

**Birding**  
**in**  
**Xinjiang**  
**China**

**14 October – 8 November**  
**2006**

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## Summary

From late July-late August 2005 I made a 27-day birding visit to Xinjiang, China's northwestern-most province. I was travelling with the Chinese ground agent, Wang Qingyu, who organizes the Sunbird/Wings bird watching tours that I lead to various destinations in China. Although I'd already travelled 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 are very rare in China – 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 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2005 and an *erythronotus* Long-tailed Shrike at Taheman Xiang north of Tashikorgan on both the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> August 2005.

I made my second visit to Xinjiang in late autumn 2006 and had an even better time, seeing some superb birds. I again travelled with Wang Qingyu and this time we were very fortunate to team up with some local birders. Chief among these was Gou Jun from Urumqi. We spent a lot of time birding together with him and, through him met several more Xinjiang birders including Wang Chuanbo, Xu Jie and Professor Ma Ming. Everyone we met was very friendly, extraordinarily helpful and generous. The trip would have been no where near as enjoyable, nor as successful without them.

Highlights of my second trip to Xinjiang when I recorded about 182 species included – a phenomenal array of waterfowl with White-headed Duck (up to 11 birds at three different sites on a total of six different dates) being 'pick of the bunch', White-winged Woodpecker, the most northerly record in Xinjiang (and hence China) of Laughing Dove, a single Great Bustard, good numbers of White-tailed Eagles (25 bird-days), Greater Spotted Eagle (singles on two dates), Steppe Eagle (impressive numbers of migrants at one site), Saker Falcon (birds at two sites including five actively migrating at the second), Red-necked Grebe (the first Xinjiang record of a live bird), Black-throated Loon, Rufous-backed Redstart (44 bird-days), Black-throated Accentor (152 bird-days), Eurasian Greenfinch (a massive 370 bird-days with up to 92 birds being noted on 18 dates including what was apparently the easternmost record ever in China and both Long-tailed & Red-mantled Rosefinches. I also recorded seven new birds for Xinjiang – Lesser White-fronted Goose, two different Greater Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, Common Ringed Plover, Mew Gull, White-cheeked Starling, Red-throated Pipit. Buff-bellied Pipit had not previously been reported from Xinjiang but I was shown a misidentified photograph of one taken earlier in the autumn (hence the first record for Xinjiang) and the species proved to be not uncommon (37 bird-days). I also noted one, possibly two, new taxa for Xinjiang – Taiga Bean Goose and a possible male *pallidus* Merlin.

Xinjiang, covering 1,660,000 kms<sup>2</sup> (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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<http://www.chinabirdtours.com/>

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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## **Acknowledgements**

First and foremost I must thank Gou Jun for his incredible generosity – my trip would have been significantly poorer without his help and advice. The same could also be said of Wang Chuanbo, Xu Jie and Professor Ma Ming – they were all very generous no least with their time and information. Geoff Carey and Mike Kilburn provided me with their reports in advance of my first trip and Jesper Hornskov answered my frequent queries and provided regular bulletins on the status in neighbouring Qinghai of a number of species that I was seeing. Qingyu was, as always, a star.

## **Costs**

Exchange rates  
 In October 2006            £1        =        14.5 yuan  
                                          \$1US    =        7.9 yuan

## **2006**

Our heavily discounted China Southern flights from Beijing to Urumqi on the 14 October cost 870 yuan one-way. The return leg on the 8 November cost 990 yuan each.

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.

## 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

### 2006

#### October

- Saturday 14:** Flew Beijing – Urumqi (Urumqi or Wulumuqi), Xinjiang. Afternoon Qingedahu.  
**Sunday 15:** All day nr Urumqi: Wulabo Wetland, Wulabo Res., Dongbaiyang Gou, Tian Wen Tai.  
**Monday 16:** Urumqi - Shihezi: Tielu Dujiachun, Qian Quan Hu & Mo Gu Hu.  
**Tuesday 17:** All day Shawan: Xigebi zhen & Shitougou NR etc.  
**Wednesday 18:** Day in Shihezi.  
**Thursday 19:** All day Shihezi: Tielu Dujiachun, Beihu & Mo Gu Hu.  
**Friday 20:** Morning Mo Gu Hu & Beihu, Shihezi. Afternoon returned to Urumqi.  
**Saturday 21:** Urumqi: all day Qingedahu area.  
**Sunday 22:** Urumqi to Kalamaili Shan NR & Kamuste (Junggar Pendi).  
**Monday 23:** Kamuste - Kalamaili Shan NR (Junggar Pendi) returning to Urumqi pm.  
**Tuesday 24:** Urumqi: morning & early afternoon Qingedahu. Early evening flight west to Yining, Yili.  
**Wednesday 25:** All day around Yining, Yili: am Hebian Gongyuan, pm Haijing Park & Fang Cuo Hu.  
**Thursday 26:** All day Gongliu, east-south-east of Yining, Yili: am Wei Hu, pm Yili Riverside woodland near there.  
**Friday 27:** All day 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili.  
**Saturday 28:** All day Chabuhaer, Yili.  
**Sunday 29:** Yining to Bole: birded Sailimuhu, Bole.  
**Monday 30:** All day Jinghe east of Bole.  
**Tuesday 31:** All day immediately west of Bole.

#### November

- Wednesday 1:** Bole to Kuitun via Ailimuhu Wetland NR, Jinghe, Liugou & Kuitun Reservoirs, Wusu.  
**Thursday 2:** Kuitun to Shawan & Shihezi: Quangou Res., Kuitun & Anjihai Reservoirs No. 1 & No. 2, Shawan.  
**Friday 3:** All day Mo Gu Hu & Beihu Reservoirs, Shihezi.  
**Saturday 4:** All day Shihezi & Manasi areas - Jiahezi, Dahaizi & Xinhuping Reservoirs & Tielu Dujiachun.  
**Sunday 5:** All day around Shihezi: Liushugou Reservoir & Qian Quan Hu, Manasi & Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi.  
**Monday 6:** Xigebi, Shawan & Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi.  
**Tuesday 7:** Qingedahu & Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu, Changji.  
**Wednesday 8:** Flew Urumqi back to Beijing.

## DAILY DIARY

## **Saturday 14 October 2006. Flew from Beijing to Urumqi, Xinjiang. Afternoon Qingedahu.**

The China Southern flight that Qingyu & I had booked left Beijing five minutes late at 08:45hrs and arrived in Urumqi, after a flight of 2630 kilometres, almost 4.5 hours later at 13:10hrs. We were met by one of Xinjiang's most active birders, Gou Jun who drove us to our hotel in Urumqi.

Our heavily discounted China Southern flights from Beijing to Urumqi on the 14 October cost 870 yuan one-way. The return leg on the 8 November cost 990 yuan.

We spent two nights at the 5-star Hoi Tak Hotel, No. 1 Dong Feng Lu, Urumqi, Xinjiang 830002. Tel. 0991 2322828. Fax: 0991 2321818. Email: [xjbc@mail.hoitakhotel.com](mailto:xjbc@mail.hoitakhotel.com) Website: [www.hoitakhotel.com](http://www.hoitakhotel.com) Our room here cost 580 yuan/night inc. two complementary breakfasts & a 200 yuan voucher/stay for use in any of the hotel's restaurants or bars.

We had lunch with Mr Gou in a nearby restaurant before heading off. We picked up two birders-photographers from Guangdong (Mr Wang Laoshi & Lin Shishi) and then headed north-north-west of Urumqi to Qingedahu. Here we met a couple of car loads of other Xinjiang birders and spent about one hour birding. The weather had been glorious until the mid-afternoon but had then taken a dramatic turn for the worse & by the time we arrived at Qingedahu it was very windy, raining hard & the temperature had dropped to perhaps 14°C. Few of us were prepared for this & were poorly clothed – hence we didn't stay as long as we'd planned. Returning to Urumqi we headed to Mr Gou's office where we discussed our plans & route for the following couple of weeks before we looked at some of Mr Wang Chuanbo's photos on his website. Many of the latter were fantastic.

### **Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji.**

Note that Qingedahu doesn't freeze even in the depths of winter. This is apparently partly due to it receiving some of its water from a hot spring & perhaps more significantly to the presence of a paper mill nearby. The mill's apparently a major polluter but its discharge of large amounts of warm water will cease within the next couple of years as its apparently been forced to close by the government!

We spent about 1.5 hrs birding here – but the weather had turned bad, it was windy (& difficult to hold the telescopes steady) & raining hard.

|                        |                                                                        |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Greylag Goose          | 10 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)               |
| Gadwall                | 5 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)                |
| Eurasian Wigeon        | 20 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)               |
| Mallard                | 1000 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)             |
| Northern Shoveler      | 10 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)               |
| Northern Pintail       | 20 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)               |
| Garganey               | 1 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)                |
| Common Teal            | 10 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)               |
| Common Merganser       | 1 redhead at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)        |
| Rock Pigeon            | 'Present' between Urumqi & Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006.       |
| Eurasian Collared Dove | 20 between Urumqi & Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres) |
| Eurasian Coot          | 100 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)              |
| Black-tailed Godwit    | 3 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)                |
| Spotted Redshank       | 8 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)                |
| Yellow-legged Gull     | 10 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)               |
| Pallas's Gull          | 300 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)              |
| Black-headed Gull      | 1 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)                |
| Common Buzzard         | 2 between Urumqi & Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)  |
| Common Kestrel         | 2 between Urumqi & Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)  |
| Great Crested Grebe    | 1 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)                |
| Great Cormorant        | 30 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)               |
| Grey Heron             | 25 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)               |
| Great Egret            | 105 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)              |
| Common Starling        | 60 between Urumqi & Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres) |

## **Sunday 15 October 2006. All day around Urumqi.**

We left the Hoi Tak Hotel at 08:45hrs and drove straight to Wulabo wetland close to Wulabo Reservoir, a site I'd visited twice previously (on the 31 July & 23 August 2005). It took us almost an hour to get there and we stayed in that general area (birding around the wetland & later the reservoir) until the early afternoon when we drove to Banfangou xiang for lunch. From there we moved on to Dongbaiyang Gou & lastly Tian Wen Tai before returning to Urumqi in the early evening (20:30hrs).

### **Weather**

It was a glorious day today – cool (9°C outside the Hoi Tak Hotel in central Urumqi & 7°C at the Wulabo Wetland at 10:00hrs) but clear & attractively sunny. A significant change from yesterday when a rain front passed through the Urumqi area.

**Site 1. Wulabo Wetland (Wulabo Shidi). 09:40-11:20hrs. 43°39.6'N., 87°34.9'E. (1025 metres)**

This site is only about two or three kilometres from the Wulabo Reservoir & is easily reached from Urumqi. Drive towards Wulabo Reservoir but turn left in the village you reach about three kms before the reservoir (turning right and up a slight incline at this same village centre junction would take you to the reservoir itself). After about another 500 metres there's an open area off to the right of the road, turn right on to a dirt track at the end of this open area & before the road enters the desert. This dirt track parallels a drainage channel that issues from Wulabo Reservoir about three kilometres in front. We drove up here, past a small village on the left, for about one kilometre before parking up. We then explored the small area of woodland & open fields here. This area is a good site for migrants & winter visitors. Highlights included-

|                        |                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| White-winged Redstart  | 1 male                      |
| Rufous-backed Redstart | 2 (one male & one female)   |
| Goldfinch              |                             |
| Azure Tit              | 1 was heard                 |
| Great Tit              | 1                           |
| Great Egret            | 5                           |
| Common Buzzard         | 1                           |
| accipiter sp.          | 1                           |
| Water Rail             | 2 separate birds were heard |
| Linnet                 | 1 was heard flying over     |
| Goldcrest              | 2 were heard                |
| Hume's Warbler         | 1 was heard                 |
| Siskin                 | 2 were heard                |
| Black-throated Thrush  | 8                           |
| Eurasian Blackbird     | 2                           |
| Water Pipit            | 2                           |
| Pallas's Gull          | 2 flew over                 |

The other guys saw, & photographed, a couple of Chukar

Leaving the excellent Wulabo Wetland we continued driving up the dirt track towards the reservoir. After about another 1.5 kms the track swung back right, towards the 'main' highway. We turned left here & ended up besides Wulabo Reservoir itself after about another one kilometre or so.

**Site 2. Wulabo Shuiku (Wulabo Reservoir) area. 11:30-12:45hrs. 43°39.4'N., 87°34.9'E. (1060 metres)**

We stayed close to the road & scanned the lake from there. The reservoir supplies Urumqi with a large proportion of its drinking water & there's now a guard post/watchtower here. The sole purpose of the guards seems to be to keep people away from the edge of the reservoir.

Birds here included -

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| Greylag Goose    | 10        |
| Whopper Swan     | 2 adults  |
| Bar-headed Goose | 5         |
| Northern Pintail | 15        |
| Eurasian Wigeon  | 10        |
| Common Teal      | 3         |
| Mallard          | 150       |
| Pallas's Gull    | 30        |
| Horned Lark      | 2         |
| Steppe Eagle     | 2 singles |

Leaving Wulabo Reservoir we headed towards the Nanshan (South Mountains) – an impressive, forested range of mountains clearly visible from near Wulabo. On route the road crossed over the Ganhezi Da Qiao (Gan Hezi Big Bridge) where Mr Gou Jun & other local Urumqi birders had seen a Mongolian Ground Jay in February 2006.

Lunch at Banfangou xiang. From here we headed towards Xibaiyang Gou the road soon dropping down & the following the right bank up the Urumqi River.

**Site 3. Dongbaiyang Gou. 14:50-16:25hrs. 11:30-12:45hrs. (43°26.3'N., 87°15.0'E. (1740-1840 metres)**

An attractive side valley that's largely devoid of people (& noise) yet with a decent amount of conifer forest & scrub-covered hillsides. Traditionally another good site for Rufous-backed Redstart & also a good site for Black-throated Accentor etc.

Birds seen here inc. –

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Azure Tit               | 1        |
| Spotted Nutcracker      | 2        |
| Black-throated Accentor | 3        |
| Rufous-backed Redstart  | 1 female |

|                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk     | 1             |
| Dark-throated Thrush     | 3             |
| Godlewski's Bunting      | 8             |
| Red Crossbill            | 4             |
| Eurasian Siskin          | 6             |
| Red-mantled Rosefinch    | 4 (two pairs) |
| White-browed Tit Warbler | 2 (a pair)    |
| Pine Bunting             | 1 flew over   |
| Golden Eagle             | 1 near adult  |

About one kilometre after Dongbaiyang Gou there's a small, single-file road bridge over the Urumqi River. We stopped & had a look in the small coppice immediately before the bridge – it was quiet but we did see 4 Himalayan Griffons, a Cinereous Vulture & another adult Golden Eagle over the hillside opposite.

Continuing over the river this side road soon joins NH 217 (a road that connects Urumqi with Korla – its not the main highway since there's now an expressway linking Xinjiang's two major settlements but is a major route). From the junction with NH 217 its 51 kms back to Urumqi or 9 kms south to Baiyangou.

A short distance further on NH 217 & near Gangou xiang we saw a large flock of Eurasian Jackdaws (80 birds) together with a single Carrion Crow.

At Gangou xiang we turned right off NH 217 / S109. Another one kilometre up this side road there's apparently a good area for wintering Pine Buntings & Yellowhammers. Four kilometres from the main road this side road crests a ridge & levels out on to a plateau grassland at about 2060 metres. After another six kilometres or so this side road joins a large, paved road. We turned left onto the latter & headed up to Tian Wen Tai.

**Site 4. Tian Wen Tai. 17:30-19:15hrs. 43°28.5'N., 87°10.6'E. (2060 metres)**

From here its 49.1 kms @ 39° back to Urumqi – it takes one hour to drive.

This complex is labelled the 'Urumqi Branch Key Laboratory of Radio Astronomy Chinese Academy of Sciences' & also the 'Urumqi Nanshan Base National Astronomical Observatories Chinese Academy of Sciences' & the whole area is a popular tourist resort. Even now, in mid-October when temperatures were only about 8°C there were about eight coach loads of Chinese tourists here when we arrived. There's a large satellite radio dish & a weather station at the end of the road here. Mr Wang Chuanbo works here &, after we'd explored the conifer forest on the flank of the hillside about 800 metres behind the observatory we went inside the research compound. Mr Wang told us that this is apparently the best site in Xinjiang (& therefore the whole of China) for wintering Yellowhammers. The observatory area is also a good Xinjiang site for Grey-capped Greenfinch & there's an old record of White-backed Woodpecker from the forests here.

Birds seen included –

|                       |                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Common Buzzard        | 1                                                                                                                                   |
| Eurasian Blackbird    | 2                                                                                                                                   |
| Goldcrest             | 6 were heard                                                                                                                        |
| Songar Tit            | 2                                                                                                                                   |
| Coal Tit              | 4                                                                                                                                   |
| Eurasian Nuthatch     | 2                                                                                                                                   |
| Spotted Nutcracker    | 8                                                                                                                                   |
| White-winged Grosbeak | 7                                                                                                                                   |
| Common Chaffinch      | 60                                                                                                                                  |
| Brambling             | 8                                                                                                                                   |
| Eurasian Treecreeper  | 1                                                                                                                                   |
| Linnet                | 55 birds in several flocks that flew over. All were heading the same direction, as if to roost. Flock sizes ranged from 5-15 birds. |

We saw a roadside covey of about 15 Daurian Partridges near the village of Gangou xiang (1765 metres) as we drove back towards Urumqi

|                        |                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chukar                 | 2 at the Wulabo Wetland, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1020 metres)                                                        |
| Daurian Partridge      | 15 in a roadside covey near Gangou xiang on the drive from Tian Wan Tai back to Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1765 metres) |
| Whooper Swan           | 2 adults on Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)                                                   |
| Greylag Goose          | 10 on Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)                                                         |
| Bar-headed Goose       | 5 on Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)                                                          |
| Eurasian Wigeon        | 10 on Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)                                                         |
| Mallard                | 150 on Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)                                                        |
| Northern Pintail       | 15 on Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)                                                         |
| Common Teal            | 3 on Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)                                                          |
| Rock Pigeon            | 500 on Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)                                                        |
| Eurasian Collared Dove | 2 near Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)                                                        |
| Water Rail             | 2 singles were heard at the Wulabo Wetland, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1020 metres)                                     |

|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Eurasian Coot                         | 10 at Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Yellow-legged Gull                    | 1 at Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Pallas's Gull                         | 30 at & around Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Himalayan Griffon                     | 4 in flight over NH 217 between Dongbaiyang Gou & Baiyangou, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. ( <i>ca.</i> 2500 metres)                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Cinereous Vulture                     | 1 in flight with the four Himalayan Griffons over NH 217 between Dongbaiyang Gou & Baiyangou, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. ( <i>ca.</i> 2500 metres)                                                                                                                                   |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk<br>accipiter sp. | 1 at Dongbaiyang Gou, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1900 metres)<br>2 near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006 – one over the Wulabo Wetland & the other close to Dongbaiyang Gou. (1050 & 1850 metres)                                                                                           |
| Common Buzzard                        | 3 near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006 – one over the Wulabo Wetland, one at Dongbaiyang Gou & the third at Tian Wen Tai. (1040, 1950 & 2080 metres)                                                                                                                                       |
| Steppe Eagle                          | 2 singles (one a juvenile & the other perhaps about a third year) near Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1080 metres)                                                                                                                                                    |
| Golden Eagle                          | 2 single adults near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006 – one over Dongbaiyang Gou & the other loosely associating with the vultures over NH 217 between there & Baiyangou. (1850 & <i>ca.</i> 2500 metres)                                                                                   |
| Common Kestrel                        | 4 near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Great Cormorant                       | 2 in flight over the Wulabo Wetland, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1040 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Grey Heron                            | 5 at Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Great Egret                           | 20 near Wulabo, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006 – 5 in the Wulabo Wetland & 15 besides Wulabo Reservoir. (1020 & 1060 metres)                                                                                                                                                              |
| Black-billed Magpie                   | 1 over NH 217 between Dongbaiyang Gou & Baiyangou, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1850 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Spotted Nutcracker                    | 10 near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006 – three at Dongbaiyang Gou & the other seven at Tian Wen Tai. (1950-2080 metres)                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Eurasian Jackdaw                      | 80 in a single flock just off NH 217 near Gangou xiang & 54 kms from Urumqi towards Baiyangou on the 15/10/2006. (1850 metres)                                                                                                                                                      |
| Carrion Crow                          | 1 with the Eurasian Jackdaw flock just off NH 217 near Gangou xiang & 54 kms from Urumqi towards Baiyangou on the 15/10/2006. (1850 metres)                                                                                                                                         |
| Common Raven                          | 3 near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006 – two at Wulabo Reservoir & the other about three kilometres from there. (1080 & 1120 metres)                                                                                                                                                       |
| Eurasian Blackbird                    | 4 at the Wulabo Wetland, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1020 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Black-throated Thrush                 | 14 near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006 – 8 at the Wulabo Wetland, 4 at Dongbaiyang Gou & 2 at Tian Wen Tai. (1040, 1950 & 2080 metres)                                                                                                                                                    |
| Rufous-backed Redstart                | 3 near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006 – two (a male & a female plumaged bird) at the Wulabo Wetland & another female plumaged bird at Dongbaiyang Gou. (1020 & 1780 metres)                                                                                                               |
| White-winged Redstart                 | 1 male at the Wulabo Wetland, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1020 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Eurasian Nuthatch                     | 2 in the conifer forest at Tian Wen Tai, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (2080 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Eurasian Treecreeper                  | 1 was heard at Tian Wen Tai, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (2060 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| White-crowned Penduline Tit           | 1 was heard over Wulabo Wetland, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1020 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Willow (Songar) Tit                   | 2 at Tian Wen Tai, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (2060 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Coal Tit                              | 6 at & around Tian Wen Tai, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1950-2060 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Great Tit                             | 2 at the Wulabo Wetland, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1020 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Azure Tit                             | 2 near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006 – singles at the Wulabo Wetland & at Dongbaiyang Gou. (1040 & 1950 metres)                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Goldcrest                             | 10 at & around Tian Wen Tai, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1950-2060 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| White-browed Tit Warbler              | 2 (a pair) at Dongbaiyang Gou, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. Apparently a rare bird at this site. (1830-1870 metres)                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Hume's Warbler                        | 1 was heard at the Wulabo Wetland, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1020 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Horned Lark                           | 2 besides Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| House Sparrow                         | 20 in & around Urumqi on the 15/10/2006.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow                 | 30 in & around Urumqi on the 15/10/2006.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Water Pipit                           | 2 at the Wulabo Wetland, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1020 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Black-throated Accentor               | 3 near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006 – one at Dongbaiyang Gou & the other two at Tian Wen Tai. (1950-2080 metres)                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Chaffinch                             | 60 at Tian Wen Tai, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1950-2060 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Brambling                             | 8 with the Chaffinch flock at Tian Wen Tai, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1950-2060 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Eurasian Siskin                       | 6 near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006 – at least two at Dongbaiyang Gou & others at Tian Wen Tai. (1050-2080 metres)                                                                                                                                                                      |
| European Goldfinch                    | 4 flew over the Wulabo Wetland, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1020 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Eurasian Linnet                       | 60 near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. All birds were only seen in flight - 5 over Wulabo Reservoir, & at total of 55 birds, in several flocks, flew over at Tian Wen Tai. All were heading the same direction, as if to roost. Flock sizes ranged from 5-15 birds. (1050 & 2080 metres) |
| Red-mantled Rosefinch                 | 4 (two pairs) at Dongbaiyang Gou, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. Apparently a rare bird at this site. (1800-1840 metres)                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Red Crossbill                         | 8 near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006 – at least five at Dongbaiyang Gou & the other three at Tian Wen Tai. (1950-2080 metres)                                                                                                                                                            |
| White-winged Grosbeak                 | 7 at Tian Wen Tai, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1950-2060 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Pine Bunting                          | 1 at Dongbaiyang Gou, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1830-1870 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Godlewski's Bunting                   | 8 at Dongbaiyang Gou, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1830-1870 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

## **Monday 16 October 2006. Urumqi to Shihezi**

We left the Hoi Tak Hotel, Urumqi at 07:30hrs &, with Mr Gou Jun driving again, headed west to Shihezi – a popular destination for Urumqi birders.

It was 10°C outside the hotel at 07:20hrs.



Changji Shi 08:10hrs (40 minute drive from central Urumqi)

Arrived Shihezi 09:45hrs (2hrs 15 minutes from Urumqi) mostly on Expressway.  
Mr Xu's the owner of a dumpling restaurant in central Shihezi (44°18.4'N., 86°01.6'E.) 434 metres

Met Mr Xu Jie (a friend of Mr Gou & a reformed bird catcher in his mid- to late-thirties who's now a keen birder) in his restaurant. Mr Gou had breakfast with him & then we headed out escorted by Mr. Xu.

**1<sup>st</sup> stop. Tielu Dujiacun (literally 'Railway Station Resort') on the edge of Shihezi. (44°18.4'N., 86°01.6'E.) 434 metres. 10:30-12:00hrs**

A sprawling complex of small strips of woodland, patches of abandoned orchard and tracts of scrub & ornamental gardens right on the edge of Shihezi town (6.45kms @ 320° to Shihezi town centre). The park is a breeding area for Corncrake, Great Rosefinch & Common Nightingale & is one of three sites in Shihezi for wintering European Robin. According to Mr Xu Jie the earliest local arrival date of the latter is 20 October. The park is also a regular winter site for Black-throated Accentor, Long-tailed Rosefinch (typical first arrivals appear from end of first week of October) etc. Birds included -

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Chiffchaff              | 4           |
| Black-throated Thrush   | 25          |
| Goldcrest               | 1 was heard |
| Common Buzzard          | 1           |
| Black-throated Accentor | 5           |
| Brambling               | 1 heard     |
| Azure Tit               | 2           |

**2<sup>nd</sup> site. Yan Jiu Yuan – a small park in central Shihezi**

Mr Xu Jie had recently seen a Red-throated Flycatcher in the park here – we dipped. Birds seen here inc.

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Black-throated Accentor | 2 |
| Common Buzzard          | 3 |
| Chiffchaff              | 1 |
| Black-throated Thrush   | 2 |

**3<sup>rd</sup> site. Qian Quan Hu, Shawan. (44°23.7'N., 85°53.2'E.) 385 metres.**

We spent about two hours here scanning the lake for waterfowl & the sprawling reed bed for other species. Birds seen inc. –

|                             |                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Greylag Goose               | 40                                                                                                  |
| Great Cormorant             | 250                                                                                                 |
| Northern Lapwing            | 65                                                                                                  |
| Common Starling             | 1500                                                                                                |
| Isabelline Shrike           | 1 first-winter. Most birds apparently leave in August, the latest records are around the 20 October |
| Red-crested Pochard         | 20                                                                                                  |
| Common Teal                 | 200                                                                                                 |
| Mallard                     | 300                                                                                                 |
| Northern Shoveler           | 10                                                                                                  |
| Northern Pintail            | 20                                                                                                  |
| Garganey                    | 2                                                                                                   |
| Great Crested Grebe         | 5                                                                                                   |
| Eurasian Coot               | 80                                                                                                  |
| Common Snipe                | 3 flew over                                                                                         |
| Northern Harrier            | 4 (one adult male & three ringtails)                                                                |
| Reed Bunting                | 20                                                                                                  |
| White-crowned Penduline Tit | 1 male                                                                                              |
| Bluethroat                  | 1                                                                                                   |
| Chiffchaff                  | 2                                                                                                   |
| Black-throated Accentor     | 1                                                                                                   |
| Water Pipit                 | 2                                                                                                   |
| Bearded Parrotbill          | 2                                                                                                   |
| Water Rail                  | 1 was heard                                                                                         |
| Great Egret                 | 20                                                                                                  |
| Kestrel                     | 1                                                                                                   |
| accipiter sp.               | 1                                                                                                   |

We then drove for about 30 minutes to the next site – Mo Gu Hu

**4<sup>th</sup> site. Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi. (literally 'Mushroom Lake') (44°26.4'N., 85°55.8'E.) 365 metres. 16:00-19:15hrs**

A large impounded reservoir that's surrounded on three sides by very short, heavily over-grazed grassland. Its apparently a good wintering site for geese. From here its 15.4kms @ 149° back to Shihezi. The lake itself was a bit difficult to access – but well worth the effort as there were impressive numbers of ducks present.

Birds seen here inc.

|                      |                                                                                                       |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Northern Harrier     | 1 ringtail                                                                                            |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk | 1                                                                                                     |
| Common Kestrel       | 2                                                                                                     |
| Eurasian Greenfinch  | 55 – mostly in & around the fairly large fields of ripe sunflower                                     |
| Eurasian Goldfinch   | 40 – again mostly in & around the fairly large fields of ripe sunflower                               |
| Chaffinch            | 5                                                                                                     |
| Saker Falcon         | 1 harassing a flock of Common Starlings                                                               |
| Peregrine Falcon     | 2                                                                                                     |
| Northern Shoveler    | 420                                                                                                   |
| Common Teal          | 400                                                                                                   |
| Mallard              | 1700                                                                                                  |
| Common Pochard       | 450                                                                                                   |
| Tufted Duck          | 80                                                                                                    |
| Red-crested Pochard  | 30                                                                                                    |
| Smew                 | 13 redheads                                                                                           |
| Goldeneye            | 8                                                                                                     |
| White-headed Duck    | 2                                                                                                     |
| Greylag Goose        | 23                                                                                                    |
| Common Shelduck      | 2                                                                                                     |
| Ruddy Shelduck       | 50                                                                                                    |
| Gadwall              | 250                                                                                                   |
| Northern Pintail     | 300                                                                                                   |
| Great Crested Grebe  | 5                                                                                                     |
| Black-necked Grebe   | 26                                                                                                    |
| Horned Grebe         | 1                                                                                                     |
| Dunlin               | 23                                                                                                    |
| Common Redshank      | 1                                                                                                     |
| Great Cormorant      | 700 – many of these birds were undoubtedly the same as those seen earlier in the day at Qian Quan Hu. |

Leaving here at 19:30hrs it took about one hour to drive back to Shihezi where we checked in to what's apparently the second best hotel in town – what claims to be a four-star rated govt. hotel – the Shihezi Hotel. Rooms here cost 180 yuan/night & there's 24hrs hot water. The hotel restaurant is unremarkable but there are much better restaurants just across the main road outside the front gate to the hotel. Note that on our second visit to Shihezi (2-5 November 2006) we stayed at the much better 4-star Tianfu Hotel.

|                      |                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| White-headed Duck    | 2 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (Gou Jun, Paul Holt, Wang Qingyu & Xu Jie). (365 metres)                             |
| Greylag Goose        | 63 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 40 on Qian Quan Hu & 23 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)                                    |
| Ruddy Shelduck       | 50 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                        |
| Common Shelduck      | 2 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                         |
| Gadwall              | 300 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 50 on Qian Quan Hu & 250 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)                                  |
| Eurasian Wigeon      | 30 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 5 on Qian Quan Hu & 25 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)                                     |
| Mallard              | 2000 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 300 on Qian Quan Hu & 1700 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)                               |
| Northern Shoveler    | 430 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 10 on Qian Quan Hu & 420 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)                                  |
| Northern Pintail     | 400 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 20 on Qian Quan Hu & 400 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)                                  |
| Garganey             | 4 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 2 on both on Qian Quan Hu & Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)                                    |
| Common Teal          | 700 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 300 on Qian Quan Hu & 400 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)                                 |
| Red-crested Pochard  | 50 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 20 on Qian Quan Hu & 30 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)                                    |
| Common Pochard       | 450 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                       |
| Tufted Duck          | 80 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                        |
| Common Goldeneye     | 8 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                         |
| Smew                 | 13 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                        |
| Rock Pigeon          | 300 in & around Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365-1000 metres)                                                                   |
| Water Rail           | 1 was heard at Qian Quan Hu, Shawan on the 16/10/2006. (385 metres)                                                            |
| Eurasian Coot        | 60 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 50 on Qian Quan Hu & 10 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)                                    |
| Common Snipe         | 3 in flight over Qian Quan Hu, Shawan on the 16/10/2006. (385 metres)                                                          |
| Common Redshank      | 1 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                         |
| Dunlin               | 23 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                        |
| Northern Lapwing     | 65 in flight over Qian Quan Hu, Shawan on the 16/10/2006. (385 metres)                                                         |
| Yellow-legged Gull   | 30 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 15 at both Qian Quan Hu & Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)                                     |
| Pallas's Gull        | 40 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 30 at Qian Quan Hu & 10 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)                                    |
| Black-headed Gull    | 130 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 30 at Qian Quan Hu & 100 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)                                  |
| Hen Harrier          | 5 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 4 (three ringtails & a male) at Qian Quan Hu & one ringtail at Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres) |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk | 1 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                         |
| accipiter sp.        | 1 in flight over Qian Quan Hu, Shawan on the 16/10/2006. (385 metres)                                                          |
| Common Buzzard       | 4 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 1 at Tielu Dujiacun & 3 over Yan Jiu Yuan. (420-435 metres)                                 |
| Common Kestrel       | 4 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (380-550 metres)                                                                             |
| Saker Falcon         | 1 harassing a flock of Common Starlings at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (44°26.4'N., 85°55.8'E.) (365 metres)          |
| Peregrine Falcon     | 2 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                         |
| Great Crested Grebe  | 10 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 5 at both Qian Quan Hu & Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)                                      |
| Horned Grebe         | 1 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                         |
| Black-necked Grebe   | 26 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                        |

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Great Cormorant             | 700 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 250 at Qian Quan Hu & 700, probably including most of the birds from Qian Quan Hu, at Mo Gu Hu later in the day. It appeared that most birds would roost at the latter site. (365 & 385 metres) |
| Grey Heron                  | 30 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 25 at Qian Quan Hu & 5 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)                                                                                                                                           |
| Great Egret                 | 35 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 20 at Qian Quan Hu & 15 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)                                                                                                                                          |
| Rufous-tailed Shrike        | 1 first-winter near Qian Quan Hu, Shawan on the 16/10/2006. (385 metres)                                                                                                                                                             |
| Eurasian Blackbird          | 6 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 4 at Tielu Dujiacun & 2 in Yan Jiu Yuan. (420-435 metres)                                                                                                                                         |
| Black-throated Thrush       | 30 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 25 at Tielu Dujiacun & 5 over Yan Jiu Yuan. (420-435 metres)                                                                                                                                     |
| Bluethroat                  | 1 at Qian Quan Hu, Shawan on the 16/10/2006. (385 metres)                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Common Starling             | 3000 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 1500 at both Qian Quan Hu & Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres).                                                                                                                                      |
| White-crowned Penduline Tit | 1 male at Qian Quan Hu, Shawan on the 16/10/2006. (385 metres)                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Azure Tit                   | 2 at Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (435 metres)                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Goldcrest                   | 1 was heard at Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (435 metres)                                                                                                                                                               |
| Common Chiffchaff           | 8 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 4 at Tielu Dujiacun, 2 in Yan Jiu Yuan & 2 at Qian Quan Hu. (385-435 metres)                                                                                                                      |
| Hume's Warbler              | 2 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – singles at both Tielu Dujiacun & Yan Jiu Yuan. (420-435 metres)                                                                                                                                   |
| Bearded Parrotbill          | 2 at Qian Quan Hu, Shawan on the 16/10/2006. (385 metres)                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Asian Short-toed Lark       | 3 singles near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – fly-overs at Qian Quan Hu, Mo Gu Hu & at a secondary site in between. (365 & 385 metres)                                                                                                  |
| Crested Lark                | 3 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – one from the Expressway about 10 kms east of the town & 2 at Mo Gu Hu. (365-500 metres)                                                                                                           |
| House Sparrow               | 20 in & around Shihezi on the 16/10/2006.                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow       | 200 in & around Shihezi on the 16/10/2006.                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Water Pipit                 | 8 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 5 at Qian Quan Hu & 3 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)                                                                                                                                             |
| Black-throated Accentor     | 7 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 4 at Tielu Dujiacun & 2 at Yan Jiu Yuan & 1 at Qian Quan Hu. (385, 420 & 435 metres)                                                                                                              |
| Chaffinch                   | 10 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 6 at Tielu Dujiacun & 2 at Yan Jiu Yuan & 2 near Mo Gu Hu. (365, 420 & 435 metres)                                                                                                               |
| Brambling                   | 1 at Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (435 metres)                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Eurasian Greenfinch         | 55 near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. Most of these birds were in & around the fairly large fields of ripe sunflower (365 metres)                                                                                             |
| European Goldfinch          | 40 (a flock of about 35 & another of five birds) near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. Again most of the birds were in & around the fairly large fields of ripe sunflower (365 metres)                                           |
| Twite                       | 1 flew over Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Eurasian Linnet             | 15 flew over Qian Quan Hu, Shawan on the 16/10/2006. (385 metres)                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Pine Bunting                | 2 flew over Qian Quan Hu, Shawan on the 16/10/2006. (385 metres)                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Reed Bunting                | 20 near Qian Quan Hu, Shawan on the 16/10/2006. (385 metres)                                                                                                                                                                         |

## **Tuesday 17 October 2006. All day in Shawan district near Shihezi**

We left the Shihezi Hotel at 07:55hrs & drove, initially on route G312, towards Xigebi zhen & on towards the Menggu Wenchuan Fengjingqu (Menggu Hot Spring Tourist Resort). We made several stops on route & eventually changed our plans & never reached that site.

Arrived Shawan Jiu Gou He zhen 08:28hrs.

Turned off the 'expressway' 33 kms after leaving Shihezi. The road then worsened & gradually ascended through an increasingly arid area. This area's apparently good for European Roller in summer.

### **1<sup>st</sup> stop. Roadside scrub 3 kms Shawan side of Xigebi Sandui & 5 kms to the Shawan side of Xigebi zhen. Shawan district. (44°05.4'N., 85°32.6'E.) 975 metres. 09:30-12:00hrs**

An excellent & very bird rich area of roadside scrub backed by complex of cultivated fields. Quite a few bushes in the scrub were still thronged with berries. This was an unscheduled stop – one Gou Jun had not planned. We spent 2.5hrs here – it was very busy when we arrived, but surprisingly quiet (all the thrushes for example had vanished) by the time we left at midday.

We visited this site again on the 6 November 2006 – and saw far fewer birds!

From here its 45.5kms @ 53° back to Shihezi  
166kms @ 97° to Urumqi

Highlights here inc.

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| European Goldfinch    | 60      |
| European Greenfinch   | 5       |
| Linnet                | 350     |
| Chaffinch             | 30      |
| Brambling             | 5       |
| Red-fronted Serin     | 5       |
| Rock Sparrow          | 150     |
| Mistle Thrush         | 20      |
| Black-throated Thrush | 15      |
| Eurasian Blackbird    | 6       |
| Azure Tit             | 1 heard |

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pine Bunting                | 8                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Corn Bunting                | 4                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Meadow Bunting              | 2                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Black-throated Accentor     | 3                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Rufous-backed Redstart      | 4 (two males & two females). The call is a very quiet, subdued & unobtrusive short mellow dry rattle <i>trrrk-trrrk</i> . Its reminiscent of Golden Bush Robin in tone & is audible only at close range. |
| Little Owl                  | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Common Kestrel              | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Greater Short-toed Lark     | 2                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Water Pipit                 | 2 in the recently flooded, but now dry, agricultural fields at the rear of the strip of scrub                                                                                                            |
| Desert Finch                | 1 flew over                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| White-crowned Penduline Tit | 1 flew over                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Northern Lapwing            | 2 flew over                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Common Chiffchaff           | 6                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

Shortly after this site its easy to see that the entire area is a relatively low-lying, broad & flat flood plain right at the foot of the Tianshan Mountains. This is apparently a well known, by Xinjiang standards, north-south fly-way – the Xigebi fly-way.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> stop. 5 kms after Xigebi zhen, Shawan. 1190 metres.

Stopped roadside because I'd heard some European Goldfinches in the avenue of trees lining the road here. Birds inc.-

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| European Goldfinch   | 40 |
| Pine Bunting         | 2  |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk | 1  |

### 3<sup>rd</sup> stop. Field of recently harvested wheat stubble between Xigebi & Menggu Wenchuan, Shawan. (. (43°57.8'N., 85°26.8'E.) 1270 metres. 13:00-13:45hrs

From here its 60.3kms in a straight line @ 46° back to Shihezi (or 73.7kms by road).

This site is 36 kms before Menggu Wenchuan Fengjingqu & 15 kms by road before the crossroads described below.

A complex of large & recently harvested fields of wheat stubble that held large numbers of buntings. There were probably also large numbers of rodents also present – because there were a couple of species of buzzard in close attendance. A large flock of sheep were being herded through the field closest to the road – these flushed the buntings many of which flew up on to overhead wires, the roadside wall or nearby bushes for a short while before returning to the field to feed.

|                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pine Bunting                                | 37                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Yellowhammer                                | 8                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Pine Bunting or Yellowhammer                | 100                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Pine Bunting x Yellowhammer apparent hybrid | Out of 40 birds seen sufficiently well there were 2 female plumaged birds – both were very like Pine Buntings but had obvious yellow fringes on at least three flight feathers. |
| Long-legged Buzzard                         | 1                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Common Buzzard                              | 2                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Carrion Crow                                | 3                                                                                                                                                                               |
| European Goldfinch                          | 5                                                                                                                                                                               |

15kms after these 'bunting fields' there's a road junction. According to Gou Jun three decent birding sites are accessible from here; 2.5kms down to the right is Leidashan Zhuang, Lujiaowan while straight on its 21kms to Menggu Wenchuan Fengjingqu (Menggu Hot Spring Tourist Resort). We turned left on to local road S101 that headed up, past a local style cement kiln, on to the 'shoulder' of this side valley. After 12kms it leads to Niujuanzi.

