 metres)

2 on Shan Li Reservoir southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)

8 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir, Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – all of these were with the other waterfowl at Er Hao Ku Chun. (835 metres)

NORTHERN PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

(8/25 27 58) (835-1235 & 3654 metres)

1 on Kalakuli Hu (Km post 1655 on the Tashikurgan to Kashi NH 314) on the 8/8/2005. (3654 metres).

27 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)

1 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)

18 at Duo Lang Reservoir south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1020 metres)

5 on Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)

3 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir, Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – all of these were with the other waterfowl at Er Hao Ku Chun. (835 metres)

2 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

1 on Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

(9/25 1150 2147) (835-1260 metres)

180 on the Aral reservoir, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1260 metres)

1150 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)

52 on Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005 – 12 at Bei Ku Qu & 40 at Nan Ku Qu. (1100 metres)

550 at Duo Lang Reservoir south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1020 metres)

150 on Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)

25 on Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005 – 15 at Yang Shui Zhan & 10 on the large pool 4-5 kms east of Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 metres)

18 birds were noted Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – with 3 on Qia La Reservoir & 15 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir (all of the latter were with the other waterfowl at Er Hao Ku Chun). (835-880 metres)

18 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

4 on Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

COMMON TEAL *Anas crecca*

(3/25 7 14) (870-1060 metres)

3 on Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)

4 on Qia La Reservoir, Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005. (870 metres)

7 on Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Rhodonessa rufina*

(9/25 1105 1613) (835-1235 metres)

8, including one eclipse adult male, on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)

46 on Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005 – 18 at Bei Ku Qu & 28 at Nan Ku Qu. (1100 metres)

158 south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005 - 23 over 'Matan Marsh', 120 at Duo Lang Reservoir & 15 at Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1025 metres)
125 southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005 - 20 on Duo Lang Reservoir & 105, including about 30, clearly locally fledged, young on Shan Li Reservoir. (1020 & 1000 metres)
20 on Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005 - 4 at Lian Hua Hu, 6 at Yang Shui Zhan & 10 on the large pool 4-5 kms east of Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 metres)
1105 birds were noted Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 - with 15 on Qia La Reservoir & a massive 1090 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir (all of these were with the other waterfowl at Er Hao Ku Chun). (835-870 metres)
94 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)
45, including about 10 recently fledged birds in two family parties, on the large roadside pool about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng (Km post 427 on NH 314), between Korla & Urumqi, on the 21/8/2005. (1029 metres)
12 on Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

COMMON POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

(3/25 24 27) (1000, 1235 & 3660 metres)

2 on the larger, upper Kalakuli Hu (at Km post 1656 on NH 314) between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005. (3660 metres)
24 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)
1 on Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)

FERRUGINOUS POCHARD *Aythya nyroca*

(Near Threatened)

(7/25 37 118) (835-1260 metres)

11 on the Aral reservoir, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1260 metres)
37 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)
17 at Duo Lang Reservoir south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1020 metres)
23 on Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)
3 at Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005 - all three were at Lian Hua Hu. (1035 metres)
8 birds were noted Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 - with 3 on Qia La Reservoir, 3 on the 'Half-Way' Village Pool (near Da Xi Haizi Reservoir) & 3 more on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir (all of the latter were with the other waterfowl at Er Hao Ku Chun). (835-870 metres)
19 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

(3/25 8 16) (metres)

4 on the larger, upper Kalakuli Hu (at Km post 1656 on NH 314) between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005. (3660 metres)
4 on Kalakuli Hu (Km post 1655 on the Tashikurgan to Kashi NH 314) on the 8/8/2005. (3654 metres).
8 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)

COMMON MERGANSER *Mergus merganser*

(3/25 14 26) (1235, 3280 & 3260 metres)

10 between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005 - 3 on Bulunkou Hu near Km post 1620 & 7 more redheads on the larger, upper Kalakuli Hu (at Km post 1656 on NH 314). (3280 & 3660 metres)
14 between Tashikurgan & Kashi on the 8/8/2005 - six redheads, one with five tiny (& locally fledged?) young on Kalakuli Hu (Km post 1655 on the Tashikurgan to Kashi NH 314) & 3 more redheads on Bulunkou Hu (alternatively Liu Sha He) (Km post 1620). (3654 & 3280 metres respectively).
2 redheads on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)

EURASIAN WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*

(1/25 1 1) (3105 metres)

1 near Tashikurgan on the 8/8/2005. (3105 metres)

WHITE-WINGED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos leucopterus*

(4/25 11 18) (880-1000 metres)

1 juvenile near Shang Li Shuiku Er Dui, Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)
5 Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005 - 1 juvenile in the Puhui Dunes, 2 in the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun & another 2 in an orchard between these two sites. (880 metres)
11 including a party of five birds (1 male & four female-plumaged individuals) at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 18/8/2005. (880 metres)
1 was heard in the village near the 'Half-Way' Village Pool, near Da Xi Haizi Reservoir, Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005. (832 metres)

EURASIAN HOPOE *Upupa epops*

(21/25 15 81) (55-3105 metres)

6 near Urumqi on the 30/7/2005 - 5 at Shui Shang Le Yuan & 1 in Urumqi Renmin Gongyuan. (940 metres)

15 south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005 - these included 1 near Wulabo village, 4 up the 'Wulabo wadi', 6 at Lun Tai Cheng & 2 in Shui Mo Gou Gongyuan. (860-1080 metres)

1 at Nan Shan, south of Urumqi on the 1/8/2005.

5 widespread birds were noted along NH 315 between Kashi & Da Hu, Yingjiasha county, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1250-1320 metres)

2 southeast of Kashi on the 4/8/2005 - 1 at Dawakun & the other at Ahonghuku Ma. (1170 metres)

5 at Bositan Lieke, west of Kashi on the 5/8/2005. (2150 metres)

12 in the agricultural area immediately south of Kashi on the 6/8/2005. (1510 & 1560 metres)

12 in & around Tashikurgan on the 7/8/2005. (3105 metres)

6 from NH 314 between Tashikurgan & Kashi on the 8/8/2005.

2 singles flew south over the marsh at the eastern side of Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)

1 near Aksu south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005.

1 on Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)

2 Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005 - 1 flew over the Puhui Dunes & another was seen in an orchard on the edge of Puhui village. (880 metres)

4 at the Haermodun Grassland, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (1100 metres)

2 in the Haermodun Grassland, north of Korla on the 17/8/2005. (1100 metres)

2 in Puhui Dunes, Ssw of Korla on the 18/8/2005. (890 metres)

4 between Korla & Da Xi Haizi Reservoir on the 19/8/2005. (835-920 metres)

1 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

2 between Korla & Urumqi on the 21/8/2005. 1 of these was in the Pendi Depression near Km post 154 on NH 314. (55 metres)

1 in Shui Shang Le Yuan Park, Urumqi on the 22/8/2005. (935 metres)

5 at & around Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

COMMON KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

(2/25 1 2) (1025 & 1235 metres)

1 on the drainage channel along the south-western side of Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)

1 at 'Matan Marsh' south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1025 metres)

COMMON CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

(12/25 8 29) (880-3105 metres)

1 recently fledged juvenile, near Urumqi airport on the 29/7/2005 was being fed by an adult male Rufous-tailed Shrike.

1 juvenile at Shui Shang Le Yuan on the 30/7/2005 was being fed by a Rufous-tailed Shrike. (940 metres)

2 juveniles south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005. 1 being fed by an adult Rufous-tailed Shrike (again!) up the 'Wulabo wadi' & the other in flight over the Shui Mo Gou Gongyuan. (880 & 1070 metres)

1 juvenile at Nan Shan, south of Urumqi on the 1/8/2005.

1 juvenile at Jia Si Xiang (Km post 154) west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005 was being fed by a Rufous-tailed Shrike! (2455 metres)

2 juveniles at Bositan Lieke, west of Kashi on the 5/8/2005. 1 was again being fed by a Rufous-tailed Shrike! (2150 metres)

8 juveniles were noted along NH 314 between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005. (1545-3295 metres)

8 juveniles in & around Tashikurgan on the 7/8/2005. (3105 metres)

2 juveniles from NH 314 between Tashikurgan & Kashi on the 8/8/2005.

1 juvenile close to Aksu on the 10/8/2005. (1085 metres)

1 juvenile about 45 minutes drive above Baluntai, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (1970 metres)

1 juvenile near Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

COMMON SWIFT *Apus apus*

(14/25 40 171) (940-3240 metres)

2 over Urumqi Renmin Gongyuan on the 30/7/2005. (940 metres)

35 south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005 - all of these were seen over the Lun Tai Cheng area. (1080 metres)

8 flew south over Ciyta, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1260 metres)

30 west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005.

4 at Dawakun, southeast of Kashi on the 4/8/2005. (1170 metres)

40 high over at Bositan Lieke, west of Kashi on the 5/8/2005. (2150 metres)

10 in the Gaizi gorge south of Aoyitake cun & 2 hours drive south of Kashi on NH 314 on the 6/8/2005. (1965 metres)

5 over Tashikurgan on the 7/8/2005. (3100 metres)

10 over the San Bei Protected Woodland, 1.5 hours drive south of Kashi on the 8/8/2005.

10 over Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)

5 over Bei Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)

10, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005 - including 4 over the Haermodun Grassland, 3 near Km post 535 on NH 218 (18 kms above Baluntai) & 2 over the Luotuo Juan Pass. (1100, 2050 & 3240 metres)

1 flew over at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005. (1035 metres)

1 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

PALLID SCOPS OWL *Otus brucei*

(1/25 1 1) (1270 metres)

1 was found near Ciytla, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. It was roosting in a large tree on the side of a drainage channel 800 metres east of Km Post 2952 on NH 315. (1270 metres) (Photo)

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

(1/25 1 1) (metres)

1 at Nan Shan, south of Urumqi on the 1/8/2005.

EURASIAN NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*

(1/25 1 1) (1430 metres)

1 female was flushed & soon relocated from under scrub along the eastern embankment of Xikerer Reservoir (Km post 1320 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1430 metres). (Photos). See nightjar sp. Below.

NIGHTJAR SP> *Caprimulgus sp.*

(3/25 1 13) (880 & 1420 metres)

1 bird was seen over the road before dawn about 15 kms west of Kashi on the 5/8/2005. On status it is most likely to have been a Eurasian Nightjar. (1420 metres)

1 bird, probably a Eurasian Nightjar was accidentally flushed from the diversifolius poplar forest at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005. It could not be refound. (880 metres)

1 was seen from the taxi on the night time drive between Korla & Puhui on the 18/8/2005. (880 metres)

ROCK PIGEON *Columba livia*

(Common & widespread – no specific counts were made) (At least 880-1400 metres)

Common & widespread around Urumqi on the 30/7/2005. Not systematically recorded.

'Present' but not counted south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005.

'Present' but not counted between Urumqi & Nan Shan on the 1/8/2005.

'Present' but not counted southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005.

'Present' in & immediately around Kashi on the 3/8/2005. (1400 metres)

'Present' in Kashi on the 4/8/2005.

'Present' in the towns and larger villages west of Kashi on the 5/8/2005.

'Present' at least in the agricultural areas south of Kashi on the 6/8/2005.

Common in & around Tashikurgan on the 7/8/2005.

'Present' near Kashi on the 8/8/2005.

'Present' between Kashi & Bachu on the 9/8/2005.

'Present' but not counted between Bachu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir & Aksu on the 10/8/2005.

'Present' south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005.

'Present' between Aksu, Kuche & Korla on the 14/8/2005.

'Present' between Korla & Puhui on the 15/8/2005. (880-920 metres)

'Present' between Korla & towards Gong Nai Si on the 16/8/2005.

'Present' between Baluntai, Bosten Hu & Korla on the 17/8/2005.

'Present' between Korla & Puhui on the 18/8/2005.

'Present' between Korla & Da Xi Haizi Reservoir on the 19/8/2005. (835-920 metres)

'Present' between Korla & Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

'Present' between Korla & Urumqi on the 21/8/2005.