### 4th site. Niujuanzi road (S101), Shawan.

Birds seen along this 12 kms stretch of road inc.-

|                  |                                                                                                  |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Water Pipit      | 1 about one kilometre up route S101 towards Niujuanzi, Shawan.                                   |
| Chukar           | 11 about 1.5kms up route S101 towards Niujuanzi, Shawan                                          |
| Eurasian Jackdaw | 400 in trees by the first small settlement about 10 kms up route S101 towards Niujuanzi, Shawan. |

### 5<sup>th</sup> site. Shitougou Nature Reserve, Shawan. (43°54.1'N., 85°31.3'E.) 1910-2000 metres. 14:05-15:45hrs

From here its 60.9kms @ 37° to Shihezi. We had driven 94.9 kilometres by the time we arrived here.

We turned right in the centre of the small village of Niujuanzi. This minor road passed under an ornamental archway after about 50 metres & then almost immediately went past a small police station on the left. We drove up here 6.9kms, passing the apparently un-manned Shitougou Nature Reserve Protection Station after 4.1kms. We parked up about one kilometre after entering an attractive sprawling area of conifer forest on the slopes of the Tian Shan Mountains.. We spent almost two hours here walking only about one kilometre up & to the forest. With hindsight we should have stayed here longer & driven further up the rough dirt road (presumably an old logging track) to explore higher elevation forest.

Birds here inc. -

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| Himalayan Griffon    | 1  |
| Spotted Nutcracker   | 6  |
| Eurasian Treecreeper | 3  |
| Red Crossbill        | 40 |

|                                    |                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Eurasian Siskin                    | 25                                                                                                      |
| Goldcrest                          | 4                                                                                                       |
| Red-billed Chough                  | 3                                                                                                       |
| White-winged Grosbeak              | 4                                                                                                       |
| Eurasian Nuthatch                  | 8                                                                                                       |
| woodpecker sp.                     | 1 was heard (probably a Great Spotted Woodpecker – but not that Three-toed Woodpecker also occurs here) |
| Coal Tit                           | 10                                                                                                      |
| Winter Wren                        | 2                                                                                                       |
| Northern Orange-flanked Bush Robin | 2                                                                                                       |
| Black-throated Accentor            | 3                                                                                                       |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk               | 1                                                                                                       |
| <b><u>Mammals</u></b>              |                                                                                                         |
| Red Squirrel                       | 1                                                                                                       |

Leaving here we headed back down to Niujuanzi & turned right once we'd reached route S101. This un-surfaced, but recently graded, minor road eventually leads back to Urumqi. The sections of it closest to the base of the Tian Shan Mountains were in very good condition – but it worsened as we drove back towards Shihezi.

Eurasian Jackdaw 300 apparently at a pre-roost gathering at Km post 211 on route S101 three kms by road north of Niujuanzi.

Rock Sparrow 800 in a recently harvested field of wheat stubble at Km post 209 on route S101 five kms by road north of Niujuanzi. (43°57.6'N., 85°35.2'E.) 1315 metres. From here its 52.5kms @ 38° to Shihezi.

Bridge over Ningjia He Km post 205 (9 kms from Niujuanzi) 17:15hrs 1225 metres

Nanshan Village & Coke Works Km post 198 (16.9 kms from Niujuanzi)  
This village is on the border of Shawan & Shihezi

Jiashiyao Village that's contiguous with Nanshan 17:30hrs 1190 metres

We rejoined a better quality, hard surfaced road here for a short while before turning off (right) near the village centre. This second minor road leads through Qingshuihe back towards Shihezi. We took it but, other than some attractive scenery saw nothing of note – we barely had time to stop anywhere as this route took about three hours! This was a mistake & my back suffered for a couple of days as a result!

|                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chukar                             | 11 (ten seen & one heard) about 1.5kms up route S101 towards Niujuanzi, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1400 & 1420 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| woodpecker sp.                     | 1 was heard at Shitougou Nature Reserve, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (2020 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Little Owl                         | 2 near Shawan on the 17/10/2006 -one about 24kms from Shawan towards Xigebei zhen & the other in the 'Xigebei fields'. (905 & 975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Rock Pigeon                        | 100 in the Shihezi, & Shawan area on the 17/10/2006.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Eurasian Collared Dove             | 2 near Shawan on the 17/10/2006.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Himalayan Griffon                  | 1 over Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (ca.2300 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk               | 2 near Shawan on the 17/10/2006 & the other in the Shitougou NR. (1190 & 1950 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Common Buzzard                     | 2 at the 'bunting fields' between Xigebei & Menggu Wenchuan, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1965 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Long-legged Buzzard                | 1 at the 'bunting fields' between Xigebei & Menggu Wenchuan, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1965 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Common Kestrel                     | 2 near Xigebei, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (975 & 1150 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Spotted Nutcracker                 | 6 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1900-2050 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Red-billed Chough                  | 3 over Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (ca.2200 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Eurasian Jackdaw                   | 400 in trees by the first small settlement about 10 kms up route S101 near Niujuanzi, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. Another 300 birds, apparently in a pre-roost gathering, about three kilometres the other side of Niujuanzi (Km 211) might possibly have been part of this earlier flock. (1305 & 1380 metres) |
| Carrion Crow                       | 3 at the 'bunting fields' between Xigebei & Menggu Wenchuan, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1275 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Eurasian Blackbird                 | 10 near Shawan on the 17/10/2006 – six in the 'Xigebei fields' & four at Shitougou NR. (975 & 1920-2000 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Mistle Thrush                      | 20 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Black-throated Thrush              | 20 near Shawan on the 17/10/2006 – 15 in the 'Xigebei fields' & five near the 'bunting fields between there & Menggu Wenchuan. (975 & 1275 metres)                                                                                                                                                            |
| Rufous-backed Redstart             | 4 (two males & two females) in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Northern Orange-flanked Bush Robin | 2 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1900-2020 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Common Starling                    | 50 near Shawan on the 17/10/2006.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Eurasian Nuthatch                  | 8 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1900-2020 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Eurasian Treecreeper               | 3 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1920-1980 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Winter Wren                        | 2 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1910-1960 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| White-crowned Penduline Tit        | 1 over the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Coal Tit                           | 10 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1900-2000 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Azure Tit                          | 1 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Goldcrest                          | 6 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1900-2000 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Common Chiffchaff                  | 6 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Greater Short-toed Lark            | 2 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

|                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Horned Lark                                 | 1 near the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (950 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| House Sparrow                               | 20 in the Shihezi & Shawan areas on the 17/10/2006.                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow                       | 50 in the Shihezi & Shawan areas on the 17/10/2006.                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Rock Sparrow                                | 950 near Shawan on the 17/10/2006 – 150 at the 'Xigebi fields' & 800 in a recently harvested field of wheat stubble at Km post 209 on route S101 five kms by road north of Niujuanzi. (975 & 1315 metres).                                                                       |
| Water Pipit                                 | 3 south of Shawan on the 17/10/2006 – two at the 'Xigebi fields' & one besides route S101 near Niujuanzi, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (975 & 1385 metres)                                                                                                                          |
| Black-throated Accentor                     | 5 near Shawan on the 17/10/2006 – 3 near the 'Xigebi fields' & two at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (975 & 1930 metres)                                                                                                                                                |
| Chaffinch                                   | 50 near Shawan on the 17/10/2006 – 30 near the 'Xigebi fields' & 20 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (975 & 1930 metres)                                                                                                                                               |
| Brambling                                   | 15 near Shawan on the 17/10/2006 – 5 near the 'Xigebi fields' & 10 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (975 & 1930 metres)                                                                                                                                                |
| Fire-fronted Serin                          | 5 over the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (950 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Eurasian Greenfinch                         | 5 near the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (950 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Eurasian Siskin                             | 30 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1900-2020 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| European Goldfinch                          | 105 near Shawan on the 17/10/2006 – 60 in the 'Xigebi fields', 40 about five kilometres south of Xigebi zhen & five near the 'bunting fields between there & Menggu Wenchuan. (975, 1190 & 1275 metres)                                                                          |
| Eurasian Linnet                             | 250 near the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (950 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Desert Finch                                | 1 flew over the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (950 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Red Crossbill                               | 40 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1900-2020 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| White-winged Grosbeak                       | 4 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1900-2020 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Yellowhammer                                | 8 at the 'bunting fields' between Xigebi & Menggu Wenchuan, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1965 metres)                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Pine Bunting                                | 37 at the 'bunting fields' between Xigebi & Menggu Wenchuan, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1965 metres)                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Pine Bunting or Yellowhammer                | 100 at the 'bunting fields' between Xigebi & Menggu Wenchuan, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1965 metres)                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Pine Bunting x Yellowhammer apparent hybrid | Out of 40 birds seen sufficiently well at the 'bunting fields' between Xigebi & Menggu Wenchuan, Shawan on the 17/10/2006 there were 2 female plumaged birds – both were very like Pine Buntings but had obvious yellow fringes on at least three flight feathers. (1965 metres) |
| Meadow Bunting                              | 2 near Shawan on the 17/10/2006 – one in the 'Xigebi fields' & the other at the 'bunting fields' between Xigebi & Menggu Wenchuan. (975 & 1965 metres)                                                                                                                           |
| Corn Bunting                                | 4 in the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (950 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b><u>Mammals</u></b>                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Red Squirrel                                | 1 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1940 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

## **Wednesday 18 October 2006. All day resting in Shihezi**

## **Thursday 19 October 2006. All day around Shihezi**

I took it easy in the morning with my back still giving me a few problems. In the late morning I headed out & spent the remainder of the day at three sites close to Shihezi. I'd visited two of these sites before – on the 16 October 2006.

### **1<sup>st</sup> stop. Tielu Dujiacun (literally 'Railway Station Resort') on the edge of Shihezi. (44°18.4'N., 86°01.6'E.) 434 metres.**

#### **10:35-13:43hrs**

Birds included -

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Chiffchaff              | 6             |
| Black-throated Thrush   | 40            |
| Goldcrest               | 2             |
| Black-throated Accentor | 10            |
| Chaffinch               | 6             |
| Azure Tit               | 4             |
| Siskin                  | 2             |
| Eurasian Woodcock       | 1 was flushed |
| Hume's Warbler          | 2             |
| European Greenfinch     | 1             |

Leaving here the taxi took us back in to Shihezi town centre & we headed off back to Mo Gu He.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> site. Beihu Reservoir (previously known as Da Quan Gou), Shihezi. (44°24.5'N., 85°59.5'E.) 365 metres. 14:05-**

#### **14:35hrs**

From here its 10.4kms @ 164° back to Shihezi town centre. The drive here only took about 20 minutes.

This site is most easily accessed by heading out of Shihezi on Route S204 – a sizeable road that leads to 'Yi Bai Wu Tuanchang' ('150 Corps.') and on to Beikui. There are regular kilometre posts on along the side of this road. We passed a large power station adjacent to Km post 94 & parked up adjacent to the reservoir on the right at Km 84. I walked about 500 metres from the road down towards the lake edge & spent just over 30 minutes birding here.

There was a guy with banger fireworks walking around the lake edge deliberately trying to scare the birds.

Birds here inc.

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Greylag Goose      | 115         |
| Mallard            | 855         |
| Gadwall            | 120         |
| Northern Shoveler  | 20          |
| Eurasian Wigeon    | 65          |
| Northern Pintail   | 4           |
| Common Teal        | 40          |
| Ruddy Shelduck     | 57          |
| Common Coot        | 30          |
| Great Cormorant    | 280         |
| Great Egret        | 6           |
| Grey Heron         | 15          |
| Yellow-legged Gull | 34          |
| Pallas's Gull      | 130         |
| Northern Lapwing   | 7           |
| White-tailed Eagle | 3 immatures |
| Peregrine          | 1 adult     |

**3rd site. Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi. (literally 'Mushroom Lake') (44°26.4'N., 85°55.8'E.) 365 metres. 14:45-19:40hrs**

Leaving Beihu we continued to drive away from Shihezi & turned left off route S204 at Km post 81.2 (only about three kilometres after the previous stop). We drove down the dirt road here for little over one kilometre until the we arrived at the eastern side of embankment that surrounds (? – at least the northern half of) Mo Gu Hu reservoir. This route is a much better way to access this bird-thronged lake than the one we used two days earlier – it gives access to more of the lake &, importantly, to some of the areas of slightly deeper water where we found the diving ducks that included impressive numbers of Common Pochard, Tufted Duck & 11 White-headed Ducks. In all there were probably over 10,000 waterfowl on the reservoir! The site also holds an evening gull roost with particularly impressive numbers of Black-headed Gulls being present. There's a roost of Black-throated Thrushes in the small orchards flanking this side of the reservoir – the roost is best accessed by turning right 150 metres before the road reaches the reservoir embankment & driving down here about 1.5 kms (almost to the end of the orchard area).

Once at the top of the reservoir's embankment we turned left, drove along here about 400 metres before we found an easily driveable track down to the broad expanse of grassland that fringes much of the reservoir. There were a couple of goat herder's tents, & attendant vicious dogs, here. We drove across the grassland heading roughly southwest towards the lake edge. After about one kilometre we came to a 15 metre wide, deep water channel that was impossible to cross. We parked up & I walked down to near the lake edge at this river mouth. I assume that the water off here is deeper than in the bay to both the left and the right as there were large numbers of diving ducks (mostly Common Pochard & Tufted Duck with about 250 Red-crested Pochard & a surprising number of White-headed Ducks) visible from here. The bay well of to the south (to my left as I was looking at the centre of the reservoir) held the large numbers of dabbling duck that I'd scanned through when I visited the reservoir a few days earlier. Note that the embankment swings increasingly further away from the reservoir as you travel south. To access this you have to return to the embankment & continue driving south. After about three kilometres the track comes alongside the now canalised river. Continue driving up the side of the river for about another one kilometre to the 'T-junction' with a larger track at the top. Turn right & cross the bridge (there are then a couple of building on the right immediately over the bridge) & continue on the main track for another 1.5kms before again turning right. This minor track peters out after about three kilometres and I had to walk the remaining 500 metres towards the lake shore. Note that even here you are not at the very end of the lake - & this portion is still inaccessible from here – there's another, smaller channel here that is also impossible to cross. I'd guess that you'd have to return to the main track and try & find another way down – I doubt that there's an easy route & it might involve a lengthy walk or the use of a 4-wheel drive such as Mr Gou's!

After scanning the waterfowl here we drove back to the embankment & headed north. We drove under a barrier that prevents taller vehicles from access & continued about another 500 metres. I then walked north up the embankment to the next bay – the north-eastern most area of grassland that extends down to the lake edge. Any further north & the tide line reaches right up to the reservoir's concrete & rubble bank. There was another large flock of dabbling ducks, mostly Gadwall with a lot of Northern Pintail, at this junction. The area about 500 metres further along from here held decent numbers of Buff-bellied Pipit (20) & a few Water Pipits (3) the following morning.

After searching through these ducks I headed down one of the driveable tracks that lead at a right-angle up to the embankment. After about 80 metres it intersected another driveable track, one that parallels the main embankment and is next to a line of small trees and bushes. On the other side of these trees there are some small orchards & cultivated fields – mostly cotton that was just starting to be harvested. I walked north up this track & along the line of bushes. The northern end of this tree line is where the Black-throated Thrush roost was & close to here is where I accidentally flushed a Eurasian Eagle Owl.

Birds here today inc. -

|                         |                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mallard                 | 3200                                                                                                                    |
| Gadwall                 | 1850                                                                                                                    |
| Northern Pintail        | 750                                                                                                                     |
| Eurasian Wigeon         | 150                                                                                                                     |
| Northern Shoveler       | 150                                                                                                                     |
| Common Teal             | 80                                                                                                                      |
| Red-crested Pochard     | 255                                                                                                                     |
| Common Pochard          | 836                                                                                                                     |
| Tufted Duck             | 950                                                                                                                     |
| Greater Scaup           | 1                                                                                                                       |
| Ferruginous Duck        | 3                                                                                                                       |
| Common Merganser        | 1                                                                                                                       |
| Ruddy Shelduck          | 70                                                                                                                      |
| Common Shelduck         | 24                                                                                                                      |
| White-headed Duck       | 11                                                                                                                      |
| Smew                    | 7                                                                                                                       |
| Common Goldeneye        | 14                                                                                                                      |
| Common Coot             | 80                                                                                                                      |
| Pallas's Gull           | 420                                                                                                                     |
| Yellow-legged Gull      | 75                                                                                                                      |
| Black-headed Gull       | 1000 – 250 on the reservoir & 745 flew over head apparently to roost on the lake at 19:10hrs (16 minutes before sunset) |
| Eurasian Eagle Owl      | 1                                                                                                                       |
| European Goldfinch      | 15                                                                                                                      |
| Linnet                  | 50                                                                                                                      |
| European Greenfinch     | 20                                                                                                                      |
| Reed Bunting            | 1                                                                                                                       |
| Horned Lark             | 17                                                                                                                      |
| Lapland Bunting         | 1                                                                                                                       |
| Great Cormorant         | 450                                                                                                                     |
| White-tailed Eagle      | 1 immature                                                                                                              |
| Eurasian Curlew         | 3                                                                                                                       |
| Northern Lapwing        | 40                                                                                                                      |
| Little Ringed Plover    | 1 first-winter                                                                                                          |
| Dunlin                  | 45                                                                                                                      |
| Black-necked Grebe      | 31                                                                                                                      |
| Horned Grebe            | 1                                                                                                                       |
| Great Crested Grebe     | 4                                                                                                                       |
| Black-throated Thrush   | 890 at a roost. Birds were arriving between 18:45-19:40hrs (45 minutes before to 15 minutes after sunset)               |
| Rufous-backed Redstart  | 1 male                                                                                                                  |
| Chiffchaff              | 2                                                                                                                       |
| Black-throated Accentor | 2 heard                                                                                                                 |
| Water Pipit             | 2                                                                                                                       |
| Buff-bellied Pipit      | 5                                                                                                                       |

|                        |                                                                                                  |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| White-headed Duck      | 11 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                                          |
| Greylag Goose          | 115 on Beihu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                                            |
| Ruddy Shelduck         | 127 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 57 on Beihu & 70 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)                      |
| Common Shelduck        | 24 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                                          |
| Gadwall                | 1970 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 120 on Beihu & 1850 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)                  |
| Eurasian Wigeon        | 215 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 65 on Beihu & 150 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)                     |
| Mallard                | 4000 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 855 on Beihu & 3200 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)                  |
| Northern Shoveler      | 170 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 20 on Beihu & 150 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)                     |
| Northern Pintail       | 750 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 4 on Beihu & 750 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)                      |
| Common Teal            | 120 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 40 on Beihu & 780 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)                     |
| Red-crested Pochard    | 255 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                                         |
| Common Pochard         | 836 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                                         |
| Ferruginous Pochard    | 3 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                                           |
| Tufted Duck            | 950 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                                         |
| Greater Scaup          | 1 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres) Apparently the first record for Xinjiang. |
| Common Goldeneye       | 14 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                                          |
| Smew                   | 7 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                                           |
| Common Merganser       | 1 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                                           |
| Eurasian Eagle Owl     | 1 was accidentally flushed near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                |
| Rock Pigeon            | 50 near Shihezi on the 19/10/2006.                                                               |
| Eurasian Collared Dove | 2 near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                                         |
| Eurasian Coot          | 110 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 30 on Beihu & 80 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)                      |
| Eurasian Woodcock      | 1 was accidentally flushed at Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (430 metres)            |
| Eurasian Curlew        | 3 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                                           |
| Dunlin                 | 45 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                                          |
| Little Ringed Plover   | 1 first-winter at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                              |
| Northern Lapwing       | 47 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 7 at Beihu & 40 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)                        |
| Yellow-legged Gull     | 110 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 34 at Beihu & 75 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)                      |



|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pallas's Gull           | 550 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 130 at Beihu & 420 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                 |
| Black-headed Gull       | 1000 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. 250 of these were on the reservoir itself while about & 745 flew over head apparently to roost on the lake at 19:10hrs (16 minutes before sunset) (365 metres)   |
| White-tailed Eagle      | 4 immatures near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 3 together at Beihu & 1 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)                                                                                                                    |
| Peregrine Falcon        | 1 adult at Beihu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                     |
| Great Crested Grebe     | 5 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 1 at Beihu & 4 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                       |
| Horned Grebe            | 1 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                        |
| Black-necked Grebe      | 31 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                       |
| Great Cormorant         | 730 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 280 at Beihu & 450 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                 |
| Grey Heron              | 25 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 15 at Beihu & 10 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                    |
| Great Egret             | 15 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 6 at Beihu & 9 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                      |
| Eurasian Blackbird      | 4 at Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (430 metres)                                                                                                                                                  |
| Black-throated Thrush   | 930 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 40 at Tielu Dujiacun & 890 at a roost near Mo Gu Hu. Birds were arriving at the roost between 18:45-19:40hrs (45 minutes before to 15 minutes after sunset) (365-430 metres) |
| Rufous-backed Redstart  | 1 male near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                 |
| Azure Tit               | 4 at Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (430 metres)                                                                                                                                                  |
| Goldcrest               | 2 at Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (430 metres)                                                                                                                                                  |
| Common Chiffchaff       | 8 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 6 at Tielu Dujiacun & 2 near Mo Gu Hu. (365-430 metres)                                                                                                                        |
| Hume's Warbler          | 2 at Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (430 metres)                                                                                                                                                  |
| Horned Lark             | 17 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                       |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow   | 20 near Shihezi on the 19/10/2006.                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Water Pipit             | 2 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                        |
| Buff-bellied Pipit      | 5 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres) I managed to obtain a few photos here the following day. Apparently the first record for Xinjiang.                                                     |
| Black-throated Accentor | 12 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 10 at Tielu Dujiacun & 2 near the 'Black-throated Thrush roost' at Mo Gu Hu. (365-430 metres)                                                                                 |
| Chaffinch               | 30 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 6 at Tielu Dujiacun & 25 near the 'Black-throated Thrush roost' at Mo Gu Hu. (365-430 metres)                                                                                 |
| Brambling               | 5 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 1 at Tielu Dujiacun & 4 near the 'Black-throated Thrush roost' at Mo Gu Hu. (365-430 metres)                                                                                   |
| Eurasian Greenfinch     | 21 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 1 at Tielu Dujiacun & 20 near Mo Gu Hu. (365-430 metres)                                                                                                                      |
| Eurasian Siskin         | 2 at Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (430 metres)                                                                                                                                                  |
| European Goldfinch      | 15 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                       |
| Eurasian Linnet         | 50 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                       |
| Pine Bunting            | 3 near the 'Black-throated Thrush roost' at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                 |
| Reed Bunting            | 1 near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                      |
| Lapland Bunting         | 1 with the Horned Lark flock at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                             |

### **Friday 20 October 2006. Morning near Shihezi & afternoon drove back to Urumqi**

I left the Shihezi hotel at 08:00hrs & headed straight back to Mo Gu Hu. Arriving about 20 minutes later I birded therefrom 08:20-13:00hrs before heading back to the hotel, stopping very briefly at Beihu, Shihezi on the way. I rejoined Qingyu at the Shihezi hotel & then we both headed back to Urumqi.

The weather was glorious in both Shihezi & Urumqi but, undoubtedly because of the clear skies overnight, it was very foggy when I arrived at Mo Gu Hu. This fog persisted until about 11:00hrs.

The drive from Shihezi back to Urumqi took almost exactly two hours via the Expressway.

We stayed in a different hotel in Urumqi - the Royal International Hotel, 2 West Henan Road, Urumqi, Xinjiang 830011. (Tel: 0991 7887888. Fax: 0991 7889666. Website: [Http://www.ruihao.com.cn](http://www.ruihao.com.cn)). Rooms here cost 480 yuan/night inc. two breakfasts but the latter didn't start until 08:00hrs (one hour later than both the Hoi Tak & Yindu Hotels). Note that the city centre is 7.3 kms at 159° from the hotel.

|                     |                                                                                |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chukar              | 1 was heard near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)             |
| Greylag Goose       | 42 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                        |
| Ruddy Shelduck      | 40 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                        |
| Common Shelduck     | 24 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                        |
| Gadwall             | 1960 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                      |
| Eurasian Wigeon     | 100 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                       |
| Mallard             | 2000 Shihezi on the 20/10/2006 - 1500 on Mo Gu Hu & 500 on Beihu. (365 metres) |
| Northern Shoveler   | 20 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                        |
| Northern Pintail    | 800 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                       |
| Common Teal         | 10 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                        |
| Red-crested Pochard | 150 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                       |
| Common Pochard      | 30 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                        |
| Ferruginous Pochard | 18 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                        |
| Tufted Duck         | 50 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                        |
| Common Goldeneye    | 6 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                         |
| Common Merganser    | 2 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                         |

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rock Pigeon                 | 20 near Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Eurasian Collared Dove      | 4 near Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Eurasian Coot               | 65 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Dunlin                      | 57 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Little Ringed Plover        | 1 besides Beihu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Yellow-legged Gull          | 60 near Shihezi on the 20/10/2006 - 10 besides Mo Gu Hu & 50 at Beihu. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Pallas's Gull               | 250 near Shihezi on the 20/10/2006 - 50 besides Mo Gu Hu & 200 at Beihu. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Black-headed Gull           | 300 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Hen Harrier                 | 2 ringtails near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Common Buzzard              | 1 juvenile over Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Common Kestrel              | 1 adult male at Beihu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Great Crested Grebe         | 5 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Great Cormorant             | 350 near Shihezi on the 20/10/2006 - 100 on Mo Gu Hu & 250 on Beihu. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Grey Heron                  | 17 near Shihezi on the 20/10/2006 - 2 at Mo Gu Hu & 15 on Beihu. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Great Egret                 | 21 near Shihezi on the 20/10/2006 - 15 on Mo Gu Hu & 6 at Beihu. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Eurasian Blackbird          | 6 in the woodland belt at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Black-throated Thrush       | 250 in the woodland belt at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Rufous-backed Redstart      | 1 male, the same bird as yesterday, in the woodland belt at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Common Starling             | 2000 near Shihezi on the 20/10/2006 – 15 at Mo Gu Hu & about 2000 from the expressway about 10 kms east of town. (365 & 400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| White-crowned Penduline Tit | 1 was heard over the woodland belt at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Azure Tit                   | 2 in the woodland belt at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Common Chiffchaff           | 4 in the woodland belt at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Asian Short-toed Lark       | 1 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Crested Lark                | 3 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Horned Lark                 | 7 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| sparrow sp.                 | 'Several' were heard at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| White Wagtail               | 1 flew north up the eastern embankment at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Red-throated Pipit          | 1 flew south down the eastern embankment at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres) Apparently the first record for Xinjiang.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Water Pipit                 | 10 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Buff-bellied Pipit          | 20 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres) (Photos)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Black-throated Accentor     | 1 in the woodland belt at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Chaffinch                   | 20 in the woodland belt at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Brambling                   | 4 in the woodland belt at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Eurasian Greenfinch         | 6 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| European Goldfinch          | 72 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. All of these were counted as they flew south down the reservoir's eastern embankment in the early morning – probably a local movement, as if they were leaving a roost, rather than actual migration. Birds were noted in the following group sizes – 1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 4, 4, 4, 4, 5, 7, 7, 8, 10 & 10. (365 metres) |
| Twite                       | 35 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. There were two flocks – one of about 15 & the other of about 30 birds. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Eurasian Linnnet            | 6 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Desert Finch                | 2 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Pine Bunting                | 6 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Reed Bunting                | 5 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## **Saturday 21 October 2006. All day around Qingedahu, Urumqi**

Together with Gou Jun & Wang Chuanbo we left the Royal International Hotel, Urumqi at 08:30hrs & headed off to Qingedahu. We spent all day in that area leaving at 19:10hrs & arrived back at the hotel at 19:55hrs.

Qingedahu is probably the most frequently visited birding site in the whole of Xinjiang. Its only about a 45 minute to one hour drive from Urumqi (& is even closer to the airport). Its thronged with ducks & apparently doesn't freeze up in winter. There must have been close to 10,000 ducks present today – but this is far from the peak. For about one month from mid-November there can be as many as 22,000 Mallard on the lake! Xinjiang, & Qingedahu in particular, must be the world centre for this species. Note however that very few birders visit the lake in spring – the water level is then very high & its apparently difficult to access the lake edge.

We visited numerous sites around the reservoir today –

### **1<sup>st</sup> stop. Machang Hu zhen, Mi Quan Shi. (44°00.8'N., 87°37.3'E.) 510 metres**

An area of rice stubble fields, small hedgerows, maize fields & a few, scattered larger trees.

From here its 23.3 kms @ 185° back to Urumqi city centre. We spent about 30 minutes here (09:45-10:15hrs) – searching primarily for passerines. Highlights inc. –

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Long-legged Buzzard   | 2          |
| Common Buzzard        | 1 juvenile |
| Common Kestrel        | 2          |
| Collared Dove         | 30         |
| Asian Short-toed Lark | 1          |

From there we drove on to the our second stop –

## **2<sup>nd</sup> stop. Nearby village centre.**

There's a well-known winter roost of Long-eared Owls in the garden of one of the houses in the Muslim village. Sadly however the birds hadn't arrived yet – we later established that they typically arrive here around the 20 December & leave in the latter half of March. Typically between 14-18 birds are present!

## **3<sup>rd</sup> stop. Eastern end of Qingedahu. (44°05.9'N., 87°33.4'E.) 470 metres**

From here its 32.7 kms @ 173° back to Urumqi city centre. We spent four hours (10:30-14:30hrs) birding here – initially scanning the waterfowl on the reservoir & later walking south through a complex of damp stubble fields and scattered stands of reed. We walked towards the dam at the reservoir's southern end while Gou Jun returned to his vehicle & drove around to pick us up at a different site.

## **4<sup>th</sup> stop. Shui Guan Chu, Qingedahu. (44°08.1'N., 87°33.4'E.) 464 metres**

An area of larger trees & dense scrub at the rear of a small tourist complex & near the outlet to Qingedahu. We spent 30 minutes here (14:45-15:15hrs). This is a good winter site for European Robin while Common Nightingale is apparently a very common summer breeder. Birds here today inc. -

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Goldcrest               | 3   |
| Black-throated Accentor | 3   |
| Black-throated Thrush   | 10  |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow   | 100 |
| Chiffchaff              | 1   |
| Chaffinch               | 1   |
| Eurasian Blackbird      | 2   |

We then drove on & had a noodle lunch in the nearby small town before continuing on to the fifth & last site of the day-

## **5<sup>th</sup> stop. Shang Yuchang (literally 'Upper Fish Ponds', Qingedahu. (44°06.0'N., 87°30.4'E.) 470 metres**

An area of fishponds backed by an extensive reed bed. We spent just over three hours here (16:00-17:10hrs). This is a well-known breeding site for Little Bittern & the drained fishponds are good area in autumn for migrating shorebirds. Birds today inc.-

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bearded Parrotbill      | 7 – birds were noted in five different place but only three birds were seen & all of these were at the very first stop.                                                                                                                      |
| Chiffchaff              | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Azure Tit               | 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Wren                    | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Great Egret             | 110                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Black-headed Gull       | 4000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Pallas's Gull           | 100                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Yellow-legged Gull      | 30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Gadwall                 | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Red-crested Pochard     | 9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Common Starling         | 40                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Barn Swallow            | 20 flew over at dusk – presumably heading to roost in the reed bed                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Sand Martin/Pale Martin | 1 flew over with the Barn Swallows at dusk & was presumably also heading to roost in the reed bed                                                                                                                                            |
| Long-legged Buzzard     | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Common Buzzard          | 1 adult flew over                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Peregrine               | 1 juvenile was seen to take a Black-headed Gull. It didn't kill it, just grounded & straddled it for about 20 seconds before it was flushed by a man guarding the fishponds. The gull also flew off, apparently intact & seemingly unharmed! |
| Water Pipit             | 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk    | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Black-throated Thrush   | 120 – apparently intending to roost in the reed bed!                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Common Reed Bunting     | 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| [Crested Myna           | 3 – escapes]                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

|                             |                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| White-headed Duck           | 2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (Gou Jun, Paul Holt, Wang Chuanbo & Wang Qingyu). (470 metres) |
| Bean Goose                  | 6 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                   |
| Greater White-fronted Goose | 2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                   |
| Greylag Goose               | 163 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                 |
| Ruddy Shelduck              | 10 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                  |
| Common Shelduck             | 1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                   |
| Gadwall                     | 290 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                 |
| Eurasian Wigeon             | 200 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                 |
| Mallard                     | 5300 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                |
| Northern Shoveler           | 10 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                  |
| Northern Pintail            | 850 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                 |
| Common Teal                 | 40 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                  |
| Red-crested Pochard         | 240 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                 |
| Common Pochard              | 6 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                   |
| Tufted Duck                 | 21 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                  |

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Common Merganser           | 2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                               |
| Short-eared Owl            | 2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                               |
| Rock Pigeon                | 50 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                              |
| Eurasian Collared Dove     | 40 between Urumqi & Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                |
| Eurasian Coot              | 140 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                             |
| Eurasian Curlew            | 1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                               |
| Yellow-legged Gull         | 40 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                              |
| Pallas's Gull              | 250 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                             |
| Black-headed Gull          | 2000 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                            |
| Hen Harrier                | 3 ringtails at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                     |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk       | 1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                               |
| Common Buzzard             | 3 (two juveniles & one adult) at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                   |
| Long-legged Buzzard        | 2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                               |
| Common Kestrel             | 4 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                               |
| Merlin                     | 1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                               |
| Peregrine Falcon           | 2 juveniles at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                     |
| Great Crested Grebe        | 4 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                               |
| Great Cormorant            | 700 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                             |
| Grey Heron                 | 5 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                               |
| Great Egret                | 225 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                             |
| Eurasian Spoonbill         | 1 first winter at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                  |
| Eurasian Blackbird         | 2 near Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                             |
| Black-throated Thrush      | 130 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. 10 of these were in the woodland at Shui Guan Chu & the remaining 120 appeared to be going to roost in the reed beds at Shang Yuchang. (470 metres)      |
| Common Starling            | 30 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                              |
| Winter Wren                | 1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                               |
| Azure Tit                  | 2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                               |
| Sand Martin or Pale Martin | 1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                               |
| Barn Swallow               | 20 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                              |
| Goldcrest                  | 3 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                               |
| Common Chiffchaff          | 2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                               |
| Bearded Parrotbill         | 7 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                               |
| Asian Short-toed Lark      | 20 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                              |
| Crested Lark               | 1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                               |
| Eurasian Skylark           | 1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                               |
| Horned Lark                | 5 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                               |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow      | 300 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. Most of these were in a reed bed roost near Shang Yuchang. (470 metres)                                                                                  |
| Meadow Pipit               | 4 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                               |
| Red-throated Pipit         | 1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (Gou Jun, Paul Holt, Wang Chuanbo & Wang Qingyu). It was photographed in flight by Wang Chuanbo but the image is not identifiable to species. (470 metres) |
| Water Pipit                | 10 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                              |
| Buff-bellied Pipit         | 3 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                               |
| Black-throated Accentor    | 5 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. Two of these were in scrub close to the reservoir while the other three were at Shui Guan Chu. (470 metres)                                                |
| Chaffinch                  | 2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                               |
| Eurasian Greenfinch        | 2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                               |
| Eurasian Linnet            | 20 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                              |
| Reed Bunting               | 10 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                              |
| Lapland Bunting            | 1 fly-over at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                      |

## **Sunday 22 October 2006. Urumqi to Kalamaili/Junggar Pendi (Junggar Basin).**

Together with Gou Jun & Wang Chuanbo we left the Royal International Hotel, Urumqi at 08:30hrs & headed off to Kalamaili & the Junggar Pendi.

It was only 5°C outside the hotel at 08:30hrs but had warmed up to a comfortable 17°C at Wucaiwan cun on the southern edge of the Kalamaili Shan NR by mid-afternoon.

We made numerous stops on route to our overnight stay at Kamuste.

### **1<sup>st</sup> stop. Bayi Reservoir, Changji. (44°13.2'N., 87°40.0'E.). 445 metres**

From here its 46.7kms @ 185° back to Urumqi & the drive took us just under one hour. We spent about 30 minutes here (09:30-10:00hrs). The large reservoir's in a desert area – it appears to be shallow & is impounded on its eastern side. It was misty when we were there with visibility down to about 1.5 kms. We approached the reservoir by driving across an extensive area of very short grassland on its south-eastern side – but even by driving out we still couldn't get very close to the lake edge as it was damp & the vehicle would probably have sunk. We revisited this site on the 7 November. Birds here today inc. –

|                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| Mallard          | 30 |
| Tufted Duck      | 10 |
| Common Merganser | 3  |

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Great Cormorant       | 100 |
| Great Egret           | 45  |
| Black-necked Grebe    | 4   |
| Great Crested Grebe   | 5   |
| Black-headed Gull     | 100 |
| Pallas's Gull         | 43  |
| Yellow-legged Gull    | 1   |
| Asian Short-toed Lark | 1   |
| Crested Lark          | 1   |

**2<sup>nd</sup> stop. Binhu Reservoir, Fukang, Changji. (44°11.5'N., 88°00.8'E.). 480 metres**

From here its 55.1kms @ 216° back to Urumqi & it took us about 40 minutes to drive here from Bayi Reservoir. We birded here for 30 minutes (10:45-11:15hrs). This was another rather disappointing, poor site – the reservoir held very little water & was replete with fishing nets. Birds included -

|                             |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Mallard                     | 40      |
| Great Cormorant             | 15      |
| Grey Heron                  | 1       |
| Great Egret                 | 10      |
| Pallas's Gull               | 45      |
| Eurasian Kestrel            | 1       |
| Great Tit                   | 2       |
| Azure Tit                   | 1 heard |
| European Greenfinch         | 1       |
| White-crowned Penduline Tit | 1       |
| Rufous-backed Redstart      | 1       |
| Buff-bellied Pipit          | 3       |
| Water Pipit                 | 1       |
| Mistle Thrush               | 1       |
| Goldcrest                   | 1       |
| Chaffinch                   | 1       |
| Asian Short-toed Lark       | 1       |

**3<sup>rd</sup> stop. Wucaiwan cun, Changji. Km 469 on NH G216. (44°46.8'N., 88°51.4'E.). 455 metres**

The village marks the southern edge of the Kalamaili Shan Nature Reserve. It was established in 1982 primarily to protect the area's mammals – Goitred Gazelle, Kiang & a small population of re-introduced Przewalsky's Horses. The reserve protection station is in the village. We spent almost 1.5hrs here (13:15-14:45hrs) birding around two small areas of bushes in the linear village. Birds here inc. -

|                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Steppe Eagle            | 1 juvenile flew south |
| Common Starling         | 25                    |
| Rufous-backed Redstart  | 4                     |
| European Greenfinch     | 8                     |
| Twite                   | 1                     |
| Linnet                  | 1                     |
| Black-throated Accentor | 1                     |
| Hume's Warbler          | 1                     |
| Black-throated Thrush   | 1                     |
| Meadow Pipit            | 1                     |
| House Sparrow           | 30                    |
| Tree Sparrow            | 30                    |
| Saxaul Sparrow          | 4                     |
| Chaffinch               | 2                     |
| Desert Finch            | 1                     |

**4<sup>th</sup> stop. Small Desert Oasis 16kms north of Wucaiwan cun, Changji in Kalamaili Shan NR. (44°48.8'N., 88°53.8'E.). 455 metres**

We spent one hour here (14:30-15:30hrs) – birding around a small pool 100 metres to the east of NH G216. The site is at Km post 464.5. Birds here inc. -

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Long-tailed Rosefinch | 2 |
| Reed Bunting          | 2 |
| Red-throated Pipit    | 1 |
| Daurian Partridge     | 5 |

**5<sup>th</sup> stop. Second small desert oasis about 20kms north of Wucaiwan cun, Changji in Kalamaili Shan NR. (44°50.0'N., 88°55.4'E.). 455 metres**

This small oasis is set back about 500 metres on the left (west) side of the main highway & we spent almost two hours here (15:45-17:25hrs). There are a number of old, ruined dwellings besides the pools here. Birds included –

|                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Eurasian Wigeon     | 2                      |
| Common Teal         | 4                      |
| Long-legged Buzzard | 2 juveniles flew south |

|                        |                                                    |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Hen Harrier            | 1 ringtail flew south                              |
| Steppe Eagle           | 10 flew south in the 1.5hrs between 15:45-17:15hrs |
| Brambling              | 1                                                  |
| Chaffinch              | 2 singles                                          |
| Saxaul Sparrow         | 2                                                  |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow  | 10                                                 |
| Reed Bunting           | 5                                                  |
| Rufous-backed Redstart | 2                                                  |
| Desert Wheatear        | 2 – both first-winter males                        |
| Asian Short-toed Lark  | 1                                                  |
| Long-tailed Rosefinch  | 1                                                  |

**6<sup>th</sup> stop – Km post 436.5 On NH G216 – 56 kms south of Kamuste, Altai district. (44°58.9'N., 89°07.2'E.). 710 metres**

We stopped here for about 45 minutes (18:00-18:45hrs) initially to watch a Mongolian Ground Jay we'd seen flying.

From this site it is 179kms @ 221° back to Urumqi  
180kms @ 231° to Changji

Birds here inc.-

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| Mongolian Ground Jay | 2  |
| Horned Lark          | 15 |
| Desert Wheatear      | 6  |
| Cape Hare            | 1  |

|                                      |                                                                  |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mongolian Ground Jay | Km 434.7                                                         | 730 metres                       |
| Golden Eagle                         | Km 431 (51kms south of Kamuste)                                  | 845 metres                       |
| Eurasian Stock Dove                  | Recently deceased road killed 1 <sup>st</sup> year<br>860 metres | Km 428 (48 kms south of Kamuste) |
| Kiang                                | 1 at Km 408 (28kms south of Kamuste)                             | 1075 metres 19:15hrs             |

Arrived basic guest house at Kamuste at 19:35hrs. Km post 380. (45°23.1'N., 89°24.5'E.). 1020 metres

From the village it is 227kms @ 217° back to Urumqi. The guest house is the very first building on the left side of the road in Kamuste and has about six rooms all of which appeared to have at least four beds – some of them had more in the form of bunk beds. No room has anything other than these beds and a small table. Toilet facilities are shared & 'out the back' while there are no washing facilities other than a plastic bowl & thermos flask. The guest house has a simple restaurant where very tasty noodles are served but probably not much else.

|                      |                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Daurian Partridge    | 5 besides the small oasis 16kms north of Wucaiwan cun, Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)                                                         |
| Eurasian Wigeon      | 2 in the small oasis 20kms north of Wucaiwan cun, Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)                                                              |
| Mallard              | 30 at Bayi Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (445 metres)                                                                                                             |
| Common Teal          | 4 in the small oasis 20kms north of Wucaiwan cun, Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)                                                              |
| Tufted Duck          | 8 at Bayi Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (445 metres)                                                                                                              |
| Common Merganser     | 3 at Bayi Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (445 metres)                                                                                                              |
| Rock Pigeon          | 20 just north of Urumqi on the 22/10/2006.                                                                                                                                |
| Stock Pigeon         | 1 very recently road killed first year at Km 428 (about 48 kms south of Kamuste, Altai) on G216 on the 22/10/2006. (845 metres)                                           |
| Yellow-legged Gull   | 1 at Bayi Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (445 metres)                                                                                                              |
| Pallas's Gull        | 88 north of Changji on the 22/10/2006 - 43 at Bayi Reservoir & 45 at Binhu Reservoir. (445 & 480 metres)                                                                  |
| Black-headed Gull    | 100 at Bayi Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (445 metres)                                                                                                            |
| Hen Harrier          | 1 ringtail flew south, with other migrating raptors, over the small oasis 20kms north of Wucaiwan cun, Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)         |
| Common Buzzard       | 1 near Urumqi on the 22/10/2006.                                                                                                                                          |
| Long-legged Buzzard  | 2 single juveniles flew south, with other migrating raptors, over the small oasis 20kms north of Wucaiwan cun, Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres) |
| Steppe Eagle         | 11 flew south, with other migrating raptors, over the small oasis 20kms north of Wucaiwan cun, Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)                 |
| Golden Eagle         | 1 probable third calendar year bird at Km 431 (about 51 kms south of Kamuste, Altai) on G216 on the 22/10/2006. (845 metres)                                              |
| Common Kestrel       | 1 near Binhu Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (480 metres)                                                                                                           |
| Great Crested Grebe  | 5 on Bayi Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (445 metres)                                                                                                              |
| Black-necked Grebe   | 4 on Bayi Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (445 metres)                                                                                                              |
| Great Cormorant      | 115 north of Changji on the 22/10/2006 - 100 at Bayi Reservoir & 15 at Binhu Reservoir. (445 & 480 metres)                                                                |
| Grey Heron           | 1 besides Binhu Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (480 metres)                                                                                                        |
| Great Egret          | 55 north of Changji on the 22/10/2006 - 45 at Bayi Reservoir & 10 at Binhu Reservoir. (450 & 480 metres)                                                                  |
| Mongolian Ground-jay | 3 (a pair at Km post 436.5 & a single at Km post 434.7 besides route G216) in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (710 & 730 metres)                        |
| Mistle Thrush        | 1 besides Binhu Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (480 metres)                                                                                                        |

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Black-throated Thrush       | 10 in Wucaiwan cun, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)                                                                                                                |
| Rufous-backed Redstart      | 7 north of Changji on the 22/10/2006 – 1 near Binhu Reservoir., 4 in Wucaiwan cun & 2 at the oasis 20 kms north of there. (455-480 metres)                                 |
| Desert Wheatear             | 8 north of Changji on the 22/10/2006 – two at the oasis 20 kms north of Wucaiwan cun & about six at the 'Mongolian Ground Jay site' at Km 434.7. (455 & 730 metres)        |
| Common Starling             | 25 in Wucaiwan cun, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)                                                                                                                |
| White-crowned Penduline Tit | 1 near Binhu Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (480 metres)                                                                                                            |
| Great Tit                   | 2 near Binhu Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (480 metres)                                                                                                            |
| Azure Tit                   | 1 was heard near Binhu Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (480 metres)                                                                                                  |
| Pale Martin                 | 1 flew south low over the desert at the oasis 20 kms north of Wucaiwan cun, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)                                                        |
| Goldcrest                   | 1 near Binhu Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (480 metres)                                                                                                            |
| Common Chiffchaff           | 1 in the small oasis 20kms north of Wucaiwan cun, Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)                                                               |
| Hume's Warbler              | 1 in Wucaiwan cun, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)                                                                                                                 |
| Asian Short-toed Lark       | 6 near Changji on the 22/10/2006 – with sightings besides Bayi Reservoir & in the Kalamaili Desert area. (455 & 480 metres)                                                |
| Crested Lark                | 1 near Bayi Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (445 metres)                                                                                                             |
| Horned Lark                 | 15 at the first Mongolian Ground Jay site at Km 436.4 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)                                                    |
| Saxaul Sparrow              | 6 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. Of these four were in Wucaiwan cun & the other two besides the small oasis 20kms north of there. (455 & 480 metres) |
| House Sparrow               | 30 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. Most of these were in Wucaiwan cun. (455 metres)                                                                   |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow       | 40 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. Most of these were in Wucaiwan cun. (455 metres)                                                                   |
| Meadow Pipit                | 1 in Wucaiwan cun, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)                                                                                                                 |
| Red-throated Pipit          | 1 besides the small oasis 20kms north of Wucaiwan cun, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)                                                                             |
| Water Pipit                 | 2 near Binhu Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (480 metres)                                                                                                            |
| Buff-bellied Pipit          | 3 near Binhu Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (480 metres)                                                                                                            |
| Black-throated Accentor     | 1 in Wucaiwan cun, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)                                                                                                                 |
| Chaffinch                   | 3 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. Of these two were in Wucaiwan cun & the third in the desert oasis 20kms north of there. (455 metres)                |
| Brambling                   | 1 besides the small oasis 20kms north of Wucaiwan cun, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)                                                                             |
| Eurasian Greenfinch         | 9 near Changji on the 22/10/2006 – with one near Binhu Reservoir & eight in Wucaiwan cun, Changji. (455 & 480 metres)                                                      |
| Twite                       | 1 in Wucaiwan cun, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)                                                                                                                 |
| Eurasian Linnet             | 2 in Wucaiwan cun, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)                                                                                                                 |
| Desert Finch                | 1 was heard in Wucaiwan cun, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)                                                                                                       |
| Long-tailed Rosefinch       | 3 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. All three were in the desert oasis between 16-20 kms north of Wucaiwan cun. (455 metres)                            |
| Reed Bunting                | 7 in the desert oasis between 16-20 kms north of Wucaiwan cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)                                            |

### Mammals

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Goitred Gazelle | 68 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji & Altai on the 22/10/2006. All sightings were between Km 458 (11 kms north of Wucaiwan cun) & near Kamuste. (1040-1075 metres) |
| Kiang           | 1 at Km 408 (28kms south of Kamuste) in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (1075 metres)                                                             |
| Cape Hare       | 1 at the first Mongolian Ground Jay site at Km 436.4 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)                                              |

### Monday 23 October 2006. Kalamaili Shan NR (Junggar Pendi) back to Urumqi.

Together with Gou Jun & Wang Chuanbo we left the basic Kamuste Guest House at 08:25hrs & headed north one kilometre in to the centre of this tiny village. We turned right off NH G216 onto a dirt road in the village centre (the turning is immediately opposite a large radio mast). We drove on this minor, unpaved track for about three kilometres until we came to an isolated house and its walled compound. There's a small oasis with open water and a number of bushes here. We spent much of the day here –

### Lao Kamuste cun – 'Old Kamuste', Aertai. (45°23.0'N., 89°30.0'E.). 1064 metres 09:15-15:00hrs.

From here its 232kms @ 219° back to Urumqi.

We spent almost three hours birding around the oasis before driving on for another kilometre or so – to a point where the track crested the first ridge. We parked up at the excellent vantage point here &, since there were large numbers of raptors moving, spent three hours raptor watching (12:00-15:00hrs). We left at 15:00hrs, arrived back at the main north-south highway, G216, at 15:30 and headed back to Urumqi. We had a short break in Wuciawan (51 kms south of Kamuste - Km 469) where I went birding around the Kalamaili Shan NR Protection Station while the other's had a late lunch. We all left there at 17:10hrs & arrived back at the Royal International Hotel in Urumqi at 19:25hrs – 2hrs 15 minutes after leaving Wuciawan.

|             |                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chukar      | 23 in one covey at Km 402 on NH G216 (22 kms south of Kamuste & 67 kms north of Wuciawan) in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 23/10/2006. (1070 metres) |
| Little Owl  | 1 near Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1040 metres)                                                                     |
| Rock Pigeon | 10 near Urumqi on the 23/10/2006.                                                                                                                            |

|                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pallas's Sandgrouse           | 64 near Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. Eight different groups were seen & these were of the following sizes – 1, 4, 4, 6, 7, 12, 14 & 14. (1020-1060 metres)          |
| Cinereous Vulture             | 3 flew south during the three hour raptor watch (12:00-15:00hrs) near Kamuste in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. One was a juvenile, another an adult & the third un-aged. (1070 metres)  |
| Long-legged Buzzard           | 19 flew south during the three hour raptor watch (12:00-15:00hrs) near Kamuste in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1070 metres)                                                           |
| Greater Spotted Eagle         | 1 flew south during the three hour raptor watch (12:00-15:00hrs) near Kamuste in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1070 metres)                                                            |
| Steppe Eagle                  | 191 flew south during the three hour raptor watch (12:00-15:00hrs) near Kamuste in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1070 metres)                                                          |
| Golden Eagle                  | 4 (two juveniles, an adult & a presumed third calendar year) flew south during the three hour raptor watch (12:00-15:00hrs) near Kamuste in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1070 metres) |
| Common Kestrel                | 1 near Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1040 metres)                                                                                                                   |
| Saker Falcon                  | 4 singles flew south during the three hour raptor watch (12:00-15:00hrs) near Kamuste in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1070 metres)                                                    |
| 'Red-capped' Peregrine Falcon | 1 bird, possibly this species, flew south during the three hour raptor watch (12:00-15:00hrs) near Kamuste in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1070 metres)                               |
| Mongolian Ground-jay          | 3 (a pair at Km post 398 & a single at Km post 402) besides route G216 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (1070 & 1130 metres)                                                           |
| Black-throated Thrush         | 3 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 23/10/2006 – one at Lao Kamuste cun & the other two at Wuciawan. (455 & 1040 metres)                                                                            |
| Redwing                       | 1 first-winter was seen, & photographed by Gou Jun & Wang Chuanbo at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)                                                     |
| Rufous-backed Redstart        | 1 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)                                                                                                                     |
| Common Starling               | 3 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 23/10/2006 – one at Lao Kamuste cun & the other two at Wuciawan. (455 & 1040 metres)                                                                            |
| Hume's Warbler                | 1 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)                                                                                                                     |
| Bearded Parrotbill            | 23 in a single group at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)                                                                                                  |
| Bimaculated Lark              | 42 flew northeast over Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. Birds were in three flocks, the first of 20 birds, the second of 18 & the third of only four. (1030 metres)     |
| Asian Short-toed Lark         | 15 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (890-1030 metres)                                                                                                                |
| Horned Lark                   | 50 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. Most of these were at Lao Kamuste cun. (455-1030 metres)                                                                                            |
| Saxaul Sparrow                | 6 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)                                                                                                                     |
| House Sparrow                 | 15 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 23/10/2006. (455-1030 metres)                                                                                                                                  |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow         | 30 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 23/10/2006. (455-1030 metres)                                                                                                                                  |
| White Wagtail                 | 1 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)                                                                                                                     |
| Meadow Pipit                  | 1 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)                                                                                                                     |
| Water Pipit                   | 1 flew south at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)                                                                                                          |
| Buff-bellied Pipit            | 1 flew south at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)                                                                                                          |
| Black-throated Accentor       | 2 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)                                                                                                                     |
| Chaffinch                     | 6 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)                                                                                                                     |
| Brambling                     | 3 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)                                                                                                                     |
| Eurasian Greenfinch           | 1 at Wuciawan cun, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)                                                                                                                                                 |
| Eurasian Siskin               | 3 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)                                                                                                                    |
| European Goldfinch            | 3 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)                                                                                                                     |
| Twite                         | 40 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)                                                                                                                    |
| Desert Finch                  | 5 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)                                                                                                                     |
| Yellowhammer                  | 1 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)                                                                                                                     |
| Pine Bunting or Yellowhammer  | 5 near Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)                                                                                                                   |
| Reed Bunting                  | 2 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)                                                                                                                     |

### Mammals

|                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cape Hare                                          | 1 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)                                                                                        |
| Goitred Gazelle                                    | 195 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. The majority (109) of these were in the desert immediately northeast of the guest house at Kamuste. (455-1100 metres) |
| Kiang                                              | 3 near Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)                                                                                      |
| Long-tailed Ground-squirrel (Long-tailed Squirrel) | 8 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1000-1020 metres)                                                                                   |

### Tuesday 24 October 2006. Am Qingedahu nr Urumqi, early evening flight east to Yining, Yili (Ili).

Breakfast started at 07:00hrs & we left the Yindu Hotel at 09:20hrs heading back to Qingedahu, Changji. Our taxi cost 300 yuan & for this the driver stayed with us all day & agreed to take us to the airport for 17:00hrs. We arrived at the lake at 10:20hrs & spent about 4.5 hours birding there (10:20-14:45hrs) before heading to the airport. It took us 45 minutes to drive to the airport &, arriving at 15:30hrs, we were way too early for our 18:25hrs China Southern flight west to Yining, capital of Yili (Ili) district.

### Weather

10°C at Qingedahu at 10:30hrs rising to a comfortable 15°C there by 12:45hrs.



Today's flight, in a 52-seater twin prop ATR-72, was due to take 1hrs 15 minutes (it actually took five minutes more than this) & we arrived in Yining at 19:45hrs. (The one-way plane tickets cost 390 each). Leaving Yining airport at 20:00hrs it took just 10 minutes in a taxi to the four-star Twin Star (General) Hotel [Yili Jiang Jun Shuang Chen Dajudian]. Rooms here cost 158 yuan/night with no breakfast (breakfasts are good and include numerous western items and cost an extra 25 yuan each).

**Twin Star (General) Hotel, Yining, Yili. 43°54.9'N., 81°19.4'E. 620 metres.**

From the hotel it is - 2.91kms @ 350° to Yining city centre.  
502kms @ 85° back to Urumqi.  
555kms @ 256° to Bishkek.

Note that its possible to fly to at least the following Xinjiang towns from Urumqi – Kashi, (Yining) Yili, Aertai, Kelamayi, Kuche, Korla, Fuyun, Tacheng, Kanasi, Hetian & Nalati. Note however that many of these destinations are only served during the summer months.

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bean Goose                  | 1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Greater White-fronted Goose | 1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Greylag Goose               | 116 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Ruddy Shelduck              | 30 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Gadwall                     | 220 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Eurasian Wigeon             | 350 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Mallard                     | 7600 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. A sample count of 461 birds were sexed & this produced 191 males (41%) & 270 females (59%). (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Northern Shoveler           | 20 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Northern Pintail            | 800 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Garganey                    | 2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Common Teal                 | 250 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Red-crested Pochard         | 52 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Common Pochard              | 20 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Tufted Duck                 | 95 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Rock Pigeon                 | 30 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Eurasian Collared Dove      | 10 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Eurasian Coot               | 50 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| [Siberian Gull              | 1 darker mantled third year large gull was seen briefly at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. I'd watched it for only a couple of minutes, took a few photos and the briefest of notes when a loud explosion flushed all the large gulls. Most of the Yellow-legged Gulls didn't return & I was unable to relocate the mystery bird. Possible <i>heuglini</i> ? (Photos) (470 metres)] |
| Yellow-legged Gull          | 67 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Pallas's Gull               | 685 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. The vast majority of birds were adults, most of the rest being 1 <sup>st</sup> years. A sample count of 293 birds yielded only 18 juveniles/first-winters (6%). The number of birds present besides the reservoir slowly built up during the late morning & early afternoon. (470 metres)                                                    |
| Black-headed Gull           | 300 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Common Kestrel              | 4 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Peregrine Falcon            | 1 juvenile at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Great Crested Grebe         | 11 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Black-necked Grebe          | 7 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Great Cormorant             | 2200 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. 265 birds were aged – there were 147 adults (55%) & 118 juveniles (45%). First summer birds were not separated from adults. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Grey Heron                  | 42 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Great Egret                 | 179 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Hooded Crow                 | 8 were seen flying west to roost over Yining town centre, Yili at about 20:05hrs on the 24/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Eurasian Blackbird          | 1 was heard outside Yining airport, Yili at dusk on the 24/10/2006. (620 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Black-throated Thrush       | 2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Asian Short-toed Lark       | 5 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Crested Lark                | 1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Eurasian Skylark            | 1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Horned Lark                 | 30 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow       | 10 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| White Wagtail               | 1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Water Pipit                 | 2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Buff-bellied Pipit          | 1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Chaffinch                   | 2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Twite                       | 10 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

**Wednesday 25 October 2006. All day around Yining, Yili (Ili).**

We left the Twin Star (General) Hotel at 08:50hrs & spent the rest of the day birding at two sites close to Yining. We returned to the hotel at 20:30hrs.

**1<sup>st</sup> site. Hebians Gongyuan ('Yining Riverside Park'), Yining, Yili. (43°53.2'N'. 81°17.7'E). 589 metres.**

From here it is 6.3kms @ 14° to Yili town centre.

This fairly large (2kms long by about 600 metres wide) park is bounded on its southern side by the east-west flowing 400 metre wide Yili River. Its excellent for birds and has a nice variety of habitats – extensive damp woodland, areas of scrub, pools & small patches of reed bed. The best area starts about 600 metres down stream of the large road bridge – its quiet (especially early morning – numerous courting couples appear from mid-afternoon) & there are a number of short trails. Note that many of these trails are very wet & a pair of rubber boots or Wellingtons would be very useful.

The park's contiguous with the very touristy (summer only?) Haijing Park immediately to the northwest. The latter has man-made beaches, an amusement park and several boating pools.

I spent almost eight hours here (09:10-17:05hrs) & walked west towards the new road bridge that's nearing completion about three kilometres downstream from the park entrance.

Highlights here inc. – decent eastward movement of gulls first thing, good assortment of corvids, European Goldfinch (100+), Rough-legged Buzzard (1 flew east up the Yili River), Cetti's Warbler (13!), Water Rail (5 heard), Azure Tit (23) etc.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> site. Fang Cou Hu, Yining, Yili. (43°54.9'N. 81°12.4'E). 582 metres.**

From here it is 9.43kms @ 68° back to Yili town centre. I spent just over two hours here (17:45-20:00hrs).

It took 30 minutes in a taxi to return to the Twin Star (General) Hotel in Yili centre.

This modest wetland, again on the northern bank of the Yili River & downstream from the 'Yining Riverside Park', was also decent. Its quite popular with fishermen & there are areas of reeds, a large reed-fringed pool, multiple fishponds and areas of scrub and open woodland.

Highlights here inc. Bearded Parrotbill (8), White-winged Redstart (1) and a movement of Yellow-legged Gulls down river (presumably to a roost somewhere not too far away).

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Common Pheasant        | 3 were heard near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – one in Hebian Gongyuan & the other two at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Greylag Goose          | 1 was heard flying south over the Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Gadwall                | 12 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – six in Haijing Park & the other six at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Eurasian Wigeon        | 8 over the Yili River at Hebian Gongyuan on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Mallard                | 140 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – 40 over the Yili River at Hebian Gongyuan & 100 at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Northern Pintail       | 4 besides the Yili River at Fang Cou Hu, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Common Teal            | 15 besides the Yili River at Fang Cou Hu, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Red-crested Pochard    | 1 female besides the Yili River at Fang Cou Hu, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Common Pochard         | 12 besides the Yili River at Fang Cou Hu, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Tufted Duck            | 48 besides the Yili River at Fang Cou Hu, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| woodpecker sp.         | 1 bird, probably a Great Spotted Woodpecker, was heard in Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Common Kingfisher      | 4 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – two in Hebian Gongyuan & the other two at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Rock Pigeon            | 100 in & around Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Eurasian Collared Dove | 20 in & around Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (570-590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Water Rail             | 6 were heard near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – five in Hebian Gongyuan & the other at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Common Moorhen         | 10 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – eight in Hebian Gongyuan & the other two at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Eurasian Coot          | 90 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – three in Hebian Gongyuan, 65 in Haijing Park & about 20 at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Common Redshank        | 1 flew east up the Yili River adjacent to Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Common Greenshank      | 1 besides the Yili River adjacent to Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Green Sandpiper        | 3 besides the Yili River adjacent to Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Mew Gull               | 1 first-winter <i>heinei</i> flew east, up the Yili River at Hebian Gongyuan at about 09:30hrs on the 25/10/2006. It was not associating with any other gulls (reasonable numbers of both Black-headed & Yellow-legged Gulls were also moving east up river). Apparently the first record for Xinjiang. (590 metres)                               |
| Yellow-legged Gull     | The largest count involved 220 that flew west, downstream & over Fang Cou Hu, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. Others, or perhaps more likely, many of these same birds, flew east upstream past Hebian Gongyuan in the morning. Almost all today's birds were adults – only two first years were seen & very, very few immatures! (580-590 metres) |
| Pallas's Gull          | 1 adult flew west with Yellow-legged Gulls, downstream & over Fang Cou Hu, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Black-headed Gull      | The largest count involved 280 that flew west, downstream & over Fang Cou Hu, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. Others, or perhaps more likely, many of these same birds, flew east upstream past Hebian Gongyuan in the morning. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                   |
| Shikra                 | 1 very noisy calling bird was eventually seen in Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk   | 3 in & around Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Common Buzzard         | 7 (three juveniles, two adults and two un-aged) near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. Three birds were seen apparently going to roost in a small coppice at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                                                           |
| Rough-legged Buzzard   | 1 flew east, up the Yili River opposite the Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Common Kestrel         | 2 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Little Grebe           | 3 in Haijing Park, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Great Cormorant        | 40 besides the Yili River near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Grey Heron                   | 3 besides the Yili River at Fang Cou Hu, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Great Egret                  | 17 besides the Yili River near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. Of these only one was near Hebian Gongyuan, the other 16 were all at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                               |
| Black-billed Magpie          | 23 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. Of these there were two at Hebian Gongyuan, the other 21 were all in a pre-roost gathering at Fang Cou Hu. (590 metres)                                                                                                                 |
| Eurasian Jackdaw             | 3 singles over Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Rook                         | 28 at Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Carrion Crow                 | 20 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. Most of these were at Hebian Gongyuan. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Hooded Crow                  | 70 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – 65 Hebian Gongyuan & the other five at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Eurasian Blackbird           | 20 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – 15 Hebian Gongyuan & the other five at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Mistle Thrush                | 1 at Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Black-throated Thrush        | 70 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – 65 Hebian Gongyuan & the other five at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Rufous-backed Redstart       | 2 at Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| White-winged Redstart        | 1 first-winter female at Fang Cou Hu, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Common Starling              | 40 near Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Winter Wren                  | 15 in Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| White-crowned Penduline Tit  | 5 singles were heard near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – four in & around Hebian Gongyuan & the other at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                                        |
| Great Tit                    | 4 in Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Turkestan Tit                | 2 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – 3 in Hebian Gongyuan & the other at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Great Tit or Turkestan Tit   | 10 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Azure Tit                    | 27 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. Other than four at both Haijing Park & Fang Cou Hu all the rest (19 birds) were in Hebian Gongyuan. Most encounters were with pairs, the only exception being a flock of eight that flew east through Hebian Gongyuan. (580-590 metres) |
| Long-tailed Tit              | 5 white-headed nominate <i>caudatus</i> at Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Goldcrest                    | 2 at Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Cetti's Bush Warbler         | 13 in Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. At least three of these birds were still giving occasional snatches of song. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                |
| Common Chiffchaff            | 37 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. Other than four at Haijing Park & five at Fang Cou Hu all the rest (28 birds) were in Hebian Gongyuan. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                 |
| Hume's Warbler               | 1 was heard at Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Bearded Parrotbill           | 8 at Fang Cou Hu, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Asian Short-toed Lark        | 1 flew east over Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow        | 50 in & around Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| White Wagtail                | 4 flew west, presumably to roost, at Fang Cou Hu, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Meadow Pipit                 | 2 singles flew over Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Water Pipit                  | 5 singles in & around Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Black-throated Accentor      | 3 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – two at Hebian Gongyuan & the other at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Chaffinch                    | 20 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Brambling                    | 8 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Eurasian Greenfinch          | 7 birds, four singles and a group of three, were seen near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Eurasian Siskin              | 1 was heard over Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| European Goldfinch           | 110 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – a flock of 105 at Hebian Gongyuan & the other group of five birds at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                                    |
| Twite                        | 1 was heard over Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Eurasian Linnet              | 4 at Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Yellowhammer                 | 6 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. See Pine Bunting or Yellowhammer below. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Pine Bunting or Yellowhammer | 45 unidentified birds were seen, or heard, near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. All of those that were identified were Yellowhammers. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                          |
| Meadow Bunting               | 1 flew south over Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Reed Bunting                 | 6 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – with three at both Hebian Gongyuan & Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                      |

### **Thursday 26 October 2006. All day around Yining, Yili (Ili).**

We left the Twin Star (General) Hotel at 07:00hrs & spent the rest of the day birding at two sites east-south-east of Yining. Both sites were to the south of the Gongnaisi River – a major tributary of the Yili River. We spent most of the day there & returned to the hotel at about 19:00hrs.

#### **Site 1. Wei Hu, Qi Shi San Tuan Si Lian (4<sup>th</sup> section of 73<sup>rd</sup> Corps.), Gongliu, Yili. (43°33.8'N'. 82°08.4'E). 725 metres.**

From here it is 75.8kms @ 300° back to Yining town.  
441kms @ 81° to Urumqi.

It took us almost two hours to drive here – we stopped several times to ask directions. The drive back in daylight only took 1.5hrs. We spent 5.5 hrs here (09:00-14:30hrs) before driving only about nine kilometres to site number two.

Wei Hu is a smallish, densely reed fringed lake east-south-east of Yining. It can be quite difficult to find – leave Yining to the south-east on route 316 (the road that heads to Qixiang & on from there to Xinyuan). After leaving Qixiang (Km 166 on route 316) turn left at Km post 157.8. This junction is the first left after a huge cement works & is immediately opposite a petrol station. 200 metres down this side road you pass the main entrance to the cement works but ignore this & continue on for another 2.4 kilometres in to the centre of the next village – '73 Corps'. Less than 100 metres before the T-junction at the end of this road turn right on to a minor road that disappears between some houses. This minor road soon swings back to the left –

continue on here for 2.7kms until it swings to the right – another more minor road continues straight on (see directions to ‘Site 2’ below). There is another side road to the right off this one that leads to Si Lian (the fourth section of ‘73 Corps.’ but it was being renovated & was temporarily closed. Instead we parked up about eight kilometres from this bend & walked about one kilometre to Si Lian. The reed bed & small lake are best viewed from the northern end & accessed by walking due west up the south side of the small village (turn left immediately in front of the village & right at the end of the houses). A track, that under normal circumstances would be driveable, leads most of the way.

**Site 2. Yili Riverside scrub near Qi Shi San Tuan (73<sup>rd</sup> Corps.), Gongliu, Yili. (43°35.6’N’. 82°00.6’E). 717 metres.**

From here it is 67.6kms @ 301° back to Yining town.

We spent 2hrs 15 minutes here. The site is about 8.6 kms from Wei Hu & is accessed by the same road out of the centre of ‘73 Corps.’ but instead of staying on the track when it bends to the right 2.7kms from the village continue straight on. After about another one kilometre the track comes to a couple of large buildings and then swings left around the rear of them. We parked up near here (the track was too bad for our taxi to continue further) & I walked out through some very attractive scrub and birch woodland about 1.5kms to the edge of the Yili River. From here it took just over 1.5hrs to drive back to the Twin Star (General) Hotel in Yining.

**Weather**

It had rained hard in Yining overnight but it had stopped when we left at 07:00hrs & the day gradually improved. The afternoon was gloriously clear, sunny & warm. 9°C in Yining at 07:00hrs & 15° mid-afternoon near Qi Shi San Tuan (73<sup>rd</sup> Corps.), Gongliu.

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Common Pheasant        | 3 heard at Qi Shi San Tuan (73 <sup>rd</sup> Corps.), Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006 – two near Wei Hu & the third in the nearby Yili Riverside scrub. (720 metres)                                                                              |
| Mute Swan              | 1 adult on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Bean Goose             | 420 at Qi Shi San Tuan (73 <sup>rd</sup> Corps.), Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006 - 33 flew west (in flocks of 1, 3, 5, 10 & 14 birds) over Wei Hu, Gongliu while a single flock of 390 birds was seen nearby at the Yili Riverside. (720 metres) |
| Greylag Goose          | 38 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Gadwall                | 110 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Eurasian Wigeon        | 8 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Mallard                | 85 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Northern Shoveler      | 4 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Northern Pintail       | 6 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Common Teal            | 9 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Red-crested Pochard    | 235 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. A sample count of 94 birds produced 40 males (43%) & 54 females (57%). (720 metres)                                                                                                               |
| Common Pochard         | 17 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Ferruginous Pochard    | 7 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Tufted Duck            | 5 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Common Kingfisher      | 2 near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Little Owl             | 2 near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Rock Pigeon            | 100 in the Yining-Gongliu areas, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (580-720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Stock Pigeon           | 1 near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Eurasian Collared Dove | 40 near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Common Crane           | 68 (a flock of 64 & another of just four) flew west over Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili at 13:00 & 13:40hrs respectively on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                   |
| Water Rail             | 3 heard at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Common Moorhen         | 5 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Eurasian Coot          | 560 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Green Sandpiper        | 1 was heard at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Yellow-legged Gull     | 45 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Black-headed Gull      | 30 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| White-tailed Eagle     | 1 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Hen Harrier            | 3 (two ringtails & an adult male) at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                        |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk   | 2 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Common Buzzard         | 3 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Rough-legged Buzzard   | 1 adult male flew east over Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Greater Spotted Eagle  | 1 over Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Common Kestrel         | 2 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Merlin                 | 1 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Little Grebe           | 1 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Great Cormorant        | 10 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Great Egret            | 47 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Great Bittern          | 1 flew over Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Black-billed Magpie    | 22 in the Yili Riverside scrub not far from Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                 |
| Carrion Crow           | 15 in the Qi Shi San Tuan (73 <sup>rd</sup> Corps.) area, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                           |
| Hooded Crow            | 2 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Eurasian Blackbird     | 5 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Mistle Thrush          | 3 near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                      |

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Black-throated Thrush        | 45 near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. In addition one was heard flying west over the Two Star (General) Hotel in central Yining at 06:55hrs. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Rufous-backed Redstart       | 4 near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Common Starling              | 80 near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Common Myna                  | 2 in the village of Si Lian near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Winter Wren                  | 4 near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| White-crowned Penduline Tit  | 2 singles were heard near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. Two abandoned nests were seen in the Yili Riverside Scrub. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Great Tit                    | 2 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Turkestan Tit                | 1 in the Yili Riverside scrub near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Great Tit or Turkestan Tit   | 4 apparent hybrids between Great & Turkestan Tit were seen at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. All four were very similar being very muted greyish above but with a noticeable pale olive hue to the mantle, reduced white in the tail & a pale yellowish suffusion to the flanks that contrasted with their clean white cheeks. (720 metres) |
| Azure Tit                    | 8 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Long-tailed Tit              | 1 was heard in the Yili Riverside scrub near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Goldcrest                    | 2 Yili Riverside scrub near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Cetti's Bush Warbler         | 2 were heard at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Common Chiffchaff            | 10 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Hume's Warbler               | 1 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Bearded Parrotbill           | 1 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow        | 100 at Qi Shi San Tuan (73 <sup>rd</sup> Corps.), Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006 – there appeared to be a fairly large pre-roost gathering near the Yili Riverside scrub near Wei Hu. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                   |
| Water Pipit                  | 8 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Black-throated Accentor      | 3 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Chaffinch                    | 30 at Qi Shi San Tuan (73 <sup>rd</sup> Corps.), Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Brambling                    | 8 at Qi Shi San Tuan (73 <sup>rd</sup> Corps.), Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Eurasian Greenfinch          | 40 at Qi Shi San Tuan (73 <sup>rd</sup> Corps.), Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. About five of these were near Wei Hu, the other 35 in the Yili Riverside scrub nearby. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                 |
| European Goldfinch           | 60 at Qi Shi San Tuan (73 <sup>rd</sup> Corps.), Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. About 15 of these were near Wei Hu, the other 45 in the Yili Riverside scrub nearby. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Twite                        | 1 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Eurasian Linnet              | 5 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Red-mantled Rosefinch        | 2 males in the Yili Riverside scrub near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Yellowhammer                 | 6 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Pine Bunting or Yellowhammer | 35 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Reed Bunting                 | 25 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. In addition one was heard flying west over the Two Star (General) Hotel in central Yining at 06:55hrs. (720 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                    |

### **Mammals**

|              |                                                                                          |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Red Squirrel | 1 in the Yili Riverside scrub near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres) |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### **Friday 27 October 2006. Yining west to Huocheng, Yili.**

We left the Twin Star (General) Hotel at 07:05hrs & spent the rest of the day birding at three sites west of Huocheng & well to the west of Yining.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> stop. Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili. (43°60.0'N., 80°39.4'E.) 584 metres**

From here it is 53.3kms @ 92° back to Yining.

#### **Directions**

Leaving Yili we drove west on route G218 & arrived in Shui Ding (44 kms by road from Yining) at 07:55hrs (50 minutes of a drive). We turned left here on to a smaller road – 'Military Road' 763 that lead to Liu Shi San Tuan (literally '63 Corps.'). We drove exactly 20kms down here before turning off to the right at what was a fairly obvious, relatively large cross-roads that's sign posted – left to '64 Corps.', continue straight on to '63 Corps' & right to ?. Another 4.3kms down here we took the first right (on the western edge of a small village that's set back also on the right). This second & smaller road leads through a large ornamental gateway after about 200 metres & through the small village of Liu Shi Si Tuan Shi Wu Lian ('15<sup>th</sup> part of 64 Corps.') and, after a couple of rather circuitous turns to Hong Qi Reservoir. We had to ask directions a couple of times here. However once through the ornamental gate take the first right (at a small crossroads). Turn left after another 700 metres & the concrete section of the road finished after another 100 metres down here. Continue on for another 1.3 kilometres until there's another ornamental gateway immediately before a small bridge over a minor river. Continue on for another 600 metres & park up at the base of the embankment. In all the reservoir is a drive of 7.2kms from the crossroads, about 27 kms from Shui Ding & 71 kms from Yili.

We arrived at 08:40hrs – the direct drive from Yining would probably take about 1.5 hours if you were with a driver that's familiar with the route. Hong Qi is a medium sized reservoir – roughly circular & perhaps 1.5 kms in diameter. The reservoir is right in the centre of the broad, flat Yili River flood plain & is surrounded by semi-desert (habitat that held Turkestan Tits &

Desert Finches as well as a few migrant passerines such as Rufous-backed Redstart [3], Black-throated Accentor [10] & Long-tailed Rosefinch). There's a sprawling area of reed bed, small open pools and marshes outside the embankment off the reservoir's southwest section. There's an embankment around three sides of it (all bar the eastern third where a river flows in) - its impossible to walk all the way around because of this river. We arrived at the western end of the reservoir – this is the only road that leads to it & walked south around the embankment from there. We birded this area from 08:40-14:15hrs (about 5.5hrs) before heading to site two. It was very noisy here in the early morning – there were some announcements & later music blaring out over the PA systems of a couple of villages that were between one & two kilometres away! Fortunately this racket ceased at 10:15hrs. The reservoir held surprisingly few ducks, but there were decent numbers of finches in the area & a few raptors. Birds here inc-

|                              |                                             |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Greylag Goose                | 4                                           |
| Mallard                      | 220                                         |
| Goldeneye                    | 3                                           |
| Gadwall                      | 30                                          |
| Common Teal                  | 2                                           |
| Ferruginous Pochard          | 4                                           |
| Common Pochard               | 12                                          |
| Common Merganser             | 7                                           |
| Black-headed Gull            | 60                                          |
| Yellow-legged Gull           | 60                                          |
| Hen Harrier                  | 2 ringtails flew west                       |
| Common Kestrel               | 3                                           |
| Common Buzzard               | 7                                           |
| Rough-legged Buzzard         | 1                                           |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk         | 2                                           |
| Great Egret                  | 8                                           |
| Great Cormorant              | 2                                           |
| Grey Heron                   | 6                                           |
| Water Rail                   | 4 were heard                                |
| woodpecker sp.               | 1 was heard                                 |
| Carrion Crow                 | 40                                          |
| Hooded Crow                  | 10                                          |
| Rook                         | 15                                          |
| Black-throated Thrush        | 70                                          |
| Mistle Thrush                | 2                                           |
| Eurasian Blackbird           | 20                                          |
| Northern Grey Shrike         | 3                                           |
| Rufous-backed Redstart       | 3                                           |
| Black-throated Accentor      | 10                                          |
| Bearded Parrotbill           | 17 – a single bird & a flock of 16          |
| Cetti's Warbler              | 4 were heard                                |
| White-crowned Penduline Tit  | 3 singles                                   |
| Azure Tit                    | 8                                           |
| Turkestan Tit                | 6                                           |
| Common Starling              | 25                                          |
| Chiffchaff                   | 6                                           |
| Water Pipit                  | 3                                           |
| Brambling                    | 250                                         |
| Chaffinch                    | 50                                          |
| European Goldfinch           | 30                                          |
| European Greenfinch          | 30                                          |
| Siskin                       | 2 singles flew over                         |
| Linnet                       | 45                                          |
| Twite                        | 2                                           |
| Long-tailed Rosefinch        | 1                                           |
| Saxaul Sparrow               | 4                                           |
| Desert Finch                 | 18 – a flock of three & another of 15 birds |
| Corn Bunting                 | 3 singles flew south                        |
| Yellowhammer                 | 2                                           |
| Yellowhammer or Pine Bunting | 15                                          |
| Reed Bunting                 | 25                                          |

Leaving Hong Qi Reservoir we drove off to try & find another reservoir we'd been told about. We retraced our route back to the crossroads 20 kms from Shui Ding. We turned right here to '63 Corps' – left would have taken us back to Shui Ding. Another 4.5 kms down here the road passes through an area of decent desert scrub – this looks good & is apparently a nature reserve. However its fenced on both sides of the road & access seems to be awkward though there's access through a gate on the left (west) side of the road about 5.6kms after the cross-roads.

**2<sup>nd</sup> site. Liu Shi San Tuan Er Ku ('63 Corps' Number Two Reservoir), Huocheng, Yili. (43°58.3'N., 80°34.0'E.) 578 metres**

From here it is 60.2kms @ 89° back to Yining.

7.85kms @ 61° back to Hong Qi Reservoir

I birded here from 15:00-17:50hrs.