'Present' in & around Urumqi on the 22/8/2005. (900-960 metres)

'Present' between Urumqi & Wulabo Reservoir, on the 23/8/2005. (935-1080 metres)

HILL PIGEON *Columba rupestris*

(5/25 150 184) (1045-1610, 3105 & 3795 metres)

About 10 in the desert about 10 kms after Kalakuli Hu (Km post 1656 on NH 314), between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005. (3795 metres)

At least 150 in & around Tashikurgan on the 7/8/2005. (3105 metres)

At least 10 in & around Tashikurgan on the 8/8/2005. (3105 metres)

5 in the hills south of Baluntai, north of Korla on the 17/8/2005. (1590 & 1610 metres)

9 between Korla & Urumqi, on the 21/8/2005 – a flock of eight in the desert about 6 kms south of Yushugou (at about Km 291 on NH 314) & a single bird 23 kms further north. (1045 & 1360 metres)

STOCK PIGEON *Columba oenas*

(3/25 10 18) (880 & 1000 metres)

4, two adults & two immatures, near Shang Li Shuiku Er Dui, Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)

10 Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005 – 6 flew over Puhui Dunes & another 4 (two pairs) were in Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)

4 at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 18/8/2005. (880 metres)

EUROPEAN TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

(4/25 4 9) (880-1270 metres)

4 adults besides NH 315 near Ciyta, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1270 metres)

1 juvenile at Ahonghuku Ma southeast of Kashi on the 4/8/2005. (1170 metres)

1 flew over on Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)

3 Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005 - 2 singles flew over Puhui Dunes & another over the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)

ORIENTAL TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia orientalis*

(3/25 15 26) (940-1070 metres)

6 in Shui Shang Le Yuan, Urumqi on the 30/7/2005. (940 metres)

15 south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005 - 6 in flight near Wulabo reservoir, 6 more up the 'Wulabo wadi' & 3 more in the Lun Tai Cheng area. (1060-1070 metres)

5 near Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

LAUGHING DOVE *Streptopelia senegalensis*

(3/25 3 6) (1150-1430 metres)

3 birds were seen on house roofes in the centre of Xikerer village (Km post 1315 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1430 metres)

1 in Yong An Ba, about 11 kms by road east of Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1095 metres)

2 in the village of Huadan / Qikexing Zhong Dui – about 40 minutes drive north of Korla (near Km post 639 on NH 218) on the 16/8/2005. (1150 metres)

EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

(20/25 25 188) (820-1320 & 3105 metres)

25 widespread birds were noted along NH 315 between Kashi & Da Hu, Yingjiasha county, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1250-1320 metres)

20 between Kashi, Dawakun & Ahonghuku Ma on the 4/8/2005. (1170-1250 metres)

5 between Kashi & Bositan Lieke on the 5/8/2005. (1400-2150 metres)

10 in the agricultural areas south of Kashi on the 6/8/2005.

3 near the Bengleixin hotel, Tashikurgan on the 7/8/2005. (3105 metres)

5 in the lowlands close to Kashi on the 8/8/2005.

1 in Bachu town on the 9/8/2005. (1125 metres)

6 on the 10/8/2005 – 2 at Bei Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir & 4 others between Sha Jingzi, Sha Yimaili & Aksu (Kms 1060, 1035 & 1000 on NH 314). (1085-1100 metres)

20 between Aksu, 'Matan Marsh', Duo Lang Reservoir & Shang You Reservoir south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1015-1025 metres)

20 between Aksu, Duo Lang Reservoir & Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000-1030 metres)

20 between Aksu, Kuche & Korla on the 14/8/2005. (820-860 metres)

15 between Korla & the Puhui area on the 15/8/2005. (880-920 metres)

5 in the agricultural lowlands along NH 218 between Korla & Baluntai on the 16/8/2005. (1000-1320 metres)

3 besides NH 218 in the 'lowlands' between the Haermodun Grassland & the edge of Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005. (1050-1100 metres)

4 between Korla & Puhui on the 18/8/2005. (880-910 metres)

5 between Korla & Da Xi Haizi Reservoir on the 19/8/2005. (835-920 metres)

2 near Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1050 metres)

3 singles between Korla & Urumqi on the 21/8/2005.

2 in Shui Shang Le Yuan Park, Urumqi on the 22/8/2005. (935 metres)

14 between Urumqi & Wulabo Reservoir, on the 23/8/2005. (935-1080 metres)

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

(2/25 3 4) (832 & 1035 metres)

1 was heard at Lian Hua Hu, Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005. (1035 metres)

3 (one seen & two others only heard) on the 'Half-Way' Village Pool, near Da Xi Haizi Reservoir on the 19/8/2005. (832 metres)

COMMON MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*

(14/25 30 124) (832-1240 metres)

1 was heard in the reed bed at the southern end of the lake in Shui Shang Le Yuan, Urumqi on the 30/7/2005. (940 metres)

1 juvenile was seen in the small marsh up the 'Wulabo wadi' south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005. (1070 metres)

2 on a marsh besides NH 315 south of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1240 metres)

1 was heard in reeds in the fishponds immediately north of Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)

1 was heard in a small, reed-fringed pool at Sha Jingzi (Km 1060 on NH 314) on the 10/8/2005. (1070 metres)

4 between Aksu, 'Matan Marsh', Duo Lang Reservoir & Shang You Reservoir south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1015-1025 metres)

5 between Aksu, Duo Lang Reservoir & Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000-1030 metres)

2 singles were seen around the edges of a couple of pools close to the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005. (880 metres)

1 was heard in the Haermodun Grassland, , north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (1100 metres)

20 on Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005 – nearly all of these were at Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 metres)
6 at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 18/8/2005. (880 metres)
30 birds were noted Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – these included 20 on the ‘Half-Way’ Village Pool, near Da Xi Haizi Reservoir. (832 metres)
20 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)
30 between Korla & Urumqi, on the 21/8/2005 – all of these were on the large roadside pool about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng (Km post 427 on NH 314). (1029 metres)

EURASIAN COOT *Fulica atra*

(10/25 75 204) (830-1260 & 3654 metres)
2 on the Aral reservoir, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1260 metres)
2 on the larger, upper Kalakuli Hu (at Km post 1656 on NH 314) between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005. (3660 metres)
1 on Kalakuli Hu (Km post 1655 on the Tashikurgan to Kashi NH 314) on the 8/8/2005. (3654 metres).
60 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)
4 on ‘Matan Marsh’ south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1025 metres)
40 on Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)
8 on Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005 – all eight were at Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 metres)
75 birds were noted Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – these included 20 on the ‘Half-Way’ Village Pool, near Da Xi Haizi Reservoir & 35 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir. Most of the latter were with the other waterfowl at Er Hao Ku Chun. (830-835 metres)
10 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)
2 on the large roadside pool about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng (Km post 427 on NH 314), between Korla & Urumqi, on the 21/8/2005. (1029 metres)

TIBETAN SANDGROUSE *Syrrhaptes tibetanus*

(1/25 2 2) (3380 metres)
2, a pair, flew in from the south & circled around calling before dropping on to the barren, large-rock scree slope above Km post 1629 on NH 314 between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005. They landed near a large & very conspicuous rectangular (3.5 metres x 3.5 metres x 4 metres) rock about 1.38 kms off the road upslope. Seen at exactly 12:30hrs I couldn’t re-find them despite a two hour search. (38°40.4’N., 74°58.5’E.). The altitude, 3380 metres, seems to be exceptionally low – Rasmussen, P. & Anderton, C. (2005) *Birds of South Asia: The Ripley Guide* give the (extralimital) altitudinal range in Ladakh and Lahul (N. Himachal), India as ‘4200-5400m, perhaps as low as 3800m in winter.’

COMMON SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago*

(4/25 2 6) (1060-1100 metres)
1 was flushed from besides the stream up the ‘Wulabo wadi’ south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005. (1070 metres)
2 singles in the Haermodun Grassland, , north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (1100 metres)
1 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)
2 at Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

(2/25 14 26) (1015-1035 metres)
12 south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005 – 2 at Duo Lang Reservoir & 10 at Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1020 metres)
14 at Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005 – all were on the large pool 4-5 kms east of Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 metres)
A summer plumaged male at Shang You was probably (as indeed were all of the birds I saw in Xinjiang) of the large, long billed, bright nominate subspecies, *L. limosa limosa* - a taxa not yet definitely recorded in China.

EURASIAN CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

(2/25 2 4) (1035 metres)
2 flew east at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on both the 17th & 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*

(1/25 2 2) (1015 metres)
2 summer plumaged birds at Shang You Reservoir south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1015 metres)

COMMON REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

(14/25 23 103) (835-1235, 3300 & 3654 metres)
12 in Shui Shang Le Yuan, Urumqi on the 30/7/2005. (940 metres)
1 was on the small marsh near Lun Tai Cheng south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005. (1070 metres)
1 juvenile besides Kalakuli Hu (Km post 1655 on the Tashikurgan to Kashi NH 314) on the 8/8/2005. (3654 metres).
20 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)
5 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)
10 in total at Duo Lang Reservoir & Shang You Reservoir south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1015-1020 metres)

5 on Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)
1 was heard near the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005. (880 metres)
2 on a roadside pool about 200 metres west of the summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (3300 metres)
8 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005. (1035 metres)
1 was heard at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 18/8/2005. (880 metres)
9 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir, Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005. All of these were with the other waterfowl at Er Hao Ku Chun. (835 metres)
23 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)
5 at Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

COMMON GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

(5/25 27 68) (835-1430 metres)

27 between Kashi & Bachu on the 9/8/2005 – 7 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) & 20 on Xikerer Reservoir (Km post 1320 on NH 314). (1235 & 1430 metres).
15 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)
10 at Duo Lang Reservoir south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1020 metres)
15 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir, Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005. All of these were with the other waterfowl at Er Hao Ku Chun. (835 metres)
1 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

(9/25 2 11) (870-1100 & 3280 metres)

1 at Bulunkou Hu (near Km post 1620 on NH 314) between kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005. (3280 metres)
1 was heard at Bei Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)
1 flew over 'Matan Marsh' south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1025 metres)
2 singles were seen on Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)
1 at the Haermodun Grassland, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (1100 metres)
1 was heard over the Haermodun Grassland, north of Korla on the 17/8/2005. (1100 metres)
1 was heard over Qia La Reservoir, Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005. (870 metres)
2 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)
1 near Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*

(4/25 1 4) (870-1235 metres)

1 over Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)
1 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)
1 at Duo Lang Reservoir south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1020 metres)
1 was heard at over Qia La Reservoir, Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005. (870 metres)

TEREK SANDPIPER *Xenus cinereus*

(4/25 6 10) (1020-1100 metres)

1 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)
2 at Duo Lang Reservoir south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1020 metres)
1 on Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)
6 (five juveniles & one adult) at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

(12/25 5 27) (880-1235, 3280 & 3654 metres)

1 in Shui Shang Le Yuan, Urumqi on the 30/7/2005. (940 metres)
3 south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005 – 1 on Wulabo reservoir & 2 on the small marsh near Lun Tai Cheng. (1060 & 1070 metres)
3 at Bulunkou Hu (near Km post 1620 on NH 314) between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005. (3280 metres)
5 besides Kalakuli Hu (Km post 1655 on the Tashikurgan to Kashi NH 314) on the 8/8/2005. (3654 metres).
1 was heard at Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)
1 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)
2 at Duo Lang Reservoir south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1020 metres)
2 on Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)
1 at the Haermodun Grassland, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (1100 metres)
2 at Xinier Reservoir, Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005. (880 metres)
3 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)
3 at Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

(2/25 8 14) (1035 metres)

6 (five juveniles & one adult) & 8 (seven juveniles & one adult) at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 17th & 20/8/2005 respectively. (1035 metres)

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

(7/25 60 84) (870-1235 metres)

1 flew over Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)
2 at Duo Lang Reservoir south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1020 metres)
1 on Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)
15 at Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005 – 1 at Lian Hua Hu & 14 at Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 metres)
3 over Qia La Reservoir, Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005. (870 metres)
60 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. 58 birds were seen well enough to aged & of these 30 were juvenile & 28 adult. (1035 metres)
2 at Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

(1/25 1 1) (1035 metres)

1 juvenile at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*

(1/25 7 7) (1035 metres)

7 juveniles at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER *Limicola falcinellus*

(1/25 1 1) (1035 metres)

1 juvenile of the nominate subspecies at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus*

(14/25 150 508) (835-1430 metres)

14 in Shui Shang Le Yuan, Urumqi on the 30/7/2005. (940 metres)
20 on the Aral reservoir, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1260 metres)
6 near Dawakun, southeast of Kashi on the 4/8/2005. (1170 metres)
60 between Kashi & Bachu on the 9/8/2005 – 30 on both Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) & Xikerer Reservoir (Km post 1320 on NH 314). (1235 & 1430 metres).
50 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)
150 south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005 – with 95 at Duo Lang Reservoir & 45 at Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1020 metres)
70 southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005 - 30 on Duo Lang Reservoir & 40 on Shan Li Reservoir. (1020 & 1000 metres)
6 Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005 – with birds being seen in both the Puhui Dunes & the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)
40 at Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005 – birds were seen at all three sites we visited - Lian Hua Hu & Yang Shui Zhan but most of them were on the large pool 4-5 kms east of Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 metres)
4 at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 18/8/2005. (880 metres)
40 birds were noted Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – with birds at most of the wet land sites we visited between Korla, Qia La Reservoir Da Xi Haizi Reservoir & Xinier Reservoir. (835-880 metres)
15 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)
20 between Korla & Urumqi, on the 21/8/2005 – 15 of these were on the large roadside pool about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng (Km post 427 on NH 314). (1029 metres)
13 at Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

PIED AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*

(3/25 120 146) (1000-1235 metres)

6 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)
120 at Duo Lang Reservoir south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1020 metres)
20 on Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis fulva*