### Directions

This small (500 metres wide & perhaps three times that in length), shallow reservoir is only about one kilometre to the Shui Ding side of '63 Corps.' Access is fairly straight forwards – turn right off 'Military Road' 763 that lead from Shui Ding to Liu Shi San Tuan (literally '63 Corps.') about 27kms west of the former & only about 0.8km before the latter. This unpaved rougher track leads, after about 500 metres, to the reservoir. There's a second reservoir very nearby that can be accessed by continuing another one kilometre along this unpaved, rougher track (but in October 2006 this second lake was small & held no birds). Birds on '63 Corps' Number Two Reservoir today inc. –

|                                       |                                                                |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Grey Heron                            | 8                                                              |
| Great Egret                           | 51                                                             |
| Great Cormorant                       | 5                                                              |
| Common Merganser                      | 192                                                            |
| Common Goldeneye                      | 3                                                              |
| Common Teal                           | 15                                                             |
| White-tailed Eagle                    | 2 immatures – both apparently second calendar years            |
| Rough-legged Buzzard                  | 1 juvenile                                                     |
| Common Crane                          | 20 flew east at 17:15hrs                                       |
| Common Kestrel                        | 1                                                              |
| Common Buzzard                        | 1                                                              |
| White-winged Woodpecker               | 1 male in the mature causeway trees between the two reservoirs |
| Carrion Crow                          | 20                                                             |
| Hooded Crow                           | 4                                                              |
| Apparent hybrid Carrion x Hooded Crow | 1                                                              |
| Bearded Parrotbill                    | 19                                                             |
| Stock Dove                            | 19 – a flock of eight & another of 11                          |
| Common Starling                       | 100                                                            |
| Azure Tit                             | 4                                                              |
| Turkestan Tit                         | 4                                                              |

### 3<sup>rd</sup> site. Liu Shi San Tuan San Ku ('63 Corps' Number Three Reservoir), Huocheng, Yili. (43°56.4'N., 80°34.5'E.) 567 metres

From here it is 9.36kms @ 40° back to Hong Qi Reservoir

Leaving 'Number Two Reservoir' we drove west to the road junction one kilometre further on & turned left at the start of '63 Corps.' (The road straight ahead & in to what I assumed must be the centre of '63 Corps.' was blocked by a barrier that prevented access for even medium sized vehicles). We turned left – onto a road (route S213) that leads, after about 20 kilometres, down to a bridge over the Yili River. We drove down here about 2.8kms before turning off left on to a rough dirt track. This effectively became impassable after about 1.5 kilometres & I walked on for about another 1.5 kms to the reservoir edge. 'Number Three Reservoir' is also quite small - a very shallow, linear lake that's about 400 metres wide at the most and perhaps just over one kilometre long. I spent about two hours here & we left at 20:00hrs. The pool is surrounded by a reed bed on one side & on its southern side by an attractive & bird rich complex of fields, hedgerows, reed beds & small marshes. Birds here inc. –

|                                       |                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Common Merganser                      | 80                                                                |
| Grey Heron                            | 3                                                                 |
| Great Egret                           | 58                                                                |
| Little Owl                            | 2 were heard                                                      |
| Hen Harrier                           | 1 ringtail                                                        |
| Common Kestrel                        | 2                                                                 |
| Northern Hobby                        | 1 juvenile flew west                                              |
| White-tailed Eagle                    | 1 near adult (probably a fourth or fifth calendar year) flew west |
| Common Myna                           | 2 flew west near dusk – presumably to roost near '63 Corps.'      |
| Common Starling                       | 350                                                               |
| Stock Dove                            | 23 – in flocks of 1, 2, 3, 3 & 14 birds                           |
| Hooded Crow                           | 7                                                                 |
| Carrion Crow                          | 15                                                                |
| Apparent hybrid Carrion x Hooded Crow | 2                                                                 |
| Rufous-backed Redstart                | 4                                                                 |
| Chiffchaff                            | 4                                                                 |
| Brambling                             | 6                                                                 |
| White-crowned Penduline Tit           | 1                                                                 |
| Rufous-backed Redstart                | 4                                                                 |
| Desert Finch                          | 1 was heard                                                       |
| Crested Lark                          | 2                                                                 |
| Water Pipit                           | 1                                                                 |

Leaving here at 20:00hrs we arrived in Huocheng (two kilometres from & virtually contiguous with Shui Ding) at 20:40hrs. The only hotel that foreigners are apparently allowed to stay in is the undistinguished, two star Sailimuhu Hotel (tel.: 0991

7915252 or 8285138). Note that the dining room would not serve us food when we appeared at 21:00hrs & we had to head off to a local noodle bar! There was no cold running water in the rooms & the hot water was scolding – way too hot to even wash your hands!

Sun rise near Huocheng, Yili on 28/10/2006 09:07  
Sun set 19:36

### Weather

10°C outside the Twin Star (General) Hotel, Yili at 07:05hrs & a comfortable 19°C at 'Number Two Reservoir' mid-afternoon.

|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Common Pheasant                       | 5 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Three of these were at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & the other two were at No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)                                                                                           |
| Greylag Goose                         | 4 on Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Gadwall                               | 30 on Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Eurasian Wigeon                       | 5 on Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Mallard                               | 250 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Nearly all (220) of these on were on Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.'. (565-580 metres)                                                                                                                             |
| Northern Pintail                      | 2 on Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Common Teal                           | 17 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Two on Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & the other 15 were at No. 2 Reservoir, 63 Corps. (580 metres)                                                                                                               |
| Red-crested Pochard                   | 9 on Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Common Pochard                        | 12 on Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Ferruginous Pochard                   | 4 on Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Tufted Duck                           | 2 on Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Common Goldeneye                      | 3 on Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Common Merganser                      | 280 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Seven of these were at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', 192 at No. 2 Reservoir, 63 Corps & 80 at No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)                                                                       |
| White-winged Woodpecker               | 1 male at No. 2 Reservoir, 63 Corps, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Common Kingfisher                     | 1 at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Little Owl                            | 2 were heard at dusk near No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps., Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Rock Pigeon                           | 30 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006.                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Stock Pigeon                          | 42 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. 19 (a flock of eight & another of 11) of these were at No. 2 Reservoir, 63 Corps & 23 (a single a groups of 2, 3, 3 & 14 birds) were at No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)                                |
| Eurasian Collared Dove                | 20 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Common Crane                          | 20 flew east high over No. 2 Reservoir, 63 Corps, Huocheng, Yili at 17:15hrs on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Water Rail                            | 4 were heard near Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Eurasian Coot                         | 2 at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Northern Lapwing                      | 1 Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Yellow-legged Gull                    | 60 Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Black-headed Gull                     | 60 Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| White-tailed Eagle                    | 3 in the '64 Corps.' area, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Two probable second calendar year birds were at No. 2 Reservoir & the other bird, an more mature individual – probably a fourth or fifth calendar year bird, flew west over No. 3 Reservoir near dusk. (565-580 metres) |
| Hen Harrier                           | 3 ringtails in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Two of these flew west at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & the other was at No. 2 Reservoir, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)                                                                                   |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk                  | 2 over Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Common Buzzard                        | 10 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Seven of these were at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' while in 63 Corps. there were two at No. 3 Reservoir & one at No. 2 Reservoir. (565-580 metres)                                                              |
| Rough-legged Buzzard                  | 2 singles the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. The first was at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & the other, a juvenile, was at No. 2 Reservoir, 63 Corps. (580 metres)                                                                                        |
| Common Kestrel                        | 4 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Eurasian Hobby                        | 1 juvenile flew west at No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps. Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Great Crested Grebe                   | 1 on Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Great Cormorant                       | 12 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Grey Heron                            | 17 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Six of these were at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', 8 at No. 2 Reservoir & 3 at No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)                                                                                       |
| Great Egret                           | 117 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Eight of these were at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', 51 at No. 2 Reservoir & 58 at No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)                                                                                  |
| Northern Grey Shrike                  | 4 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Three at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & one at No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)                                                                                                                        |
| Rook                                  | 15 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Carrion Crow                          | 75 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Hooded Crow                           | 21 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Apparent hybrid Carrion x Hooded Crow | 3 in the 63 Corps. area, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Eurasian Blackbird                    | 40 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Mistle Thrush                         | 2 near Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Black-throated Thrush                 | 150 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Rufous-backed Redstart                | 7 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Three of these were at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & the other four were at No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)                                                                                          |



|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Common Starling              | 350 in a pre-roost gathering at No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps., Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006 was the largest count of the day. Its thought possible that the 25 birds at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & the 100 at No. 2 Reservoir were all part of this pre-roost gathering. (565-580 metres) |
| Common Myna                  | 2 flew west, presumably to roost, over No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps. Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Winter Wren                  | 6 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| White-crowned Penduline Tit  | 4 singles were noted (only one bird was actually seen) in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Three of these were at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & the other was at No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)                                                       |
| Turkestan Tit                | 10 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Six of these were at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & two at both No. 2 & No. 3 Reservoirs, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)                                                                                                         |
| Azure Tit                    | 10 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Four of these were at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', four more at No. 2 Reservoir, 63 Corps. & two at No. 3 Reservoirs, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)                                                                            |
| Long-tailed Tit              | 1 was heard at No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps. Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Goldcrest                    | 1 was heard near Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Cetti's Bush Warbler         | 5 were heard in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Four of these were at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & the other was at No. 3 Reservoirs, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)                                                                                                 |
| Common Chiffchaff            | 10 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Six of these were at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & two more at both No. 2 & No. 3 Reservoirs, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)                                                                                                    |
| Bearded Parrotbill           | 37 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. 17 (a single & a flock of 16) at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', a flock of 19 at No. 2 Reservoir, 63 Corps. & one was heard at No. 3 Reservoirs, also 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)                                              |
| Crested Lark                 | 2 at No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps. Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Horned Lark                  | 2 at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Saxaul Sparrow               | 4 near Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow        | 100 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Water Pipit                  | 5 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Black-throated Accentor      | 15 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Ten of these were at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & five at No. 3 Reservoirs, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)                                                                                                                     |
| Chaffinch                    | 60 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Most of these were near Hong Qi Reservoir, 64 Corps. (565-580 metres)                                                                                                                                                          |
| Brambling                    | 200 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Most of these were near Hong Qi Reservoir, 64 Corps. (565-580 metres)                                                                                                                                                         |
| Eurasian Greenfinch          | 40 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Most of these were near Hong Qi Reservoir, 64 Corps. (565-580 metres)                                                                                                                                                          |
| Eurasian Siskin              | 2 singles flew over Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| European Goldfinch           | 30 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Most of these were near Hong Qi Reservoir, 64 Corps. (565-580 metres)                                                                                                                                                          |
| Twite                        | 2 singles flew over Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Eurasian Linnet              | 40 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Most of these were near Hong Qi Reservoir, 64 Corps. (565-580 metres)                                                                                                                                                          |
| Desert Finch                 | 19 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006 – 18 of these (a flock of three & the other of 15) at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & 1 was heard at No. 3 Reservoirs, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)                                                                              |
| Long-tailed Rosefinch        | 1 near Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Yellowhammer                 | 2 singles were seen at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Pine Bunting or Yellowhammer | 40 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Reed Bunting                 | 40 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. 25 at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', 7 at No. 2 Reservoir, 63 Corps. & a similar number at No. 3 Reservoirs, also 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)                                                                                  |
| Corn Bunting                 | 3 singles flew south over Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                         |

## **Saturday 28 October 2006. Am Chabucha'er, southwest of Huocheng. Afternoon back to Yining, Yili.**

We left the Sailimuhu Hotel, Huocheng at 07:30hrs & headed back west. We drove back through Shui Ding & on to the same 'Military Road' 763 that leads from there to Liu Shi San Tuan (literally '63 Corps.') that we had explored the day before. We drove to the T-junction at the eastern side of Liu Shi San Tuan &, as we did yesterday, turned left. This road (route S213) took us, after almost 20 kms, right down to the Yili River. There's a large vehicle check station & barrier immediately before the river &, since it was foggy, we stopped to ask directions. One of the staff told us there were geese in an area on the northern side of the river & only about six kilometres further west. We headed off but failed to find the site let alone any birds. About 1.5hrs later we returned to the check post & the bridge over the Yili River. The river here marks the boundary between Huocheng & Chabucha'er districts. We spent the rest of the day exploring a few sites in Chabucha'er before heading back to Yining. We arrived back at the Twin Star (General) Hotel, Yining at 17:15hrs.

### **1st site. Yili He Da Qiao – between Liu Shi San Tuan & Chabucha'er, Yili. (43°50.4'N., 80°40.0'E.) 540 metres**

From here it is 53.4kms @ 73° back to Yining.

There's some scrub besides the river on the Chabucha'er & I birded this as well as saw some birds moving upriver.

|                                       |                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bean Goose                            | 46 flew east                                                          |
| Carrion Crow                          | 43 flew east between 09:30-10:15hrs & were presumably leaving a roost |
| Hooded Crow                           | 28 flew east between 09:30-10:15hrs & were presumably leaving a roost |
| Apparent hybrid Carrion x Hooded Crow | 2 flew east between 09:30-10:15hrs & were presumably leaving a roost  |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk                  | 1                                                                     |

|                              |                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Common Buzzard               | 2                                                                                                                     |
| Hen Harrier                  | 1 ringtail                                                                                                            |
| Little Owl                   | 1                                                                                                                     |
| Black-throated Thrush        | 10                                                                                                                    |
| Rufous-backed Redstart       | 3                                                                                                                     |
| Black-throated Accentor      | 10                                                                                                                    |
| Linnet                       | 170 – feeding on sun flower heads that had been cut and spread out on the road to dry                                 |
| Collared Dove                | 12                                                                                                                    |
| Stock Dove                   | 4                                                                                                                     |
| Common Starling              | 150                                                                                                                   |
| Yellowhammer                 | 10                                                                                                                    |
| Yellowhammer or Pine Bunting | 70 – most of which flew east                                                                                          |
| Kestrel                      | 2                                                                                                                     |
| Bearded Parrotbill           | 1 was heard                                                                                                           |
| Eurasian Skylark             | 1 flew west                                                                                                           |
| Crested Lark                 | 7                                                                                                                     |
| Horned Lark                  | 1 was heard                                                                                                           |
| Water Pipit                  | 2                                                                                                                     |
| Azure Tit                    | 2                                                                                                                     |
| Turkestan Tit                | 2                                                                                                                     |
| Goldcrest                    | 1                                                                                                                     |
| Common Myna                  | 3 on roadside wires & a tight flock of 43 birds flew high to the east (& were presumably in the process of migrating) |
| Common Crane                 | About 300 birds were seen in flight way off to the east. They landed & we explored further...                         |

**2<sup>nd</sup> site. San Xiang Xiao Cun Zhuang, ChabuCha'er, Yili. (43°51.0'N., 80°44.4'E.) 540 metres**

There were about 330 Common Cranes in the fields here & a few other birds, including a male White-winged Woodpecker, in the protected woodland nearby.

|                         |                                                  |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Great Cormorant         | 1 flew east                                      |
| Bean Goose              | 12 birds (two singles & a flock of 10) flew east |
| Chaffinch               | 30                                               |
| Carrion Crow            | 2                                                |
| Hooded Crow             | 1                                                |
| Mistle Thrush           | 5                                                |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk    | 2                                                |
| Asian Short-toed Lark   | 1                                                |
| Common Reed Bunting     | 6                                                |
| Black-billed Magpie     | 6                                                |
| Goldfinch               | 6                                                |
| White-winged Woodpecker | 1 male                                           |
| Northern Grey Shrike    | 1                                                |
| Common Starling         | 320                                              |
| Common Myna             | 1                                                |
| Rufous-backed Redstart  | 6                                                |
| Little Owl              | 1                                                |
| Common Crane            | 330                                              |
| Hen Harrier             | 1 male                                           |
| Rough-legged Buzzard    | 1                                                |
| Long-legged Buzzard     | 1                                                |

**3<sup>rd</sup> site. No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.', ChabuCha'er, Yili. (43°46.5'N., 80°39.8'E.) 608 metres**

I spent about 30 minutes here. There was rather little of note – a male Hen Harrier & very few ducks.

|                                       |        |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Mallard                               | 46     |
| Common Pochard                        | 4      |
| Tufted Duck                           | 4      |
| Eurasian Wigeon                       | 1      |
| Great Egret                           | 5      |
| Little Owl                            | 1      |
| Hen Harrier                           | 1 male |
| Long-legged Buzzard                   | 2      |
| Northern Grey Shrike                  | 1      |
| Hooded Crow                           | 3      |
| Carrion Crow                          | 3      |
| Apparent hybrid Hooded x Carrion Crow | 1      |

**4<sup>th</sup> site. Yili He Da Qiao on the southern edge of Yining town & close to Hebian Gongyuan ('Yining Riverside Park'**

(43°53.2'N'. 81°17.7'E). 590 metres.

I spent only about 15 minutes here scanning upriver.

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Mallard            | 145 |
| Great Egret        | 5   |
| Yellow-legged Gull | 10  |

|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Common Pheasant                       | 3 were heard at various sites in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Bean Goose                            | 58 at two sites in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. 46 flew east over the Yili He Da Qiao & 12 (two singles & a flock of 10) also flew east over San Xiang Cun Zhuang. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                               |
| Eurasian Wigeon                       | 1 on No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.', Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (608 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Mallard                               | 190 at two sites in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. 46 on No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.' & 145 in the Yili He on the edge of Yining. (590 & 605 metres)                                                                                                                                                                |
| Northern Pintail                      | 1 on No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.', Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (608 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Common Teal                           | 2 on No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.', Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (608 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Common Pochard                        | 4 on No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.', Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (608 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Tufted Duck                           | 4 on No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.', Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (608 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| White-winged Woodpecker               | 1 male at San Xiang Cun Zhuang, Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Little Owl                            | 3 singles in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006 – one besides the Yili He Da Qiao, another at San Xiang Cun Zhuang & the third near the No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.'. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                   |
| nightjar sp.                          | 1 was seen outside the Sailimuhu Hotel, Huocheng, Yili at 07:20hrs (1hr 50 minutes before sun rise) on the 28/10/2006. It was 9° centigrade at the time! (ca.600 metres)                                                                                                                                                  |
| Rock Pigeon                           | 50 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Stock Pigeon                          | 4 flew east over the Yili He Da Qiao, Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Eurasian Collared Dove                | 35 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Common Crane                          | 330 at San Xiang Cun Zhuang, Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Yellow-legged Gull                    | 10 besides the Yili He on the edge of Yining on the 28/10/2006. (590 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Hen Harrier                           | 3 singles in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006 – one ringtail besides the Yili He Da Qiao, a male at San Xiang Cun Zhuang & another male near the No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.'. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                        |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk                  | 3 singles in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Common Buzzard                        | 3 singles in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Long-legged Buzzard                   | 3 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. One over San Xiang Cun Zhuang & the other two near the No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.'. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Rough-legged Buzzard                  | 1 at San Xiang Cun Zhuang, Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Common Kestrel                        | 5 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Great Cormorant                       | 6 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Great Egret                           | 17 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Northern Grey Shrike                  | 2 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006 – singles at San Xiang Cun Zhuang & near the No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.'. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Black-billed Magpie                   | 6 at San Xiang Cun Zhuang, Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Carrion Crow                          | 48 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Hooded Crow                           | 32 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Apparent hybrid Carrion x Hooded Crow | 3 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Eurasian Blackbird                    | 20 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Mistle Thrush                         | 5 flew west over the Yili He Da Qiao, Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Black-throated Thrush                 | 100 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Rufous-backed Redstart                | 11 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. Of these three were besides the Yili He Da Qiao, six at San Xiang Cun Zhuang & two in scrub near the No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.'. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                            |
| Common Starling                       | 500 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. The higher counts included 150 were besides the Yili He Da Qiao & 320 at San Xiang Cun Zhuang. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                               |
| Common Myna                           | 49 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. Of these three were on wires besides the Yili He Da Qiao while a tight flock of 43 birds flew high to the east (& were presumably in the process of migrating). Elsewhere there was one at San Xiang Cun Zhuang & two more on the edge of Chabucha'er itself. (540-600 metres) |
| Winter Wren                           | 3 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| White-crowned Penduline Tit           | 1 was heard at San Xiang Cun Zhuang, Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Turkestan Tit                         | 10 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. Most of these were at San Xiang Cun Zhuang. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Azure Tit                             | 4 at San Xiang Cun Zhuang, Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Goldcrest                             | 1 the Yili He Da Qiao, Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Common Chiffchaff                     | 5 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Bearded Parrotbill                    | 2 birds were heard at two sites in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. The first was near the Yili He Da Qiao & the second near the No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.'. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                       |
| Asian Short-toed Lark                 | 1 flew east over the Yili He Da Qiao, Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Crested Lark                          | 9 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Eurasian Skylark                      | 1 flew east over the Yili He Da Qiao, Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Horned Lark                           | 2 singles were heard in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. The first flew over the Yili He Da Qiao & the second was at San Xiang Cun Zhuang. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                           |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow                 | 300 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Water Pipit                           | 4 widespread singles in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Black-throated Accentor               | 12 widespread birds in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Chaffinch                             | 50 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Brambling                             | 10 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Eurasian Greenfinch                   | 6 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| European Goldfinch                    | 10 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Twite                                 | 1 was heard near the Yili He Da Qiao, Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Eurasian Linnet                       | 230 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. A flock containing about 170 birds was feeding on sun flower heads that had been cut and spread out on the road to dry near the Yili He Da Qiao. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                             |
| Desert Finch                          | 1 was heard near the No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.', Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Yellowhammer                          | 10 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Pine Bunting or Yellowhammer          | 70 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Reed Bunting                          | 15 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

## Mammals

Cape Hare

1

### Sunday 29 October 2006. Yining to Sailimuhu & on to Bole.

We left the Twin Star (General) Hotel at 07:00hrs & drove non-stop up route G312 to Sailimuhu in the Tianshan Mountains.

|                                                                    |             |          |                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------|------------------------------|
| Qing Shui zhen                                                     |             | 07:56hrs | 62.9kms from Yining          |
| Guo Zi Gou Check Station                                           | 1060 metres | 08:15hrs | 86.5kms from Yining          |
| The road starts to climb up in to the Tianshan Mountains from here |             |          |                              |
| San Tai                                                            | 2020 metres |          | 116.8kms from Yining         |
| Rest area/truck stop with several basic, local guest houses        |             |          |                              |
| Guanting Tai (scenic viewpoint)                                    | 2085 metres |          |                              |
| Summit of Songshu Tou ('Conifer Head Pass)                         | 2110 metres | 08:50hrs |                              |
| Arrived Sailimuhu, Bole                                            | 2073 metres | 09:00hrs | Km post 4739 (from Beijing!) |

#### Sailimuhu (Sailimu Lake), Bole. (44°29.6'N', 81°09.8'E). 2073 metres.

From here its 62.6kms @ 164° back to Yining.  
386kms @ 87° to Shihezi

Also known as Sayram Lake or Milky Lake Sailimuhu is a massive high altitude lake that straddles the Tianshan Mountains. Covering 450 square kilometres its apparently the largest alpine lake in Xinjiang. Surrounded by dramatic snow capped (at least in late October) peaks Sailimuhu is a popular summer tourist destination. We saw remarkably few people today – a few fishermen in boats out on the lake & probably less than a dozen other vehicles all day on the looping lake drive. The lake itself held decent numbers of birds with Tufted Duck (389), Common Goldeneye (251) & Black-necked Grebe (443) all being particularly well represented. There were also two species of swan with 3 adult Mute & 42 Whoopers. I also noted a number of provincial rarities – a first-winter female Long-tailed Ducks was apparently the first record for Xinjiang while a female Greater Scaup was only the second record (following the bird I saw 10 days previously at Mo Gu Hu near Shihezi). A party of three Black-throated Loons was apparently only the third record for Xinjiang & while although Little Gull had bred in Xinjiang, there remain very few reports of it from anywhere in the province. There were incredibly few passerines here however – no fly over larks, buntings or pipits & I'd imagine that the lake's an incredibly desolate place in winter. Although it was just below freezing when we arrived (a chilly minus 2°C at 09:00hrs before the sun came up) the lake was completely devoid of any signs of ice.

We birded here from 09:00-17:00hrs. There's a small road that circumnavigates the entire lake – its about 58kms long & we took that. We made numerous stops, some simply to scan the lake, others to walk down to the shoreline. In the event we drove almost right around the lake. The southern, & especially the south-western, side of the lake was by far the best for birds – though an 800 metre long, linear pool on the lake's extreme eastern also held quite a few ducks (including the only Smew [1] & Red-crested Pochards [7] that we saw all day).

It took us another 1hrs 20 minutes to drive from Sailimuhu to the 3-star **Aibihu Hotel** in Bole (44°53.3'N., 82°03.8'E – 506 metres) where we arrived at 18:20hrs. Bole is right on the southern edge of the Junggar Basin – and once we'd left Sailimuhu the environment became noticeably more arid and inhospitable!

From here its 121kms @ 205° back to Yining.  
319kms @ 96° to Shihezi  
455kms @ 99° to Urumqi

Bole (also known as Bortala) is the seat of the Bole Mongol Autonomous Prefecture & covers an area of 7517 km<sup>2</sup>. It borders Kazakhstan to the north & had a population of almost 213,000 in 1999. There's a railway station 45 minutes to the east of town from where laboriously slow 'hard seat only trains' head back to Urumqi.

#### Weather

At Sailimuhu it was a chilly minus 2°C at 09:00hrs before the sun came up but a comfortable 14°C there at 13:30hrs.

Driver Mr Wang Hai taxi driver from Yining - mobile phone no.: 13179859889. Good driver, punctual, safe & sensibly priced.

|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mute Swan                             | 3 adults on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)                                                                                                                                 |
| Whooper Swan                          | 42 (32 adults & 10 first-years) on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)                                                                                                          |
| Bean Goose                            | 8 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)                                                                                                                                        |
| Ruddy Shelduck                        | 15 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)                                                                                                                                       |
| Eurasian Wigeon                       | 38 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)                                                                                                                                       |
| Mallard                               | 47 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)                                                                                                                                       |
| Northern Pintail                      | 11 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)                                                                                                                                       |
| Red-crested Pochard                   | 7 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)                                                                                                                                        |
| Common Pochard                        | 85 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)                                                                                                                                       |
| Tufted Duck                           | 389 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)                                                                                                                                      |
| Greater Scaup                         | 1 female on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. Apparently only the second record for Xinjiang. (Poor & probably not confidently identifiable photos – but decent field notes). (2073 metres) |
| Long-tailed Duck                      | 1 first-winter female on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. Apparently the first record for Xinjiang. (Photos & field notes) (2073 metres)                                                   |
| Common Goldeneye                      | 251 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)                                                                                                                                      |
| Smew                                  | 1 redhead on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)                                                                                                                                |
| Red-breasted Merganser                | 1 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)                                                                                                                                        |
| Common Merganser                      | 109 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)                                                                                                                                      |
| Yellow-legged Gull                    | 14 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)                                                                                                                                       |
| Pallas's Gull                         | 61 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)                                                                                                                                       |
| Little Gull                           | 1 juvenile was seen very well at Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (Photos). (2073 metres)                                                                                                  |
| buzzard sp.                           | 1 bird, possibly a dark morph Long-legged Buzzard, was seen poorly at Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2100 metres)                                                                       |
| Merlin                                | 1 male at Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)                                                                                                                                   |
| Peregrine Falcon                      | 1 bird, possibly this species, was seen distantly in flight over Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)                                                                            |
| Horned Grebe                          | 2 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. They were well separate from all the Black-necked Grebe flocks. (2073 metres)                                                                        |
| Black-necked Grebe                    | 443 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)                                                                                                                                      |
| Black-throated Loon                   | 3 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)                                                                                                                                        |
| Spotted Nutcracker                    | 2 were heard near Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2150 metres)                                                                                                                           |
| Red-billed Chough                     | 12 near Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2100 metres)                                                                                                                                     |
| Eurasian Jackdaw                      | 1 near Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2100 metres)                                                                                                                                      |
| Rook                                  | 2 near Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2100 metres)                                                                                                                                      |
| Carrion Crow                          | 18 near Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2100 metres)                                                                                                                                     |
| Apparent hybrid Carrion x Hooded Crow | 1 near Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2100 metres)                                                                                                                                      |
| Black-throated Thrush                 | 1 was heard near Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2250 metres)                                                                                                                            |
| Chaffinch                             | 2 near Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2120 metres)                                                                                                                                      |

## **Monday 30 October 2006. All day in the Bole & Jinghe areas.**

We left the Aibihu Hotel, Bole at 07:35hrs & drove east. We birded two sites in the desert east of Bole today –

### **Site 1. Shelter belt in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve, Jinghe. (44°53.1'N'. 82°32.3'E). 255 metres.**

We spent 4hrs 15 minutes (09:15-13:30hrs) at this site east of Bole. From here its 37.7kms @ 266° back to the Aibihu Hotel. Taxi drivers will NOT know this minor site.

This site is accessed by driving almost due east on provincial road S205 out of Bole towards the border with Kazakhstan at Alashan Kouan. 55kms (a 40 minute drive) from the Bole town centre is Bole railway station but we turned off to the right (south) adjacent to the check post at Km post 39.2 (numbered from the border with Kazakhstan so these numbers increase towards Bole) well before this. We drove 1.9kms down this dirt, side road passing through a minor road barrier to an area of trees & bushes (a wind break/shelter belt) in the middle of the desert. I was hoping that these would attract migrants - & wasn't disappointed. We parked up next to the shelter belt & could have walked either side of the road but, for no particular reason, we chose the right (west) side. We walked about 2.5kms southwest down the 20-40 metre wide windbreak that's bordered on the northern side by desert and on the southern side by fairly arid cotton fields and (mostly abandoned) vineyards. We walked back to the taxi the same way.

According to a couple of sign posts we saw the area is apparently designated as the '93<sup>rd</sup> Corps Desert NR' & is contiguous with the '90 Corps. NR'. These two nature reserves are apparently an attempt to prevent the desert encroaching on Bole. There was a noticeable passage of passerines heading east along the belt of trees & there were decent numbers of birds actually in the shelter belt itself. Black-throated Accentor was one of the commonest species - I counted 40 birds many of which appeared to be arriving throughout the morning – numerous birds were heard calling overhead & then seen dropping in to the belt of trees. Desert Finch (14) was also quite well represented. Other birds inc.-

|                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Common Pheasant         | 2      |
| Black-throated Thrush   | 70     |
| Fieldfare               | 1 male |
| Black-throated Accentor | 40     |
| Hen Harrier             | 1 male |
| Common Kestrel          | 2      |

|                              |                                                    |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk         | 2                                                  |
| Starling                     | 15                                                 |
| Reed Bunting                 | 21 – most of which flew east over the shelter belt |
| Corn Bunting                 | 2 singles                                          |
| Godlewski's Bunting          | 4                                                  |
| Yellowhammer or Pine Bunting | 2                                                  |
| European Greenfinch          | 6                                                  |
| European Goldfinch           | 8                                                  |
| Linnet                       | 80                                                 |
| Common Chiffchaff            | 3                                                  |
| Chaffinch                    | 60                                                 |
| Brambling                    | 5                                                  |
| Turkestan Tit                | 2                                                  |
| Azure Tit                    | 12 including a flock of eight                      |
| Desert Finch                 | 14 – a single & a flock of 13                      |
| Water Pipit                  | 3 singles                                          |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow        | 60                                                 |
| House Sparrow                | 2                                                  |
| Northern Grey Shrike         | 1                                                  |
| White-winged Woodpecker      | 1                                                  |

**Site 2. Aibihu Wetland Nature Reserve (Aibi Lake) near Bole Railway Station, Jinghe. (44°52.9'N'. 82°40.3'E). 190 metres.**

From here its 48.2kms @ 268° back to the Aibihu Hotel in central Bole  
 149kms @ 222° to Yining, Yili  
 177kms @ 103° to Kuytun  
 272kms @ 98° to Shihezi  
 408kms @ 101° to Urumqi

Leaving the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve Shelter Belt we returned to the main Bole to Alashan Kouan/Bole Railway Station road (S205) & turned right, continuing to drive east. We turned off on to minor road Z562 that leads to Bole Railway Station at Km post 31.4 (this junction is 49.1kms from the Aibihu Hotel). The station itself is only one kilometre down here but we turned off right on to an even rougher, unpaved road after about 600 metres and before we reached the station. This track led around the front of & then down the southern side of a cotton storage depot before turning right immediately besides the railway line. We continued on here – 3.3kms after leaving route S205 there's a small building on the right, another 1.2kms further there's a small road tunnel under the railway line. We ignored both of these & continued straight on. After another one kilometre there's an obvious seven metre long bridge made of wooden railway sleepers that carries the road over a small stream. 2.3 kms after this (& hence 7.3 after leaving route S205) there's a second & much larger road tunnel under the railway line. We took this & parked up besides the two derelict building on the other side of the railway line. There's a sign here noting that this area is the Aibi Hu Wetland NR & that it was established on the 16 June 2000.

We then walked down to view the very attractive marshy area at the extreme eastern end of Aibihu. It was thronged with wildfowl & held a few raptors, but virtually no passerines. The waterfowl were quite difficult to see well - partly because they were mostly well out in the inaccessible marsh & obscured by long grass or were simply too far away & difficult to see because of the heat distortion. The best time to see them was in the early evening – from about 17:30-19:00hrs when the sun was behind & the temperature dropping. Wellingtons or rubber boots were very useful here & using these I was able to walk quite far out on to the marsh without flushing the birds – most had already been repeatedly flushed by either the four White-tailed Eagles or the Goshawk. There are records (at least one of each) of both Relict Gull and Greater Flamingo from Aibihu. We spent about five hours here (14:00-19:00hrs). Birds here inc.

|                             |                                        |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Great Egret                 | 7                                      |
| Asian Short-toed Lark       | 3 singles                              |
| Horned Lark                 | 1 flew over                            |
| Ruddy Shelduck              | 1120                                   |
| Greater White-fronted Goose | 2 adults                               |
| Bean Goose                  | 132 inc. 5 Taiga Bean Geese            |
| Greylag Goose               | 320                                    |
| Northern Lapwing            | 10                                     |
| Common Redshank             | 1                                      |
| Common Snipe                | 1                                      |
| Gadwall                     | 1100                                   |
| Mallard                     | 2500                                   |
| Common Teal                 | 350                                    |
| Eurasian Wigeon             | 550                                    |
| Northern Shoveler           | 60                                     |
| Northern Pintail            | 800                                    |
| White-tailed Eagle          | 4 – 3 adults & one presumed third year |
| Hen Harrier                 | 2 ringtails                            |
| Eurasian Marsh Harrier      | 1 juvenile                             |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk        | 1                                      |
| Northern Goshawk            | 1 adult female                         |

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Meadow Pipit            | 1           |
| Water Pipit             | 1           |
| Black-throated Accentor | 3           |
| Chaffinch               | 4 flew over |
| Chiffchaff              | 1           |
| Reed Bunting            | 4           |

## Weather

6°C outside the Aibihu Hotel in Bole at 07:30hrs & 14°C besides Aibihu itself at 14:00hrs.

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Common Pheasant              | 2 in the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Bean Goose                   | 132 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. Although most birds were again Tundra Bean Geese at least five were Taiga Bean Goose – a taxa not previously reported from Xinjiang. (190 metres)                                                                                                        |
| Greater White-fronted Goose  | 2 adults at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Greylag Goose                | 320 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Ruddy Shelduck               | 1120 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Gadwall                      | 1100 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Eurasian Wigeon              | 550 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Mallard                      | 2500 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Northern Shoveler            | 60 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Northern Pintail             | 800 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Common Teal                  | 350 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| White-winged Woodpecker      | 1 in the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Common Snipe                 | 1 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Common Redshank              | 1 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Northern Lapwing             | 10 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Yellow-legged Gull           | 11 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. All were seen distantly but all 11 appeared to be adults. (190 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| White-tailed Eagle           | 4 (three adults & a presumed third calendar year) were causing havoc among the waterfowl at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                                                                        |
| Eurasian Marsh Harrier       | 1 juvenile at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Hen Harrier                  | 3 in Jinghe xian on the 30/10/2006 – an adult male near the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt & two ringtails at the Aibihu Wetland NR. (190 & 255 metres)                                                                                                                              |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk         | 3 in Jinghe xian on the 30/10/2006 – one male near the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt & two at the Aibihu Wetland NR. (190 & 255 metres)                                                                                                                                             |
| Northern Goshawk             | 1 adult female was seen repeatedly harassing the waterfowl at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. It eventually caught & killed a Ruddy Shelduck! (190 metres)                                                                                                                                      |
| Common Kestrel               | 3 in Jinghe xian on the 30/10/2006 – two near the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt & the other close to Bole Railway Station. (190 & 255 metres)                                                                                                                                       |
| Merlin                       | 1 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Great Egret                  | 7 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Northern Grey Shrike         | 1 near the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Eurasian Blackbird           | 4 in the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Black-throated Thrush        | 70 in the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Fieldfare                    | 1 male with the Black-throated Thrushes in the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)                                                                                                                                                                |
| Rufous-backed Redstart       | 2 in the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Common Starling              | 15 flew west over the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Turkestan Tit                | 2 singles in the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Azure Tit                    | 12 including a flock of eight in the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Common Chiffchaff            | 4 in Jinghe xian on the 30/10/2006 – three in the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt & one at the Aibihu Wetland NR. (190 & 255 metres)                                                                                                                                                  |
| Asian Short-toed Lark        | 3 singles at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Horned Lark                  | 1 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| House Sparrow                | 2 with the Eurasian Tree Sparrow flock in the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow        | 60 in the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Meadow Pipit                 | 1 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Water Pipit                  | 4 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Black-throated Accentor      | 43 in Jinghe xian on the 30/10/2006 – 40 in the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt & three in scrub at the Aibihu Wetland NR. Numerous birds, including one flock of nine, were heard calling overhead & then dropping in to the shelter belt throughout the morning. (190 & 255 metres) |
| Chaffinch                    | 60 in Jinghe xian on the 30/10/2006 – nearly all of these were in the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt. (190-255 metres)                                                                                                                                                               |
| Brambling                    | 5 in the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Eurasian Greenfinch          | 6 in the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| European Goldfinch           | 8 in the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Eurasian Linnet              | 80 in & around the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Desert Finch                 | 23 in Jinghe xian on the 30/10/2006 – 14 (a single & a flock of 13) in the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, a flock of eight besides Bole Railway Station & one at the Aibihu Wetland NR. (190 & 255 metres)                                                                          |
| Long-tailed Rosefinch        | 2 in the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Pine Bunting or Yellowhammer | 3 flew east over the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                          |

|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Godlewski's Bunting | 4 (two singles that were seen perched & two birds that flew high to the east) in the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)                             |
| Reed Bunting        | 26 in Jinghe xian on the 30/10/2006 – 21 in the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt (most of which flew east over the woodland) & five in & around the Aibihu Wetland NR. (190 & 255 metres) |
| Corn Bunting        | 2 singles flew east over the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)                                                                                     |

## **Tuesday 31 October 2006. All day close to Bole.**

We left the Aibihu Hotel, Bole at 08:00hrs & spent the entire day birding at two sites in the desert just west of Bole.

### **Site 1. Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds besides the Boertala River west of Bole. (44°54.1'N., 81°58.1'E.) 540 metres**

A complex of fishponds (some drained, some not) & scrub on the northern bank of the shallow, east flowing Boertala River almost due west of Bole.

From here its only 7.63kms @ 97° back to the Aibihu Hotel in Bole.

Directions –

We left the Aibihu Hotel and turned immediately left (south) heading down Beijing Lu back towards the main expressway. We turned right (west) on to another hard surfaced, decent road after 3.6kms & drove on here to Km post 10 (having then driven 14kms from the hotel). At Km post 10 we turned off right (north) on to a rough dirt track which we followed for another 800 metres to a point where it started to bend to the right past a couple of small fishponds on the right. 100 metres further on we came to some large, locked gates to this fishpond complex. Our taxi driver's brother (a regular visitor to these fishponds) woke the occupants of the guard house & we were allowed inside. In all we'd driven 15.5kms from the hotel. The gates to the complex of fishponds are only about 600 metres south of a bridge over the Boertala River (also known as the Taliya He) on the other side of which is an extensive woodland belt – the 'Bole Nationally Important Woodland' – another attempt at re-forestation to prevent desertification.

Arriving at 08:30hrs we birded the fishponds area until 12:15hrs & then explored the area along the road immediately outside the entrance gate for another hour. There was a marked passage of birds flying west up the Boertala River Valley. Birds here inc.-

|                                       |                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Whooper Swan                          | 2 adults flew east                                                                            |
| Mallard                               | 10                                                                                            |
| Eurasian Wigeon                       | 12                                                                                            |
| Common Teal                           | 4                                                                                             |
| Northern Pintail                      | 3                                                                                             |
| Common Merganser                      | 13                                                                                            |
| Red-crested Pochard                   | 8                                                                                             |
| Tufted Duck                           | 4                                                                                             |
| Common Pochard                        | 2                                                                                             |
| Yellow-legged Gull                    | 15 – all of which flew west up the Boertala River                                             |
| Carrion Crow                          | 8                                                                                             |
| Hooded Crow                           | 5                                                                                             |
| Apparent hybrid Carrion x Hooded Crow | 1                                                                                             |
| corvid sp.                            | 2                                                                                             |
| Water Rail                            | 3 heard                                                                                       |
| Grey Heron                            | 2                                                                                             |
| Great Egret                           | 20                                                                                            |
| Yellowhammer                          | 3                                                                                             |
| Pine Bunting or Yellowhammer          | 20 flew west up the Boertala River Valley                                                     |
| Black-throated Accentor               | 9                                                                                             |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow                 | 10                                                                                            |
| Barn Swallow                          | 11 – came out of a reed beds in one of the fishponds & had presumably roosted there overnight |
| European Starling                     | 4 flew east                                                                                   |
| Water Pipit                           | 21                                                                                            |
| Meadow Pipit                          | 1                                                                                             |
| Reed Bunting                          | 11                                                                                            |
| Little Bunting                        | 1 flew west                                                                                   |
| European Goldfinch                    | 7 flew west                                                                                   |
| European Greenfinch                   | 92 (in parties of two, 12, 13, 30 & 35 birds) flew west                                       |
| Long-legged Buzzard                   | 2 -one juvenile, one adult                                                                    |
| Common Kestrel                        | 1                                                                                             |
| Brambling                             | 11 flew west                                                                                  |
| Chaffinch                             | 9                                                                                             |
| Black-headed Gull                     | 19 birds (all bar two being first-winters) flew west                                          |
| Common Snipe                          | 1                                                                                             |
| Green Sandpiper                       | 1                                                                                             |
| Black-throated Thrush                 | 6                                                                                             |
| Long-tailed Rosefinch                 | 5 (two in one of the reed beds) & three singles flew high to the west                         |
| Common Wood Pigeon                    | 5 – four flew west, one east                                                                  |



|                        |                                                                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Feral Rock Pigeon      | 3                                                                          |
| Linnet                 | 1 flew west                                                                |
| Twite                  | 3 flew west                                                                |
| Crossbill              | 1 flew west – there were undoubtedly no conifers for many miles from here! |
| Desert Finch           | A flock of 13 flew west                                                    |
| Wren                   | 3                                                                          |
| Goldcrest              | 2                                                                          |
| White Wagtail          | 1 flew west                                                                |
| Siskin                 | 1 flew west                                                                |
| Rufous-backed Redstart | 1 flew west                                                                |
| White-winged Redstart  | 2 males flew high to the west                                              |
| Northern Grey Shrike   | 2 singles                                                                  |

## **Site 2. Wuyi Reservoir, Bole. (44°52.7'N., 82°02.0'E.) 510 metres**

The reservoir is right on the edge of Bole town – from here its only 2.5kms @ 60° back to the Aibihu Hotel.

This reservoir's about 1.5kms long and perhaps 800-900 metres wide at its widest. Its impounded at its eastern end and has part of the Boertala River flowing in to its western end. Most of the waterfowl were close to the northern side – which was partly walled. The southern side bled in to the desert.

The reservoir is easily seen in the valley bottom to the north of the road out to the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & can be accessed by either walking through the desert down to it from that road (a walk of *ca.* 1.2kms brings you to the reservoir's southern side) or by driving from the Aibihu Hotel up Beijing Lu (away from the expressway) & turning left on Youyi Lu. Take this to the very end (perhaps just over one kilometre) & turn left. A complex of increasing small roads takes you, after about two kilometres through Renmin Gongyuan (People's Park) to the northern edge of the reservoir. There's a gate here, which is undoubtedly locked but probably only at night – it was open when we left at 18:00hrs.

The light is much better looking north, but most of the birds would then have been quite distant. We initially scanned the reservoir from this southern side & later walked around to the north in the hope of getting some photos of the Lesser White-fronted Goose.

We birded here for 5.5hrs (from 13:00-18:30hrs). Birds here inc.-

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bean Goose                  | 2280. We could see the first birds arriving from high to the northwest as we were leaving the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds at 12:00hrs & they continued to arrive in dribs & drabs for the next 1.5hrs. The very last flock to arrive was the largest & contained a massive 1180 birds! It was then about 22°C in the shade & not surprisingly no sooner had most of the geese landed on the water than they started to drink. The geese left even more suddenly – in three waves starting at 18:00hrs (the temperature had then dropped to a comfortable 17°C). They all left, the departure lasting only 15 minutes. Surprisingly all the birds left in exactly the same north-westerly direction that they'd arrived from – they were watched through the telescope until probably three or four kilometres distant & were still flying strongly northwest! After this three single geese returned. |
| Greater White-fronted Goose | 16                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Lesser White-fronted Goose  | 1 first-winter                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| White-headed Duck           | 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Great Crested Grebe         | 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Black-necked Grebe          | 24                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Mallard                     | 935                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Northern Shoveler           | 10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Northern Pintail            | 10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Common Teal                 | 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Common Pochard              | 21                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Red-crested Pochard         | 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Tufted Duck                 | 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Eurasian Wigeon             | 45                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Common Goldeneye            | 9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Common Merganser            | 43 – only 9 birds were present when we arrived numbers building up in the early evening                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Red-breasted Merganser      | 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Smew                        | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Great Egret                 | 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Whooper Swan                | 3 (two adults & a juvenile)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Little Gull                 | 1 first-winter                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Black-headed Gull           | 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Yellow-legged Gull          | 38 – numbers built up towards the evening suggesting that birds were going to roost here overnight                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Long-legged Buzzard         | 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Northern Lapwing            | 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

## **Weather**

3°C besides the fishponds at 08:40hrs. It reached 24°C at Wuyi Reservoir at 14:45hrs & dropped back to 17°C there when the geese started to leave at 18:00hrs. It was a gloriously sunny day all day – immaculately clear with no cloud & a light westerly breeze (force two, 4-6 mph)

|                   |                                                                                                |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Common Pheasant   | 1 near the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres) |
| White-headed Duck | 2 on Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)                                      |

|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Whooper Swan                          | 5 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – two adults flew east down the Boertala River at 12:00hrs while three birds (two adults & a juvenile) were on Wuyi Reservoir later in the day. (510 & 540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Bean Goose                            | 2280 on Wuyi Reservoir on the 31/10/2006. We could see the first birds arriving from high to the northwest as we were leaving the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds at 12:00hrs & they continued to arrive in dribs & drabs for the next 1.5hrs. The very last flock to arrive was the largest & contained a massive 1180 birds! It was then about 22°C in the shade & not surprisingly no sooner had most of the geese landed on the water than they started to drink. The geese left even more suddenly – in three waves starting at 18:00hrs (the temperature had then dropped to a comfortable 17°C). They all left, the departure lasting only 15 minutes. Surprisingly all the birds left in exactly the same north-westerly direction that they'd arrived from – they were watched through the telescope until probably three or four kilometres distant & were still flying strongly northwest! After this three single geese returned. |
| Greater White-fronted Goose           | 16 on Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Lesser White-fronted Goose            | 1 first-winter on Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. Apparently the first record for Xinjiang. (Description) (510 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Gadwall                               | 4 on Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Eurasian Wigeon                       | 57 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 12 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 45 on Wuyi Reservoir. (510 & 540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Mallard                               | 945 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 10 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 935 on Wuyi Reservoir. (510 & 540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Northern Shoveler                     | 10 on Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Northern Pintail                      | 13 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 3 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 10 on Wuyi Reservoir. (510 & 540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Common Teal                           | 9 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 4 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 5 on Wuyi Reservoir. (510 & 540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Red-crested Pochard                   | 15 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 8 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 7 on Wuyi Reservoir. (510 & 540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Common Pochard                        | 23 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 2 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 21 on Wuyi Reservoir. (510 & 540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Tufted Duck                           | 12 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 4 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 8 on Wuyi Reservoir. (510 & 540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Common Goldeneye                      | 9 on Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Smew                                  | 1 redhead on Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Red-breasted Merganser                | 3 on Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Common Merganser                      | 56 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 13 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 43 on Wuyi Reservoir. There was possibly some duplication here. (510 & 540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Rock Pigeon                           | 50 around Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Common Wood Pigeon                    | 5 (four flew west & one east) over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Water Rail                            | 3 were heard besides the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Common Snipe                          | 1 besides the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Green Sandpiper                       | 1 besides the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Northern Lapwing                      | 10 at Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Yellow-legged Gull                    | 53 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 15 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 38 on Wuyi Reservoir. There was possibly some duplication here. (510 & 540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Black-headed Gull                     | 27 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 19 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 8 on Wuyi Reservoir. All but two were first-winters. There was possibly some duplication here. (510 & 540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Little Gull                           | 1 first-winter on Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Hen Harrier                           | 1 ringtail flew east over Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk                  | 2 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 & 540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Long-legged Buzzard                   | 8 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 2 over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 6 near Wuyi Reservoir. (510 & 540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Common Kestrel                        | 1 over Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Great Crested Grebe                   | 3 on Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Black-necked Grebe                    | 24 on Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Grey Heron                            | 2 besides the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Great Egret                           | 26 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 20 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 6 on Wuyi Reservoir. (510 & 540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Northern Grey Shrike                  | 2 near the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Carrion Crow                          | 8 near the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Hooded Crow                           | 5 near the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Apparent hybrid Carrion x Hooded Crow | 1 near the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Eurasian Blackbird                    | 2 near the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Black-throated Thrush                 | 6 near the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Rufous-backed Redstart                | 1 flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| White-winged Redstart                 | 2 males flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Common Starling                       | 4 flew east over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Winter Wren                           | 3 near the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| [White-crowned Penduline Tit          | An old nest was seen in trees outside the entrance to the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)]                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Azure Tit                             | 1 near Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Barn Swallow                          | 11 besides the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. They came out of a reed beds in one of the fishponds & had presumably roosted there overnight. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Goldcrest                             | 2 near the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Common Chiffchaff                     | 1 near the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hume's Warbler               | 1 near Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)                                                                                                                               |
| Bearded Parrotbill           | 2 near the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                            |
| Asian Short-toed Lark        | 5 besides Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)                                                                                                                            |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow        | 10 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510-540 metres)                                                                                                                                       |
| White Wagtail                | 1 flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                  |
| Water Pipit                  | 23 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 21 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 2 on Wuyi Reservoir. (510 & 540 metres)                                                             |
| Black-throated Accentor      | 12 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 9 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 3 on Wuyi Reservoir. (510 & 540 metres)                                                              |
| Chaffinch                    | 9 flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                  |
| Brambling                    | 11 flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                 |
| Eurasian Greenfinch          | 92 (in parties of two, 12, 13, 30 & 35 birds) flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                      |
| Eurasian Siskin              | 1 flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                  |
| European Goldfinch           | 7 flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                  |
| Twite                        | 1 flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                  |
| Eurasian Linnet              | 3 flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                  |
| Desert Finch                 | 13 flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                 |
| Long-tailed Rosefinch        | 5 (two in one of the reed beds) & three singles flew high to the west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                        |
| Red Crossbill                | 1 flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. Clearly a migrant - there were undoubtedly no conifers for many miles from here! (540 metres) |
| Yellowhammer                 | 3 flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                                                  |
| Pine Bunting or Yellowhammer | 20 flew west up the Boertala River Valley over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                    |
| Little Bunting               | 1 flew west up the Boertala River Valley over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                     |
| Reed Bunting                 | 11 flew west up the Boertala River Valley over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)                                                    |

### **Wednesday 1 November 2006. Bole & Jinghe to Kuitun (Kaytun)**

We left the Aibihu Hotel, Bole at 08:00hrs & drove east, back to Aibihu. Arriving at 08:50hrs we birded there until 11:00hrs before continuing on. We then took a circuitous route through Jinghe to the expressway. We took this as far as Gaoquan where we exited & drove to Ligou Reservoir where we birded for 30 minutes. Our next stop was further northeast – Kuitun Reservoir. After that we headed to Kuitun shi where we spent the night.

#### **Site 1. Aibihu Wetland Nature Reserve (Aibi Lake) near Bole Railway Station, Jinghe. (44°52.9'N'. 82°40.3'E). 190 metres.**

Arriving at 08:50hrs I birded here for just over two hours, leaving at 11:00hrs. Visibility out over the lake was very poor but fortunately there was a decent southward passage of passerines down the line of bushes between the railway line & the extreme eastern edge of the lake & I spent most of my time watching these. Birds included –

|                              |                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mute Swan                    | 2 (an adult & a juvenile) flew south down the lake edge                                           |
| Bean Goose                   | 30                                                                                                |
| Greylag Goose                | 50                                                                                                |
| Ruddy Shelduck               | 415                                                                                               |
| Grey Heron                   | 1                                                                                                 |
| Northern Lapwing             | 1                                                                                                 |
| Northern Harrier             | 1 ringtail                                                                                        |
| Eurasian Marsh Harrier       | 1 juvenile                                                                                        |
| White-tailed Eagle           | 1 adult                                                                                           |
| White-winged Redstart        | 1 male                                                                                            |
| Black-throated Thrush        | 4 flew south                                                                                      |
| Water Pipit                  | 2                                                                                                 |
| Meadow Pipit                 | 7                                                                                                 |
| Siskin                       | 1 flew south                                                                                      |
| Black-throated Accentor      | 17 including a flock of 12 that were seen flying south before dropping in to the lake side bushes |
| Desert Finch                 | 22 birds (in flocks of three, four & 15 birds) flew north                                         |
| Red-mantled Rosefinch        | 3 - a grounded single & 2 flew south                                                              |
| Long-tailed Rosefinch        | 6 flew south                                                                                      |
| Yellowhammer or Pine Bunting | 3 flew south                                                                                      |
| Reed Bunting                 | 10 flew south                                                                                     |
| Corn Bunting                 | 1 flew north                                                                                      |

Leaving Aibihu at 11:00hrs we back tracked to Bole Railway Station before taking S205 back towards Bole. We turned off to the south adjacent to the road check post at Km post 39.2 & drove down here 1.9kms to the shelter belt that we had birded two days earlier on the 30 October. We didn't stop but continued to drive through areas of cotton and cotton stubble fields. 7.9kms after the shelter belt we came to a petrol station where we turned left (east) and headed four kilometres on here to the centre of

90 Corps – a small town. After another 9.4kms on we came to another check post/barrier across the road and immediately beyond that a small river. This was an incredibly desolate, wind swept area but within the next 3-4 kms there were a couple of attractive looking marshy areas set back about 400 metres to the left (north) of the road. We didn't stop but, with hindsight, we perhaps should have.

After about another 10 kilometres we drove past some fields & villages belonging to 82 Corps (it was now 12:00hrs) before entering the settlement of 82 Corps itself another nine kilometres further on. We turned right at the petrol station in the centre of 82 Corps & drove down here to Jinghe. We drove past the Jinghe Renmin Gongyuan (People's Park) on the western edge of town.

Jinghe town centre                      12:30hrs                      135.6kms on car's clock – from Bole  
Here we entered the expressway (our maps showed two roads here – the main expressway & route S312 that paralleled it. This was an error – the expressway has replaced route 312 which no-longer exists!

1<sup>st</sup> toll booth east of Jinghe on the expressway                      13:15hrs                      199.6kms on car's clock – from Bole

Tuotuo xiang                      1.5 kms east of the toll both

Exit for 91Corps                      201kms on car's clock – from Bole

Gu'ertu                      13:35hrs                      225.5kms on car's clock – from Bole

It was immediately much greener here, especially on the northern side of the expressway

We turned north off the expressway about one kilometre east of the Gu'ertu services having driven 248.6kms from Bole. We drove through the village and eventually found route S207 which continued to take us north, past some attractive looking fields of alfalfa.

There was a barrier across the road 17.5kms after Gu'ertu and the road bent right in the village of Er Ying (also known as Shang Shuang He) another 8.7kms further on. There was another barrier across the road 3.8kms beyond Er Ying and shortly after this we were able to see the embankment of Lingou Reservoir, our next destination.

### **Site 2. Lingou Reservoir, Wusu. (44°35.0'N'. 84°20.7'E). 350 metres.**

We spent just 30 minutes here (15:00-15:30hrs) & had driven 293.4kms from Bole.

From here its     42.9kms @ 116° to Kuitun  
                         136kms @ 98° to Shihezi

The reservoir was very disappointing. It had a massive embankment on three sides but was heavily silted and held very, very little water and consequently not many birds. The neighbouring village (Liugou?) had some large trees and a limited amount of cultivation around it – being isolated out in the desert it looked like a very appealing migrant trap. Birds on the reservoir included –

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| goose sp.           | 93             |
| duck sp.            | 65             |
| Red-crested Pochard | 7              |
| White-tailed Eagle  | 1 – near adult |
| Great Crested Grebe | 25             |
| Yellow-legged Gull  | 162            |
| Pallas's Gull       | 6              |
| Black-headed Gull   | 1 first-winter |
| Great Egret         | 2              |
| Grey Heron          | 2              |
| Great Cormorant     | 31             |
| Little Owl          | 1              |

Driving on northeast we passed –

125 Corps                      30 kms (30 minutes drive) after Lingou Reservoir. We turned right here and right again at the next 'T' junction.

### **Site 3. Kuitun Reservoir, Wusu. (44°46.7'N'. 84°35.2'E). 290 metres.**

We spent just 35 minutes here (16:15-16:50hrs) & had driven 334.4kms from Bole. The reservoir is near Shuiguan zhan.

From here its     46.7kms @ 153° to Kuitun  
                         124kms @ 110° to Kelamayi (Karamay)  
                         124kms @ 110° to Shihezi

Birds here included -

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Great Egret        | 37 |
| Pallas's Gull      | 26 |
| Yellow-legged Gull | 14 |

|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Black-headed Gull   | 1           |
| Great Crested Grebe | 1           |
| Ruddy Shelduck      | 103         |
| Common Shelduck     | 22          |
| Great Cormorant     | 325         |
| Mallard             | 430         |
| Gadwall             | 35          |
| Northern Shoveler   | 3           |
| Common Merganser    | 15          |
| Common Teal         | 14          |
| Goldfinch           | 3 flew over |

Leaving the reservoir at 16:50hrs we continued to drive east heading to route G217. After 11.6kms & 6.5kms west of the junction with G217 (this junction is at Km499 on the major road) we passed a small complex of roadside pools. These pools held a few ducks –

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Mallard             | 10 |
| Common Pochard      | 32 |
| Tufted Duck         | 27 |
| Common Teal         | 1  |
| Red-crested Pochard | 5  |
| Gadwall             | 3  |

We drove on from here, joined route G217 at Km post 499 & headed south in to Kuitun. We arrived at the supposed 4-star Hai De (Hoi Tak) Hotel, 56 Tuanjie South Street, Kuitun (Tel.: 0992 3211919 Fax: 0992 3211818 [www.hoitak.com](http://www.hoitak.com)) at 18:00hrs. The hotel is at 300 metres elevation & is 7.3kms Ene of Kuitun town centre.

### Weather

Another gloriously sunny, comfortably day. 7°C outside the Aibihu Hotel at 07:45hrs. It was slightly cooler besides Aibihu but it reached 7°C here as well by 09:30hrs

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mute Swan              | 2 (an adult & a juvenile) at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                         |
| Bean Goose             | 30 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                                |
| Greylag Goose          | 50 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                                |
| Ruddy Shelduck         | 518 in the Jinghe & Wusu areas on the 1/11/2006 - 415 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe & 103 at Kuitun Reservoir, Wusu. (190 & 290 metres)                                        |
| Common Shelduck        | 22 at Kuitun Reservoir, Wusu on the 1/11/2006. (290 metres)                                                                                                                       |
| Gadwall                | 500 in the Jinghe & Wusu areas on the 1/11/2006 – virtually all of these were at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe but there were also 35 on Kuitun Reservoir, Wusu. (190-290 metres) |
| Mallard                | 1500 in the Jinghe & Wusu areas on the 1/11/2006 – most of these were at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe but there were also 430 on Kuitun Reservoir, Wusu. (190-290 metres)        |
| Northern Shoveler      | 3 at Kuitun Reservoir, Wusu on the 1/11/2006. (290 metres)                                                                                                                        |
| Common Teal            | 300 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                               |
| Red-crested Pochard    | 13 in the Wusu area on the 1/11/2006 - seven on Lingou Reservoir & five on a roadside pool east of route G217 & north of Kuitun. (190 metres)                                     |
| Common Pochard         | 32 on a roadside pool east of G217 & north of Kuitun on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                               |
| Tufted Duck            | 27 on a roadside pool east of G217 & north of Kuitun on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                               |
| Common Merganser       | 15 on Kuitun Reservoir, Wusu on the 1/11/2006. (290 metres)                                                                                                                       |
| Little Owl             | 1 near Lingou Reservoir, Wusu on the 1/11/2006. (350 metres)                                                                                                                      |
| Rock Pigeon            | 50 in the Bole-Jinghe-Wusu-Kuitun area on the 1/11/2006.                                                                                                                          |
| Northern Lapwing       | 2 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                                 |
| Yellow-legged Gull     | 176 in Wusu county on the 1/11/2006 - 162 on Lingou Reservoir & 14 at Kuitun Reservoir. (290 & 350 metres)                                                                        |
| Pallas's Gull          | 32 in Wusu county on the 1/11/2006 - 6 on Lingou Reservoir & 26 at Kuitun Reservoir. (290 & 350 metres)                                                                           |
| Black-headed Gull      | 2 in Wusu county on the 1/11/2006 - singles on both Lingou Reservoir & Kuitun Reservoir. (290 & 350 metres)                                                                       |
| White-tailed Eagle     | 2 on the 1/11/2006 – an adult at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe & the other, a near-adult, at Lingou Reservoir, Wusu. (190 & 350 metres)                                           |
| Eurasian Marsh Harrier | 1 juvenile at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. It was the same bird with the damaged wing that we saw two days earlier. (190 metres)                               |
| Hen Harrier            | 1 ringtail at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                        |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk   | 1 flew over Jinghe Renmin Gongyuan, Jinghe on 1/11/2006.                                                                                                                          |
| Long-legged Buzzard    | 1 flew over Jinghe Renmin Gongyuan, Jinghe on 1/11/2006.                                                                                                                          |
| Common Kestrel         | 2 singles between Bole-Jinghe-Wusu-Kuitun on the 1/11/2006.                                                                                                                       |
| Peregrine Falcon       | 1 flew over Jinghe Renmin Gongyuan, Jinghe on 1/11/2006.                                                                                                                          |
| Great Crested Grebe    | 26 in Wusu county on the 1/11/2006 - 25 on Lingou Reservoir & one at Kuitun Reservoir. (290 & 350 metres)                                                                         |
| Great Cormorant        | 356 in Wusu county on the 1/11/2006 - 31 on Lingou Reservoir & 325 at Kuitun Reservoir. (290 & 350 metres)                                                                        |
| Grey Heron             | 6 on the 1/11/2006 – one at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe, two besides Lingou Reservoir & three at Kuitun Reservoir. (190-350 metres)                                             |
| Great Egret            | 39 in Wusu county on the 1/11/2006 - 2 at Lingou Reservoir & 37 at Kuitun Reservoir. (290 & 350 metres)                                                                           |
| Black-throated Thrush  | 4 flew south over the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                    |
| White-winged Redstart  | 1 male at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                            |
| Turkestan Tit          | 2 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                                 |
| Azure Tit              | 9 in one flock at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                    |

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Asian Short-toed Lark        | 5 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                       |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow        | 30 between Bole-Jinghe-Wusu-Kuitun on the 1/11/2006.                                                                                                                    |
| Meadow Pipit                 | 7 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                       |
| Water Pipit                  | 2 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                       |
| Black-throated Accentor      | 17 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. This including a flock of 12 that were seen flying south before dropping in to the lake side bushes. (190 metres) |
| Chaffinch                    | 6 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                       |
| Eurasian Greenfinch          | 3 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                                       |
| Eurasian Siskin              | 1 flew south at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                            |
| European Goldfinch           | 3 flew over Kuitun Reservoir, Wusu on the 1/11/2006. (290 metres)                                                                                                       |
| Desert Finch                 | 22 (in flocks of three, four & 15 birds) flew north at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)                                                     |
| Long-tailed Rosefinch        | 6 flew south at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                            |
| Red-mantled Rosefinch        | 3, a grounded single & two others that flew south, at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)                                                      |
| Pine Bunting or Yellowhammer | 3 flew south at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                            |
| Reed Bunting                 | 10 flew south at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                           |
| Corn Bunting                 | 1 flew north at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)                                                                                            |

## **Thursday 2 November 2006. Kuitun (Kaytun) to Shawan & on to Shihezi**

We left the Hoi Tak Hotel, Kuitun at 08:30hrs & drove northeast 15 minutes to Quangou Reservoir. We birded there (it was poor) before heading east to another reservoir we'd seen on our road map – the Anjihai Reservoirs, Shawan. We birded there for several hours in the afternoon before continuing east, through Shawan to Shihezi. We arrived at the 4-star Tianfu Hotel, 28 Bei 2 Lu, Shihezi, Xinjiang 83200 (Tel.: 0993 2812888) at 17:00hrs. This hotel is much better than the one we used on our previous visit to Shihezi – the Shihezi hotel.

### **Site 1. Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun. (44°30.0'N., 84°56.2'E.). 375 metres.**

This large but rather disappointing, & almost dry, reservoir is only a 20 minute (13 km) drive north of our hotel in Kuitun (from here its 15.5kms @ 215° back to Kuitun town centre). There was a considerable amount of building work going on around the reservoir's high embankment & its possible that there will be more water here in the future. Arriving at 08:45hrs we birded until 10:00hrs. The reservoir itself held very few birds but there were a few migrant passerines in the bushes near the reservoir buildings & radio aerial. Birds here included –

|                                           |                                            |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Great Egret                               | 4                                          |
| Mallard                                   | 255                                        |
| Desert Finch                              | 4                                          |
| Reed Bunting                              | 6                                          |
| Black-throated Accentor                   | 2                                          |
| Siskin                                    | 3                                          |
| European Greenfinch                       | 16                                         |
| Goldcrest                                 | 1 heard                                    |
| European Goldfinch                        | 3                                          |
| Azure Tit                                 | 3                                          |
| Great Tit                                 | 2                                          |
| Apparent hybrid Great Tit x Turkestan Tit | 1                                          |
| Black-throated Thrush                     | 55                                         |
| Eurasian Blackbird                        | 2                                          |
| Chaffinch                                 | 10                                         |
| Brambling                                 | 55 – including one flock of about 50 birds |
| Common Kingfisher                         | 1                                          |

### **Site 2. Anjihai Reservoir No 1, Shawan. (44°23.1'N., 85°29.1'E.). 435 metres.**

#### **Anjihai Reservoir No 2, Shawan. (44°24.7'N., 85°31.3'E.). 415 metres.**

From here its 53.2kms @ 268° back to Kuitun town centre  
43.1kms @ 96° to Shihezi

There are two Anjihai Reservoirs, an Upper and Lower one, that are referred to locally as No. 1 & No. 2. The lower reservoir is about three kilometres north of & can be clearly seen from the upper one. However the driving route between the two reservoirs is a little circuitous! The upper reservoir, Anjihai Shuikou No. 1, is the larger of the two but, other than an impressive flock of Bean Geese, an attendant White-tailed Eagle, 13 Smew and a single Great Crested Grebe it was very quiet. The lower reservoir held a slightly greater variety of birds. We birded these two reservoirs from 11:45-15:30hrs.

The best access is from Shawan town. When heading east turn left (north) off G312 at San Dao He Ling Chang about 20 metres before Km post 4353 (& 1.5 kms east of the roundabout in the centre of Shawan). You immediately pass under a very attractive ornamental archway and about 200 metres further on turn left again. This smaller road soon heads out of Shawan and remains straight for a couple of kilometres until you come to the first village where there are two obvious zig-zags (first right, then left). Another 100 metres after the second right angle turn left in to Daquan xiang. The road continues right through the

centre of this small village and, after about another 2kms, becomes un-paved. You can then see the embankment of Anjihai Reservoir No. 1 in front and to the left. In all the reservoir involves a drive of 11.1kms from the roundabout in the centre of Shawan.

**Birds included -**

|                             |                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bean Goose                  | 950 – 940 (including a leucistic bird) besides Anjihai Reservoir No. 1 & 9 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2      |
| Greater White-fronted Goose | 10 (4 adults) with the Bean Geese besides Anjihai Reservoir No. 1                                          |
| Common Teal                 | 80 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2                                                                              |
| Mallard                     | 110 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2                                                                             |
| Northern Pintail            | 15 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2                                                                              |
| Gadwall                     | 30 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2                                                                              |
| Tufted Duck                 | 60 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2                                                                              |
| Common Pochard              | 10 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2                                                                              |
| Common Goldeneye            | 4 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2                                                                               |
| Smew                        | 18 – 13 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 1 & 5 Anjihai Reservoir No. 2                                             |
| Common Merganser            | 2 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 1                                                                               |
| Great Crested Grebe         | 1 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 1 & 5 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2                                                |
| Great Cormorant             | 2 besides Anjihai Reservoir No. 2                                                                          |
| Grey Heron                  | 3 besides Anjihai Reservoir No. 2                                                                          |
| Great Egret                 | 42 besides Anjihai Reservoir No. 2                                                                         |
| Common Crane                | 4 birds were seen several times flying around Anjihai Reservoir No. 1                                      |
| Black-bellied Sandgrouse    | 2 flew west over the Anjihai Reservoir No. 2 at 12:45hrs.                                                  |
| Collared Dove               | 2 near Anjihai Reservoir No. 1                                                                             |
| Northern Lapwing            | 2 besides Anjihai Reservoir No. 2                                                                          |
| White-tailed Eagle          | 1 adult besides Anjihai Reservoir No. 1                                                                    |
| Hen Harrier                 | 1 adult male near Anjihai Reservoir No. 2                                                                  |
| Common Kestrel              | 2 near Anjihai Reservoir No. 2                                                                             |
| Long-legged Buzzard         | 1 near Anjihai Reservoir No. 1                                                                             |
| Merlin                      | 1 adult male, possibly of the subspecies <i>pallidus</i> , was seen near Anjihai Reservoir No. 2. (Photo). |
| Crested Lark                | 1 near Anjihai Reservoir No. 1                                                                             |
| Asian Short-toed Lark       | Singles flew over both Anjihai Reservoir No. 1 & No. 2                                                     |
| Linnet                      | 6 flew over Anjihai Reservoir No. 1                                                                        |
| European Greenfinch         | 2 flew over Anjihai Reservoir No. 1                                                                        |

Shawan Km post 4351.5 on G312 16:10hrs

143 Corps Km post 4331 16:36  
(20 kms east of Shawan & 16 kms west of Shihezi)

Shawan is 36kms west of Shihezi.

**Weather**

Another comfortably day. It was 14°C outside the Hoi Tak Hotel, Kuitun at 08:25hrs. It reached 16°C at Anjihai Reservoir, Shawan by 14:30hrs. It remained cloudy until about 14:00hrs & there were a few spots of rain in the morning and slightly heavier rain for about five minutes in the early afternoon. Almost immediately after this the cloud dissipated and the rest of the day was glorious with clear skies and only a light breeze.

|                             |                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bean Goose                  | 950 at the Anjihai Reservoirs, Shawan on the 2/11/2006 – 940 (including a leucistic bird) besides Reservoir No. 1 & 9 on Reservoir No. 2. (415 & 435 metres) |
| Greater White-fronted Goose | 10 (4 adults) with the Bean Geese besides Anjihai Reservoir No. 1, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (435 metres)                                                     |
| Gadwall                     | 30 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)                                                                                         |
| Mallard                     | 365 in the Kuitun-Shawan areas on the 2/11/2006 - 255 at Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun & 110 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan. (375 & 415 metres)              |
| Northern Pintail            | 15 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)                                                                                         |
| Common Teal                 | 80 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)                                                                                         |
| Common Pochard              | 10 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)                                                                                         |
| Tufted Duck                 | 60 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)                                                                                         |
| Common Goldeneye            | 4 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)                                                                                          |
| Smew                        | 18 at the Anjihai Reservoirs, Shawan on the 2/11/2006 – 13 (including a leucistic bird) besides Reservoir No. 1 & 5 on Reservoir No. 2. (415 & 435 metres)   |
| Common Merganser            | 2 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 1, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (435 metres)                                                                                          |
| Eurasian Hoopoe             | 1 besides Anjihai Reservoir No. 1, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (435 metres)                                                                                     |
| Common Kingfisher           | 1 at Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)                                                                                                |
| Rock Pigeon                 | 50 in the Kuitun-Shawan-Shihezi areas on the 2/11/2006. (375-500 metres)                                                                                     |
| Eurasian Collared Dove      | 2 near Anjihai Reservoir No. 1, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (435 metres)                                                                                        |
| Common Crane                | 4 birds were seen several times flying around Anjihai Reservoir No. 1, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (435 metres)                                                 |
| Black-bellied Sandgrouse    | 2 flew west over the Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan at 12:45hrs on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)                                                              |
| Northern Lapwing            | 2 besides Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)                                                                                     |
| Yellow-legged Gull          | 6 at Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)                                                                                                |
| Pallas's Gull               | 5 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)                                                                                          |
| Black-headed Gull           | 1 at Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)                                                                                                |

|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| White-tailed Eagle                    | 1 adult at Anjihai Reservoir No. 1, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (435 metres)                                                                                                                |
| Hen Harrier                           | 1 adult male at Anjihai Reservoir No. 1, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (435 metres)                                                                                                           |
| Long-legged Buzzard                   | 1 juvenile near Anjihai Reservoir No. 1, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (435 metres)                                                                                                           |
| Common Kestrel                        | 2 near Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)                                                                                                                    |
| Merlin                                | 1 adult male, possibly of the subspecies <i>pallidus</i> , was seen near Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (Photo).                                                      |
| Great Crested Grebe                   | 2 at the Anjihai Reservoirs, Shawan on the 2/11/2006 – singles on both Reservoir No. 1 & Reservoir No. 2. (415 & 435 metres)                                                             |
| Great Cormorant                       | 2 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)                                                                                                                      |
| Grey Heron                            | 3 besides Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)                                                                                                                 |
| Great Egret                           | 46 in the Kuitun-Shawan areas on the 2/11/2006 - 4 at Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun & 42 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan. (375 & 415 metres)                                              |
| Eurasian Blackbird                    | 2 in the small wood near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)                                                                                                        |
| Mistle Thrush                         | 5 near Daquan xiang close to Anjihai Reservoir No. 1, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (480 metres)                                                                                              |
| Black-throated Thrush                 | 95 in the Kuitun-Shawan areas on the 2/11/2006 - 55 in the small wood near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun & 40 near Daquan xiang close to Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan. (375 & 480 metres) |
| Winter Wren                           | 1 was heard in the small wood near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)                                                                                              |
| Great Tit                             | 2 in the small wood near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)                                                                                                        |
| Apparent hybrid Great x Turkestan Tit | 1 in the small wood near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. It basically looked like a dull Great Tit. (375 metres)                                                             |
| Azure Tit                             | 3 in the small wood near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)                                                                                                        |
| Goldcrest                             | 1 was heard in the small wood near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)                                                                                              |
| Asian Short-toed Lark                 | 2 - singles flew over both Anjihai Reservoir No. 1 & No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 & 435 metres)                                                                                  |
| Crested Lark                          | 1 was heard at Anjihai Reservoir No. 1, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (435 metres)                                                                                                            |
| Horned Lark                           | 1 was heard over Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)                                                                                                          |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow                 | About 50 in the Kuitun-Shawan areas on the 2/11/2006. (415-500 metres)                                                                                                                   |
| Black-throated Accentor               | 2 in the small wood near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)                                                                                                        |
| Chaffinch                             | 10 in & around the small wood near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)                                                                                              |
| Brambling                             | 55, including one flock of about 50 birds, in & around the small wood near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006 flew over. (375 metres)                                            |
| Eurasian Greenfinch                   | 18 in the Kuitun-Shawan areas on the 2/11/2006 - 16 near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun & 2 over Anjihai Reservoir No. 1, Shawan. (375 & 435 metres)                                          |
| Eurasian Siskin                       | 3 flew over the small wood near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)                                                                                                 |
| European Goldfinch                    | 3 flew over the small wood near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)                                                                                                 |
| Eurasian Linnet                       | 6 Anjihai Reservoir No. 1, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (435 metres)                                                                                                                         |
| Desert Finch                          | 4 near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)                                                                                                                          |
| Reed Bunting                          | 6 near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)                                                                                                                          |

### **Friday 3 November 2006. All day around Shihezi – Mo Gu Hu & Beihu Reservoirs**

I left the Tianfu Hotel, Shihezi at 08:17hrs, drove to Mo Gu Hu (arrived at 08:40hrs), and much of the spent the rest of the day birding there. Leaving at 16:00hrs I briefly visited the nearby Beihu Reservoir (16:00-16:30hrs) before heading back to the hotel.

I explored several different access points to the reservoir today – these are detailed earlier in this report.

|                     |                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| White-headed Duck   | 9 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. They were in three discrete groups – a single, a pair & a party of six. Both members of the pair were photographed. (365 metres) |
| Whooper Swan        | 4 adults on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                              |
| Greylag Goose       | 217 near Shihezi on the 3/11/2006 – 7 on Mo Gu Hu & 210 besides Beihu Reservoir. (365 metres)                                                                             |
| Ruddy Shelduck      | 110 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                   |
| Common Shelduck     | 33 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                    |
| Gadwall             | 2350 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                  |
| Eurasian Wigeon     | 485 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                   |
| Mallard             | 8200 near Shihezi on the 3/11/2006 – 7100 on Mo Gu Hu & 1100 besides Beihu Reservoir. (365 metres)                                                                        |
| Northern Shoveler   | 775 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                   |
| Northern Pintail    | 2150 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                  |
| Common Teal         | 30 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                    |
| Red-crested Pochard | 47 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                    |
| Common Pochard      | 930 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                   |
| Ferruginous Pochard | 6 males on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                               |
| Tufted Duck         | 1020 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                  |
| Common Goldeneye    | 26 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                    |
| Smew                | 2 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                     |
| Common Merganser    | 7 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                     |
| Rock Pigeon         | 30 near Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                            |
| Eurasian Coot       | 10 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                    |
| Pallas's Sandgrouse | 1 flew north over Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                        |
| Dunlin              | 38 besides Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                               |
| Northern Lapwing    | 9 besides Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                |



|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mew Gull                     | 2 first-winters besides Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. One of them was photographed. The images are poor but identifiable. Only the second & third Common Gulls seen in Xinjiang & the first to be photographically identified. The first flew east over the Yili He near Yining, Yili on the 25 October 2006. (365 metres) |
| Yellow-legged Gull           | 40 near Shihezi on the 3/11/2006 – 5 besides Mo Gu Hu & 35 at Beihu Reservoir. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Pallas's Gull                | 385 near Shihezi on the 3/11/2006 – 10 besides Mo Gu Hu & 375 at Beihu Reservoir. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Brown-headed Gull            | 1 adult-winter with Black-headed Gulls at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (Poor photograph). (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Black-headed Gull            | 170 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| White-tailed Eagle           | 4 (an adult and three juveniles) at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. The adult was seen to catch & drown a Ruddy Shelduck! (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk         | 1 near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Common Buzzard               | 1 near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Long-legged Buzzard          | 2 near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Common Kestrel               | 1 near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Peregrine Falcon             | 2 adults near Shihezi on the 3/11/2006 – one besides Mo Gu Hu & the other perched on our 16 <sup>th</sup> floor hotel window ledge! (365 & 525 metres)                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Great Crested Grebe          | 7 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Black-necked Grebe           | 19 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Great Cormorant              | 77 near Shihezi on the 3/11/2006 – two on Mo Gu Hu & 75 besides Beihu Reservoir. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Great Egret                  | 9 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Eurasian Blackbird           | 1 near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Black-throated Thrush        | 20 near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Azure Tit                    | 2 singles near Shihezi on the 3/11/2006 – one near Mo Gu Hu & the other in downtown Shihezi. (365 & 420 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Bearded Parrotbill           | 1 was seen in flight over the centre of Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Asian Short-toed Lark        | 45 in one flock on the eastern side of Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Crested Lark                 | 1 was heard at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Horned Lark                  | 70 in one flock on the eastern side of Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Saxaul Sparrow               | A flock of 7 flew south down the eastern side of Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow        | 40 near Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Water Pipit                  | 5 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Buff-bellied Pipit           | 1 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Black-throated Accentor      | 1 near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Chaffinch                    | 6 flew south near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Eurasian Greenfinch          | 35 with a large flock of European Goldfinches feeding in thistle heads on the eastern bank of Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| European Goldfinch           | 230 feeding in thistle heads on the eastern bank of Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Twite                        | 2 singles were heard at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Eurasian Linnet              | 15 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Desert Finch                 | 3 near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Pine Bunting or Yellowhammer | 4 flew south near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Reed Bunting                 | 3 flew south near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Lapland Bunting              | 1 was heard as it flew south near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

## **Saturday 4 November 2006. All day in the Shihezi/Manasi areas**

We left the Tianfu Hotel, Shihezi at 07:45hrs, & drove northeast. We spent most of the day birding at three different reservoirs in Manasi - the district that neighbours Shihezi to the east.

### **1<sup>st</sup> site. Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi (44°25.2'N., 86°08.1'E.). 365 metres.**

Named after a neighbouring village this sprawling, irregularly shaped reservoir is dammed at its northern end and has a very attractive expanse of mud and isolated pools/marshy areas on its eastern and southern sides. We initially accessed it from Jiahezi village (44°24.0'N., 86°07.9'E.) but its rather difficult to find and this route takes you over numerous bad roads. However this access route does allow you to walk down the eastern side of the reservoir – and this is where we saw the Common Ringer Plover and the Lapland Buntings (6). Most of the waterfowl were at the southern end of the reservoir – near the river channel that appeared to flow out towards the southeast (& below the village of Xiaoli Zhuang).

From Jiahezi village its 14.6kms @ 216° to Shihezi  
134kms @ 117° to Urumqi

We spent about 3.5hrs (09:00-12:30hrs) birding around the eastern side of Jiahezi Reservoir & walked south down the edge of the water towards the village of Xiaoli Zhuang that we could see up on the cliffs about two kilometres away. Unfortunately we were unable to walk very far – there was a small river channel that we were unable to cross blocking our route. Returning to the car we drove an incredibly circuitous route around to Xiaoli Zhuang & I spent about 30 minutes scoping the waterfowl from the top of the cliff near the village.

Both Jiahezi Reservoir & neighbouring Dahaizi Reservoir (the latter is also known as Yuejing Reservoir) are best accessed by driving north from Manasi town. Turn north off route G312 at Km 4300 and drive 500 metres in to the centre of Manasi. Continue straight across the town centre roundabout, and after 1.7kms, the road crosses a fast flowing canalised drainage channel & then bends immediately to the right. This is now route X115 (& will take you to Xinhuping Reservoir after another nine kilometres (see below). Turn left on to a rough, dirt road immediately after driving over this flowing canalised drainage

channel. This road takes you, after 3.1kms, in to Lanzhou Wan. In the centre of this village the road bends to the right & becomes route X158 that leads to Guang Xi cun. Drive on here 16.9kms to Km post 16.3 where you can turn right to Dahaizi Reservoir (1.5kms). Alternatively continue on X158 another 600 metres (to Km post 16.9) & turn left. The village of Xiaoli Zhuang is one kilometre down here – drive straight through this tiny village to view the south end of Jiahezi Reservoir.