(2/25 7 8) (1035-1100 metres)

7 north of Korla on the 17/8/2005 – 5 at the Haermodun Grassland & 2 summer plumaged adults were on the large pool 4-5 kms east of Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 & 1100 metres)
1 was heard at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

(6/25 15 28) (940-1070 metres)

2 in Shui Shang Le Yuan, Urumqi on the 30/7/2005. (940 metres)

2 juveniles besides the small stream up the 'Wulabo wadi' south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005. They were both quite young & probably locally fledged. (1070 metres)

15 at Duo Lang Reservoir south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1020 metres)

3 on Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)

2 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

4 at Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus*

(5/25 256 336) (1020-1235 metres)

20 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)

256 at Duo Lang Reservoir south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1020 metres)

18 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005. (1035 metres)

24 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

18 at Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

NORTHERN LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

(9/25 16 48) (935-1270metres)

3 in Shui Shang Le Yuan, Urumqi on the 30/7/2005. (940 metres)

3 on the small marsh near Lun Tai Cheng south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005. (1070 metres)

1 on the large marsh besides NH 315 & on the border between the Shule & Yingjiasha counties, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1270 metres)

2 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)

3 at the Haermodun Grassland, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (1100 metres)

4 north of Korla on the 17/8/2005 – 2 on the Haermodun Grassland & 2 more at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (1035 & 1100 metres)

1 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

16 besides the pool in Shui Shang Le Yuan Park, Urumqi on the 22/8/2005. (935 metres)

15 at Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus cachinnans*

(8/25 106 158) (835-1060metres)

2 adults, both apparently 'eastern *cachinnans*' with the large congregation of Pallas's Gulls near the dam at the northern end of Wulabo reservoir south of Urumqi on the 31/7. There were 2 more birds there (an adult & a juvenile) on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

9 at Duo Lang Reservoir south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1020 metres)

7 on Duo Lang Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1020 metres)

8 at Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005. (1035 metres)

2 juveniles flew over Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 18/8/2005. (880 metres)

106 birds were noted Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – with 6 on Qia La Reservoir, 85 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir (most of these were at Er Hao Ku Chun) & 15 on Xinier Reservoir. (835-880 metres)

22 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

PALLAS'S GULL *Larus ichthyaetus*

(9/25 86 331) (metres)

86 near the dam at the northern end of Wulabo reservoir south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005. (1060 metres)

1 juvenile moulting to first-winter was seen on the larger, upper Kalakuli Hu (at Km post 1656 on NH 314) between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005. (3660 metres)

78 between Kashi & Bachu on the 9/8/2005 - 53, including perhaps 15 juveniles several of which were still begging from their parents, on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) & 25 on Xikerer Reservoir (Km post 1320 on NH 314). (1235 & 1430 metres).

63 on Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005 – 38 at Bei Ku Qu & 25 at Nan Ku Qu. (1100 metres)

62 south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005 - 5 over the 'Matan Marsh', 47 at Duo Lang Reservoir & 10 at Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1025 metres)

4 on Duo Lang Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1020 metres)

24 birds were noted Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – with 3 on Qia La Reservoir, 20 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir (all of these were at Er Hao Ku Chun & 1 juvenile on Xinier Reservoir. (835-880 metres)

1 juvenile at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

12 at Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

[BROWN-HEADED GULL *Larus brunnicephalus*

(1035 & 1260 metres)

2 very distant first-year birds on the Aral reservoir, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005, might have been this species. (1260 metres)]

1 first-winter, possibly this species, was seen distantly at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005. (1035 metres)]

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*

(11/25 500 1354) (835-1430 metres)

20 on the Aral reservoir, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1260 metres)

1 on a river about 15 kms south-east of Kashi on the 4/8/2005. (1230 metres)

150 between Kashi & Bachu on the 9/8/2005 – 100 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) & 50 on Xikerer Reservoir (Km post 1320 on NH 314). (1235 & 1430 metres).

150 on Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005 – 50 at Bei Ku Qu & 100 at Nan Ku Qu. (1100 metres)

500 south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005 – with 220 at Duo Lang Reservoir & 250 at Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1020 metres)

40 southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005 – 20 on both Duo Lang Reservoir & Shan Li Reservoir. (1020 & 1000 metres)

250 at Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005 – all of these were on the large pool 4-5 kms east of Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 metres)

155 birds were noted Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – with 120 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir – all of these were at Er Hao Ku Chun & 35 on Xinier Reservoir. (835-880 metres)

60 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

20 between Korla & Urumqi, on the 21/8/2005 – all were on Cai Wo Pu Hu Reservoir about 40 kms south-east of Urumqi. (1073 metres)

8 at Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

GULL-BILLED TERN *Sterna nilotica*

(2/25 1 2) (1035 metres)

Single summer plumaged adults were seen at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on both the 17th & 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

(14/25 180 794) (830-1320, 3080 & 3654 metres)

3, two adults & a juvenile, on Da Hu, Yingjiasha county, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1320 metres)

1 adult in the marsh flanking the river on the eastern side of Tashikurgan on the 7/8/2005. (3080 metres)

4 summer plumaged adults over Kalakuli Hu (Km post 1655 on the Tashikurgan to Kashi NH 314) on the 8/8/2005. (3654 metres).

At least 100 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)

170 on Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005 – 20 at Bei Ku Qu & 150 at Nan Ku Qu. (1100 metres)

180 south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005 - with 80 at Duo Lang Reservoir & 100 at Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1020 metres)

90 southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005 - 40 on Duo Lang Reservoir & 50 on Shan Li Reservoir. (1020 & 1000 metres)

3 over one of the pools in the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005. (880 metres)

11 on the 17/8/2005 – 1 at the Kaidu He & 10 at various sites along the southern edge of Bosten Hu. (1035 & 1095 metres)

1 at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 18/8/2005. (880 metres)

180 birds were noted Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – with 6 on the Taliman He about three kilometers north of Qia La Reservoir, 6 more on Qia La Reservoir,

10 on the 'Half-Way' Village Pool, near Da Xi Haizi Reservoir, 150 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir – 120 of these were at Er Hao Ku Chun & the remaining 30 at Yi Hao Ku Chun & finally there were 18 on Xinier Reservoir. (830-880 metres)

25 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

20 between Korla & Urumqi, on the 21/8/2005 – 15 on the large roadside pool about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng (Km post 427 on NH 314) & 5 on Cai Wo Pu Hu Reservoir about 40 kms south-east of Urumqi. (1029 & 1073 metres)

6 at Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons albifrons*

(5/25 87 166) (830-1235 metres)

8 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. All of those seen close enough to be aged were juveniles. (1235 metres)

60 south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005 - 40 at Duo Lang Reservoir & 20 at Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1020 metres)

70 southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005 - 30 on Duo Lang Reservoir & 40 on Shan Li Reservoir. (1020 & 1000 metres)

87 birds were noted Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – with 2 on the 'Half-Way' Village Pool, near Da Xi Haizi Reservoir, 50 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir – 15 of these were at Er Hao Ku Chun & the remaining 35 at Yi Hao Ku Chun. (830-835 metres)

4 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybridus*

(5/25 34 45) (835-1060 metres)

5, two adults & three juveniles, at Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)

3, one adult & two juveniles, at Lian Hua Hu, Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005. (1035 metres)

34 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir, Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005. All of these were at Er Hao Ku Chun. (835 metres)

2 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

1 juvenile at Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus*

(3/25 2 4) (870-1235 metres)

1 moulting adult summer-plumaged birds was on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)
1 juvenile at Lian Hua Hu, Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005. (1035 metres)
2 moulting summer plumaged adults on Qia La Reservoir, Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005. (870 metres)

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

(1/25 1 1) (870 metres)

1 was seen in flight over Qia La Reservoir, Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005. It was carrying a large fish. (870 metres)

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans lineatus*

(14/25 10 42) (815-1260, 2130 metres)

3 south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005 – 2 of these were near the northern end of Wulabo reservoir. (1070 metres)

1 between Urumqi & Nan Shan on the 1/8/2005.

1 on the Aral reservoir, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1260 metres)

1 at the grassland site 5.5 kms east of Wuqia (Km post 68.4), west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005. (2130 metres)

1 at 'Matan Marsh' south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1025 metres)

1 flew west over on Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)

4 singles were noted between Kuche & Korla on the 14/8/2005 – 1 was seen about 80 kms east of Kuche (Km 620 on NH 315), another 49 Km before Korla (Km post 505), another 21 kms before Korla (Km post 477) & the fourth bird 19 kms before Korla (Km post 475). (815, 820 & 840 metres)

3 over the Puhui Dunes, Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005. (880 metres)

1 flew over the road between Lian Hua Hu & Yang Shui Zhan along the southern edge of Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005. (1035 metres)

5 at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 18/8/2005. (880 metres)

10 birds were noted Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – these included 7 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir (5 of these were at Er Hao Ku Chun & 2 at Yi Hao Ku Chun) & 3 others between there & Korla. (835 metres)

3 singles were seen from NH 314 between the Cai Wo Pu Hu Reservoir & Urumqi (all were quite close to Wulabo) on the 21/8/2005. (1115 metres)

1 in Shui Shang Le Yuan Park, Urumqi on the 22/8/2005. (935 metres)

7 at & around Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

PALLAS'S FISH EAGLE *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*

(Vulnerable)

(5/25 3 8) (835-1100 metres)

2, an adult & a probable second-calendar year bird, at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (39°46.3'N., 78°58.9'E.). (1100 metres)

There were two sightings at the Duo Lang Reservoir south of Aksu (40°40.5'N., 80°43.2'E.) - an adult on the 11/8/2005 & a juvenile on the 12/8/2005. The latter was perched on a roadside telegraph pole about 4 kms south of the tourist complex – the Yinshawan Liu You Dujiachun (Yinshawan Tour & Holiday Village), southeast of Aksu. (1020 metres). (Photo of the perched juvenile).

1 juvenile flew over the tourist complex at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla (41°27.5'N., 85°51.4'E.) on the 18/8/2005. (880 metres)

3 birds were noted at Da Shi Haizi Reservoir Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 - an adult Er Hao Ku Chun (40°35.3'N., 87°33.5'E.) & two birds (an immature - probably a second calendar year bird since it looked ostensibly like a dark juvenile with a reduced dark ear covert patch & was just starting to moult its inner primaries) was sitting on the top of a sand dune overlooking the reservoir while the second bird, a definite juvenile, flew high to the west overhead) at Yi Hao Ku Chun (40°37.5'N., 87°25.7'E.) (835 metres)

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla*

(Near Threatened)

(2/25 1 2) (835 & 1235 metres)

1 bird, probably a first-summer, was causing havoc among the waterfowl on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314), (39°46.8'N., 76°20.9'E.) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)

1 adult at Da Shi Haizi Reservoir, Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – it was at Er Hao Ku Chun (40°35.3'N., 87°33.5'E.). (835 metres)

LAMMERGEIER *Gypaetus barbatus*

(1/25 3 3) (2500 & 3350 metres)

3 north of Korla on the 16/8/2005 – 2 adults about midway between Baluntai & the summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass & another adult actually over the same pass. (2500 & 3350 metres)

HIMALAYAN GRIFFON *Gyps himalayensis*

(1/25 24 24) (2500 & 3350metres)

24 north of Korla on the 16/8/2005 – 22 about midway between Baluntai & the summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass & another 2 actually over the same pass. (2500 & 3350 metres)

EURASIAN MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

(3/25 2 4) (880-1070 metres)

1 'cream-crown' was quartering distant fields near Lun Tai Cheng south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005. (1070 metres)

1 was seen over the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005. (880 metres)

2 (an adult female & a juvenile male) were seen low over the reed beds at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu right at dawn on the 20/8/2005. They had probably roosted locally overnight. (1035 metres)

EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*

(2/25 2 3) (865-1090 metres)

2 juveniles (probably locally fledged) were seen in the Shui Mo Gou Gongyuan on the eastern edge of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005. (865 metres)

1 adult female flew over 'Wulabo Wadi', south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1090 metres)

LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo rufinus*

(9/25 10 29) (15-1235 metres)

2, one of which was an adult, were seen near Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)

1 juvenile at Bei Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)

1 at Duo Lang Reservoir south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1020 metres)

3 southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005 – 1 at Duo Lang Reservoir & 2 besides Shan Li Reservoir. (1020 & 1000 metres)

1 between Korla & Puhui on the 15/8/2005. (905 metres)

1 about five kms north of the village of Huadan / Qikexing Zhong Dui – about 40 minutes drive north of Korla (near Km post 634 on NH 218) on the 16/8/2005. (1170 metres)

9 north of Korla on the 17/8/2005 – 2 over the Haermodun Grassland, 3 more in the desert area between there & Barunhaermodun, 4 at Bosten Hu (2 over Lian Hua Hu, 1 between there & Yang Shui Zhan & the last bird was just east of Yang Shui Zhan. (1035-1140 metres)

10 birds were noted Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – these included 2 between Korla & Qia La Reservoir, 2 actually at Qia La Reservoir itself, 1 near the 'Half-Way' Village Pool, 3 near Da Shi Haizi Reservoir – 2 Er Hao Ku Chun & another at Yi Hao Ku Chun, 2 more between there & Korla. (830-870 metres)

1 in the Pendi Depression near the Tuokexun Xian services on NH 314 (between Korla & Urumqi) on the 21/8/2005. (15 metres)

BUZZARD SP. *Buteo sp.*

(1/25 1 1) (1240 metres)

1 seen near Km post 1411 (about eight kms south of Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) on NH 314) before sunrise on the 9/8/2005 was most likely another Long-legged Buzzard. (1240 metres)

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos*

(1/25 2 2) (2500 metres)

2 about midway between Baluntai & the summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (2500 metres)

BOOTED EAGLE *Hieraaetus pennatus*

(2/25 3 4) (880 metres)

1 dark morph bird was seen over the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 15/8. (A second raptor that was vocalizing strongly from trees in the forest at the same time I was watching this flying bird was thought to probably be a second Booted Eagle). 3, an adult & two recently fledged, very vocal juveniles, were seen at this same site on the 18/8/2005. Both juveniles were free flying but one of them was later seen back in the nest. (880 metres)

LESSER KESTREL *Falco naumanni*

(Vulnerable)

(1/25 1 1) (1240 metres)

1, a first-summer male, was perched on electricity wires besides the road at Km post 1403 close to Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi), on NH 314 on the 9/8/2005. (39°46.8'N., 76°20.9'E.) (1240 metres)

COMMON KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

(11/25 4 15) (15-2140 metres)

1 adult male was perched on the ruined walls at Lun Tai Cheng south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005. (1070 metres)

1 at Nan Shan, south of Urumqi on the 1/8/2005.