We birded here from 09:00-13:00hrs

|                              |                                                          |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Ruddy Shelduck               | 134                                                      |
| Common Shelduck              | 1                                                        |
| Great Cormorant              | 45                                                       |
| Greylag Goose                | 111                                                      |
| Bean Goose                   | 688                                                      |
| Whooper Swan                 | 6                                                        |
| Smew                         | 25                                                       |
| Goldeneye                    | 5                                                        |
| Mallard                      | 850                                                      |
| Gadwall                      | 10                                                       |
| Northern Shoveler            | 3                                                        |
| Common Merganser             | 15                                                       |
| Red-crested Pochard          | 1                                                        |
| Common Pochard               | 4                                                        |
| Tufted Duck                  | 35                                                       |
| Common Teal                  | 5                                                        |
| Great Egret                  | 8                                                        |
| Grey Heron                   | 6                                                        |
| Eurasian Spoonbill           | 1                                                        |
| Northern Goshawk             | 1                                                        |
| Little Owl                   | 1                                                        |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk         | 1                                                        |
| Common Kestrel               | 3                                                        |
| Hen Harrier                  | 3 ringtails (one adult female & two attendant juveniles) |
| Common Ringed Plover         | 1 on the mud on the reservoir's eastern side             |
| White-crowned Penduline Tit  | 1                                                        |
| Black-throated Accentor      | 1                                                        |
| Bearded Parrotbill           | 7                                                        |
| European Goldfinch           | 18                                                       |
| European Greenfinch          | 4                                                        |
| Eurasian Linnet              | 7                                                        |
| Water Pipit                  | 5                                                        |
| Meadow Pipit                 | 5                                                        |
| Reed Bunting                 | 13                                                       |
| Lapland Bunting              | 6                                                        |
| Yellowhammer or Pine Bunting | 3 were heard                                             |
| Asian Short-toed Lark        | 3                                                        |
| Horned Lark                  | 4 singles                                                |
| Eurasian Skylark             | 7 (three singles & a flock of four)                      |
| Crested Lark                 | 2                                                        |

Fishponds near Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi

Birds here inc.-

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Pallas's Gull      | 28 |
| Yellow-legged Gull | 44 |
| Black-headed Gull  | 50 |

**Site 2. Dahaizi Reservoir, Manasi. (44°26.0'N., 86°11.4'E.). 390 metres.**

From here its 18.7kms @ 223° to Shihezi

Access to Dahaizi Reservoir (known sometimes as Yuejing Reservoir) is described above. It's only about three kilometres east of Jiahezi Reservoir but held far fewer birds. We birded here for one hour (from 13:30-14:30hrs). Birds included -

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Great Crested Grebe | 43 |
| Black-necked Grebe  | 13 |
| Common Goldeneye    | 2  |
| Great Egret         | 7  |
| Pallas's Gull       | 2  |
| Great Cormorant     | 60 |
| Smew                | 29 |
| Crested Lark        | 2  |
| Meadow Pipit        | 2  |

After Dahaizi Reservoir we headed towards Manasi town, skirted the edge and headed on to route X155 through Guangdongxi xiang to our third site of the day.

**Site 3. Xinhuping Reservoir, Manasi. (44°22.6'N., 86°17.2'E.). 400 metres.**

From here its 22.2kms @ 250° to Shihezi

Less than eight kilometres at about 307° to Daihaizi Reservoir.

We birded the reservoir from two sites – the first at Km post 8.9 on route X155 was largely reed bed while the second, adjacent to about Km 13, gave access to the open water & produced a few more birds. Birds here included -

|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Bean Goose          | 3 flew over |
| Hen Harrier         | 1 ringtail  |
| Great Egret         | 72          |
| Great Crested Grebe | 18          |
| Tufted Duck         | 175         |
| Common Pochard      | 45          |
| Mallard             | 10          |

**Site 4. Partially drained fishpond near Xinhuping Reservoir, Manasi.**

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Pallas's Gull      | 32  |
| Yellow-legged Gull | 15  |
| Black-headed Gull  | 375 |

We left Xinhuping Reservoir at 17:00hrs & drove back in to Manasi town before rejoining route G312 & heading back to Shihezi. It took 45 minutes to reach our final site of the day on the edge of Shihezi.

**5<sup>th</sup> Site. Tielu Dujiacun (literally 'Railway Station Resort') on the edge of Shihezi. (44°18.4'N., 86°01.6'E.) 434 metres.**

We birded here for about 1.5hrs (17:45-19:20hrs). Birds included –

|                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Woodcock                              | 1        |
| Black-throated Thrush                 | 60       |
| Eurasian Blackbird                    | 9        |
| Goldcrest                             | 6        |
| Black-throated Accentor               | 1        |
| Great Tit                             | 3        |
| Apparent hybrid Great x Turkestan Tit | 1        |
| Azure Tit                             | 4        |
| Chaffinch                             | 8        |
| Red-mantled Rosefinch                 | 1 female |

**Weather**

0°C at Jiahezi Reservoir at 09:15hrs rising to 15°C besides Dahaizi Reservoir at 14:15hrs.

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Whooper Swan           | 6 adults at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Bean Goose             | 691 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 688 at Jiahezi Reservoir & 3 flew over Xinhuping Reservoir. (365 & 400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Greylag Goose          | 111 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Ruddy Shelduck         | 134 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Common Shelduck        | 1 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Gadwall                | 10 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Mallard                | 860 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 850 at Jiahezi Reservoir & 10 at Xinhuping Reservoir. (365 & 400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Northern Shoveler      | 3 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Common Teal            | 5 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Red-crested Pochard    | 1 male at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Common Pochard         | 49 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 4 at Jiahezi Reservoir & 45 on Xinhuping Reservoir. (390-400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Tufted Duck            | 210 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 35 at Jiahezi Reservoir & 175 on Xinhuping Reservoir. (390-400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Common Goldeneye       | 7 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 5 at Jiahezi Reservoir & 2 on Dahaizi Reservoir. (365, 390 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Smew                   | 54 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 25 at Jiahezi Reservoir & 29 on Dahaizi Reservoir. (365 & 390 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Common Merganser       | 15 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Little Owl             | 2 singles in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 – one on the edge of Manasi town & the other in Xiaoli Zhuang, Jiahezi Reservoir. (390 & 440 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Rock Pigeon            | 40 in the Shihezi-Manasi areas on the 4/11/2006. (365-450 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Eurasian Collared Dove | 4 on the edge of Manasi town on the 4/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Eurasian Coot          | 1 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Eurasian Woodcock      | 1 at Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 4/11/2006. (435 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Common Ringed Plover   | 1 was seen besides Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres) It was initially heard high overhead & then disappeared. About five minutes later it was heard again & this time it landed about 100 metres away near the edge of the reservoir. It only stayed there for a couple of minutes (but called more or less constantly throughout this period) before again taking flight, circling high & disappearing from view. Not photographed but I managed to tape record a single call note. Apparently the first record for Xinjiang. |
| Yellow-legged Gull     | 76 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 44 on fishponds near Jiahezi Reservoir & 32 on fishponds near Xinhuping Reservoir. (365-400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Pallas's Gull          | 62 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 28 on fishponds near Jiahezi Reservoir, 2 on Dahaizi Reservoir & 32 on fishponds near Xinhuping Reservoir. (365-400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Black-headed Gull                     | 425 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 50 on fishponds near Jiahezi Reservoir & 375 on fishponds near Xinhuping Reservoir. (365-400 metres)                                                  |
| Hen Harrier                           | 4 ringtails in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 – three (an adult female & two often closely attendant juveniles) at Jiahezi Reservoir & the other over Xinhuping Reservoir. (365 & 400 metres) |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk                  | 1 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                               |
| Northern Goshawk                      | 1 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                               |
| Long-legged Buzzard                   | 1 near Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                             |
| Steppe Eagle                          | 1 juvenile was seen from route X155 about 5.6kms north of Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (430 metres)                                                                                             |
| Common Kestrel                        | 3 near Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                             |
| Great Crested Grebe                   | 61 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 – 43 on Dahaizi Reservoir & 18 on Xinhuping Reservoir. (390-400 metres)                                                                                  |
| Black-necked Grebe                    | 13 on Dahaizi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (390 metres)                                                                                                                              |
| Great Cormorant                       | 72 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 – 2 at Jiahezi Reservoir, 60 on Dahaizi Reservoir & 10 around Xinhuping Reservoir. (390-400 metres)                                                      |
| Grey Heron                            | 6 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                               |
| Great Egret                           | 87 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 8 at Jiahezi Reservoir, 7 at Dahaizi Reservoir & 72 near Xinhuping Reservoir. (365-400 metres)                                                         |
| Eurasian Spoonbill                    | 1 first-winter at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                  |
| Eurasian Blackbird                    | 9 in Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 4/11/2006. (435 metres)                                                                                                                                 |
| Mistle Thrush                         | 1 besides route X155 about nine kilometres north of Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (425 metres)                                                                                                   |
| Black-throated Thrush                 | 75 in the Shihezi-Manasi areas on the 4/11/2006 – 15 near Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi & 60 in Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi. (365 & 435 metres)                                                     |
| Winter Wren                           | 2 singles were heard in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 – one at Jiahezi Reservoir & the other near Xinhuping Reservoir. (365-400 metres)                                                      |
| White-crowned Penduline Tit           | 1 flew high over Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                   |
| Great Tit                             | 3 in Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 4/11/2006. (435 metres)                                                                                                                                 |
| Apparent hybrid Great x Turkestan Tit | 1 in Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 4/11/2006. (435 metres)                                                                                                                                 |
| Azure Tit                             | 5 in the Shihezi-Manasi areas on the 4/11/2006 – 1 near Xinhuping Reservoir, Manasi & 4 in Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi. (400 & 435 metres)                                                      |
| Goldcrest                             | 6 in Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 4/11/2006. (435 metres)                                                                                                                                 |
| Bearded Parrotbill                    | A flock of 7 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                    |
| Asian Short-toed Lark                 | 5 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 3 at Jiahezi Reservoir & 2 over Dahaizi Reservoir. (365 & 390 metres)                                                                                   |
| Crested Lark                          | 4 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 2 at Jiahezi Reservoir & 2 near Dahaizi Reservoir. (365 & 390 metres)                                                                                   |
| Eurasian Skylark                      | 7 (three singles & a flock of four) at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                             |
| Horned Lark                           | 20 (4 singles & a flock of 16) at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                  |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow                 | 50 in the Shihezi-Manasi areas on the 4/11/2006.                                                                                                                                            |
| Meadow Pipit                          | 7 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 5 at Jiahezi Reservoir & 2 near Dahaizi Reservoir. (365 & 390 metres)                                                                                   |
| Water Pipit                           | 6 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 5 at Jiahezi Reservoir & 1 over Xinhuping Reservoir. (365-400 metres)                                                                                   |
| Black-throated Accentor               | 2 singles in the Shihezi-Manasi areas on the 4/11/2006 – one at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi & the other in Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi. (365 & 435 metres)                                        |
| Chaffinch                             | 14 in the Shihezi-Manasi areas on the 4/11/2006 – 6 near Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi & 8 in Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi. (365 & 435 metres)                                                       |
| Eurasian Greenfinch                   | 9 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 4 at Jiahezi Reservoir, 2 besides route X155 about nine kilometres north of Manasi & 3 over Xinhuping Reservoir. (365-425 metres)                       |
| European Goldfinch                    | 18 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                              |
| Eurasian Linnet                       | 7 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                               |
| Red-mantled Rosefinch                 | 1 female plumaged bird in Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 4/11/2006. (435 metres)                                                                                                            |
| Pine Bunting or Yellowhammer          | 3 were heard flying high over Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                      |
| Reed Bunting                          | 20 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 13 at Jiahezi Reservoir, 2 near Dahaizi Reservoir & 5 at Xinhuping Reservoir. (365-400 metres)                                                         |
| Lapland Bunting                       | 6 besides the eastern shore of Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                     |

## Mammals

|           |                                                                 |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cape Hare | 1 near Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres) |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|

## **Sunday 5 November 2006. All day in the Shihezi-Shawan-Manasi areas**

We teamed back up with Gou Jun & Xu Jie and left the Tianfu Hotel, Shihezi at 08:30hrs. We spent the day birding at a couple of sites in neighbouring Shawan followed by another site in Manasi - the two districts that neighbour Shihezi to the west & east respectively.

### **Site 1. Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan. (44°24.8'N., 85°48.2'E.). 400 metres**

From here its 20.2kms @ 118° back to Shihezi

Also known as Liu Shi Wu Reservoir we arrived at 09:15hrs (45 minutes drive from Shihezi) and birded there for 3hrs 15 minutes leaving at 12:30hrs. The reservoir held rather few birds – a decent number of cormorants and a decent sized flock of large gulls. Most birds on the reservoir were distant – the gulls for example must have been about 1.5kms away. Importantly there was a sign besides the approach ramp saying that it was forbidden to drive around the reservoir & that anyone ignoring this would be fined 500 yuan. We'd not seen such a sign before and, with the sizeable penalty it threatened, decided not to drive closer to the gulls. After scanning the reservoir we wandered down to the small coppice and area of scrub near the reservoir buildings. There were lots of passerines here & we spent about two hours here. Birds here included -

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bean Goose                   | 41 - two flocks (the first of 27 the second of 14) flew over head & landed on the reservoir                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Ruddy Shelduck               | 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Gadwall                      | 65                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Eurasian Wigeon              | 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Mallard                      | 155                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Northern Pintail             | 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Red-crested Pochard          | 15                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Common Pochard               | 14                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Common Goldeneye             | 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Common Merganser             | 21                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Yellow-legged Gull           | 50                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Pallas's Gull                | 80                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Black-headed Gull            | 30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Common Kestrel               | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Great Crested Grebe          | 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Great Cormorant              | 340                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Grey Heron                   | 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Great Egret                  | 52                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Black-throated Thrush        | 35                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Rosy Starling                | 1 late migrating juvenile was seen with a flock of Common Starlings – a different flock to the one that held the White-checked Starling                                                                                                                                                              |
| Common Starling              | 45                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| White-checked Starling       | 1 with a flock of about 20 Common Starlings. Seen at 11:20hrs & watched for only a couple of minutes before the entire flock flew off. The first record for Xinjiang. Found & identified by Paul Holt it was also seen by Gou Jun, Wang Qingyu and Xu Jie. It was photographed by PH and (better) XJ |
| Wren                         | 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Azure Tit                    | 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Meadow Pipit                 | 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Water Pipit                  | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Bearded Parrotbill           | 1 was heard                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Asian Short-toed Lark        | 1 was heard                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Black-throated Accentor      | 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Chaffinch                    | 20                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Brambling                    | 35                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Fire-fronted Serin           | 11                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| European Greenfinch          | 13                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| European Goldfinch           | 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Linnet                       | 1 flew south                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Desert Finch                 | 8 flew south                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Long-tailed Rosefinch        | 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Yellowhammer                 | 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Pine Bunting                 | 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Pine Bunting or Yellowhammer | 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Reed Bunting                 | 9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

After birding here we drove to our next site –

### **Site 2. Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, Shawan. (44°24.3'N., 85°51.3) 395 metres**

From here its 16.2kms @ 123° to Shihezi

We had first visited this site on the 16 October 2006. Today we birded a different part of the lake (from 12:45-14:10hrs) and walked from the tourist complex along an embankment between the fish/crab ponds and out through the reed bed. We returned to the vehicle a slightly different way. This is apparently one of the best areas for breeding Yellow Wagtails in the Shihezi area.

Birds here included-

|                             |                                       |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Eurasian Eagle Owl          | 1                                     |
| Little Owl                  | 1                                     |
| Collared Dove               | 4                                     |
| Common Coot                 | 2                                     |
| Hen Harrier                 | 1 adult male                          |
| Great Bittern               | 1 was seen by Xu Jie                  |
| Great Crested Grebe         | 3                                     |
| Black-throated Thrush       | 10                                    |
| Common Starling             | 1                                     |
| Reed Bunting                | 10                                    |
| Water Pipit                 | 1                                     |
| Bearded Parrotbill          | 4                                     |
| Yellow Wagtail              | 1 flew over                           |
| Chaffinch                   | 10                                    |
| European Greenfinch         | 2                                     |
| Azure Tit                   | 1 was heard                           |
| White-crowned Penduline Tit | 3                                     |
| White-tailed Eagle          | 1 second calendar year bird flew over |

Leaving Qian Quan Hu we drove back to Shihezi, skirted the edge of the town & drove south over the railway line and shortly afterwards over the Expressway. We were then on local road X904 and this took us through the villages of Zhuan Dong Zi Qiu cun and past the Xiping Protection Station in to the Manasi He Gu Xiao Baohuqu (Manasi Valley Nature Reserve). We drove up the unpaved and increasingly rough road in the centre of the attractive Manasi River Valley. I walked some of this route while Gou Jun drove one particularly bad section. During my walk I saw a distant flock of doves, we changed our plans and went to investigate these in stead of spending all the afternoon birding the scrub wand woodland in the valley bottom.

**3<sup>rd</sup> site. Manasi He Gu Xiao Baohuqu (Manasi Valley Nature Reserve), Manasi. (44°11.5'N., 86°07.2) 600 metres**

From near the protection station its 16.1kms @ 327° back to Shihezi. We birded here from 15:15-18:15hrs before heading back in to Shihezi for dinner. We took a different route back – following route X894 down the side of a large, canalised drainage channel from the Nature Reserve almost all the way down the eastern side of the valley to the massive Manasi Power Station. After perhaps 15kms we joined the main east-west road – G312 at Km post 4304.5 (about two kilometres east of the Manasi toll booth). The drive back to Shihezi took almost one hour. The Manasi River Valley is a good area for migrants with up to 50 White-winged Redstarts being counted here on one day in late autumn 2005. Its also a good site for wintering European Robin.

Birds here included –

|                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Stock Dove                   | 145                        |
| Rock Pigeon                  | 150                        |
| Hill Pigeon                  | 1                          |
| Common Wood Pigeon           | 3                          |
| Collared Dove                | 1                          |
| Black-billed Magpie          | 12                         |
| White-winged Redstart        | 3 (two females & one male) |
| Meadow Bunting               | 6                          |
| Mistle Thrush                | 44                         |
| Merlin                       | 1                          |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk         | 1                          |
| Common Kestrel               | 1                          |
| Long-tailed Rosefinch        | 1                          |
| Chaffinch                    | 15                         |
| Brambling                    | 4                          |
| Yellowhammer                 | 4                          |
| Pine Bunting                 | 1                          |
| Yellowhammer or Pine Bunting | 4                          |
| Azure Tit                    | 2                          |
| Goldcrest                    | 4                          |
| Wren                         | 3                          |
| Black-throated Thrush        | 25                         |

**Weather**

7°C at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan at 09:15hrs, 18°C at Qian Quan Hu at 14:00hrs & 12°C at Manasi He Gu Xiao Baohuqu (Manasi Valley Nature Reserve) at 18:00hrs. It clouded over mid-afternoon & there were a very few spots of rain just after nightfall.

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bean Goose             | 41 birds (in two flocks the first of 27 &the second of 14) at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                        |
| Ruddy Shelduck         | 4 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Gadwall                | 65 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                |
| Eurasian Wigeon        | 6 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Mallard                | 155 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                               |
| Northern Pintail       | 3 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Red-crested Pochard    | 15 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                |
| Common Pochard         | 14 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                |
| Common Goldeneye       | 7 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Common Merganser       | 21 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                |
| Eurasian Eagle Owl     | 1 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (395 metres)                                                                                                                                                              |
| Little Owl             | 1 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (395 metres)                                                                                                                                                              |
| Rock Pigeon            | 200 in the Shawan-Shihezi-Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006. The majority of these (150 birds) were estimated with the flock of Stock Doves near the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi. (400-650 metres)                         |
| Hill Pigeon            | 1 with the large flock of Stock Doves and Rock Pigeons near the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi on the 5/11/2006. (650 metres)                                                                                             |
| Stock Pigeon           | 145 were counted with the flock of Rock Pigeons near the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi on the 5/11/2006. (650 metres)                                                                                                    |
| Common Wood Pigeon     | 3 with the flock of Rock Pigeons and Stock Doves near the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi on the 5/11/2006. (650 metres)                                                                                                   |
| Eurasian Collared Dove | 5 in the Shawan & Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006 - 4 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, Shawan & 1 with the large flock of Rock Pigeons and Stock Doves near the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi on the 5/11/2006. (400-650 metres) |
| Eurasian Coot          | 2 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (395 metres)                                                                                                                                                              |

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Yellow-legged Gull           | 50 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Pallas's Gull                | 80 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Black-headed Gull            | 30 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| White-tailed Eagle           | 1 second calendar year at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (395 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Hen Harrier                  | 1 adult male at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (395 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk         | 1 near the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi on the 5/11/2006. (650 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Common Kestrel               | 2 in the Shawan & Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006 - one at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan & the other near the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi. (400 & 620 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Merlin                       | 1 in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi on the 5/11/2006. (600 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Great Crested Grebe          | 11 in Shawan on the 5/11/2006 - 8 at Liushugou Reservoir & 3 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Great Cormorant              | 340 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Grey Heron                   | 4 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Great Egret                  | 52 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Great Bittern                | 1 was seen by Xu Jie at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (395 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Black-billed Magpie          | 12 in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi on the 5/11/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Eurasian Blackbird           | 4 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Mistle Thrush                | 44 (in one flock) near the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi on the 5/11/2006. (650 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Black-throated Thrush        | 70 in Shawan & Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006 - 35 at Liushugou Reservoir & 10 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, both Shawan & 25 in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                               |
| White-winged Redstart        | 3 (two females & a male) in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi on the 5/11/2006. (570 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Rosy Starling                | 1 juvenile, with Common Starlings, at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Common Starling              | 45 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| White-checked Starling       | 1 with Common Starlings at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. Seen at 11:20hrs & watched for only a couple of minutes before the entire flock flew off. The first record for Xinjiang. Found & identified by Paul Holt it was also seen by Gou Jun, Wang Qingyu and Xu Jie. It was photographed by PH and (better) by XJ. (400 metres) |
| Winter Wren                  | 7 in the Shawan & Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006 - 3 at Liushugou Reservoir & 1 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, both Shawan & 3 in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi. (400-610 metres)                                                                                                                                                           |
| White-crowned Penduline Tit  | 3 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (395 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Azure Tit                    | 9 in Shawan & Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006 - 6 at Liushugou Reservoir & 1 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, both Shawan & 2 in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Goldcrest                    | 4 in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi on the 5/11/2006. (580 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Bearded Parrotbill           | 5 Shawan on the 5/11/2006 - one was heard at Liushugou Reservoir & four at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Asian Short-toed Lark        | 1 was heard at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Crested Lark                 | 2 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (395 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Horned Lark                  | 1 was heard at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (395 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow        | 100 in the Shawan & Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006 - most of these were near the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi. (400-650 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Yellow Wagtail               | 1 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. A very late date. (395 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Meadow Pipit                 | 3 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Water Pipit                  | 3 birds with singles at Liushugou Reservoir & Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, both Shawan & 1 in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi on the 5/11/2006. (400-640 metres)                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Black-throated Accentor      | 4 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Chaffinch                    | 45 in the Shawan & Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006 - 20 at Liushugou Reservoir & 10 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, both Shawan & 15 in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi. (400-650 metres).                                                                                                                                                      |
| Brambling                    | 39 in the Shawan & Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006 - 35 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan & 4 in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi. (400-650 metres).                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Fire-fronted Serin           | 11 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Eurasian Greenfinch          | 15 in Shawan on the 5/11/2006 - 13 at Liushugou Reservoir & 2 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| European Goldfinch           | 2 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Eurasian Linnet              | 1 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Desert Finch                 | 8 flew south at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Long-tailed Rosefinch        | 8 in the Shawan & Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006 - 7 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan & the other in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi. (400-650 metres).                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Yellowhammer                 | 6 in the Shawan & Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006 - two at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan & the other four in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi. (400-650 metres).                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Pine Bunting                 | 6 in the Shawan & Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006 - five at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan & the other in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi. (400-650 metres).                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Pine Bunting or Yellowhammer | 12 in the Shawan & Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006 - eight at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan & the other four in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi. (400-650 metres)                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Meadow Bunting               | 6 in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi on the 5/11/2006. (570 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Reed Bunting                 | 19 in Shawan on the 5/11/2006 - 9 at Liushugou Reservoir & 10 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

## **Monday 6 November 2006. Morning Shihezi afternoon drove back to Urumqi.**

Together with Gou Jun we left the Tianfu Hotel, Shihezi at 07:40hrs & returned to Xigebi (a site we first birded on 17 October). Arriving, after a drive at 63kms, at 09:00hrs were birded there for two hours and left the first site there at 11:15hrs. We explored another area at Xigebi – but to no avail & finally left this area at 12:00hrs.

**1<sup>st</sup> stop. Roadside scrub 3 kms to the Shawan side of Xigebi Sandui & 5 kms to the Shawan side of Xigebi zhen. Shawan district. (44°05.4'N., 85°32.6'E.) 975 metres. 09:00-11:00hrs**

On our previous visit I described this site as an 'excellent & very bird rich area of roadside scrub backed by complex of cultivated fields. Quite a few bushes in the scrub were still thronged with berries'. Today there were far fewer birds here – fewer of the bushes held berries & all the maize & sunflower fields to the rear of the narrow woodland belt had been harvested and were largely devoid of birds.

From here its 45.5kms @ 53° back to Shihezi  
66.9kms @ 297° to Kuitun  
166kms @ 97° to Urumqi

Highlights here on the 17 October inc.

|                                    |                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>European Goldfinch</i>          | 60                                                                                            |
| <i>European Greenfinch</i>         | 5                                                                                             |
| <i>Linnet</i>                      | 350                                                                                           |
| <i>Chaffinch</i>                   | 30                                                                                            |
| <i>Brambling</i>                   | 5                                                                                             |
| <i>Red-fronted Serin</i>           | 5                                                                                             |
| <i>Rock Sparrow</i>                | 150                                                                                           |
| <i>Mistle Thrush</i>               | 20                                                                                            |
| <i>Black-throated Thrush</i>       | 15                                                                                            |
| <i>Eurasian Blackbird</i>          | 6                                                                                             |
| <i>Azure Tit</i>                   | 1 heard                                                                                       |
| <i>Pine Bunting</i>                | 8                                                                                             |
| <i>Corn Bunting</i>                | 4                                                                                             |
| <i>Meadow Bunting</i>              | 2                                                                                             |
| <i>Black-throated Accentor</i>     | 3                                                                                             |
| <i>Rufous-backed Redstart</i>      | 4 (two males & two females).                                                                  |
| <i>Little Owl</i>                  | 1                                                                                             |
| <i>Common Kestrel</i>              | 1                                                                                             |
| <i>Greater Short-toed Lark</i>     | 2                                                                                             |
| <i>Water Pipit</i>                 | 2 in the recently flooded, but now dry, agricultural fields at the rear of the strip of scrub |
| <i>Desert Finch</i>                | 1 flew over                                                                                   |
| <i>White-crowned Penduline Tit</i> | 1 flew over                                                                                   |
| <i>Northern Lapwing</i>            | 2 flew over                                                                                   |
| <i>Common Chiffchaff</i>           | 6                                                                                             |

Birds today inc. -

|                              |                                                               |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bean Goose                   | 1 clearly lost bird was repeatedly circling around the valley |
| Stock Dove                   | 4                                                             |
| Little Owl                   | 1                                                             |
| Long-legged Buzzard          | 2                                                             |
| Common Kestrel               | 3                                                             |
| Mistle Thrush                | 19                                                            |
| Black-throated Thrush        | 10                                                            |
| Black-throated Accentor      | 2                                                             |
| Common Stonechat             | 1 first-winter male                                           |
| Chaffinch                    | 10                                                            |
| Brambling                    | 1                                                             |
| Rock Sparrow                 | 1                                                             |
| Horned Lark                  | 1                                                             |
| European Goldfinch           | 6                                                             |
| Linnet                       | 11                                                            |
| Long-tailed Rosefinch        | 2                                                             |
| Corn Bunting                 | 8 – four of which flew south                                  |
| Yellowhammer                 | 3                                                             |
| Pine Bunting                 | 2                                                             |
| Pine Bunting or Yellowhammer | 4                                                             |

Leaving here we drove back to Shihezi.

**Site 2. Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi. (literally 'Mushroom Lake') (44°26.4'N., 85°55.8'E.) 365 metres. 13:15-14:45hrs**

Birds here included -

|                    |                                                 |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| White-headed Duck  | 3                                               |
| Bean Goose         | 23 (flocks of five, seven & 11 birds) flew over |
| Ruddy Shelduck     | 533                                             |
| Common Shelduck    | 49                                              |
| Smew               | 3                                               |
| Great Egret        | 8                                               |
| Black-necked Grebe | 1                                               |
| Northern Harrier   | 1 ringtail                                      |
| Kestrel            | 1                                               |



|                    |                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Peregrine          | 1 adult                                                                                                                                                  |
| White-tailed Eagle | 5 – three adults, 1 near adult & 1 juvenile. Three days earlier I had three juveniles at this site – making a total of at least seven birds in the area! |
| Common Gull        | 2 first-winters (Photographed – poorly by me & by Gou Jun)                                                                                               |
| Brown-headed Gull  | 1 first-winter                                                                                                                                           |
| Black-headed Gull  | 180                                                                                                                                                      |

## Weather

10°C outside the hotel in Shihezi at 07:40hrs, 6°C at Xigebei at 09:15hrs rising to 16°C there at 12:00hrs.

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| White-headed Duck            | 3 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Bean Goose                   | 23 (flocks of five, seven & 11 birds) flew over Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Ruddy Shelduck               | 533 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Common Shelduck              | 49 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Gadwall                      | 'Present' but not counted on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Eurasian Wigeon              | 'Present' but not counted on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Mallard                      | 'Present' but not counted on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Northern Shoveler            | 'Present' but not counted on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Northern Pintail             | 'Present' but not counted on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Common Teal                  | 'Present' but not counted on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Red-crested Pochard          | 'Present' but not counted on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Common Pochard               | 'Present' but not counted on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Tufted Duck                  | 'Present' but not counted on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Common Goldeneye             | 'Present' but not counted on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Smew                         | 3 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Little Owl                   | 1 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Rock Pigeon                  | 'Present' but not counted in the Shawan-Shihezi-Urumqi areas on the 6/11/2006. (365-1000 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Stock Pigeon                 | 4 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Laughing Dove                | 1 first year at 143 Corps, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. Seen at Km 4329.7 on highway G312 between Shawan & Shihezi (44°17.0'N., 85°52.6' – from here its 11.9kms @ 68° to Shihezi) this is an unusually late date for Laughing Dove in Xinjiang & is possibly the first record for Shihezi of this southern species. (462 metres) |
| Eurasian Collared Dove       | 10 between Xigebei-Shawan-Shihezi-Urumqi on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Eurasian Coot                | 2 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Dunlin                       | 30 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Mew Gull                     | 2 first-winters on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (Photographed – poorly by me & by Gou Jun) (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Yellow-legged Gull           | 6 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Pallas's Gull                | 8 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Brown-headed Gull            | 1 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Black-headed Gull            | 180 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| White-tailed Eagle           | 5 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. Three adults, 1 near adult & 1 juvenile. Three days earlier I had three juveniles at this site – making a total of at least seven birds in the area! (365 metres)                                                                                                                     |
| Hen Harrier                  | 1 ringtail on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk         | 1 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Long-legged Buzzard          | 2 near the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| buzzard sp.                  | 1 near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Common Kestrel               | 4 in the Shawan-Shihezi areas on the 6/11/2006 – 3 at Xigebei, Shawan & 1 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi. (365 & 965 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Peregrine Falcon             | 1 adult at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Black-necked Grebe           | 1 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Great Cormorant              | 30 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Grey Heron                   | 2 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Great Egret                  | 8 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Mistle Thrush                | 19 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Black-throated Thrush        | 10 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Common Stonechat             | 1 first-winter in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Common Starling              | 1 near Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (400 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Asian Short-toed Lark        | 1 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Horned Lark                  | 16 in the Shawan-Shihezi areas on the 6/11/2006 – 1 at Xigebei, Shawan & 15 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi. (365 & 965 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow        | 100 in the Shawan-Shihezi-Urumqi areas on the 6/11/2006. (365-1000 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Rock Sparrow                 | 1 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Black-throated Accentor      | 2 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Chaffinch                    | 10 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Brambling                    | 1 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| European Goldfinch           | 6 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Eurasian Linnet              | 11 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Long-tailed Rosefinch        | 2 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Yellowhammer                 | 3 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Pine Bunting                 | 2 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Pine Bunting or Yellowhammer | 4 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Corn Bunting                 | 8 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

## Tuesday 7 November 2006. Morning Qingedahu,

Together with Gou Jun we left the Yindu Hotel, Urumqi at 07:30hrs & returned to Qingedahu. On the way we met Professor Ma Ming, Xinjiang's & one of China's leading ornithologists & a thoroughly nice guy. He had two of his students with him & the six of us spent the day together. We spent the morning & early afternoon at Qingedahu and the late afternoon at Bayi Reservoir (a site we had visited, with Gou Jun and Wang Chuanbo, in fog on the 22 October). In the evening we visited Prof. Ma's office and had dinner together.

### Site 1. Qingedahu, Wujiagu, Changji. (44°05.9'N., 87°33.4'E.) 470 metres

We birded here from about 09:15-14:45hrs before heading off in to Wujiagu for a noodle lunch. Noteworthy birds here included – a single Great Bustard, large numbers of large gulls and a decent array of, well seen, pipits.

### Site 2. Bayi Reservoir, near 102 Corps., Changji. (44°14.4'N., 87°38.9'E.) 445 metres

We birded from here from 16:00hrs until about 18:30hrs. It's a fairly deep water moderately large reservoir surrounded on three sides by a walled embankment that we drove around. Noteworthy birds here included – decent numbers of Common Merganser (211), four species of grebe & Eurasian Spoonbill (15).

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bean Goose            | 23 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiagu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (445 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Greylag Goose         | 1 at Qingedahu, Wujiagu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Ruddy Shelduck        | 114 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 42 at Qingedahu & 72 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Common Shelduck       | 38 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiagu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (445 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Gadwall               | 'Present' but not counted at Qingedahu, Wujiagu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Eurasian Wigeon       | 150 at Qingedahu, Wujiagu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Mallard               | Recorded in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 'large numbers' at Qingedahu & 60 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Northern Shoveler     | 40 at Qingedahu, Wujiagu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Northern Pintail      | 50 at Qingedahu, Wujiagu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Common Teal           | 10 at Qingedahu, Wujiagu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Red-crested Pochard   | 22 at Qingedahu, Wujiagu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Common Pochard        | 2 at Qingedahu, Wujiagu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Tufted Duck           | 28 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 3 at Qingedahu & 25 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Common Goldeneye      | 12 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiagu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (445 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Smew                  | 15 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiagu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (445 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Common Merganser      | 211 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 28 at Qingedahu & 183 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Rock Pigeon           | 'Present' between Urumqi & Changji on the 7/11/2006.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Great Bustard         | 1 immature at Qingedahu, Wujiagu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (Gou Jun, Paul Holt, Ma Ming & Wang Qingyu et al.) (Photographed) (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                         |
| Dunlin                | 11 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiagu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (445 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Northern Lapwing      | 20 at Qingedahu, Wujiagu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Mew Gull              | 1 first-winter at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiagu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (Gou Jun, Paul Holt, Ma Ming & Wang Qingyu et al.) (445 metres)                                                                                                                                                               |
| Yellow-legged Gull    | 158 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 148 at Qingedahu & 10 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Pallas's Gull         | 650 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 612 at Qingedahu & 40 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Black-headed Gull     | 140 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 20 at Qingedahu & 100 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Hen Harrier           | 2 ringtails in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – singles at both Qingedahu & Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Long-legged Buzzard   | 4 in the Urumqi-Changji area on the 7/11/2006. (445-480 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| [Upland Buzzard       | Professor Ma Ming saw one near Bayi Reservoir, Wujiagu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (445 metres)]                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Common Kestrel        | 4 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 3 at Qingedahu & 1 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Peregrine Falcon      | 2 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – an adult at Qingedahu & a juvenile at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Red-necked Grebe      | 1 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiagu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. There are apparently three previous records from Xinjiang – they are all specimen records, of birds accidentally caught in fishing nets. (Ma Ming pers. com. 7 Nov. 2006). (Gou Jun, Paul Holt, Ma Ming & Wang Qingyu et al.) (445 metres) |
| Great Crested Grebe   | 19 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 5 at Qingedahu & 14 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Horned Grebe          | 2 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiagu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (445 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Black-necked Grebe    | 25 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 2 at Qingedahu & 23 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Great Cormorant       | 173 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 53 at Qingedahu & 120 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Grey Heron            | 79 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 38 (two adults & 36 first years) at Qingedahu & 31 (again mostly first years) at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)                                                                                                                                               |
| Great Egret           | 81 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 23 at Qingedahu & 58 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Eurasian Spoonbill    | 15 (one adult & 14 first-winters) at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiagu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (445 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Black-throated Thrush | 5 at Qingedahu, Wujiagu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Winter Wren           | 1 was heard near Bayi Reservoir, Wujiagu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (445 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Asian Short-toed Lark | 2 singles in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – one at Qingedahu & the other at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Eurasian Skylark      | 4 at Qingedahu, Wujiagu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Horned Lark           | 32 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 17 at Qingedahu & 15 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow | 50 between Urumqi & Changji on the 7/11/2006.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Yellow Wagtail        | 1 first-winter at Qingedahu, Wujiagu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Meadow Pipit          | 2, with other pipits, at Qingedahu, Wujiagu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Water Pipit           | 9, with other pipits, in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 8 at Qingedahu & one at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)                                                                                                                                                                                     |

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Buff-bellied Pipit           | 3, with other pipits, at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (Gou Jun, Paul Holt, Ma Ming & Wang Qingyu et al.). (470 metres)                                           |
| pipit sp.                    | After we'd watched the mixed pipit flock at fairly close range the birds flew and landed on the distant muddy lake edge. 21 pipits were counted, but the could not be identified. |
| Chaffinch                    | 1 flew over at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                         |
| European Goldfinch           | 1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                   |
| Eurasian Linnnet             | 4 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                   |
| Pine Bunting or Yellowhammer | 4 flew over at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                         |
| Reed Bunting                 | 4 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)                                                                                                                   |
| Lapland Bunting              | 1 was heard at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 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 Chukar reads (4/25 23 37) - birds were noted on 4 of the 25 days that I was in Xinjiang, with up to 23 individuals on any one date & with a total of 37 bird-days. The figures in the second set of parentheses denote the altitudinal range that particular species was encountered at.

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***

#### **2006**

(4/25 23 37) (365 & 1020-1420 metres)

2 at the Wulabo Wetland, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1020 metres)

11 (ten seen & one heard) about 1.5kms up route S101 towards Niujuanzi, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1400 & 1420 metres)

1 was heard near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)

23 in one covey at Km 402 on NH G216 (22 kms south of Kamuste & 67 kms north of Wuciawan) in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 23/10/2006. (1070 metres)

### **DAURIAN PARTRIDGE *Perdix dauurica***

#### **2006**

(2/25 15 20) (455 & 1765 metres)

15 in a roadside covey near Gangou xiang on the drive from Tian Wan Tai back to Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1765 metres)

5 besides the small oasis 16kms north of Wucaiwan cun, Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)

### **COMMON PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus***

#### **2006**

(6/25 5 17) (255-720 metres)

3 were heard near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 - one in Hebian Gongyuan & the other two at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)

3 heard at Qi Shi San Tuan (73<sup>rd</sup> Corps.), Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006 - two near Wei Hu & the third in the nearby Yili Riverside scrub. (720 metres)

5 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Three of these were at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & the other two were at No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)

3 were heard at various sites in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)

2 in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)

1 near the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)

### **WHITE-HEADED DUCK *Oxyura leucocephala* EN**

#### **2006**

(6/25 11 29) (365, 470 & 510 metres)

Birds were noted at just three sites on a total of six dates. The most reliable site was Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi (44°26.4'N., 85°55.8'E.) where two, 11, nine & three birds were noted on the 16 & 19 October and the 3 and 6 November 2006 respectively. Elsewhere two were at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji (44°05.9'N., 87°33.4'E.) on 21 October 2006 & two more were at Wuyi Reservoir, Bole (44°52.7'N., 82°02.0'E.) on the 31 October 2006.

2 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (Gou Jun, Paul Holt, Wang Qingyu & Xu Jie). (365 metres)

11 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)

2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (Gou Jun, Paul Holt, Wang Chuanbo & Wang Qingyu). (470 metres)

2 on Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)

9 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. They were in three discrete groups - a single, a pair & a party of six. Both members of the pair were photographed. (365 metres)

3 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)

### **MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor***

#### **2006**

(3/25 3 6) (190, 720 & 2073 metres)

1 adult on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)

3 adults on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)

2 (an adult & a juvenile) at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)

## WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

### 2006

(5/25 42 59) (365, 510, 540, 1060 & 2073 metres)

2 adults on Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)

42 (32 adults & 10 first-years) on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)

5 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – two adults flew east down the Boertala River at 12:00hrs while three birds (two adults & a juvenile) were on Wuyi Reservoir later in the day. (510 & 540 metres)

4 adults on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)

6 adults at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)

## BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis*

### 2006

(13/25 2280 4663) (190-720 & 2073 metres)

Both forms were noted – ‘Tundra Bean Goose’ was by far the more common of the two while ‘Taiga Bean Goose’ was only recorded at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006 – when 5 birds were present. ‘Taiga Bean Goose’ has not previously been recorded in Xinjiang.

The taxonomic status of these two forms is complex and remains unresolved. Some authors treating the entire Bean Goose complex as one large, highly variable species would treat these Xinjiang ‘Taigas’ as *A. f. johanseni*. Others however don’t recognise this form and treat the complex as two separate monotypic species - Tundra Bean Goose *A. serrirostris* & Taiga Bean Goose’ *A. fabalis*.