1 over the large marsh besides NH 315 & on the border between the Shule & Yingjiasha counties, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1270 metres)

1 about 4 kms east of Wuqia (Km post 70), west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005. (2140 metres)

1 over the desert close to Bositan Lieke, west of Kashi on the 5/8/2005. (2130 metres)

1 in the agricultural area immediately south of Kashi on the 6/8/2005. (1510 metres)

1 adult male at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)

2 between Kuche & Korla on the 14/8/2005 – 1 just east of the small village of Bosten (Km post 791 on NH 315 – 49 kms west of Kuche) & the other closer to Korla. (840 & 855 metres)

1 over the Haermodun Grassland, north of Korla on the 17/8/2005. (1100 metres)

2 singles were noted in the Pendi Depression near the Tuokexun Xian services on NH 314 (between Korla & Urumqi) on the 21/8/2005. (15 & 25 metres)

1 adult male at Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

EURASIAN HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

(6/25 1 6) (880-1260 metres)

1 flew over the Shui Mo Gou Gongyuan on the eastern edge of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005. (910 metres)

1 flew east over the Aral reservoir, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1260 metres)

1 juvenile was hunting over the fish ponds area immediately to the east of Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)

1 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)

1 over the Haermodun Grassland, north of Korla on the 17/8/2005. (1100 metres)

1 at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 18/8/2005. (880 metres)

SAKER FALCON *Falco cherrug*

(1/25 1 1) (3350 metres)

1 was seen from the summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (3350 metres)

'RED-CAPPED' PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus babylonicus*

(1/25 1 1) (3105 metres)

(The race concerned, *babylonicus*, is usually lumped with Barbary Falcon *Falco pelegrinoides*, but I follow Rasmussen & Anderton in treating it as a form of Peregrine Falcon. *F. peregrinus babylonicus*.)

1 juvenile was seen hunting over fields on the edge of Tashikurgan on the 7/8/2005. (3105 metres).

[In addition another bird, probably this species, was seen poorly over the Puhui Dunes, Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005. (880 metres)]

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

(10/25 900 1541) (835-1260 & 3280-3654 metres)

12 on the Aral reservoir, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1260 metres)

4 between Tashikurgan & Kashi on the 8/8/2005 – 2 adult-summerers on Kalakuli Hu (Km post 1655 on the Tashikurgan to Kashi NH 314) & 2 more on Bulunkou Hu (alternatively Liu Sha He) (Km post 1620). (3654 & 3280 metres respectively).

100 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)

16 on Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005 - 8 at both Bei Ku Qu & Nan Ku Qu. (1100 metres)

419 south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005 – with 394 at Duo Lang Reservoir & 25 at Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1020 metres)

900 southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005 - 100 on Duo Lang Reservoir & 798 including numerous clearly locally fledged, young & several birds still sitting on nests on Shan Li Reservoir. (1020 & 1000 metres)

2 adults at Yang Shu Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005. (1035 metres)

78 birds were noted Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – with 10 on Qia La Reservoir, 36 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir – all of these were with the other waterfowl at Er Hao Ku Chun & 32 on Xinier Reservoir. (835-880 metres)

4 (two adults & two attendant juveniles) at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

21 between Korla & Urumqi, on the 21/8/2005 – with 6 on the large roadside pool about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng (Km post 427 on NH 314) & 15 on on Cai Wo Pu Hu Reservoir about 40 kms south-east of Urumqi. (1020-1073 metres).

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

(3/25 5 10) (1000, 1235 & 3654 metres)

2 summer plumaged adults on Kalakuli Hu (Km post 1655 on the Tashikurgan to Kashi NH 314) between Tashikurgan & Kashi on the 8/8/2005. (3654 metres).

3 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)

5 summer-plumaged adults on Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)

GREAT CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

(12/25 1330 1588) (835-1100metres)

23 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)

65 south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005 – with 5 over 'Matan Marsh', 25 at Duo Lang Reservoir & 35 at Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1025 metres)

83 southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005 – 76 on Duo Lang Reservoir & 7 besides Shan Li Reservoir. (1020 & 1000 metres)

3 on one of the pools at the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005. (880 metres)

24 on Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005 – 3 at Lian Hua Hu, 14 at Yang Shui Zhan & 7 on the large pool 4-5 kms east of Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 metres)

16 near the dam at the northern end of Wulabo reservoir south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005. (1060 metres)

1 was seen in flight at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 18/8/2005. (880 metres)

3 at the Haermodun Grassland, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (1100 metres)
1330 birds were noted Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – with 2 on Qia La Reservoir, a massive 1250 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir (all of these were at Er Hao Ku Chun where a large number [80+] of disused tree nests were seen) & 78 at Xinier Reservoir. (835-880 metres)
8 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)
25 between Korla & Urumqi, on the 21/8/2005 – with 4 flew south-east over the small pool about 2 kms south of Si Shi Li Cheng village (Km post 430 on NH 314), 6 on the large roadside pool about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng (Km post 427 on NH 314) & 15 on Cai Wo Pu Hu Reservoir about 40 kms south-east of Urumqi. (1020-1073 metres).
7 at Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

(10/25 83 245) (835-1235 metres)

37 on Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)
32 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)
10 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)
83 south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005 – with 5 over 'Matan Marsh', 46 at Duo Lang Reservoir & 32 at Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1025 metres)
19 southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005 – 15 on Duo Lang Reservoir & 7 besides Shan Li Reservoir. (1020 & 1000 metres)
9 north of Korla on the 17/8/2005 – 1 over the Haermodun Grassland & the rest along the southern edge of Bosten Hu. (1035 & 1100 metres)
11 south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005 – 9 near the dam at the northern end of Wulabo reservoir & 2 more in flight high over Lun Tai Cheng. (1060 & 1070 metres)
1 at the Haermodun Grassland, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (1100 metres)
25 birds were noted Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – with 8 on Qia La Reservoir, 6 on Da Shi Haizi Reservoir (all of these were at Er Hao Ku Chun) & 11 on Xinier Reservoir. (835-880 metres)
15 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)
13 between Korla & Urumqi, on the 21/8/2005 – with 4 on the large roadside pool about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng (Km post 427 on NH 314) & 9 on the roadside marsh at Km 387. (1025 metres)

GREAT EGRET *Casmerodius albus*

(9/25 63 188) (830-1100 metres)

10 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)
9 south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005 – 1 over 'Matan Marsh' & 8 at Duo Lang reservoir. (1020-1025 metres)
2 on Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)
1 over the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005. (880 metres)
53 north of Korla on the 17/8/2005 – 2 in the Haermodun Grassland & the rest along the southern edge of Bosten Hu. Of these 51 birds 3 were at Lian Hua Hu, 3 more at Yang Shui Zhan & 41 on the large pool 4-5 kms east of Yang Shui Zhan & there were several others at various spots between. (1035 & 1100 metres)
1 at the Haermodun Grassland, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (1100 metres)
19 birds were noted Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – with 9 on Qia La Reservoir, 3 on the 'Half-Way' Village Pool (near Da Xi Haizi Reservoir), 2 at Da Shi Haizi Reservoir (both were at Er Hao Ku Chun) & 5 on Xinier Reservoir. (830-880 metres)
63 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. About four birds were 'present' throughout the period I was there & a total of 59 others flew high to the west. They'd presumably been roosting somewhere to the east of Yang Shui Zhan & were heading out in to the reed bed to feed during the day. (1035 metres)
30 between Korla & Urumqi, on the 21/8/2005 – with 1 on the small pool about 2 kms south of Si Shi Li Cheng village (Km post 430 on NH 314), 27 on the large roadside pool about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng (Km post 427 on NH 314) & 2 on the roadside marsh at Km 387. (1020 metres)

LITTLE BITTERN *Ixobrychus minutus*

(4/25 5 14) (940-1035 metres)

1 male flew over the reed bed at the southern end of the lake in Shui Shang Le Yuan, Urumqi on the 30/7/2005. (940 metres)
5 south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005 – 3 at 'Matan Marsh' and 2 at Shang You Reservoir. Only one bird was seen, the other four were only heard. (1015-1025 metres)
3 at Lian Hua Hu, Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005. (1035 metres)
5 birds were noted, three heard & two juveniles seen, at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

GREAT BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris*

(1/25 1 1) (1035 metres)

1 bird was seen in flight on three occasions within about 50 minutes at Lian Hua Hu, Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005. (1035 metres)

BLACK STORK *Ciconia nigra*

(5/25 4 11) (870-2130 metres)

2 drifted leisurely & high to the north over NH 315 near Ciytla, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. What were almost certainly these same two birds were later seen over the large marsh besides NH 315 & on the border between the Shule & Yingjiasha counties. (1270 metres)
1 circled high over the grassland site 5.5 kms east of Wuqia (Km post 68.4) west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005 before heading off east. (2130 metres)
4 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)
3 were circling high over the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005. (880 metres)
1 on Qia La Reservoir, Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005. (870 metres)

RUFOUS-TAILED SHRIKE *Lanius isabellinus*

(23/25 20 295) (15-2490 metres)

1 was seen feeding a recently fledged juvenile Common Cuckoo near Urumqi airport on the 29/7/2005.

12 around Urumqi on the 30/7/2005 – 11 in Shui Shang Le Yuan & 1 in Urumqi Renmin Gongyuan. Several recently fledged juveniles were seen. 1 adult was watched again feeding a juvenile Common Cuckoo! (940 metres)

20 around Urumqi on the 31/7/2005. Birds were common & widespread – birds were noted at all four of the sites I visited today (Wulabo reservoir, 'Wulabo wadi', Lun Tai Cheng & Shui Mo Gou Gongyuan) as well as from the taxi on route. An adult was seen feeding a juvenile Common Cuckoo up the 'Wulabo wadi'. (840-1080 metres)

20 widespread birds were noted along NH 315 between Kashi & Da Hu, Yingjiasha county, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1250-1320 metres)

20 widespread birds were noted west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005.

15 between Kashi, Dawakun & Ahonghuku Ma on the 4/8/2005. (1170-1250 metres)

10 between Kashi & Bositan Lieke on the 5/8/2005. (1650-2150 metres)

10 between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005 – these included several in the agricultural fields south of Kashi. The highest was at 2095 metres.

2 besides the San Bei Protected Woodland, 1.5 hours drive south of Kashi on the 8/8/2005.

20 between Kashi, Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Xikerer Reservoir & Bachu on the 9/8/2005.

15 between Bachu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir & Aksu on the 10/8/2005.