6 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)

1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)

420 at Qi Shi San Tuan (73<sup>rd</sup> Corps.), Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006 - 33 flew west (in flocks of 1, 3, 5, 10 & 14 birds) over Wei Hu, Gongliu while a single flock of 390 birds was seen nearby at the Yili Riverside. (720 metres)

58 at two sites in Chabucha’er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. 46 flew east over the Yili He Da Qiao & 12 (two singles & a flock of 10) also flew east over San Xiang Cun Zhuang. (540-600 metres)

8 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)

132 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. Although most birds were again ‘Tundra Bean Geese’ at least 5 were ‘Taiga Bean Goose’ (photos).

The latter form has not previously been recorded in Xinjiang. (190 metres)

2280 on Wuyi Reservoir on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres). We could see the first birds arriving from high to the northwest as we were leaving the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds at 12:00hrs & they continued to arrive in dribs & drabs for the next 1.5hrs. The very last flock to arrive was the largest & contained a massive 1180 birds! It was then about 22°C in the shade & not surprisingly no sooner had most of the geese landed on the water than they started to drink. The geese left even more suddenly – in three waves starting at 18:00hrs (the temperature had then dropped to a comfortable 17°C). They all left, the departure lasting only 15 minutes. Surprisingly all the birds left in exactly the same north-westerly direction that they’d arrived from – they were watched through the telescope until probably three or four kilometres distant & were still flying strongly northwest! After this three single geese returned.

30 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)

950 at the Anjihai Reservoirs, Shawan on the 2/11/2006 – 940 (including a leucistic bird) besides Reservoir No. 1 & 9 on Reservoir No. 2. (415 & 435 metres)

691 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 688 at Jiahezi Reservoir & 3 flew over Xinhuping Reservoir. (365 & 400 metres)

41 birds (in two flocks the first of 27 & the second of 14) at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)

23 (flocks of five, seven & 11 birds) flew over Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)

23 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (445 metres)

## GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*

### 2006

(5/25 16 31) (190-510 metres)

2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)

1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)

2 adults at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)

16 on Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)

10 (4 adults) with the Bean Geese besides Anjihai Reservoir No. 1, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (435 metres)

## LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser erythropus* VU

### 2006

(1/25 1 1) (510 metres)

1 first-winter on Wuyi Reservoir, Bole (44°52.7’N., 82°02.0’E.) on the 31/10/2006. Apparently the first record for Xinjiang. (Description) (510 metres)

## GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

### 2006

(15/25 320 1261) (190-1060 metres)

10 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)

10 on Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)

63 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 40 on Qian Quan Hu & 23 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)

115 on Beihu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)  
42 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)  
163 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
116 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)  
1 was heard flying south over the Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)  
38 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
4 on Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)  
320 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)  
50 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)  
217 near Shihezi on the 3/11/2006 – 7 on Mo Gu Hu & 210 besides Beihu Reservoir. (365 metres)  
111 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)  
1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)

## **BAR-HEADED GOOSE** *Anser indicus*

**2006**

(1/25 5 5) (1060 metres)

5 on Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)

## **RUDDY SHELDUCK** *Tadorna ferruginea*

**2006**

(13/25 1120 2805) (190-470 & 2073 metres)

50 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)  
127 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 57 on Beihu & 70 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)  
40 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)  
10 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
30 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)  
15 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)  
1120 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)  
518 in the Jinghe & Wusu areas on the 1/11/2006 - 415 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe & 103 at Kuitun Reservoir, Wusu. (190 & 290 metres)  
110 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)  
134 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)  
4 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)  
533 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)  
114 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 42 at Qingedahu & 72 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)

## **COMMON SHELDUCK** *Tadorna tadorna*

**2006**

(9/25 49 194) (290-470 metres)

2 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)  
24 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)  
24 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)  
1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
22 at Kuitun Reservoir, Wusu on the 1/11/2006. (290 metres)  
33 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)  
1 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)  
49 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)  
38 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (445 metres)

## **GADWALL** *Anas strepera*

**2006**

(18/25 2350 9000+) (190-720 metres)

5 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)  
300 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 50 on Qian Quan Hu & 250 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)  
1970 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 120 on Beihu & 1850 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)  
1960 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)  
290 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
220 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)  
12 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – six in Haijing Park & the other six at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)  
110 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
30 on Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)  
1100 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)  
4 on Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)  
500 in the Jinghe & Wusu areas on the 1/11/2006 – virtually all of these were at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe but there were also 35 on Kuitun Reservoir, Wusu. (190-290 metres)  
30 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)

2350 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)  
10 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)  
65 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)  
'Present' but not counted on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)  
'Present' but not counted at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)

## **EURASIAN WIGEON** *Anas penelope*

### **2006**

(19/25 550 2235+) (190-720 & 2073 metres)  
20 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)  
10 on Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)  
30 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 5 on Qian Quan Hu & 25 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)  
215 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 65 on Beihu & 150 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)  
100 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)  
200 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
2 in the small oasis 20kms north of Wucaiwai cun, Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)  
350 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)  
8 over the Yili River at Hebian Gongyuan on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)  
8 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
5 on Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)  
1 on No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.', Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (608 metres)  
38 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)  
550 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)  
57 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 12 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 45 on Wuyi Reservoir. (510 & 540 metres)  
485 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)  
6 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)  
'Present' but not counted on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)  
150 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)

## **MALLARD** *Anas platyrhynchos*

### **2006**

(2025 8200 37,500+) (190-720 & 2073 metres)  
1000 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)  
150 on Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)  
2000 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 300 on Qian Quan Hu & 1700 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)  
4000 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 855 on Beihu & 3200 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)  
2000 Shihezi on the 20/10/2006 – 1500 on Mo Gu Hu & 500 on Beihu. (365 metres)  
5300 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
30 at Bayi Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (445 metres)  
7600 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. A sample count of 461 birds were sexed & this produced 191 males (41%) & 270 females (59%). (470 metres)  
140 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – 40 over the Yili River at Hebian Gongyuan & 100 at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)  
85 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
250 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Nearly all (220) of these on were on Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.'. (565-580 metres)  
190 at two sites in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. 46 on No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.' & 145 in the Yili He on the edge of Yining. (590 & 605 metres)  
47 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)  
2500 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)  
945 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 10 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 935 on Wuyi Reservoir. (510 & 540 metres)  
1500 in the Jinghe & Wusu areas on the 1/11/2006 – most of these were at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe but there were also 430 on Kuitun Reservoir, Wusu. (190-290 metres)  
365 in the Kuitun-Shawan areas on the 2/11/2006 - 255 at Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun & 110 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan. (375 & 415 metres)  
8200 near Shihezi on the 3/11/2006 – 7100 on Mo Gu Hu & 1100 besides Beihu Reservoir. (365 metres)  
860 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 850 at Jiahezi Reservoir & 10 at Xinhuping Reservoir. (365 & 400 metres)  
155 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)  
'Present' but not counted on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)  
Recorded in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 'large numbers' at Qingedahu & 60 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)

## **NORTHERN SHOVELER** *Anas clypeata*

### **2006**

(13/25 775 1555+) (190-720 metres)  
10 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)  
430 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 10 on Qian Quan Hu & 420 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)  
170 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 20 on Beihu & 150 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)  
20 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)  
10 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
20 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)

4 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
60 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)  
10 on Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)  
3 at Kuitun Reservoir, Wusu on the 1/11/2006. (290 metres)  
775 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)  
3 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)  
'Present' but not counted on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)  
40 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)

## **NORTHERN PINTAIL** *Anas acuta*

### **2006**

(18/25 2150 6690+) (190-720 & 2073 metres)  
20 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)  
15 on Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)  
400 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 20 on Qian Quan Hu & 400 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)  
750 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 4 on Beihu & 750 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)  
800 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)  
850 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
800 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)  
4 besides the Yili River at Fang Cou Hu, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580 metres)  
6 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
2 on Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)  
1 on No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.', Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (608 metres)  
11 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)  
800 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)  
13 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 3 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 10 on Wuyi Reservoir. (510 & 540 metres)  
15 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)  
2150 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)  
3 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)  
'Present' but not counted on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)  
50 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)

## **GARGANEY** *Anas querquedula*

### **2006**

(3/25 4 7) (365, 385 & 470 metres)  
1 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)  
4 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 2 on both on Qian Quan Hu & Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)  
2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)

## **COMMON TEAL** *Anas crecca*

### **2006**

(19/25 700 1964+) (190-1060 metres)  
10 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)  
3 on Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)  
700 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 300 on Qian Quan Hu & 400 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)  
120 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 40 on Beihu & 780 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)  
10 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)  
40 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
4 in the small oasis 20kms north of Wucaiwan cun, Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)  
250 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)  
15 besides the Yili River at Fang Cou Hu, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580 metres)  
9 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
17 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Two on Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & the other 15 were at No. 2 Reservoir, 63 Corps. (580 metres)  
2 on No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.', Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (608 metres)  
350 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)  
9 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 4 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 5 on Wuyi Reservoir. (510 & 540 metres)  
300 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)  
80 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)  
30 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)  
5 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)  
'Present' but not counted on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)  
10 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)

## **RED-CRESTED POCHARD** *Rhodonessa rufina*



## 2006

(15/25 255 1112+) (190-720 & 2073 metres)

- 50 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 20 on Qian Quan Hu & 30 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)  
255 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)  
150 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)  
240 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
52 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)  
1 female besides the Yili River at Fang Cou Hu, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580 metres)  
235 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. A sample count of 94 birds produced 40 males (43%) & 54 females (57%). (720 metres)  
9 on Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)  
7 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)  
15 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 8 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 7 on Wuyi Reservoir. (510 & 540 metres)  
13 in the Wusu area on the 1/11/2006 - seven on Lingou Reservoir & five on a roadside pool east of route G217 & north of Kuitun. (190 metres)  
47 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)  
1 male at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)  
15 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)  
'Present' but not counted on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)  
22 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)

## COMMON POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

### 2006

(17/25 930 2532+) (190-720 & 2073 metres)

- 450 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)  
836 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)  
30 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)  
6 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
20 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)  
12 besides the Yili River at Fang Cou Hu, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580 metres)  
17 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
12 on Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)  
4 on No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.', Chabu'cha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (608 metres)  
85 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)  
23 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 2 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 21 on Wuyi Reservoir. (510 & 540 metres)  
32 on a roadside pool east of G217 & north of Kuitun on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)  
10 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)  
930 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)  
49 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 4 at Jiahezi Reservoir & 45 on Xinhuping Reservoir. (390-400 metres)  
14 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)  
'Present' but not counted on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)  
2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)

## FERRUGINOUS POCHARD *Aythya nyroca* NT

### 2006

(5/25 18 38) (365, 580 & 720 metres)

- 3 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)  
18 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)  
7 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
4 on Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)  
6 males on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)

## TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

### 2006

(17/25 1020 3009+) (190-720 & 2073 metres)

- 80 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)  
950 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)  
50 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)  
21 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
8 at Bayi Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (445 metres)  
95 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)  
48 besides the Yili River at Fang Cou Hu, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580 metres)  
5 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
2 on Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)  
4 on No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.', Chabu'cha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (608 metres)  
389 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)  
12 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 4 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 8 on Wuyi Reservoir. (510 & 540 metres)  
27 on a roadside pool east of G217 & north of Kuitun on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)  
60 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)

1020 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)  
210 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 35 at Jiahezi Reservoir & 175 on Xinhuping Reservoir. (390-400 metres)  
'Present' but not counted on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)  
28 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 - 3 at Qingedahu & 25 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)

## **GREATER SCAUP** *Aythya marila*

### **2006**

(2/25 1 2) (365 & 2073 metres)

1 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres) Apparently the first record for Xinjiang.  
1 female on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. Apparently only the second record for Xinjiang. (Poor & probably not confidently identifiable photos - but decent field notes). (2073 metres)

## **LONG-TAILED DUCK** *Clangula hyemalis*

### **2006**

(1/25 1 1) (2073 metres)

1 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. Probably a first-winter female this was apparently the first record for Xinjiang. (Photos & field notes) (2073 metres)

## **COMMON GOLDENEYE** *Bucephala clangula*

### **2006**

(11/25 251 347+) (365-580 & 2073 metres)

8 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)  
14 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)  
6 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)  
3 on Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)  
251 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)  
9 on Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)  
4 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)  
26 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)  
7 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 5 at Jiahezi Reservoir & 2 on Dahaizi Reservoir. (365, 390 metres)  
7 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)  
'Present' but not counted on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)  
12 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (445 metres)

## **SMEW** *Mergellus albellus*

### **2006**

(9/25 54 114) (365-510 & 2073 metres)

13 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)  
7 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)  
1 redhead on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)  
1 redhead on Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)  
18 at the Anjihai Reservoirs, Shawan on the 2/11/2006 - 13 (including a leucistic bird) besides Reservoir No. 1 & 5 on Reservoir No. 2. (415 & 435 metres)  
2 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)  
54 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 25 at Jiahezi Reservoir & 29 on Dahaizi Reservoir. (365 & 390 metres)  
3 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)  
15 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (445 metres)

## **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** *Mergus serrator*

### **2006**

(2/25 3 4) (510 & 2073 metres)

1 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)  
3 on Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)

## **COMMON MERGANSER** *Mergus merganser*

### **2006**

(14/25 280 725) (290-580 & 2073 metres)

1 redhead at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)  
1 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)  
2 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)  
2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
3 at Bayi Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (445 metres)

280 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Seven of these were at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', 192 at No. 2 Reservoir, 63 Corps & 80 at No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)  
109 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)  
56 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 13 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 43 on Wuyi Reservoir. There was possibly some duplication here. (510 & 540 metres)  
15 on Kuitun Reservoir, Wusu on the 1/11/2006. (290 metres)  
2 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 1, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (435 metres)  
7 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)  
15 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)  
21 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)  
211 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 28 at Qingedahu & 183 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)

## **[GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major***

### **2006**

(2/25 1 2) (590 & 2020 metres)

1 woodpecker sp., possibly this species, was heard at Shitougou Nature Reserve, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (2020 metres)  
1 bird, possibly this species, was heard in Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)]

## **WHITE-WINGED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos leucopterus***

### **2006**

(3/25 1 3) (255, 540 & 580 metres)

1 male at No. 2 Reservoir, 63 Corps, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)  
1 male at San Xiang Cun Zhuang, Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540 metres)  
1 in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)

## **EURASIAN HOOPOE *Upupa epops***

### **2006**

(1/25 1 1) (435 metres)

1 besides Anjihai Reservoir No. 1, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (435 metres)

## **COMMON KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis***

### **2006**

(4/25 4 8) (375, 580-590 & 720 metres)

4 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – two in Hebian Gongyuan & the other two at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)  
2 near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
1 at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)  
1 at Quanguo Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)

## **EURASIAN EAGLE OWL *Bubo bubo***

### **2006**

(2/25 1 2) (365 & 395 metres)

1 was accidentally flushed near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)  
1 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (395 metres)

## **LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua***

### **2006**

(9/25 3 15) (350-1040 metres)

2 near Shawan on the 17/10/2006 -one about 24kms from Shawan towards Xigebei zhen & the other in the 'Xigebei fields'. (905 & 975 metres)  
1 near Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1040 metres)  
2 near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
2 were heard at dusk near No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps., Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565 metres)  
3 singles in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006 – one besides the Yili He Da Qiao, another at San Xiang Cun Zhuang & the third near the No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.'. (540-600 metres)  
1 near Lingou Reservoir, Wusu on the 1/11/2006. (350 metres)  
2 singles in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 – one on the edge of Manasi town & the other in Xiaoli Zhuang, Jiahezi Reservoir. (390 & 440 metres)  
1 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (395 metres)  
1 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (975 metres)

## **SHORT-EARED OWL** *Asio flammeus*

**2006**

(1/25 2 2) (470 metres)

2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)

## **nightjar sp.**

**2006**

(1/25 1 1) (ca.600 metres)

1 was seen outside the Sailimuhu Hotel, Huocheng, Yili at 07:20hrs (1hr 50 minutes before sun rise) on the 28/10/2006. It was 9° centigrade at the time!  
(ca.600 metres)

## **ROCK PIGEON** *Columba livia*

**2006**

(19/25 500 1780+) (365-1060 metres)

'Present' between Urumqi & Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006.

500 on Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)

300 in & around Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365-1000 metres)

100 in the Shihezi, & Shawan area on the 17/10/2006.

50 near Shihezi on the 19/10/2006.

20 near Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)

50 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)

20 just north of Urumqi on the 22/10/2006.

10 near Urumqi on the 23/10/2006.

30 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)

100 in & around Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006.

100 in the Yining-Gongliu areas, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (580-720 metres)

30 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006.

50 around Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)

50 in the Bole-Jinghe-Wusu-Kuitun area on the 1/11/2006.

50 in the Kuitun-Shawan-Shihezi areas on the 2/11/2006. (375-500 metres)

30 near Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)

40 in the Shihezi-Manasi areas on the 4/11/2006. (365-450 metres)

200 in the Shawan-Shihezi-Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006. The majority of these (150 birds) were estimated with the flock of Stock Doves near the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi. (400-650 metres)

50 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006.

'Present' but not counted in the Shawan-Shihezi-Urumqi areas on the 6/11/2006. (365-1000 metres)

'Present' between Urumqi & Changji on the 7/11/2006.

## **HILL PIGEON** *Columba rupestris*

**2006**

(1/25 1 1) (650 metres)

1 with the large flock of Stock Doves and Rock Pigeons near the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi on the 5/11/2006. (650 metres)

## **STOCK PIGEON** *Columba oenas*

**2006**

(5/25 145 196) (565-975 metres)

1 very recently road killed first year at Km 428 (about 48 kms south of Kamuste, Altai) on G216 on the 22/10/2006. (845 metres)

1 near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)

42 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. 19 (a flock of eight & another of 11) of these were at No. 2 Reservoir, 63 Corps & 23 (a single a groups of 2, 3, 3 & 14 birds) were at No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)

4 flew east over the Yili He Da Qiao, Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540 metres)

145 were counted with the flock of Rock Pigeons near the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi on the 5/11/2006. (650 metres)

4 in the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)

## **COMMON WOOD PIGEON** *Columba palumbus*

**2006**

(2/25 5 8) (540 & 650 metres)

5 (four flew west & one east) over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)

3 with the flock of Rock Pigeons and Stock Doves near the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi on the 5/11/2006. (650 metres)

## **LAUGHING DOVE** *Streptopelia senegalensis*

**2006**

(1/25 1 1) (462 metres)

1 first year at 143 Corps, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. Seen at Km 4329.7 on highway G312 between Shawan & Shihezi (44°17.0'N., 85°52.6' – from here its 11.9kms @ 68° to Shihezi) this is an unusually late date for Laughing Dove in Xinjiang & is possibly the first record for Shihezi of this southern species. (462 metres)

## **EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE** *Streptopelia decaocto*

**2006**

(15/25 40 216) (365-1060 metres)

20 between Urumqi & Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)

2 near Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)

2 near Shawan on the 17/10/2006.

2 near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)

4 near Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)

40 between Urumqi & Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)

10 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)

20 in & around Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (570-590 metres)

40 near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)

20 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)

35 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006.

2 near Anjihai Reservoir No. 1, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (435 metres)

4 on the edge of Manasi town on the 4/11/2006. (400 metres)

5 in the Shawan & Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006 - 4 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, Shawan & 1 with the large flock of Rock Pigeons and Stock Doves near the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi on the 5/11/2006. (400-650 metres)

10 between Xigebi-Shawan-Shihezi-Urumqi on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)

## **GREAT BUSTARD** *Otis tarda* VU

**2006**

(1/25 1 1) (470 metres)

1 immature at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji (44°05.9'N., 87°33.4'E.) on the 7/11/2006. (Paul Holt, Gou Jun, Ma Ming & Wang Qingyu et al.) (Photographed) (470 metres)

## **COMMON CRANE** *Grus grus*

**2006**

(4/25 330 422) (435, 540, 580 & 720 metres)

68 (a flock of 64 & another of just four) flew west over Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili at 13:00 & 13:40hrs respectively on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)

20 flew east high over No. 2 Reservoir, 63 Corps, Huocheng, Yili at 17:15hrs on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)

330 at San Xiang Cun Zhuang, Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540 metres)

4 birds were seen several times flying around Anjihai Reservoir No. 1, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (435 metres)

## **EUROPEAN WATER RAIL** *Rallus aquaticus*

**2006**

(6/25 6 19) (385-1020 metres)

2 singles were heard at the Wulabo Wetland, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1020 metres)

1 was heard at Qian Quan Hu, Shawan on the 16/10/2006. (385 metres)

6 were heard near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – five in Hebian Gongyuan & the other at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)

3 heard at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)

4 were heard near Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)

3 were heard besides the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)

## **COMMON MOORHEN** *Gallinula chloropus*

**2006**

(2/25 10 15) (580-590 & 720 metres)

10 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – eight in Hebian Gongyuan & the other two at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)

5 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)

## **EURASIAN COOT** *Fulica atra*

**2006**

(14/25 560 1202) (365-1060 metres)

100 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)

10 at Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)

60 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 50 on Qian Quan Hu & 10 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)

110 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 30 on Beihu & 80 on Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)

65 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)

140 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)

50 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)

90 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – three in Hebian Gongyuan, 65 in Haijing Park & about 20 at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)

560 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)

2 at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)

10 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)

1 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)

2 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (395 metres)

2 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)

## **PALLAS'S SANDGROUSE** *Syrhaptes paradoxus*

**2006**

(2/25 64 65) (365 & 1020-1060 metres)

64 near Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. Eight different groups were seen & these were of the following sizes – 1, 4, 4, 6, 7, 12, 14 & 14. (1020-1060 metres)

1 flew north over Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)

## **BLACK-BELLIED SANDGROUSE** *Pterocles orientalis*

**2006**

(1/25 2 2) (415 metres)

2 flew west over the Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan at 12:45hrs on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)

## **EURASIAN WOODCOCK** *Scolopax rusticola*

**2006**

(2/25 1 2) (430 & 435 metres)

1 was accidentally flushed at Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (430 metres)

1 at Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 4/11/2006. (435 metres)

## **COMMON SNIPE** *Gallinago gallinago*

**2006**

(3/25 3 5) (190, 385 & 540 metres)

3 in flight over Qian Quan Hu, Shawan on the 16/10/2006. (385 metres)

1 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)

1 besides the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)

## **'WESTERN ' BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa limosa\**

**2006**

(1/25 3 3) (470 metres)

3 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)

## **EURASIAN CURLEW** *Numenius arquata*

**2006**

(2/25 3 4) (365 & 470 metres)

3 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)

1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)

## **SPOTTED REDSHANK** *Tringa erythropus*

**2006**

(1/25 8 8) (470 metres)

8 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)

## **COMMON REDSHANK** *Tringa totanus*

**2006**

(3/25 1 3) (190, 365 & 590 metres)

1 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)

1 flew east up the Yili River adjacent to Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)

1 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)

## **COMMON GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia*

**2006**

(1/25 1 1) (590 metres)

1 besides the Yili River adjacent to Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)

## **GREEN SANDPIPER** *Tringa ochropus*

**2006**

(3/25 3 5) (540, 590 & 720 metres)

3 besides the Yili River adjacent to Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)

1 was heard at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)

1 besides the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)

## **DUNLIN** *Calidris alpina*

**2006**

(6/25 57 204) (365 & 445 metres)

23 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)

45 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)

57 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)

38 besides Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)

30 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)

11 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (445 metres)

## **COMMON RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius hiaticula*

**2006**

(1/25 1 1) (365 metres)

1 was seen besides Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres) It was initially heard high overhead & then disappeared. About five minutes later it was heard again & this time it landed about 100 metres away near the edge of the reservoir. It only stayed there for a couple of minutes (but called more or less constantly throughout this period) before again taking flight, circling high & disappearing from view. Not photographed but I managed to tape record a single call note. Apparently the first record for Xinjiang.

## **LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius dubius*

**2006**

(2/25 1 2) (365 metres)

1 first-winter at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)

1 besides Beihu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)

## **NORTHERN LAPWING** *Vanellus vanellus*

**2006**

(9/25 65 166) (190-580 metres)

65 in flight over Qian Quan Hu, Shawan on the 16/10/2006. (385 metres)

47 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 7 at Beihu & 40 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)

1 Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)

10 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)

10 at Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)

2 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)

2 besides Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)

9 besides Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)

20 at Qingedah, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)

## MEW GULL *Larus canus heinei*

### 2006

(4/25 2 6) (365, 445 & 590 metres)

- 1 first-winter *heinei* flew east, up the Yili River at Hebian Gongyuan at about 09:30hrs on the 25/10/2006. It was not associating with any other gulls (reasonable numbers of both Black-headed & Yellow-legged Gulls were also moving east up river). Apparently the first record for Xinjiang. (590 metres)
- 2 first-winters besides Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. One of them was photographed. The images are poor but identifiable. Only the second & third Common Gulls seen in Xinjiang & the first to be photographically identified. The first flew east over the Yili He near Yining, Yili on the 25 October 2006. (365 metres)
- 2 first-winters on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (Photographed – poorly by me & by Gou Jun) (365 metres)
- 1 first-winter at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (Gou Jun, Paul Holt, Ma Ming & Wang Qingyu et al.) (445 metres)

## SIBERIAN GULL *Larus heuglini heuglini*

### 2006

(1/25 1 1) (470 metres)

- 1 third year at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (Photos) (470 metres) Probably only the second record for Xinjiang.

## YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus cachinnans*

### 2006

(22/25 220 1244) (190-1060 & 2073 metres)

- 10 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)
- 1 at Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)
- 30 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 15 at both Qian Quan Hu & Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)
- 110 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 34 at Beihu & 75 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)
- 60 near Shihezi on the 20/10/2006 - 10 besides Mo Gu Hu & 50 at Beihu. (365 metres)
- 40 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)
- 1 at Bayi Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (445 metres)
- 67 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)
- The largest count involved 220 that flew west, downstream & over Fang Cou Hu, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. Others, or perhaps more likely, many of these same birds, flew east upstream past Hebian Gongyuan in the morning. Almost all today's birds were adults – only two first years were seen & very, very few immatures! (580-590 metres)
- 45 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)
- 60 Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)
- 10 besides the Yili He on the edge of Yining on the 28/10/2006. (590 metres)
- 14 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)
- 11 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. All were seen distantly but all 11 appeared to be adults. (190 metres)
- 53 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 15 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 38 on Wuyi Reservoir. There was possibly some duplication here. (510 & 540 metres)
- 176 in Wusu county on the 1/11/2006 - 162 on Lingou Reservoir & 14 at Kuitun Reservoir. (290 & 350 metres)
- 6 at Qangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)
- 40 near Shihezi on the 3/11/2006 – 5 besides Mo Gu Hu & 35 at Beihu Reservoir. (365 metres)
- 76 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 44 on fishponds near Jiahezi Reservoir & 32 on fishponds near Xinhuping Reservoir. (365-400 metres)
- 50 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)
- 6 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)
- 158 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 148 at Qingedahu & 10 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)

## PALLAS'S GULL *Larus ichthyaetus*

### 2006

(17/25 685 3477) (290-1060 & 2073 metres)

- 300 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)
- 30 at & around Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)
- 40 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 30 at Qian Quan Hu & 10 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)
- 550 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 130 at Beihu & 420 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)
- 250 near Shihezi on the 20/10/2006 - 50 besides Mo Gu Hu & 200 at Beihu. (365 metres)
- 250 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)
- 88 north of Changji on the 22/10/2006 - 43 at Bayi Reservoir & 45 at Binhu Reservoir. (445 & 480 metres)
- 685 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. The vast majority of birds were adults, most of the rest being 1<sup>st</sup> years. A sample count of 293 birds yielded only 18 juveniles/first-winters (6%). The number of birds present besides the reservoir slowly built up during the late morning & early afternoon. (470 metres)
- 1 adult flew west with Yellow-legged Gulls, downstream & over Fang Cou Hu, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)
- 61 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)
- 32 in Wusu county on the 1/11/2006 - 6 on Lingou Reservoir & 26 at Kuitun Reservoir. (290 & 350 metres)
- 5 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)
- 385 near Shihezi on the 3/11/2006 – 10 besides Mo Gu Hu & 375 at Beihu Reservoir. (365 metres)
- 62 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 28 on fishponds near Jiahezi Reservoir, 2 on Dahaizi Reservoir & 32 on fishponds near Xinhuping Reservoir. (365-400 metres)



80 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)  
8 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)  
650 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 612 at Qingdahu & 40 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)

## **BROWN-HEADED GULL** *Larus brunnicephalus*

**2006**

(2/25 1 2) (365 metres)

1 adult-winter with Black-headed Gulls at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (Poor photograph). (365 metres)

1 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)

## **BLACK-HEADED GULL** *Larus ridibundus*

**2006**

(18/25 2000 5176) (290-720 metres)

1 at Qingdahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)

130 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 30 at Qian Quan Hu & 100 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)

1000 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. 250 of these were on the reservoir itself while about & 745 flew over head apparently to roost on the lake at 19:10hrs (16 minutes before sunset) (365 metres)

300 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)

2000 at Qingdahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)

100 at Bayi Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (445 metres)

300 at Qingdahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)

The largest count involved 280 that flew west, downstream & over Fang Cou Hu, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. Others, or perhaps more likely, many of these same birds, flew east upstream past Hebian Gongyuan in the morning. (580-590 metres)

30 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)

60 Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)

27 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 19 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 8 on Wuyi Reservoir. All but two were first-winters. There was possibly some duplication here. (510 & 540 metres)

2 in Wusu county on the 1/11/2006 - singles on both Lingou Reservoir & Kuitun Reservoir. (290 & 350 metres)

1 at Quanguo Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)

170 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)

425 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 50 on fishponds near Jiahezi Reservoir & 375 on fishponds near Xinhuping Reservoir. (365-400 metres)

30 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)

180 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)

140 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 20 at Qingdahu & 100 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)

## **LITTLE GULL** *Larus minutus*

**2006**

(2/25 1 2) (510 & 2073 metres)

1 juvenile was seen very well at Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (Photos). (2073 metres)

1 first-winter on Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)

## **WHITE-TAILED EAGLE** *Haliaeetus albicilla* NT

**2006**

(9/25 5 25) (190-720 metres)

4 immatures near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 – 3 together at Beihu & 1 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)

1 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)

3 in the '64 Corps.' area, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Two probable second calendar year birds were at No. 2 Reservoir & the other bird, a more mature individual – probably a fourth or fifth calendar year bird, flew west over No. 3 Reservoir near dusk. (565-580 metres)

4 (three adults & a presumed third calendar year) were causing havoc among the waterfowl at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)

2 on the 1/11/2006 – an adult at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe & the other, a near-adult, at Lingou Reservoir, Wusu. (190 & 350 metres)

1 adult at Anjihai Reservoir No. 1, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (435 metres)

4 (an adult and three juveniles) at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. The adult was seen to catch & drown a Ruddy Shelduck! (365 metres)

1 second calendar year at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (395 metres)

5 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. Three adults, 1 near adult & 1 juvenile. Three days earlier I had three juveniles at this site – making a total of at least seven birds in the area! (365 metres)

## **HIMALAYAN GRIFFON** *Gyps himalayensis*

**2006**

(2/25 4 5) (ca.2300 & ca.2500 metres)

4 in flight over NH 217 between Dongbaiyang Gou & Baiyangou, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (ca.2500 metres)

1 over Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (ca.2300 metres)

## **CINEREOUS VULTURE *Aegypius monachus* NT**

**2006**

(2/25 3 4) (1070 & ca.2500metres)

- 1 in flight with the four Himalayan Griffons over NH 217 between Dongbaiyang Gou & Baiyangou, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (ca.2500 metres)
- 3 flew south during the three hour raptor watch (12:00-15:00hrs) near Kamuste in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. One was a juvenile, another an adult & the third un-aged. (1070 metres)

## **EURASIAN MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus***

**2006**

(2/25 1 2) (190 metres)

- 1 juvenile at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)
- 1 juvenile at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. It was the same bird with the damaged wing that we saw two days earlier. (190 metres)

## **HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus***

**2006**

(15/25 5 34) (190-720 metres)

- 5 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 4 (three ringtails & a male) at Qian Quan Hu & one ringtail at Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)
- 2 ringtails near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)
- 3 ringtails at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)
- 1 ringtail flew south, with other migrating raptors, over the small oasis 20kms north of Wucaiwai cun, Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)
- 3 (two ringtails & an adult male) at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)
- 3 ringtails in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Two of these flew west at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & the other was at No. 2 Reservoir, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)
- 3 singles in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006 – one ringtail besides the Yili He Da Qiao, a male at San Xiang Cun Zhuang & another male near the No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.'. (540-600 metres)
- 3 in Jinghe xian on the 30/10/2006 – an adult male near the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt & two ringtails at the Aibihu Wetland NR. (190 & 255 metres)
- 1 ringtail flew east over Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)
- 1 ringtail at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)
- 1 adult male at Anjihai Reservoir No. 1, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (435 metres)
- 4 ringtails in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 – three (an adult female & two often closely attendant juveniles) at Jiahezi Reservoir & the other over Xinhuping Reservoir. (365 & 400 metres)
- 1 adult male at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (395 metres)
- 1 ringtail on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)
- 2 ringtails in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – singles at both Qingedahu & Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)

## **SHIKRA *Accipiter badius***

**2006**

(1/25 1 1) (590 metres)

- 1 very noisy calling bird was eventually seen in Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)

## **EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus***

**2006**

(15/25 3 25) (190-1190, 1900 & 1950 metres)

- 1 at Dongbaiyang Gou, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1900 metres)
- 1 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)
- 2 near Shawan on the 17/10/2006 – one near Xigebei & the other in the Shitougou NR. (1190 & 1950 metres)
- 1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)
- 3 in & around Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)
- 2 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)
- 2 over Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)
- 3 singles in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)
- 3 in Jinghe xian on the 30/10/2006 – one male near the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt & two at the Aibihu Wetland NR. (190 & 255 metres)
- 2 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 & 540 metres)
- 1 flew over Jinghe Renmin Gongyuan, Jinghe on 1/11/2006.
- 1 near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)
- 1 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)
- 1 near the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi on the 5/11/2006. (650 metres)
- 1 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)

## **NORTHERN GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis***

### **2006**

(2/25 1 2) (190 & 365 metres)

1 adult female was seen repeatedly harassing the waterfowl at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. It eventually caught & killed a Ruddy Shelduck! (190 metres)

1 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)

## **accipiter sp.**

### **2006**

(2/25 2 3) (385, 1050 & 1850 metres)

2 near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006 – one over the Wulabo Wetland & the other close to Dongbaiyang Gou. (1050 & 1850 metres)

1 in flight over Qian Quan Hu, Shawan on the 16/10/2006. (385 metres)

## **COMMON BUZZARD *Buteo buteo***

### **2006**

(12/25 10 40) (365-720, 1040, 1950-2080 metres)

2 between Urumqi & Qingdahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)

3 near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006 – one over the Wulabo Wetland, one at Dongbaiyang Gou & the third bird at Tian Wen Tai. (1040, 1950 & 2080 metres)

4 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 1 at Tielu Dujiacun & 3 over Yan Jiu Yuan. (420-435 metres)

2 at the 'bunting fields' between Xigebi & Menggu Wenchuan, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1965 metres)

1 juvenile over Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)

3 (two juveniles & one adult) at Qingdahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)

1 near Urumqi on the 22/10/2006.

7 (three juveniles, two adults and two un-aged) near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. Three birds were seen apparently going to roost in a small coppice at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)

3 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)

10 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Seven of these were at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' while in 63 Corps. there were two at No. 3 Reservoir & one at No. 2 Reservoir. (565-580 metres)

3 singles in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)

1 near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)

## **LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo rufinus***

### **2006**

(12/25 19 46) (365-1070 & 1965 metres)

1 at the 'bunting fields' between Xigebi & Menggu Wenchuan, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1965 metres)

2 at Qingdahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)

2 single juveniles flew south, with other migrating raptors, over the small oasis 20kms north of Wucaiwan cun, Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)

19 flew south during the three hour raptor watch (12:00-15:00hrs) near Kamuste in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1070 metres)

3 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. One over San Xiang Cun Zhuang & the other two near the No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.'. (540-600 metres)

8 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 2 over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 6 near Wuyi Reservoir. (510 & 540 metres)

1 flew over Jinghe Renmin Gongyuan, Jinghe on 1/11/2006.

1 juvenile near Anjihai Reservoir No. 1, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (435 metres)

2 near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)

1 near Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)

2 near the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)

4 in the Urumqi-Changji area on the 7/11/2006. (445-480 metres)

## **ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus***

### **2006**

(4/25 2 5) (540-720 metres)

1 flew east, up the Yili River opposite the Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)

1 adult male flew east over Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)

2 singles the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. The first was at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & the other, a juvenile, was at No. 2 Reservoir, 63 Corps. (580 metres)

1 at San Xiang Cun Zhuang, Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540 metres)

## **[UPLAND BUZZARD *Buteo hemilasius***

### **2006**

Professor Ma Ming saw one near Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (445 metres)]

## **BUZZARD SP. *Buteo sp.***

### **2006**

1 near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)

1 bird, possibly a dark morph Long-legged Buzzard, was seen poorly at Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2100 metres)

## **GREATER SPOTTED EAGLE *Aquila clanga* VU**

### **2006**

(2/25 1 2) (720 & 1070 metres)

1 flew south during the three hour raptor watch (12:00-15:00hrs) near Kamuste in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai (45°23.0'N., 89°30.0'E.) on the 23/10/2006. (1070 metres)

1 over Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili (43°35.6'N. 82°00.6'E.) on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)

## **STEPPE EAGLE *Aquila nipalensis***

### **2006**

(4/25 191 205) (430-1080 metres)

2 singles (one a juvenile & the other perhaps about a third year) near Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1080 metres)

11 flew south, with other migrating raptors, over the small oasis 20kms north of Wucaiwan cun, Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)

191 flew south during the three hour raptor watch (12:00-15:00hrs) near Kamuste in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1070 metres)

1 juvenile was seen from route X155 about 5.6kms north of Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (430 metres)

## **GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos***

### **2006**

(3/25 4 7) (845, 1070, 1850 & ca.2500 metres)

2 single adults near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006 – one over Dongbaiyang Gou & the other loosely associating with the vultures over NH 217 between there & Baiyangou. (1850 & ca.2500 metres)

1 probable third calendar year bird at Km 431 (about 51 kms south of Kamuste, Altai) on G216 on the 22/10/2006. (845 metres)

4 (two juveniles, an adult & a presumed third calendar year) flew south during the three hour raptor watch (12:00-15:00hrs) near Kamuste in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1070 metres)

## **COMMON KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus***

### **2006**

(22/25 5 58) (190-1150 metres)

2 between Urumqi & Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)

4 near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006.

4 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (380-550 metres)

2 near Xigebei, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (975 & 1150 metres)

1 adult male at Beihu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)

4 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)

1 near Binhu Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (480 metres)

1 near Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1040 metres)

4 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)

2 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)

2 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)

4 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)

5 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)

3 in Jinghe xian on the 30/10/2006 – two near the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt & the other close to Bole Railway Station. (190 & 255 metres)

1 over Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)

2 singles between Bole-Jinghe-Wusu-Kuitun on the 1/11/2006.