15 between Aksu, 'Matan Marsh', Duo Lang Reservoir & Shang You Reservoir south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1015-1025 metres)

20 between Aksu, Duo Lang Reservoir & Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000-1030 metres)

5 between Aksu, Kuche & Korla on the 14/8/2005. (820-860 metres)

10 between Korla & the Puhui area on the 15/8/2005. (880-920 metres)

4 north of Korla on the 16/8/2005 – 2 at the Haermodun Grassland & 2 more singles about 22 & 30 kms above Baluntai. (1100, 2230 & 2490 metres)

20 between Baluntai, the Haermodun Grassland & Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005. (1035-1200 metres)

20 between Korla & Puhui on the 18/8/2005. (880-910 metres)

20 between Korla & near Da Shi Haizi on the 19/8/2005. (835-890 metres)

10 at Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005 – most of these were at Yang Shui Zhan. (1035 metres)

15 between Korla & Urumqi on the 21/8/2005. (15-1320 metres)

1 in Shui Shang Le Yuan Park, Urumqi on the 22/8/2005. (935 metres)

6 around Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

LONG-TAILED SHRIKE *Lanius schach*

(2/25 1 2) (3085 metres)

1 at Km post 1735 on NH 314 near Taheman xiang & about 18 kms by road north of Tashikurgan on both the 6th & 8/8/2005. (3085 metres). Having a blue-grey crown and nape, blackish eye mask with a barely perceptible narrow white supra-ocular line above this as well as a pale grey mantle that shaded in to extensively rufous scapulars the bird clearly belonged to *L. schach erythronotus* of the NW Himalayas &, as such, might be a new taxa for China. A record of this subspecies at Mangshi, Yunnan on 22 December 2003 is from a very surprising location and 'requires confirmation.' (Anon. *China Bird Report 2003*. China Ornithological Society).

Note also that the altitude significantly exceeds that give for this species in MacKinnon & Phillipps of 'up to 1600m' & is even slightly higher than the extralimital South Asian altitudinal range quoted in Rasmussen, P. & Anderton, C. . (2005) *Birds of South Asia: The Ripley Guide* of 'up to 3000m.'

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE *Pica pica*

(3/25 10 20) (At least 1270, 2165 & 2460 metres)

5 besides NH 315 near Ciyta, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1270 metres)

10 west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005 – 6 at Ke Zhou Ping Yuan Ling Chang Kang Xi Wa Er Fen Chang (Km post 55.5) & 4 more near Km post 160. (2165 & 2460 metres)

5 in the agricultural areas immediately south of Kashi on the 6/8/2005.

XINJIANG GROUND-JAY *Podoces biddulphi*

(Near Threatened. Chinese Endemic)

(1/25 2 2) (880 metres)

2 birds, a pair, were seen in the Puhui Dunes, Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005. The first bird was seen at 10:40hrs in the dune complex exactly 980 metres east of Km post 42 on local road X230. It was calling loudly (an unfamiliar far-carrying call that reminded me more of a kestrel or Little Owl than anything else) from the ground underneath the edge of a bush at the top off the largest sand dune in the area. I tape recorded the vocalizations & the bird, as well as its mate, responded quite well to subsequent playback. They showed again a couple of times & then went silent & completely disappeared. Note that the pair were quite wide-ranging – covering an area that was at least 600 metres across but the exact site that I first saw the birds is close to the Korla (north-eastern) end of this small complex of dunes & is best accessed from walking in along the border of the dunes & the cotton fields adjacent to Km post 41. The birds performed well calling several times from the ground or on top of one of the 2-4 feet tall bushes in the area. . (41°26.4'N., 85°54.3'E.). (880 metres)

In addition 1 dead first-year bird was found tangled in some fishing nets along the side of Da Shi Haizi Reservoir (at Er Hao Ku Chun), Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005. The bird appeared to have been dead for quite a few days. These nets were hung about 1.5 metres high along the side of the road next to where the fishermen were drying their fish. They were trying to 'discourage' the Common Terns from stealing their catch - & there were also a couple of dead adult Common Terns in the same 15 metre stretch of fishing net! (40°35.3'N., 87°33.5'E.). (835 metres)]

RED-BILLED CHOUGH *Pyrhcorax pyrrhcorax*

(3/25 100 108) (2660-3110 metres)

2 were heard near Km post 160, west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005. (2460 metres)

At least 100 birds, in several flocks, flew east over Tashikurgan on the early morning of the 7/8/2005. What were undoubtedly these same birds were later seen feeding in fields towards the river on the town's eastern edge. (2980-3110 metres)

6 north of Korla on the 16/8/2005 – all were between the raptor site midway between Baluntai & the summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass & within about 25 kms west of the summit of the same pass. (2660 & 3190 metres)

YELLOW-BILLED CHOUGH *Pyrrhocorax graculus*

(1/25 15 15) (2770-2970 metres)

15 around Km post 1597.5 towards the southern end of the Gaizi gorge on NH 314 between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005. All of these birds were well up slope to the right (west) of the road. (2770-2970 metres)

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

(15/25 40 214) (835-3215 metres)

40 widespread birds were noted along NH 315 between Kashi & Da Hu, Yingjiasha county, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1250-1320 metres)

2 birds were noted west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005 - 1 flew east over the small pass 10 kms west of Tu Ka Kou An (Km post 49) & there was another near Km post 160. (2300 & 2460 metres)

30 between Kashi, Dawakun & Ahonghuku Ma on the 4/8/2005. (1170-1250 metres)

15 between Kashi & Bositan Lieke on the 5/8/2005. (1650-2150 metres)

20 with birds widely scattered between the agricultural areas immediately south of Kashi erratically all the way to Tashikurgan. (2370-3215 metres)

15 in & around Tashikurgan on the 7/8/2005. (3105 metres)

15 between Tashikurgan & Kashi on the 8/8/2005.

4 near Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)

10 between Bachu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir & Aksu on the 10/8/2005.

15 between Aksu, 'Matan Marsh', Duo Lang Reservoir & Shang You Reservoir south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1015-1025 metres)

10 between Aksu, Duo Lang Reservoir & Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000-1030 metres)

10 between Aksu, Kuche & Korla on the 14/8/2005. (845 metres)

5 between Korla and the Puhui area on the 15/8/2005. (880-920 metres)

3 at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 18/8/2005. (880 metres)

20 between Korla & near Da Shi Haizi, Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005. (835-890 metres)

COMMON RAVEN *Corvus corax*

(8/25 19 44) (945-4050 metres)

3 west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005 - 2 at the summit of the small pass 10 kms west of Tu Ka Kou An (Km post 49) & 1 was heard near Km post 160. (2300 & 2460 metres)

2 in the desert close to Bositan Lieke, west of Kashi on the 5/8/2005. (1965 metres)

10 between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005 – these included 2 near Kalakuli Hu at Km post 1656 & most of the remainder in Tashikurgan town. (3715, 3765 metres)

1 flew south over the centre of Tashikurgan on the 7/8/2005. (3105 metres)

2 near the summit of the Shubashi Daban Pass at Km post 1685 on the 8/8/2005. (4050 metres)

6 between Kashi, Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Xikerer Reservoir & Bachu on the 9/8/2005. (at least 1175 & 1235 metres)

1 flew west over the summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (3340 metres)

19 between Korla & Urumqi on the 21/8/2005. Singles & parties of 2-4 birds were seen in the desert area roughly centred around Kumishibin Zhan (& approximately half-way along NH 314 between Korla & Urumqi). Birds were noted at the following altitudes – 945, 1045, 1075, 1150, 1170, 1300 & 1600 metres.

EURASIAN GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus*

(2/25 10 14) (1170-1260 metres)

4 southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005 – 3 near Ciytla & 1 in flight near the Aral Reservoir. (1270 & 1260 metres)

10 southeast of Kashi on the 4/8/2005 – 9 at Ahonghuku Ma & 1 other between there & Dawakun. (1170 metres)

RUFOUS-TAILED ROCK THRUSH *Monticola saxatilis*

(1/25 1 1) (835 metres)

1 juvenile near Da Shi Haizi, Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – it was at Yi Hao Ku Chun. (835 metres)

EURASIAN BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

(4/25 4 10) (840-1073 & 2165 metres)

3 around Urumqi on the 30/7/2005 – 2 singles in Shui Shang Le Yuan & 1 in Urumqi Renmin Gongyuan. (940 metres)

4 near Urumqi on the 31/7/2005 – 2 in Wulabo village & 2 more in the Shui Mo Gou Gongyuan on the eastern edge of Urumqi. (840 & 1040 metres)

2 at Ke Zhou Ping Yuan Ling Chang Kang Xi Wa Er Fen Chang (Km post 55.5), west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005. (2165 metres)

1 male at Cai Wo Pu Hu Reservoir about 40 kms south-east of Urumqi on the 21/8/2005. (1073 metres)

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica*

(2/25 2 3) (1073 & 1100 metres)

2 were seen perched on overhead wires at the Haermodun Grassland, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (1100 metres)

1 male at Cai Wo Pu Hu Reservoir about 40 kms south-east of Urumqi on the 21/8/2005. (1073 metres)

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*

(4/25 12 15) (1890-2655 metres)

1 female on roadside telegraph wire in the gorge 8 kms west of Kang Su Zhen Km post 105, west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005. (2450 metres)

12 between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005. The first 2 were at Km post 1572. (2080-at least 2655 metres)

1 besides the road about 5 kms south of Gaizi on the 8/8/2005. (1920 metres)

1 about 25 minutes drive above Baluntai, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (1890 metres)

WHITE-WINGED REDSTART *Phoenicurus erythrogaster*

(1/25 3 3) (3165 metres)

3 north of Korla on the 16/8/2005 – an adult male & a juvenile & another juvenile at two sites about 12 & 17 kms west of the summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass. (3165 metres)

NORTHERN WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

(1/25 15 15) (2160-3210 metres)

15 between Km post 530 on NH 218 (23 kms above Baluntai) & beyond the summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (2160-3210 metres)

PIED WHEATEAR *Oenanthe pleschanka*

(6/25 8 15) (835-2355 metres)

1 juvenile on the small arid ridge west of the southern end of the lake in Shui Shang Le Yuan, Urumqi on the 30/7/2005. (980 metres)

1 juvenile near Wulabo village south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005. (1040 metres)

1 at Ke Zhou Ping Yuan Ling Chang Kang Xi Wa Er Fen Chang (Km post 55.5), west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005. (2165 metres)

8 in the area in & immediately south of the Gaizi gorge south of Aoyitake cun & 2 hours drive south of Kashi on the 6/8/2005. Between Km posts 1561 & 1571. (1940, 2065, 2100, 2155, 2225 & 2355 metres)

3 about 40 minutes drive above Baluntai, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (1900 metres)

1 near Da Shi Haizi, Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – it was close to Yi Hao Ku Chun. (835 metres)

DESERT WHEATEAR *Oenanthe deserti*

(6/25 20 38) (880-4070 metres)

1 male in the desert about 6 kms before Bositan Lieke, west of Kashi on the 5/8/2005. (1980 metres)

10 between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005. These included 2 near Km post 1620 at Bulunkou Hu & 2 at the 'Tibetan Sandgrouse site' at Km post 1629,

2 near Kalakuli Hu at Km post 1656 & 2 near the summit of the Shubashi Daban Pass. (3280-4070 metres)

20 between Tashikurgan & Kashi on the 8/8/2005 – these included 16 on the southern, silted up end of Bulunkou Hu – around Km post 1626.5. (3290 metres)

3 between Nan Ku Qu at Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir & Aksu on the 10/8/2005. Single birds were seen 2 kms west of the Long San Shi cement works (6 kms east of Nan Ku Qu), near the junction on to the main NH 314 at Km post 177 & at Km 1124 on NH 314. 9. (1090-1105 metres)

3 in the Puhui Dunes, Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005. (880 metres)

1 adult male near the large pool 4-5 kms east of Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005. (1035 metres)

ISABELLINE WHEATEAR *Oenanthe isabellina*

(3/25 6 11) (1235-2130 metres)

4 west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005 – a pair at the summit of the small pass 10 kms west of Tu Ka Kou An (Km post 49) & another pair at the grassland site 5.5 kms east of Wuqia (Km post 68.4). (2300 & 2130 metres)

6 in the desert between Wupaer xiang & Bositan Lieke, west of Kashi on the 5/8/2005. (1515-2150 metres)

1 near Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)

[In addition 1 bird, probably this species, was seen near Kuche on the 14/8/2005].

ROSY STARLING *Sturnus roseus*

(7/25 64 132) (880-3105 metres)

64 at the grassland site 5.5 kms east of Wuqia (Km post 68.4), west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005. All were juveniles, a few of which were moulting to first-winter. No adults were seen. (2130 metres)

3 juveniles at Dawakun, southeast of Kashi on the 4/8/2005. (1170 metres)

30 about 1.5 hrs drive south of Kashi on the 6/8/2005. (1715 metres)

A flock of 15 juveniles were seen in the Tashikurgan fields on the 7/8/2005. (3105 metres)

6 near Taheman xiang (Km post 1735 on NH 314) & about 18 kms by road north of Tashikurgan on the 8/8/2005. (3085 metres).

13 flew over 'Matan Marsh' south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1025 metres)

1 was heard at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 18/8/2005. (880 metres)

COMMON STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

(5/25 16 49) (870-1073 metres)

1 moulting juvenile was seen on the road close to 'Matan Marsh' south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1025 metres)

14 southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005 - 1 moulting juvenile near '68 Kilometre Village' close to Kalatale zhen & 13, in two family parties, at Shan Li Reservoir. (1040 & 1000 metres)

3 near the small village of Teraklik (Km post 795 on NH 315) about 53 kms west of Kuche on the 14/8/2005. (855 metres)

16 birds were noted, Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – with 8 near Qia La Reservoir & 8 more on the 'Half-Way' Village Pool, near Da Xi Haizi Reservoir. (870 & 830 metres)

15 between Korla & Urumqi, on the 21/8/2005 – 3 were seen on the road about 3 kms south of Wu Shi Ta la Xiang (Km post 332 on NH 314) & 12 more flew south at Cai Wo Pu Hu Reservoir about 40 kms south-east of Urumqi. (1073 metres)

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

(1/25 15 15) (940 metres)

15 on the 30/7/2005– 10 in Shui Shang Le Yuan & 5 in Urumqi Renmin Gongyuan. The majority of birds were recently fledged. (940 metres)

AZURE TIT *Parus cyanus*

(5/25 20 60) (820-3105 metres)

8 in Shui Shang Le Yuan, Urumqi on the 30/7/2005. (940 metres)

9, a family group of 5 & another party of 4 birds, in the Shui Mo Gou Gongyuan on the eastern edge of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005. Only one of three begging juveniles in the first group had a faint yellow wash below, the other two were entirely white below. (820-850 metres)

20 west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005 – 15 (in two parties one of five birds & the other of about 10) at Ke Zhou Ping Yuan Ling Chang Kang Xi Wa Er Fen Chang (Km post 55.5) & 5 about 32 kms from Kashi (approximately 7 kms east of Tu Ka Kou An. (2165 & 1920 metres)

15 at Bositan Lieke, west of Kashi on the 5/8/2005. (2150 metres)

8 birds were seen in the trees lining the main NH 314 on the northern edge of Tashikurgan on the 7/8/2005. (3105 metres)

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

(3/25 2 4) (1170, 2020 & 3085 metres)

1 at Dawakun, southeast of Kashi on the 4/8/2005. (1170 metres)

2 flew west, with Barn Swallows, over the desert near Bositan Lieke, west of Kashi on the 5/8/2005. (2020 metres)

1 at Km post 1734 on NH 314 about 20 kms north of Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005. (3085 metres)

[See also Sand Martin or Pale Martin below.]

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* or **PALE MARTIN** *Riparia diluta*

(3/25 4 7) (At least 1000 & 1270 metres)

2 distant birds were seen over the large marsh besides NH 315 & on the border between the Shule & Yingjiasha counties, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1270 metres)

1 flew over Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)

4 north of Korla on the 16/8/2005.

EURASIAN CRAG MARTIN *Hirundo rupestris*

(1/25 1 1) (3340 metres)

1 besides NH 314 between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005. (3340 metres)

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

(22/25 350 1394) (835-2150 metres)

1 near Urumqi airport on the 29/7/2005.

30 over Shui Shang Le Yuan, Urumqi on the 30/7/2005. (940 metres)

100 around Urumqi on the 31/7/2005 – birds were common & widespread. (820-1080 metres)

50 widespread birds were noted along NH 315 between Kashi & Da Hu, Yingjiasha county, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1250-1320 metres)

8 west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005.

10 between Kashi, Dawakun & Ahonghuku Ma on the 4/8/2005. (1170-1250 metres)

50 birds were estimated west of Kashi on the 5/8/2005 – there was a steady trickle of birds heading west low over the desert near Bositan Lieke. (1820-2150 metres)

4 in the lowlands near Kashi on the 8/8/2005.
 40 over Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)
 50 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)
 100 south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005 – with at least 50 over the Shang You Reservoir. (1015-1025 metres)
 100 between Aksu, Duo Lang Reservoir & Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000-1030 metres)
 6 in Korla on the 14/8/2005. (820 metres)
 30 between Korla & the Puhui area on the 15/8/2005. (880-920 metres)
 100 north of Korla on the 16/8/2005 – including at least 50 at the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
 100 north of Korla on the 17/8/2005 – 50 over the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)
 15 at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 18/8/2005. (880 metres)
 40 between Korla & near Da Shi Haizi on the 19/8/2005. (835-890 metres)
 350 at Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005 – most of these were at Yang Shui Zhan. Most of these were heading south east over the base of the causeway shortly after dawn & had presumably roosted in the reed bed overnight. (1035 metres)
 100 between Korla & Urumqi on the 21/8/2005.
 80 in Shui Shang Le Yuan Park, Urumqi on the 22/8/2005. (935 metres)
 30 between Urumqi & Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (940-1080 metres)

NORTHERN HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*

(7/25 15 67) (940-2050 & 3085 metres)
 15 over Shui Shang Le Yuan, Urumqi on the 30/7/2005. (940 metres)
 8 south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005 – all in the Wulabo reservoir-‘Wulabo wadi’-Lun Tai Cheng area. (1060-1080 metres)
 6 flew south over NH 315 near Ciytla, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1270 metres)
 9 between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005 - 1 in the Gaizi gorge south of Aoyitake cun & 2 hours south of Kashi & 8 about 20 kms north of Tashikurgan at Km post 1734 on NH 314. (1955 & 3085 metres)
 15 north of Korla on the 16/8/2005 – these included 3 over the Haermodun Grassland, 7 more about 15 minutes drive above Baluntai village & 5 near Km post 535 on NH 218 (18 kms above Baluntai). (1100, 1825 & 2050 metres)
 10 north of Korla on the 17/8/2005 – 3 over the Haermodun Grassland & 7 at Lian Hua Hu, Bosten Hu. (1035 & 1100 metres)
 4 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

WHITE-BROWED CHINESE WARBLER *Rhopophilus pekinensis*

(Chinese Endemic)
 (6/25 10 24) (870-1100 metres)
 Note that although a couple of the various call notes of this distinctive, pale western subspecies *R. p. albosuperciliaris* are similar to the two western subspecies the song is very different.
 2 were heard in the reed bed adjacent to Km post 85.4 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)
 4 in & around the ‘Matan Marsh’ south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1025 metres)
 2 were heard close to near Shang Li Shuiku Er Dui, Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)
 10 birds were in the Puhui area, Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005 – with sightings in the Puhui Dunes, the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun & in the orchards between these two sites. (880 metres)
 4 were heard at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 18/8/2005. (880 metres)
 2 were heard near Qia La Reservoir, Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005. (870 metres)

RUSTY-RUMPED WARBLER *Locustella certhiola*

(2/25 10 12) (1070-1100 metres)
 2 birds were heard in the small marsh up the ‘Wulabo wadi’ south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005. (1070 metres)
 10 north of Korla on the 17/8/2005 – four were seen (including two juveniles) & at least 6 others were heard in the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)

PADDYFIELD WARBLER *Acrocephalus agricola*

(3/25 8 10) (1025-1035 metres)
 1 in ‘Matan Marsh’ south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1025 metres)
 8 at Lian Hua Hu, Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005. (1035 metres)
 1 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

EURASIAN REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

(4/25 5 14) (940-1235 metres)
 5, four seen & at least one other heard, in the reed bed at the southern end of the lake in Shui Shang Le Yuan, Urumqi on the 30/7/2005. (940 metres)
 2 in the small reed bed on the north-eastern side of Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)
 2 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)
 5 in the reed bed at the north-eastern corner of Cai Wo Pu Hu Reservoir about 40 kms south-east of Urumqi on the 21/8/2005. (1073 metres)

[In addition 1 bird, probably this species, was heard at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 18/8/2005. (880 metres)]

BLYTH'S REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

(1/25 3 3) (1235 metres)

3 in the small reed bed on the north-eastern side of Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)

GREAT REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

(2/25 3 6) (1025 & 1035 metres)

3 in 'Matan Marsh' south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1025 metres)

3 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

SYKES'S WARBLER *Hippolais rama*

(2/25 8 14) (1270, 2165 & 2460 metres)

6 southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005 – five near NH 315 near Ciytla & the other close to the Aral Reservoir,. (1270 metres)

8 west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005 – 6 at Ke Zhou Ping Yuan Ling Chang Kang Xi Wa Er Fen Chang (Km post 55.5) & 2 near Km post 160. (2165 & 2460 metres)

MOUNTAIN CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus sindianus*

(2/25 10 11) (2980-3105 metres)

10 in & around Tashikurgan on the 7/8/2005. Birds were seen in trees lining NH 314 to the south of the village & in on the eastern side of town, down between the ruined old fort walls & the marsh besides the river. Several birds were seen feeding young & one even gave a couple of brief song strophes. (2980-3105 metres)

1 was heard singing at Tiziyipu xiang about 8 kms south of Tashikurgan on the 8/8/2005. (3060 metres)

SULPHUR-BELLIED WARBLER *Phylloscopus griseolus*

(2/25 2 3) (2050 & 2810 metres)

2 on the scrubby hillside near Km post 1602.5 (3-4 kms above Gaizi), between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005. (2810 metres)

1 near Km post 535 on NH 218 (18 kms above Baluntai), north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (2050 metres)

BEARDED PARROTBILL *Panurus biarmicus*

(6/25 13 40) (832-1235 metres)

13 on the 9/8/2005 - a party of 11 (mostly juveniles but including at least one adult male) in the reed bed at the north-eastern side of Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) & at least two others in one of the reed filled drainage ditches near the fishponds on the northern edge of the same reservoir. (1235 metres)

2 were heard in the reed bed adjacent to Km post 87 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)

2 in 'Matan Marsh' south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1025 metres)

8 at Lian Hua Hu, Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005. (1035 metres)

3 on the 'Half-Way' Village Pool, near Da Xi Haizi Reservoir, Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005. (832 metres)

12 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

(1/25 1 1) (1073 metres)

1 at Cai Wo Pu Hu Reservoir about 40 kms south-east of Urumqi on the 21/8/2005. (1073 metres)

DESERT LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia minula*

(7/25 25 72) (835-2460 metres)

10 west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005 – 2 at Ke Zhou Ping Yuan Ling Chang Kang Xi Wa Er Fen Chang (Km post 55.5) & 8 near Km post 160. (2165 & 2460 metres)

10 in the reed bed & small diversifolius poplars at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)

1 in 'Matan Marsh' south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1025 metres)

1 close to near Shang Li Shuiku Er Dui, Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)

25 in the Puhui area, Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005 - with sightings in the Puhui Dunes, the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun & in the orchards between these two sites. (880 metres)

15 birds were noted Ssw of Korla on the 18/8/2005 – with encounters in both the Puhui Dunes & at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. (880 metres)

10 birds were noted at several sites between Korla & near Da Shi Haizi on the 19/8/2005. (835-890 metres)

[1 bird, probably this species, was heard & seen in flight close to NH 315 near Ciytla, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1270 metres)]

HUME'S (LESSER) WHITETHROAT *Sylvia althaea*

(1/25 1 1) (2460 metres)

1 bird, probably this species, was seen near Km post 160, west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005. (2460 metres). This species has apparently not previously been recorded in China.

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*

(10/25 15 63) (880-2460metres)

4 south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005 – 2 adults in scrub about 200 metres up the 'Wulabo wadi' & 2 more (another adult & a separate juvenile) in scrub near Lun Tai Cheng. (1070 metres)

10 close to NH 315 near Ciyta, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1270 metres)

20 west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005. These included 10 at Ke Zhou Ping Yuan Ling Chang Kang Xi Wa Er Fen Chang (Km post 55.5) & 6 near Km post 160. (2165 & 2460 metres)

10 at Ahonghuku Ma, southeast of Kashi on the 4/8/2005. (1170 metres)

5 at Bositan Lieke, west of Kashi on the 5/8/2005. (2150 metres)

4 in roadside trees & scrub at Aoyitake (2 hrs drive south of Kashi & near Km post 1549), between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005. (1775 metres)

1 juvenile was seen on the southern edge of Tashikurgan. (3105 metres)

6 in the San Bei Protected Woodland, 1.5 hours drive south of Kashi on the 8/8/2005.

3 in scrub near Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) on the 9/8/2005. (1235 metres)

5 were seen in orchards between Puhui & the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005. (880 metres)

HUME'S SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella acutirostris*

(7/25 10 29) (1000-3380 metres)

1 near the car park at Dawakun, southeast of Kashi on the 4/8/2005. (1170 metres).

6 in the desert near Bositan Lieke, west of Kashi on the 5/8/2005. (2020-2150 metres)

8 besides the road at the 'Tibetan Sandgrouse site' at Km post 1629, between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005. (3380 metres)

2 flew south over Tashikurgan on the 7/8/2005. (3105 metres)

2 near Taheman xiang (Km post 1735 on NH 314) & about 18 kms by road north of Tashikurgan on the 8/8/2005. (3085 metres).

6 between Kashi & Bachu on the 9/8/2005 – with 'several' near Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county (about 50 kilometres north of Kashi) (Km post 1403 on NH 314) & 'several' more near Xikerer Reservoir (Km post 1320 on NH 314). (1235 & 1430 metres).

2 besides Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)

ASIAN SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella cheleensis*

(5/25 5 15) (835-1035 metres)

4 birds were seen well in the Puhui Dunes, Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005. (880 metres)

5 at Yang Shu Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005. (1035 metres)

1 was heard in Puhui Dunes, Ssw of Korla on the 18/8/2005. (880 metres)

2 near Da Shi Haizi, Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – they were at Yi Hao Ku Chun. (835 metres)

3 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

[In addition 5 birds, possibly this species, were heard & seen poorly at various sites around Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir, especially at Nan Ku Qu on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)]

CRESTED LARK *Galerida cristata*

(11/25 15 60) (820-1505 metres)

15 widespread birds were noted along NH 315 between Kashi & Da Hu, Yingjiasha county, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1250-1320 metres)

2 at the grassland site 5.5 kms east of Wuqia (Km post 68.4), west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005. (2130 metres)

2 at Dawakun, southeast of Kashi on the 4/8/2005. (1170 metres).

3 in the desert about midway between Wupaer xiang & Bositan Lieke, west of Kashi on the 5/8/2005. (1505 metres)

5 at Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005 – 2 at Bei Ku Qu & 3 at Nan Ku Qu. (1100 metres)

5 south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005 - with sightings near 'Matan Marsh', Yinshawan & Shang You Reservoirs. (1015-1025 metres)

15 between Aksu, Duo Lang Reservoir & Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000-1030 metres)

1 near Korla on the 14/8/2005. (820 metres)

5 at the Haermodun Grassland, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (1100 metres)

4 in the Haermodun Grassland on the 17/8/2005. (1100 metres)

3 near the large roadside pool about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng (Km post 427 on NH 314) on the 21/8/2005. (1025 metres)

HORNED LARK *Eremophila alpestris*

(4/25 6 15) (1060 & 2925-4070 metres)

6 between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005 – these included 2 at the 'Tibetan Sandgrouse site' at Km post 1629 & others near the summit of the Shubashi Daban Pass. (3380-4070 metres)

4 near the summit of the Shubashi Daban Pass at Km post 1685 on the 8/8/2005.
4 north of Korla on the 16/8/2005 – all were within about 15 kms west of the summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass. (2925-3150 metres)
1 at Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

SAXAUL SPARROW *Passer ammodendri*

(5/25 30 112) (880-1270 metres)

25 southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005 – 10 besides NH 315 near Ciytla & 15 in scrub near the Aral Reservoir. Birds were often noted together with Eurasian Tree Sparrows. (1260-1270 metres)
30 southeast of Kashi on the 4/8/2005 – 2 in the car park at Dawakun & the rest in the woodland at Ahonghuku Ma. (1170 metres).
2 at Bei Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)
30 in the Puhui area, Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005 - with sightings in the Puhui Dunes, the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun & in the orchards between these two sites. (880 metres)
25 at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 18/8/2005. (880 metres)

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

(13/25 150 376) (820-3105 metres)

40 in & around Urumqi on the 30/7/2005. Birds were widespread but most were in the Shui Shang Le Yuan. (940 metres)
10 on the 31/7/2005 – all of these were in the Shui Mo Gou Gongyuan on the eastern edge of Urumqi. (820-890 metres)
20 & 20 birds were noted between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6th & 8/8/2005 respectively. On the first date there were 10 about 20 kms north of Tashikurgan at Km post 1734 on NH 314 & at least 10 more in Tashikurgan itself. (3085 metres)
At least 150 birds were noted in & around Tashikurgan on the 7/8/2005. (3105 metres)
30 between Kashi, Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Xikerer Reservoir & Bachu on the 9/8/2005. (at least 1175-1430 metres)
20 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)
20 between Aksu, 'Matan Marsh', Duo Lang Reservoir & Shang You Reservoir south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1015-1025 metres)
20 between Aksu, Duo Lang Reservoir & Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000-1030 metres)
20 between Aksu, Kuche & Korla on the 14/8/2005. (845 metres)
2 at Lian Hua Hu, Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005. (1035 metres)
4 in Shui Shang Le Yuan Park, Urumqi on the 22/8/2005. (935 metres)
10 with large numbers of Eurasian Tree Sparrows in a sunflower field at Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

SPANISH SPARROW *Passer hispaniolensis*

(1/25 1 1) (1025 metres)

1 male with other unidentified sparrows in 'Matan Marsh' south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1025 metres)

[In addition 1 bird, possibly this species, was seen in flight besides NH 315 near Ciytla, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1270 metres)]

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*

(19/25 150 900+) (15-2445 metres)

50 in Shui Shang Le Yuan, Urumqi on the 30/7/2005. (940 metres)
50 in & around Urumqi on the 31/7/2005. Common & widespread.
40 widespread birds were noted along NH 315 between Kashi & Da Hu, Yingjiasha county, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. Birds were often noted together with Saxaul Sparrows. (1250-1320 metres)
20 between Kashi, Dawakun & Ahonghuku Ma on the 4/8/2005. (1170-1250 metres)
30 at Bositan Lieke, west of Kashi on the 5/8/2005. (2150 metres)
5 between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005.
20 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)
15 between Aksu, 'Matan Marsh', Duo Lang Reservoir & Shang You Reservoir south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1015-1025 metres)
100 between Aksu, Duo Lang Reservoir & Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000-1030 metres)
'Present' between Aksu, Kuche & Korla on the 14/8/2005. (845 metres)
10 in the Puhui Dunes, Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005. (880 metres)
50 north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. The highest was at 2445 metres.
150 in single a maize field in the Haermodun Grassland, north of Korla on the 17/8/2005. (1100 metres)
20 between Korla & Puhui, Ssw of Korla on the 18/8/2005. (880-910 metres)
40 between Korla & near Da Shi Haizi on the 19/8/2005. (835-890 metres)
'Present' between Korla & at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (920-1035 metres)
80 between Korla & Urumqi on the 21/8/2005. At least 50 of these were in the gardens of the Tuokexun Xian Services in the Pendi Depression. (15-1300 metres)
30 in Shui Shang Le Yuan Park, Urumqi on the 22/8/2005. (935 metres)
150 in a sunflower field at Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

ROCK SPARROW *Petronia petronia*

(1/25 4 4) (3085 metres)

4 near Taheman xiang (Km post 1735 on NH 314) & about 18 kms by road north of Tashikurgan on the 8/8/2005. (3085 metres).

WHITE-WINGED SNOWFINCH *Montifringilla nivalis*

(2/25 19 27) (3165 & 3650 metres)

8 between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005 – these included a family party of 6 near the smaller Kalakuli Hu at Km post 1655. (3650 metres)

19, in parties of 5 & 14 birds, were seen within 20 kms down on the western side of the Luotuo Juan Pass, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (3165 metres)

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

(21/25 40 348) (15-3250 metres)

All of those racially identified throughout Xinjiang were *M. a. personata* 'Masked Wagtail'. Numerous juveniles were seen.

2 near Urumqi airport on the 29/7/2005.

40 in & around Urumqi on the 30/7/2005. Birds were widespread but were mostly in Shui Shang Le Yuan. (940 metres)

30 in & around Urumqi on the 31/7/2005 – common & widespread with birds being seen at all four sites I visited around Urumqi (Wulabo reservoir, 'Wulabo wadi', Lun Tai Cheng & Shui Mo Gou Gongyuan) & at numerous sites in between. Also in Urumqi city. All of those racially identified (about 20 birds) were again *M. a. personata*. (830-1080 metres)

10 widespread birds were noted along NH 315 between Kashi & Da Hu, Yingjiasha county, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1250-1320 metres)

15 west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005 – widespread.

10 between Kashi, Dawakun & Ahonghuku Ma on the 4/8/2005. (1170-1250 metres)

6 west of Kashi on the 5/8/2005 – 2 in Wupaer xiang & 4 at Bositan Lieke. (1400 & 2150 metres)

10 between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005.

10 in & around Tashikurgan on the 7/8/2005. (3105 metres)

25 between Tashikurgan & Kashi on the 8/8/2005.

20 between Kashi, Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Xikerer Reservoir & Bachu on the 9/8/2005. (at least 1175-1430 metres)

10 at Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)

10 in the Korla to Puhui area on the 15/8/2005. (880-920 metres)

20 widespread birds were noted between Korla & towards Gong Nai Si on the 16/8/2005. (1100-3235 metres)

10 widespread birds were noted north of Korla on the 17/8/2005 but most of these were in the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)

10 between Korla & Puhui, Ssw of Korla on the 18/8/2005. (880-910 metres)

15 between Korla & near Da Shi Haizi on the 19/8/2005. (835-890 metres)

20 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

20 between Korla & Urumqi on the 21/8/2005. (15-1650 metres)

10 in Shui Shang Le Yuan Park, Urumqi on the 22/8/2005. (935 metres)

35 at Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

CITRINE WAGTAIL *Motacilla citreola*

(22/25 30 311) (835-3340 metres)

4 in Shui Shang Le Yuan, Urumqi on the 30/7/2005. Three birds were seen well & of these two were juveniles & one an adult. (940 metres)

6 south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005 – 2 up the 'Wulabo wadi' & 4 on the small marsh near Lun Tai Cheng. (1070 metres)

6 near NH 315 near Ciytla, southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005. (1270 metres)

15 west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005 - widespread

4 at Dawakun, southeast of Kashi on the 4/8/2005. (1170 metres)

2 were heard at Bositan Lieke west of Kashi on the 5/8/2005. (2150 metres)

10 between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005. (3085-3340 metres)

20 in & around Tashikurgan on the 7/8/2005. (3105 metres)

20 between Tashikurgan & Kashi on the 8/8/2005.

20 between Kashi, Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Xikerer Reservoir & Bachu on the 9/8/2005. (at least 1175-1430 metres)

20 at Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)

15 between Aksu, 'Matan Marsh', Duo Lang Reservoir & Shang You Reservoir south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1015-1025 metres)

20 between Aksu, Duo Lang Reservoir & Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000-1030 metres)

10 in the Puhui area, Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005 - with sightings in the Puhui Dunes, the Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun & in the area between these two sites. (880 metres)

40 widespread birds were noted between Korla & towards Gong Nai Si on the 16/8/2005. (1100-3165 metres)

20 widespread birds were noted north of Korla on the 17/8/2005 but most of these were in the Haermodun Grassland. (1100 metres)

10 at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 18/8/2005. (880 metres)

20 between Korla & near Da Shi Haizi on the 19/8/2005. (835-890 metres)

30 at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)

15 between Korla & Urumqi on the 21/8/2005.

3 in Shui Shang Le Yuan Park, Urumqi on the 22/8/2005. (935 metres)

20 at Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

(1/25 2 2) (1070 metres)

2 on the small marsh near Lun Tai Cheng south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005. One of these, an adult male, was racially identified as *M. f. thunbergi* a taxa that might not have been recorded in China before. (1070 metres)

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

(7/25 4 10) (935-3105 metres)

- 1 flew over the 'Wulabo wadi' south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005. (1070 metres)
- 1 near Taheman xiang (Km post 1735 on NH 314) & about 18 kms by road north of Tashikurgan on the 8/8/2005. (3085 metres).
- 1 at Nan Ku Qu, Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir on the 10/8/2005. (1100 metres)
- 4 between the Haermodun Grassland, Baluntai village & towards Gong Nai Si, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (1100-3105 metres)
- 1 flew over at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)
- 1 in Shui Shang Le Yuan Park, Urumqi on the 22/8/2005. (935 metres)
- 1 at Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus richardi*

(8/25 15 50) (880-1100 metres)

- 8 south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005 – 5 apparently territorial birds (one of which was carrying food & presumably feeding young still in the nest) up the 'Wulabo wadi' & 3 others flew high to the south (& were presumed to be genuine migrants) over Lun Tai Cheng. (1070 metres)
- 2 singles flew south over 'Matan Marsh' south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1025 metres)
- 3 at Shan Li Reservoir, southeast of Aksu on the 12/8/2005. (1000 metres)
- 1 flew south-west over the Puhui Dunes, Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005. (880 metres)
- 5 on the Haermodun Grassland, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (1100 metres)
- 15 in the Haermodun Grassland, north of Korla on the 17/8/2005. (1100 metres)
- 1 flew over at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. (1035 metres)
- 15 at Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris*

(1/25 3 3) (1070 metres)

- 3, an adult & two recently & undoubtedly locally-fledged juveniles, at Lun Tai Cheng south of Urumqi on the 31/7/2005. (1070 metres)

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

(1/25 1 1) (1035 metres)

- 1 seen on the dirt road through the reed bed at Lian Hua Hu, Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005 eventually flew off north. (1035 metres)

ROSY PIPIT *Anthus roseatus*

(1/25 15 15) (2050-3090 metres)

- 15 between Km post 535 on NH 218 (18 kms above Baluntai) & about 20 kms west of the summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (2050-3090 metres)

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*

(3/25 8 14) (2450-3105 metres)

- 8 in the gorge 8 kms west of Kang Su Zhen (Km post 105), west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005. (2450 metres)
- 4 on the scrubby hillside near Km post 1602.5, between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005. (2810 metres)
- 2 singles were seen in fields on the northern edge of Tashikurgan on the 7/8/2005. (3105 metres)

PLAIN MOUNTAIN FINCH *Leucosticte nemoricola*

(1/25 8 8) (2810 metres)

- 8 on the scrubby hillside near Km post 1602.5 (3-4 kms above Gaizi), between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005. (2810 metres)

MONGOLIAN FINCH *Bucanetes mongolicus*

(4/25 25 34) (2130-3105 metres)

- 25 west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005 – 20 in a couple of apparent family parties, at the summit of the small pass 10 kms west of Tu Ka Kou An (Km post 49), another was heard at the grassland site 5.5 kms east of Wuqia (Km post 68.4) & at least 5 birds in the gorge 8 kms west of Kang Su Zhen (Km post 105). (2130, 2300 & 2450 metres)
- 6 between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005 - 2 on the scrubby hillside near Km post 1602.5 (3-4 kms above Gaizi), 2 more near Km post 1620 at Bulunkou Hu & 2 more at the 'Tibetan Sandgrouse site' at Km post 1629. (2810, 3280 & 3390 metres)
- 2 flew over the southern edge of Tashikurgan on the 7/8/2005. (3105 metres)
- 1 near Taheman xiang (Km post 1735 on NH 314) & about 18 kms by road north of Tashikurgan on the 8/8/2005. (3085 metres).

DESERT FINCH *Rhodospiza obsoleta*

(2/25 6 9) (1070-1170 metres)

6 southeast of Kashi on the 4/8/2005 – 5 in Tieremu xiang & 1 over the car park at Dawakun. Tieremu xiang is about three-quarters of the way between Kashi & Dawakun & the birds here were initially seen close the top of one of the taller trees lining the road but soon dropped to the street & ended up picking up roadside scraps along with the Eurasian Tree Sparrows! (1150 & 1170 metres)

3 at Sha Jingzi 60 kms west of Aksu (Km 1060) on NH 314 on the 10/8/2005. (1070 metres)

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus*

(5/25 30 47) (1060-3105 metres)

5 west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005 – 4 at Ke Zhou Ping Yuan Ling Chang Kang Xi Wa Er Fen Chang (Km post 55.5) & 1 near Km post 160. (2165 & 2460 metres)

3 on the scrubby hillside near Km post 1602.5 (3-4 kms above Gaizi), between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005. (2810 metres)

6 in & around Tashikurgan on the 7/8/2005. (3105 metres)

30 between Baluntai & about Km 530, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. These included about 20 in crops near Km post 535 on NH 218 (18 kms above Baluntai). (1740-2300 metres)

3 birds, presumably migrants, at Wulabo Reservoir, south of Urumqi on the 23/8/2005. (1060 metres)

GREY-NECKED BUNTING *Emberiza buchanani*

(1/25 2 2) (2050 & 2255 metres)

2 males north of Korla on the 16/8/2005 – 1 on the dry hillside near Km post 535 & the other above Km post 532 on NH 218 (18 & 21 kms above Baluntai respectively). (2050 & 2255 metres)

PALLAS'S BUNTING *Emberiza pallasii*

(1/25 1 1) (1100 metres)

1 juvenile was in the Haermodun Grassland, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (1100 metres)

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

(4/25 18 22) (835-1035 metres)

2 in 'Matan Marsh' south of Aksu on the 11/8/2005. (1025 metres)

1 at Lian Hua Hu, Bosten Hu on the 17/8/2005. (1035 metres)

1 at Da Shi Haizi Reservoir, Sse of Korla on the 19/8/2005 – it was near Er Hao Ku Chun. (835 metres)

18 birds were noted, in singles & parties of two or three birds, at Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu on the 20/8/2005. Surprisingly all were flying east. This movement went on throughout the morning & did not appear to be due to birds leaving a reed bed roost. (1035 metres)

MAMMALS

TARIM HARE *Lepus yarkandensis*

(3/25 3 8) (880-1270 metres)

4 southeast of Kashi on the 2/8/2005 – 2 besides NH 315 near Ciytla & 2 more near the Aral Reservoir. (1260 & 1270 metres)

3 in the Puhui Dunes, Ssw of Korla on the 15/8/2005. (880 metres)

1 at Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun, Ssw of Korla on the 18/8/2005. (880 metres)

WOOLY HARE *Lepus oiostolus*

(1/25 4 4) (3380-3420 metres)

4 at the 'Tibetan Sandgrouse site' up slope from Km post 1629, between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005. (3380-3420 metres)

HARE SP. *Lepus sp.*

(1/25 1 1) (1100 metres)

1 was glimpsed from the taxi near the Haermodun Grassland, north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (1100 metres). It was probably another Tarim Hare.

LONG-TAILED MARMOT (Red Marmot) *Marmota caudata*

(1/25 20 20) (3960-4080 metres)

Ca.20 around the summit of the Shubashi Daban Pass near Km post 1685, between Kashi & Tashikurgan on the 6/8/2005. (3960-4080 metres)

GREY MARMOT (Tian Shan Marmot) *Marmota baibacina*

(1/25 10 10) (Above 3200 metres)

10 north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (All above 3200 metres)

GOITRED GAZELLE *Gazella subgutturosa*

(1/25 6 6) (1580 metres)

A party of 6 (including 1 adult male & 1 youngster) were seen in the desert two-thirds of the way from Wupaer xiang to Bositen Lieke, west of Kashi on the 5/8/2005. (39°19.9'N., 75°19.0'E.). (1580 metres). From this site it is 57.8 kms at 72° back to Kashi. (Photo)

fox sp. *Vulpes sp.*

(1/25 1 1) (2300 metres)

1 was being mobbed by a pair of Isabelline Wheatears near the summit of the small pass 10 kms west of Tu Ka Kou An (Km post 49) west of Kashi on the 3/8/2005. (2300 metres). It was possibly a Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*.

TIANSHAN SOUSLIK *Citellus relictus*

(1/25 4 4) (Above 3095 metres)

4 north of Korla on the 16/8/2005. (3095 metres & above)

REPTILES

Quite a number of lizards were seen but only a couple were photographed & I kept notes on even fewer. As yet I haven't managed to tentatively identify any of them.

small lizard sp. About 12 were seen in the desert between Wupaer xiang & Bositen Lieke, west of Kashi on the 5/8/2005. – one was photographed. (At least 1580 metres)

Co-ordinates of some of the sites visited

Near Urumqi

Shui Shang Le Yuan, Urumqi. 43°45.3'N., 87°36.6'E. (1060 metres)

Wulabo Shuiku (Wulabo reservoir). 09:20-10:30hrs. 43°39.6'N., 87°34.9'E. (1060 metres)

Lun Tai Cheng (currently also known as Wulabo Gu Cheng). Gu Cheng means 'Old City'. 12:20-13:45hrs. 43°38.3'N., 87°35.0'E. (1100 metres)

Shui Mo Gou Gongyuan. 15:00-17:00hrs. 43°49.6'N., 87°39.6'E. (780-865 metres)

Near Kashi (Kashgar)

Qinibagh Hotel, Kashi. (39° 28.5'N., 75° 58.8'E.). 1296 metres.

Da Hu, Yingjiasha county. (38° 53.8'N., 76° 09.7'E.). 1320 metres.

Ciytla Gongshe, Yingjiasha county. (38° 58.4'N., 76° 11.8'E.). 1270 metres. Km Post 2952.

Aral Shuiku. Shule county. (39° 08.4'N., 76° 13.3'E.). 1260 metres.

Km post 49. 10 kms west of Tu Ka Kou An. (39° 44.2'N., 75° 28.8'E.). 2300 metres.

Km post 55.5. Ke Zhou Ping Yuan Ling Chang Kang Xi Wa Er Fen Chang. (39° 43.2'N., 75° 23.5'E.). 2165 metres.

Km post 68.4. Grassland site 5.5 kms east of Wuqia. (39° 42.4'N., 75° 19.2'E.). 2130 metres.

Km post 105 (?) Gorge 8 kms west of Kang Su Zhen. (39° 45.7'N., 74° 58.2'E.). 2450 metres.

Dawakun. 09:30-10:20hrs. (39°03.0'N., 77°29.3'E.). 1170 metres.

Ahonghuku Mu. 10:50-13:30hrs. (39°10.1'N., 77°14.5'E.). 1170 metres.

Bositan Lieke. (39°19.3'N., 75°04.5'E.). 2153 metres.

Km post 1602.5. Area of low scrub on shallow scree slope up to the west of the road. (38°45.8'N., 75°11.5'E.). 2810 metres.

Bulunkou Hu (alternatively Liu Sha He). Km post 1620. (38°43.5'N., 75°00.6'E.). 3280 metres.

Tibetan Sandgrouse site at Km post 1629. (38°40.4'N., 74°58.5'E.). 3383 metres.

Kalakuli Hu. Km post 1655. (38°40.2'N., 74°58.3'E.). 3654 metres.

Fields at southern end of Taheman xiang - at Km post 1735 on NH 314. (37°55.1'N., 75°10.8'E.). 3085 metres.

Tashikurgan. Km post 1754 on NH 314. (37°46.7'N., 75°13.2'E.). 3105 metres.

Fields at southern end of Taheman xiang - at Km post 1735 on NH 314. (37°55.1'N., 75°10.8'E.). 3085 metres.

Kalakuli Hu at Km post 1655. (38°40.2'N., 74°58.3'E.). 3654 metres.

Bulunkou Hu (alternatively Liu Sha He). Km post 1620. (38°43.5'N., 75°00.6'E.). 3280 metres.

Tuokaeyi Reservoir, Atushi county. Km post 1403. (39°46.8'N., 76°20.9'E.). 1235 metres.

Xikerer Reservoir. Km post 1320. (39°48.8'N., 77°17.5'E.). 1430 metres.

Luxiang Hotel, Bachu. (39°47.1'N., 78°32.4'E.). 1122 metres.

Near Aksu

Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir: Bei Ku Qu on the Bei Zha Shui Guan Zhan Causeway. (39°47.5'N., 78°45.5'E.). 1100 metres.

Site 2 - Xiao Hai Zi Reservoir: Nan Ku Qu. (39°46.3'N., 78°58.9'E.). 1100 metres.

'Matan Marsh' - Marsh between Matan chun and Qi Tuan. (40°40.5'N., 80°39.2'E.). 1024 metres.

Duo Lang Reservoir. (40°40.5'N., 80°43.2'E.). 1020 metres.

Shang You Reservoir. (40°40.5'N., 80°43.2'E.). 1015 metres.

Duo Lang Reservoir. (40°40.5'N., 80°43.2'E.). 1020 metres.

Sheng Li Reservoir. (40°29.3'N., 81°05.6'E.). 1000 metres.

Near Korla

Tarim Petroleum Hotel, Korla. (41°45.1'N., 86°09.2'E.). 922 metres.

Puhui Dunes. (41°26.4'N., 85°54.3'E.). 878 metres.

Puhui Huyangling Luyou Dujiachun. ('Puhui Diversifolius Poplar Tourist Resort'). (41°27.5'N., 85°51.4'E.). 880 metres.

Lian Hua Hu, Bosten Hu. (41°48.3'N., 86°21.5'E.). 1036 metres.

Yang Shui Zhan, Bosten Hu. (41°49.3'N., 86°45.1'E.). 1037 metres.

Qia La Reservoir. (41°01.0'N., 86°40.4'E.). 870 metres.

'Half-Way' Village Pool near Da Xi Haizi Reservoir. (40°36.9'N., 87°33.1'E.). 832 metres

Da Shi Haizi Er Hao Ku Chun. (40°35.3'N., 87°33.5'E.). 835 metres.

Da Shi Haizi Yi Hao Ku Chun. (40°37.5'N., 87°25.7'E.). 835 metres.

Xinier Reservoir. (41°35.1'N., 86°14.2'E.). 880 metres.

Korla towards Gong Nai Si

Haermodun Grasslands. (42°17.3'N., 86°08.7'E.). 1100 metres.

Roadside fields near Km post 535 - 1 hour's drive above Balantai. (42°52.7'N., 86°20.7'E.). 2051 metres.
2344 metres on NH 218 between Balantai and the summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass. (42°54.8'N., 86°15.2'E.).
Summit of the Luotuo Juan Pass (Camel Cage Pass). (43°03.1'N., 85°58.8'E.). 3320 metres.

Korla to Urumqi

Larger roadside pool on left (west) side of NH 314 at Km post 427 about 2-3 kms north of Si Shi Li Cheng village. (41°55.7'N., 86°25.2'E.). 1029 metres.
Cai Wo Pu Hu. (43°31.8'N., 87°53.4'E.). 1073 metres.

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