2 near Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)

1 near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)

3 near Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)

2 in the Shawan & Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006 - one at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan & the other near the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi. (400 & 620 metres)

4 in the Shawan-Shihezi areas on the 6/11/2006 – 3 at Xigebei, Shawan & 1 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi. (365 & 965 metres)

4 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 3 at Qingedahu & 1 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)

## **MERLIN *Falco columbarius***

### **2006**

(6/25 1 6) (190-720 & 2073 metres)

1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)

1 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
1 male at Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)  
1 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)  
1 adult male, possibly of the subspecies *pallidus*, was seen near Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres) (Photo).  
1 in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi on the 5/11/2006. (600 metres)

## **EURASIAN HOBBY** *Falco subbuteo*

**2006**

(1/25 1 1) (565 metres)

1 juvenile flew west at No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps. Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565 metres)

## **SAKER FALCON** *Falco cherrug* **EN**

**2006**

(2/25 5 6) (365 & 1070 metres)

1 harassing a flock of Common Starlings at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi (44°26.4'N., 85°55.8'E.) on the 16/10/2006. (44°26.4'N., 85°55.8'E.) (365 metres)  
5 singles flew south during the three hour raptor watch (12:00-15:00hrs) near Kamuste in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai (45°23.0'N., 89°30.0'E.) on the 23/10/2006. (1070 metres)

## **PEREGRINE FALCON** *Falco peregrinus*

**2006**

(8/25 2 12) (365-525 metres)

2 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)  
1 adult at Beihu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)  
2 juveniles at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
1 juvenile at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)  
1 flew over Jinghe Renmin Gongyuan, Jinghe on 1/11/2006.  
2 adults near Shihezi on the 3/11/2006 – one besides Mo Gu Hu & the other perched on our 16<sup>th</sup> floor hotel window ledge! (365 & 525 metres)  
1 adult at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)  
2 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – an adult at Qingedahu & a juvenile at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)

In addition one bird, possibly this species, was seen distantly in flight over Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)

## **LITTLE GREBE** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

**2006**

(2/25 3 1) (590 & 720 metres)

3 in Haijing Park, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)  
1 on Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)

## **RED-NECKED GREBE** *Podiceps grisegena*

**2006**

(1/25 1 1) (445 metres)

1 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. There are apparently three previous records from Xinjiang – they are all specimen records, of birds accidentally caught in fishing nets. (Ma Ming pers. com. 7 Nov. 2006). (Gou Jun, Paul Holt, Ma Ming & Wang Qingyu et al.) (445 metres)

## **GREAT CRESTED GREBE** *Podiceps cristatus*

**2006**

(15/25 61 171) (290-580 metres)

1 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)  
10 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 5 at both Qian Quan Hu & Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)  
5 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 1 at Beihu & 4 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)  
5 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)  
4 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
5 on Bayi Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (445 metres)  
11 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)  
1 on Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)  
3 on Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)  
26 in Wusu county on the 1/11/2006 - 25 on Lingou Reservoir & one at Kuitun Reservoir. (290 & 350 metres)  
2 at the Anjihai Reservoirs, Shawan on the 2/11/2006 – singles on both Reservoir No. 1 & Reservoir No. 2. (415 & 435 metres)  
7 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)

61 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 – 43 on Dahaizi Reservoir & 18 on Xinhuping Reservoir. (390-400 metres)  
11 in Shawan on the 5/11/2006 - 8 at Liushugou Reservoir & 3 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu. (400 metres)  
19 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 5 at Qingedahu & 14 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)

## **HORNED GREBE *Podiceps auritus***

### **2006**

(4/25 2 6) (365, 445 & 2073 metres)

1 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)  
1 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)  
2 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. They were well separate from all the Black-necked Grebe flocks. (2073 metres)  
2 at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (445 metres)

## **BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis***

### **2006**

(10/25 443 593) (365-510 & 2073 metres)

26 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)  
31 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)  
4 on Bayi Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (445 metres)  
7 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)  
443 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres)  
24 on Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)  
19 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)  
13 on Dahaizi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (390 metres)  
1 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)  
25 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 2 at Qingedahu & 23 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)

## **GREAT CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo***

### **2006**

(19/25 2200 5945) (290-1040 metres)

30 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)  
2 in flight over the Wulabo Wetland, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1040 metres)  
700 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 250 at Qian Quan Hu & 700, probably including most of the birds from Qian Quan Hu, at Mo Gu Hu later in the day. It appeared that most birds would roost at the latter site. (365 & 385 metres)  
730 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 280 at Beihu & 450 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)  
350 near Shihezi on the 20/10/2006 - 100 on Mo Gu Hu & 250 on Beihu. (365 metres)  
700 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
115 north of Changji on the 22/10/2006 - 100 at Bayi Reservoir & 15 at Binhu Reservoir. (445 & 480 metres)  
2200 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. 265 birds were aged – there were 147 adults (55%) & 118 juveniles (45%). First summer birds were not separated from adults. (470 metres)  
40 besides the Yili River near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580-590 metres)  
10 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
12 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)  
6 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)  
356 in Wusu county on the 1/11/2006 - 31 on Lingou Reservoir & 325 at Kuitun Reservoir. (290 & 350 metres)  
2 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)  
77 near Shihezi on the 3/11/2006 – two on Mo Gu Hu & 75 besides Beihu Reservoir. (365 metres)  
72 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 – 2 at Jiahezi Reservoir, 60 on Dahaizi Reservoir & 10 around Xinhuping Reservoir. (390-400 metres)  
340 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)  
30 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)  
173 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 53 at Qingedahu & 120 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)

## **GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea***

### **2006**

(17/25 79 272) (190-580 & 1060 metres)

25 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)  
5 at Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)  
30 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 25 at Qian Quan Hu & 5 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)  
25 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 15 at Beihu & 10 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)  
17 near Shihezi on the 20/10/2006 - 2 at Mo Gu Hu & 15 on Beihu. (365 metres)  
5 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
1 besides Binhu Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (480 metres)  
42 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)  
3 besides the Yili River at Fang Cou Hu, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580 metres)  
17 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Six of these were at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', 8 at No. 2 Reservoir & 3 at No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)

2 besides the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)  
6 on the 1/11/2006 – one at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe, two besides Lingou Reservoir & three at Kuitun Reservoir. (190-350 metres)  
3 besides Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)  
6 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)  
4 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)  
2 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)  
79 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 38 (two adults & 36 first years) at Qingedahu & 31 (again mostly first years) at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)

## **GREAT EGRET** *Casmerodius albus*

### **2006**

(21/25 225 1208) (190-1060 metres)  
105 at Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)  
20 near Wulabo, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006 – 5 in the Wulabo Wetland & 15 besides Wulabo Reservoir. (1020 & 1060 metres)  
35 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 20 at Qian Quan Hu & 15 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)  
15 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 - 6 at Beihu & 9 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 metres)  
21 near Shihezi on the 20/10/2006 - 15 on Mo Gu Hu & 6 at Beihu. (365 metres)  
225 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
55 north of Changji on the 22/10/2006 - 45 at Bayi Reservoir & 10 at Binhu Reservoir. (450 & 480 metres)  
179 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)  
17 besides the Yili River near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. Of these only one was near Hebian Gongyuan, the other 16 were all at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)  
47 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
117 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Eight of these were at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', 51 at No. 2 Reservoir & 58 at No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)  
17 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)  
7 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)  
26 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 20 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 6 on Wuyi Reservoir. (510 & 540 metres)  
39 in Wusu county on the 1/11/2006 - 2 at Lingou Reservoir & 37 at Kuitun Reservoir. (290 & 350 metres)  
46 in the Kuitun-Shawan areas on the 2/11/2006 - 4 at Quanguo Reservoir, Kuitun & 42 on Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan. (375 & 415 metres)  
9 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)  
87 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 8 at Jiahezi Reservoir, 7 at Dahaizi Reservoir & 72 near Xinhuping Reservoir. (365-400 metres)  
52 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)  
8 on Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 6/11/2006. (365 metres)  
81 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 23 at Qingedahu & 58 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)

## **GREAT BITTERN** *Botaurus stellaris*

### **2006**

(2/25 1 2) (395 & 720 metres)  
1 flew over Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
1 was seen by Xu Jie at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (395 metres)

## **EURASIAN SPOONBILL** *Platalea leucorodia*

### **2006**

(3/25 15 17) (365-470 metres)  
1 first winter at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
1 first-winter at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)  
15 (one adult & 14 first-winters) at Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (445 metres)

## **BLACK-THROATED LOON** *Gavia arctica*

### **2006**

(1/25 3 3) (2073 metres)  
3 on Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2073 metres) Apparently only the third record for Xinjiang.

## **RUFOUS SHRIKE** *Lanius phoenicuroides*\*

### **2006**

(1/25 1 1) (385 metres)  
1 first-winter near Qian Quan Hu, Shawan on the 16/10/2006. (385 metres)

## **NORTHERN GREY SHRIKE** *Lanius excubitor*

### **2006**

(4/25 4 9) (255, 540-600 metres)

4 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Three at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & one at No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)

2 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006 – singles at San Xiang Cun Zhuang & near the No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.'. (540-600 metres)

1 near the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)

2 near the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)

## **BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE** *Pica pica*

**2006**

(5/25 23 64) (540-590, 720 & 1850 metres)

1 over NH 217 between Dongbaiyang Gou & Baiyangou, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1850 metres)

23 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. Of these there were two at Hebian Gongyuan, the other 21 were all in a pre-roost gathering at Fang Cou Hu. (590 metres)

22 in the Yili Riverside scrub not far from Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)

6 at San Xiang Cun Zhuang, Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540 metres)

12 in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi on the 5/11/2006. (580 metres)

## **MONGOLIAN GROUND-JAY** *Podoces hendersoni*

**2006**

(1/25 3 3) (710-730 & 1070-1130 metres)

3 (a pair at Km post 436.5 & a single at Km post 434.7 besides route G216) in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (710 & 730 metres)

## **SPOTTED NUTCRACKER** *Nucifraga caryocatactes*

**2006**

(3/25 10 18) (1900-2150 metres)

10 near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006 – three at Dongbaiyang Gou & the other seven at Tian Wen Tai. (1950-2080 metres)

6 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1900-2050 metres)

2 were heard near Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2150 metres)

## **RED-BILLED CHOUGH** *Pyrhacorax pyrrhacorax*

**2006**

(2/25 12 15) (2100 & ca.2200 metres)

3 over Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (ca.2200 metres)

12 near Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2100 metres)

## **EURASIAN JACKDAW** *Corvus monedula*

**2006**

(4/25 400 484) (590, 1305-1380, 1850 & 2100 metres)

80 in a single flock just off NH 217 near Gangou xiang & 54 kms from Urumqi towards Baiyangou on the 15/10/2006. (1850 metres)

400 in trees by the first small settlement about 10 kms up route S101 near Niujuanzi, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. Another 300 birds, apparently in a pre-roost gathering, about three kilometres the other side of Niujuanzi (Km 211) might possibly have been part of this earlier flock. (1305 & 1380 metres)

3 singles over Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)

1 near Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2100 metres)

## **ROOK** *Corvus frugilegus*

**2006**

(3/25 28 45) (565-590 & 2100 metres)

28 at Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)

15 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)

2 near Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2100 metres)

## **CARRION CROW** *Corvus corone\**

**2006**

(8/25 75 188) (540-720, 1275, 1850 & 2100 metres)

1 with the Eurasian Jackdaw flock just off NH 217 near Gangou xiang & 54 kms from Urumqi towards Baiyangou on the 15/10/2006. (1850 metres)

3 at the 'bunting fields' between Xigebi & Menggu Wenchuan, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1275 metres)

20 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. Most of these were at Hebian Gongyuan. (580-590 metres)



15 in the Qi Shi San Tuan (73<sup>rd</sup> Corps.) area, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
75 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)  
48 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)  
18 near Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2100 metres)  
8 near the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)

## **HOODED CROW** *Corvus [corone] cornix\**

**2006**

(6/25 70 138) (540-720 metres)

8 were seen flying west to roost over Yining town centre, Yili at about 20:05hrs on the 24/10/2006. (580 metres)  
70 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – 65 Hebian Gongyuan & the other five at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)  
2 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
21 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)  
32 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)  
5 near the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)

## **APPARENT HYBRID CARRION x HOODED CROW** *Corvus corone x Corvus [corone] cornix*

**2006**

(4/25 3 8) (540-600 & 2100 metres)

3 in the 63 Corps. area, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)  
3 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)  
1 near Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2100 metres)  
1 near the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)

## **COMMON RAVEN** *Corvus corax*

**2006**

(1/25 3 3) (1080 & 1120 metres)

3 near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006 – two at Wulabo Reservoir & the other about three kilometres from there. (1080 & 1120 metres)

## **EURASIAN BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula\**

**2006**

(17/25 40 140) (365-1020 & 1920-2000 metres)

4 at the Wulabo Wetland, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1020 metres)  
6 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 4 at Tielu Dujiacun & 2 in Yan Jiu Yuan. (420-435 metres)  
10 near Shawan on the 17/10/2006 – six in the 'Xigebei fields' & four at Shitougou NR. (975 & 1920-2000 metres)  
4 at Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (430 metres)  
6 in the woodland belt at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)  
2 near Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
1 was heard outside Yining airport, Yili at dusk on the 24/10/2006. (620 metres)  
20 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – 15 Hebian Gongyuan & the other five at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)  
5 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
40 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)  
20 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)  
4 in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)  
2 near the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)  
2 in the small wood near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)  
1 near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)  
9 in Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 4/11/2006. (435 metres)  
4 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)

## **MISTLE THRUSH** *Turdus viscivorus*

**2006**

(10/25 44 101) (425-975 metres)

20 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (975 metres)  
1 besides Binhu Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (480 metres)  
1 at Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)  
3 near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
2 near Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)  
5 flew west over the Yili He Da Qiao, Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540 metres)  
5 near Daquan xiang close to Anjihai Reservoir No. 1, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (480 metres)  
1 besides route X155 about nine kilometres north of Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (425 metres)  
44 (in one flock) near the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi on the 5/11/2006. (650 metres)

19 in the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)

## **BLACK-THROATED THRUSH *Turdus atrogularis*\***

**2006**

(23/25 930 2110) (190-1275, 1950-2080 & 2250 metres)

14 near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006 – 8 at the Wulabo Wetland, 4 at Dongbaiyang Gou & 2 at Tian Wen Tai. (1040, 1950 & 2080 metres)

30 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 25 at Tielu Dujiacun & 5 over Yan Jiu Yuan. (420-435 metres)

20 near Shawan on the 17/10/2006 – 15 in the 'Xigebi fields' & five near the 'bunting fields between there & Menggu Wenchuan. (975 & 1275 metres)

930 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 – 40 at Tielu Dujiacun & 890 at a roost near Mo Gu Hu. Birds were arriving at the roost between 18:45-19:40hrs (45 minutes before to 15 minutes after sunset) (365-430 metres)

250 in the woodland belt at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)

130 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. 10 of these were in the woodland at Shui Guan Chu & the remaining 120 appeared to be going to roost in the reed beds at Shang Yuchang. (470 metres)

10 in Wucaiwan cun, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)

3 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 23/10/2006 – one at Lao Kamuste cun & the other two at Wuciwang. (455 & 1040 metres)

2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)

70 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – 65 Hebian Gongyuan & the other five at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)

45 near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. In addition one was heard flying west over the Two Star (General) Hotel in central Yining at 06:55hrs. (720 metres)

150 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)

100 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)

1 was heard near Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2250 metres)

70 in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)

6 near the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)

4 flew south over the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)

95 in the Kuitun-Shawan areas on the 2/11/2006 - 55 in the small wood near Quanguo Reservoir, Kuitun & 40 near Daquan xiang close to Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan. (375 & 480 metres)

20 near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)

75 in the Shihezi-Manasi areas on the 4/11/2006 – 15 near Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi & 60 in Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi. (365 & 435 metres)

70 in Shawan & Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006 - 35 at Liushugou Reservoir & 10 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, both Shawan & 25 in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi. (400 metres)

10 in the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)

5 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)

## **FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris***

**2006**

(1/25 1 1) (255 metres)

1 male with the Black-throated Thrushes in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)

## **[REDWING *Turdus iliacus***

**2006**

(1030 metres)

1 first-winter was seen, & photographed by Gou Jun & Wang Chuanbo at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)]

## **BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica***

**2006**

(1/25 1 1) (385 metres)

1 at Qian Quan Hu, Shawan on the 16/10/2006. (385 metres)

## **NORTHERN ORANGE-FLANKED BUSH ROBIN *Tarsiger cyanurus***

**2006**

(1/25 2 2) (1900-202085 metres)

2 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1900-2020 metres)

## **RUFOUS-BACKED REDSTART *Phoenicurus erythronota***

**2006**

(12/25 11 44) (255-1030 & 1780 metres)

3 near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006 – two (a male & a female plumaged bird) at the Wulabo Wetland & another female plumaged bird at Dongbaiyang Gou. (1020 & 1780 metres)

4 (two males & two females) in the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (975 metres)  
 1 male near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)  
 1 male, the same bird as yesterday, in the woodland belt at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)  
 7 north of Changji on the 22/10/2006 – 1 near Binhu Reservoir., 4 in Wucaiwan cun & 2 at the oasis 20 kms north of there. (455-480 metres)  
 1 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)  
 2 at Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)  
 4 near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
 7 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Three of these were at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & the other four were at No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)  
 11 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. Of these three were besides the Yili He Da Qiao, six at San Xiang Cun Zhuang & two in scrub near the No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.'. (540-600 metres)  
 2 in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)  
 1 flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)

## **WHITE-WINGED REDSTART *Phoenicurus erythrogaster***

**2006**

(5/25 3 8) (190-580 & 1020 metres)  
 1 male at the Wulabo Wetland, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1020 metres)  
 1 first-winter female at Fang Cou Hu, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580 metres)  
 2 males flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)  
 1 male at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)  
 3 (two females & a male) in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi on the 5/11/2006. (570 metres)

## **COMMON STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata stejnegeri***

**2006**

(1/25 1 1) (975 metres)  
 1 first-winter in the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)

## **DESERT WHEATEAR *Oenanthe deserti***

**2006**

(1/25 8 8) (455 & 730 metres)  
 8 north of Changji on the 22/10/2006 – two at the oasis 20 kms north of Wucaiwan cun & about six at the 'Mongolian Ground Jay site' at Km 434.7. (455 & 730 metres)

## **ROSY STARLING *Sturnus roseus***

**2006**

(1/25 1 1) (400 metres)  
 1 juvenile, with Common Starlings, at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)

## **COMMON STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris***

**2006**

(15/25 3000 6203) (255-1040 metres)  
 60 between Urumqi & Qingedahu, Changji on the 14/10/2006. (470 metres)  
 3000 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 1500 at both Qian Quan Hu & Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres).  
 50 near Shawan on the 17/10/2006.  
 2000 near Shihezi on the 20/10/2006 – 15 at Mo Gu Hu & about 2000 from the expressway about 10 kms east of town. (365 & 400 metres)  
 30 at Qingedahu, Wujiagu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
 25 in Wucaiwan cun, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)  
 3 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 23/10/2006 – one at Lao Kamuste cun & the other two at Wucaiwan. (455 & 1040 metres)  
 40 near Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)  
 80 near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
 350 in a pre-roost gathering at No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps., Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006 was the largest count of the day. Its thought possible that the 25 birds at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & the 100 at No. 2 Reservoir were all part of this pre-roost gathering. (565-580 metres)  
 500 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. The higher counts included 150 were besides the Yili He Da Qiao & 320 at San Xiang Cun Zhuang. (540-600 metres)  
 15 flew west over the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)  
 4 flew east over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)  
 45 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)  
 1 near Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (400 metres)

## **WHITE-CHEEKED STARLING** *Sturnus cineraceus*

**2006**

(1/25 1 1) (400 metres)

1 with Common Starlings at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. Seen at 11:20hrs & watched for only a couple of minutes before the entire flock flew off. The first record for Xinjiang. Found & identified by Paul Holt it was also seen by Gou Jun, Wang Qingyu and Xu Jie. It was photographed by PH and (better) by XJ. (400 metres)

## **COMMON MYNA** *Acridotheres tristis*

**2006**

(3/25 49 53) (540-720 metres)

2 in the village of Si Lian near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)

2 flew west, presumably to roost, over No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps. Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565 metres)

49 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. Of these three were on wires besides the Yili He Da Qiao while a tight flock of 43 birds flew high to the east (& were presumably in the process of migrating). Elsewhere there was one at San Xiang Cun Zhuang & two more on the edge of Chabucha'er itself. (540-600 metres)

## **[CRESTED MYNA** *Acridotheres cristatellus*

**2006**

3 escapes at Qingedah, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)]

## **EURASIAN NUTHATCH** *Sitta europaea*

**2006**

(2/25 8 10) (1900-2080 metres)

2 in the conifer forest at Tian Wen Tai, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (2080 metres)

8 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1900-2020 metres)

## **EURASIAN TREECREEPER** *Certhia familiaris*

**2006**

(2/25 3 4) (1920-2060 metres)

1 was heard at Tian Wen Tai, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (2060 metres)

3 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1920-1980 metres)

## **WINTER WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

**2006**

(11/25 15 45) (365-720 & 1910-1960 metres)

2 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1910-1960 metres)

1 at Qingedah, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)

15 in Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)

4 near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)

6 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)

3 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)

3 near the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)

1 was heard in the small wood near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)

2 singles were heard in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 – one at Jiahezi Reservoir & the other near Xinhuping Reservoir. (365-400 metres)

7 in the Shawan & Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006 - 3 at Liushugou Reservoir & 1 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, both Shawan & 3 in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi. (400-610 metres)

1 was heard near Bayi Reservoir, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (445 metres)

## **WHITE-CROWNED PENDULINE TIT** *Remiz coronatus*

**2006**

(11/25 5 21) (365-1020 metres)

Only one bird was seen even reasonably well – the male at Qian Quan Hu, Shawan on the 17 October was watched for about 15 seconds. Surprisingly it didn't show any dark markings on the rear crown or nape and essentially resembled a European Penduline Tit *R. pendulinus*!

1 was heard over Wulabo Wetland, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1020 metres)

1 male at Qian Quan Hu, Shawan on the 16/10/2006. (385 metres)

1 over the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (975 metres)

1 was heard over the woodland belt at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)  
1 near Binhu Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (480 metres)  
5 singles were heard near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – four in & around Hebian Gongyuan & the other at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)  
2 singles were heard near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. Two abandoned nests were seen in the Yili Riverside Scrub. (720 metres)  
4 singles were noted (only one bird was actually seen) in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Three of these were at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & the other was at No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)  
1 was heard at San Xiang Cun Zhuang, Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540 metres)  
1 flew high over Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)  
3 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (395 metres)

In addition to the nests seen near Yili on the 26/10 another old, abandoned nest was seen in trees outside the entrance to the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)]

## **WILLOW TIT *Parus montanus***

(The forms in Xinjiang are typically treated as subspecies of Songar Tit *Parus songarus*)

**2006**

(1/25 2 2) (2060 metres)

2 at Tian Wen Tai, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (2060 metres)

## **COAL TIT *Parus ater***

**2006**

(2/25 6 10) (1900-2060 metres)

6 at & around Tian Wen Tai, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1950-2060 metres)

10 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1900-2000 metres)

## **GREAT TIT *Parus major***

**2006**

(6/25 4 15) (375-1020 metres)

2 at the Wulabo Wetland, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1020 metres)

2 near Binhu Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (480 metres)

4 in Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)

2 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)

2 in the small wood near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)

3 in Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 4/11/2006. (435 metres)

## **TURKESTAN TIT *Parus bokharensis***

**2006**

(6/25 10 27) (190-720 metres)

2 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – 3 in Hebian Gongyuan & the other at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)

1 in the Yili Riverside scrub near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)

10 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Six of these were at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & two at both No. 2 & No. 3

Reservoirs, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)

10 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. Most of these were at San Xiang Cun Zhuang. (540-600 metres)

2 singles in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)

2 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)

## **GREAT or TURKESTAN TIT *Parus major* or *P. bokharensis***

**2006**

(1/25 10 10) (580-590 metres)

10 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580-590 metres)

## **APPARENT HYBRID GREAT x TURKESTAN TIT *Parus major* x *P. bokharensis***

**2006**

(3/25 4 6) (375, 435 & 720 metres)

Several birds tentatively identified as hybrids were seen in western Xinjiang.

4 apparent hybrids between Great & Turkestan Tit were seen at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. All four were very similar to each other being very muted greyish above but with a noticeable pale olive hue to the mantle, reduced white in the tail & a pale yellowish suffusion to the flanks that contrasted with their clean white cheeks. (720 metres)

1 in the small wood near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. It basically looked like a dull Great Tit. (375 metres)

1 in Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 4/11/2006. (435 metres)

## **AZURE TIT** *Parus cyanus*

### **2006**

(18/25 27 104) (190-1040 & 1950 metres)

2 near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006 – singles at the Wulabo Wetland & at Dongbaiyang Gou. (1040 & 1950 metres)

2 at Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (435 metres)

1 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (975 metres)

4 at Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (430 metres)

2 in the woodland belt at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)

2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)

1 was heard near Binhu Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (480 metres)

27 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. Other than four at both Haijing Park & Fang Cou Hu all the rest (19 birds) were in Hebian Gongyuan. Most encounters were with pairs, the only exception being a flock of eight that flew east through Hebian Gongyuan. (580-590 metres)

8 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)

10 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Four of these were at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', four more at No. 2 Reservoir, 63 Corps. & two at No. 3 Reservoirs, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)

4 at San Xiang Cun Zhuang, Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540 metres)

12 including a flock of eight in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)

1 near Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)

9 in one flock at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)

3 in the small wood near Quanguo Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)

2 singles near Shihezi on the 3/11/2006 – one near Mo Gu Hu & the other in downtown Shihezi. (365 & 420 metres)

5 in the Shihezi-Manasi areas on the 4/11/2006 – 1 near Xinhuping Reservoir, Manasi & 4 in Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi. (400 & 435 metres)

9 in Shawan & Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006 - 6 at Liushugou Reservoir & 1 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, both Shawan & 2 in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi. (400 metres)

## **LONG-TAILED TIT** *Aegithalos caudatus*

### **2006**

(3/25 5 7) (565-720 metres)

5 white-headed nominate *caudatus* at Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)

1 was heard in the Yili Riverside scrub near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)

1 was heard at No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps. Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565 metres)

## **SAND MARTIN or PALE MARTIN** *Riparia riparia* or *R. diluta*

### **2006**

(1/25 1 1) (470 metres)

1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)

## **PALE MARTIN** *Riparia diluta*

### **2006**

(1/25 1 1) (455 metres)

1 flew south low over the desert at the oasis 20 kms north of Wucaiwan cun, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)

## **BARN SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica*

### **2006**

(2/25 20 31) (470 & 540 metres)

20 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)

11 besides the Shengligongshe Shuguandui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. They came out of a reed beds in one of the fishponds & had presumably roosted there overnight. (540 metres)

## **GOLDCREST** *Regulus regulus*

### **2006**

(10/25 10 42) (375-720 & 1900-2060 metres)

10 at & around Tian Wen Tai, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1950-2060 metres)

1 was heard at Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (435 metres)

6 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1900-2000 metres)

2 at Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (430 metres)

3 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)

1 near Binhu Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (480 metres)

2 at Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)  
2 Yili Riverside scrub near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
1 was heard near Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)  
1 the Yili He Da Qiao, Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540 metres)  
2 near the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)  
1 was heard in the small wood near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)  
6 in Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 4/11/2006. (435 metres)  
4 in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi on the 5/11/2006. (580 metres)

### **CETTI'S BUSH WARBLER** *Cettia cetti*

**2006**

(3/25 13 20) (565-720 metres)

13 in Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. At least three of these birds were still giving occasional snatches of song. (590 metres)  
2 were heard at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
5 were heard in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Four of these were at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & the other was at No. 3 Reservoirs, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)

### **WHITE-BROWED TIT WARBLER** *Leptopoeile sophiae*

**2006**

(1/25 2 2) (1830-1870 metres)

2 (a pair) at Dongbaiyang Gou, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. Apparently a rare bird at this site. (1830-1870 metres)

### **SIBERIAN CHIFFCHAFF** *Phylloscopus [collybita] tristis\**

**2006**

(12/25 37 96) (190-975 metres)

8 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 4 at Tielu Dujiacun, 2 in Yan Jiu Yuan & 2 at Qian Quan Hu. (385-435 metres)  
6 in the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (975 metres)  
8 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 – 6 at Tielu Dujiacun & 2 near Mo Gu Hu. (365-430 metres)  
4 in the woodland belt at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)  
2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
1 in the small oasis 20kms north of Wucaiwan cun, Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)  
37 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. Other than four at Haijing Park & five at Fang Cou Hu all the rest (28 birds) were in Hebian Gongyuan. (580-590 metres)  
10 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
10 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Six of these were at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & two more at both No. 2 & No. 3 Reservoirs, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)  
5 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)  
4 in Jinghe xian on the 30/10/2006 – three in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt & one at the Aibihu Wetland NR. (190 & 255 metres)  
1 near the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)

### **HUME'S WARBLER** *Phylloscopus humei\**

**2006**

(8/25 2 10) (420-1030 metres)

1 was heard at the Wulabo Wetland, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1020 metres)  
2 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – singles at both Tielu Dujiacun & Yan Jiu Yuan. (420-435 metres)  
2 at Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (430 metres)  
1 in Wucaiwan cun, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)  
1 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)  
1 was heard at Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)  
1 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
1 near Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)

### **BEARDED PARROTBILL** *Panurus biarmicus*

**2006**

(11/25 37 95) (365-1030 metres)

2 at Qian Quan Hu, Shawan on the 16/10/2006. (385 metres)  
7 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
23 in a single group at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)  
8 at Fang Cou Hu, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580 metres)  
1 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
37 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. 17 (a single & a flock of 16) at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', a flock of 19 at No. 2 Reservoir, 63 Corps. & one was heard at No. 3 Reservoirs, also 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)

2 birds were heard at two sites in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. The first was near the Yili He Da Qiao & the second near the No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.'. (540-600 metres)  
2 near the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)  
1 was seen in flight over the centre of Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)  
A flock of 7 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)  
5 Shawan on the 5/11/2006 - one was heard at Liushugou Reservoir & four at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu. (400 metres)

## **BIMACULATED LARK** *Melancorypha bimaculata*

**2006**

(1/25 42 42) (1030 metres)

42 flew northeast over Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. Birds were in three flocks, the first of 20 birds, the second of 18 & the third of only four. (1030 metres)

## **GREATER SHORT-TOED LARK** *Calandrella brachydactyla*

**2006**

(1/25 2 2) (975 metres)

2 in the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (975 metres)

## **ASIAN SHORT-TOED LARK** *Calandrella cheleensis*

**2006**

(17/25 45 121) (190-1030 metres)

3 singles near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – fly-overs at Qian Quan Hu, Mo Gu Hu & at a secondary site in between. (365 & 385 metres)

1 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)

20 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)

6 near Changji on the 22/10/2006 – with sightings besides Bayi Reservoir & in the Kalamaili Desert area. (455 & 480 metres)

15 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (890-1030 metres)

5 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)

1 flew east over Hebians Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)

1 flew east over the Yili He Da Qiao, Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540 metres)

3 singles at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)

5 besides Wuyi Reservoir, Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510 metres)

5 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)

2 - singles flew over both Anjihai Reservoir No. 1 & No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 & 435 metres)

45 in one flock on the eastern side of Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)

5 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 3 at Jiahezi Reservoir & 2 over Dahaizi Reservoir. (365 & 390 metres)

1 was heard at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)

1 in the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)

2 singles in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – one at Qingedahu & the other at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)

## **CRESTED LARK** *Galerida cristata*

**2006**

(11/25 9 28) (365-600 metres)

3 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – one from the Expressway about 10 kms east of the town & 2 at Mo Gu Hu. (365-500 metres)

3 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)

1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)

1 near Bayi Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (445 metres)

1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)

2 at No. 3 Reservoir, 63 Corps. Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565 metres)

9 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)

1 was heard at Anjihai Reservoir No. 1, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (435 metres)

1 was heard at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)

4 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 2 at Jiahezi Reservoir & 2 near Dahaizi Reservoir. (365 & 390 metres)

2 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (395 metres)

## **EURASIAN SKYLARK** *Alauda arvensis*

**2006**

(5/25 7 14) (365-540 metres)

1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)

1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)

1 flew east over the Yili He Da Qiao, Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540 metres)

7 (three singles & a flock of four) at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)

4 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)



## **HORNED LARK** *Eremophila alpestris*

### **2006**

(17/25 70 272) (190-1060 metres)

2 besides Wulabo Reservoir, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1060 metres)

1 near the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (950 metres)

17 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)

7 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)

5 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)

15 at the first Mongolian Ground Jay site at Km 436.4 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)

50 in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. Most of these were at Lao Kamuste cun. (455-1030 metres)

30 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)

2 at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)

2 singles were heard in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. The first flew over the Yili He Da Qiao & the second was at San Xiang Cun Zhuang. (540-600 metres)

1 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)

1 was heard over Anjihai Reservoir No. 2, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (415 metres)

70 in one flock on the eastern side of Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)

20 (4 singles & a flock of 16) at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)

1 was heard at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (395 metres)

16 in the Shawan-Shihezi areas on the 6/11/2006 – 1 at Xigebi, Shawan & 15 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi. (365 & 965 metres)

32 in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 17 at Qingedahu & 15 at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)

## **SAXAUL SPARROW** *Passer ammodendri*

### **2006**

(4/25 7 23) (365-580 & 1030 metres)

6 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. Of these four were in Wucaiwan cun & the other two besides the small oasis 20kms north of there. (455 & 480 metres)

6 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)

4 near Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)

A flock of 7 flew south down the eastern side of Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)

## **HOUSE SPARROW** *Passer domesticus*

### **2006**

(6/25 30 107) (255-1030 metres)

20 in & around Shihezi on the 16/10/2006.

20 in & around Urumqi on the 15/10/2006.

20 in the Shihezi & Shawan areas on the 17/10/2006.

30 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. Most of these were in Wucaiwan cun. (455 metres)

15 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 23/10/2006. (455-1030 metres)

2 with the Eurasian Tree Sparrow flock in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)

## **EURASIAN TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus*

### **2006**

(21/25 300 1720) (365-1030 metres)

30 in & around Urumqi on the 15/10/2006.

200 in & around Shihezi on the 16/10/2006.

50 in the Shihezi & Shawan areas on the 17/10/2006.

20 near Shihezi on the 19/10/2006.

300 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. Most of these were in a reed bed roost near Shang Yuchang. (470 metres)

40 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. Most of these were in Wucaiwan cun. (455 metres)

30 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 23/10/2006. (455-1030 metres)

10 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)

50 in & around Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580-590 metres)

100 at Qi Shi San Tuan (73<sup>rd</sup> Corps.), Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006 – there appeared to be a fairly large pre-roost gathering near the Yili Riverside scrub near Wei Hu. (720 metres)

100 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)

300 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)

60 in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)

10 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (510-540 metres)

30 between Bole-Jinghe-Wusu-Kuitun on the 1/11/2006.

About 50 in the Kuitun-Shawan areas on the 2/11/2006. (415-500 metres)

40 near Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)

50 in the Shihezi-Manasi areas on the 4/11/2006.

100 in the Shawan & Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006 – most of these were near the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi. (400-650 metres)

100 in the Shawan-Shihezi-Urumqi areas on the 6/11/2006. (365-1000 metres)  
50 between Urumqi & Changji on the 7/11/2006.

### **HOUSE SPARROW or EURASIAN TREE *Passer domesticus* or *P. montanus***

**2006**

'Several' were heard at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)

### **ROCK SPARROW *Petronia petronia***

**2006**

(2/25 950 951) (975 & 1315 metres)

950 near Shawan on the 17/10/2006 – 150 at the 'Xigebi fields' & 800 in a recently harvested field of wheat stubble at Km post 209 on route S101 five kms by road north of Niujuanzi. (975 & 1315 metres).

1 in the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)

### **WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba***

**2006**

(5/25 4 8) (365-580 & 1030 metres)

1 flew north up the eastern embankment at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)

1 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)

1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)

4 flew west, presumably to roost, at Fang Cou Hu, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580 metres)

1 flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)

### **WESTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*\***

**2006**

(2/25 1 2) (395 & 470 metres)

1 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. A very late date. (395 metres)

1 first-winter at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)

### **MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis***

**2006**

(9/25 7 28) (190-590 & 1030 metres)

4 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)

1 in Wucaiwan cun, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)

1 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)

2 singles flew over Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)

1 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)

7 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)

7 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 5 at Jiahezi Reservoir & 2 near Dahaizi Reservoir. (365 & 390 metres)

3 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)

2, with other pipits, at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)

### **RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus***

**2006**

(3/25 1 3) (365-470 metres)

1 flew south down the eastern embankment at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres) Apparently the first record for Xinjiang.

1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (Gou Jun, Paul Holt, Wang Chuanbo & Wang Qingyu). (470 metres)

1 besides the small oasis 20kms north of Wucaiwan cun, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)

### **WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta***

**2006**

(20/25 23 114) (190-1385 metres)

2 at the Wulabo Wetland, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1020 metres)

8 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 5 at Qian Quan Hu & 3 at Mo Gu Hu. (365 & 385 metres)

3 south of Shawan on the 17/10/2006 – two at the 'Xigebi fields' & one besides route S101 near Niujuanzi, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (975 & 1385 metres)

2 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)

10 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)

10 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
 2 near Binhu Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (480 metres)  
 1 flew south at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)  
 2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)  
 5 singles in & around Hebians Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)  
 8 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
 5 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)  
 4 widespread singles in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)  
 4 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (190 metres)  
 23 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 21 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 2 on Wuyi Reservoir. (510 & 540 metres)  
 2 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)  
 5 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)  
 6 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 5 at Jiahezi Reservoir & 1 over Xinhuping Reservoir. (365-400 metres)  
 3 birds with singles at Liushugou Reservoir & Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, both Shawan & 1 in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi on the 5/11/2006. (400-640 metres)  
 9, with other pipits, in Changji on the 7/11/2006 – 8 at Qingedahu & one at Bayi Reservoir. (445 & 470 metres)

## **BUFF-BELLIED PIPIT *Anthus rubescens japonicus***

**2006**

(8/25 20 37) (365-480 & 1030 metres)

5 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres). I managed to obtain a few photos here the following day. Apparently the first record for Xinjiang.  
 20 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres) (Photos)  
 3 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
 3 near Binhu Reservoir, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (480 metres)  
 1 flew south at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)  
 1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)  
 1 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)  
 3, with other pipits, at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (Gou Jun, Paul Holt, Ma Ming & Wang Qingyu et al.). (470 metres)

## **BLACK-THROATED ACCENTOR *Prunella atrogularis***

**2006**

(20/25 43 152) (190-1030 & 1930-2080 metres)

3 near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006 – one at Dongbaiyang Gou & the other two at Tian Wen Tai. (1950-2080 metres)  
 7 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 4 at Tielu Dujiacun & 2 at Yan Jiu Yuan & 1 at Qian Quan Hu. (385, 420 & 435 metres)  
 5 near Shawan on the 17/10/2006 – 3 near the 'Xigebei fields' & two at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (975 & 1930 metres)  
 12 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 – 10 at Tielu Dujiacun & 2 near the 'Black-throated Thrush roost' at Mo Gu Hu. (365-430 metres)  
 1 in the woodland belt at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)  
 5 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. Two of these were in scrub close to the reservoir while the other three were at Shui Guan Chu. (470 metres)  
 1 in Wucaiwan cun, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)  
 2 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)  
 3 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – two at Hebians Gongyuan & the other at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)  
 3 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
 15 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Ten of these were at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & five at No. 3 Reservoirs, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)  
 12 widespread birds in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)  
 43 in Jinghe xian on the 30/10/2006 – 40 in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt & three in scrub at the Aibihu Wetland NR. Numerous birds, including one flock of nine, were heard calling overhead & then dropping in to the shelter belt throughout the morning. (190 & 255 metres)  
 12 west of Bole on the 31/10/2006 – 9 on the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds & 3 on Wuyi Reservoir. (510 & 540 metres)  
 17 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. This including a flock of 12 that were seen flying south before dropping in to the lake side bushes. (190 metres)  
 2 in the small wood near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)  
 1 near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)  
 2 singles in the Shihezi-Manasi areas on the 4/11/2006 – one at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi & the other in Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi. (365 & 435 metres)  
 4 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)  
 2 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)

## **CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs***

**2006**

(23/25 60 506) (190-1030 & 1930-2120 metres)

60 at Tian Wen Tai, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1950-2060 metres)  
 10 near Shihezi on the 16/10/2006 – 6 at Tielu Dujiacun & 2 at Yan Jiu Yuan & 2 near Mo Gu Hu. (365, 420 & 435 metres)  
 50 near Shawan on the 17/10/2006 – 30 near the 'Xigebei fields' & 20 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (975 & 1930 metres)  
 30 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 – 6 at Tielu Dujiacun & 25 near the 'Black-throated Thrush roost' at Mo Gu Hu. (365-430 metres)  
 20 in the woodland belt at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)  
 2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
 3 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. Of these two were in Wucaiwan cun & the third in the desert oasis 20kms north of there. (455 metres)  
 6 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)

2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)  
 20 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580-590 metres)  
 30 at Qi Shi San Tuan (73<sup>rd</sup> Corps.), Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
 60 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Most of these were near Hong Qi Reservoir, 64 Corps. (565-580 metres)  
 50 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)  
 2 near Sailimuhu, Bole on the 29/10/2006. (2120 metres)  
 60 in Jinghe xian on the 30/10/2006 – nearly all of these were in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt. (190-255 metres)  
 9 flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)  
 6 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)  
 10 in & around the small wood near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)  
 6 flew south near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)  
 14 in the Shihezi-Manasi areas on the 4/11/2006 – 6 near Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi & 8 in Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi. (365 & 435 metres)  
 45 in the Shawan & Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006 - 20 at Liushugou Reservoir & 10 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu, both Shawan & 15 in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi. (400-650 metres).  
 10 in the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)  
 1 flew over at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)

## **BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla*

### **2006**

(16/25 200 374) (255-1030 & 1930-2060 metres)  
 8 with the Chaffinch flock at Tian Wen Tai, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1950-2060 metres)  
 1 at Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (435 metres)  
 15 near Shawan on the 17/10/2006 – 5 near the 'Xigebi fields' & 10 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (975 & 1930 metres)  
 5 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 – 1 at Tielu Dujiacun & 4 near the 'Black-throated Thrush roost' at Mo Gu Hu. (365-430 metres)  
 4 in the woodland belt at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)  
 1 besides the small oasis 20kms north of Wucaiwan cun, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)  
 3 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)  
 8 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580-590 metres)  
 8 at Qi Shi San Tuan (73<sup>rd</sup> Corps.), Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
 200 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Most of these were near Hong Qi Reservoir, 64 Corps. (565-580 metres)  
 10 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)  
 5 in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)  
 11 flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)  
 55, including one flock of about 50 birds, in & around the small wood near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006 flew over. (375 metres)  
 39 in the Shawan & Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006 - 35 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan & 4 in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi. (400-650 metres).  
 1 in the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)

## **FIRE-FRONTED SERIN** *Serinus pusillus*

### **2006**

(2/25 11 16) (400 & 950 metres)  
 5 over the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (950 metres)  
 11 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)

## **EURASIAN GREENFINCH** *Carduelis chloris*

### **2006**

(18/25 92 370) (190-720 metres)  
 55 near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. Most of these birds were in & around the fairly large fields of ripe sunflower (365 metres)  
 5 near the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (950 metres)  
 21 near Shihezi on 19/10/2006 – 1 at Tielu Dujiacun & 20 near Mo Gu Hu. (365-430 metres)  
 6 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)  
 2 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
 9 near Changji on the 22/10/2006 – with one near Binhu Reservoir & eight in Wucaiwan cun, Changji. (455 & 480 metres) The Binhu Reservoir sighting is apparently the easternmost ever in China.  
 1 at Wucaiwan cun, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)  
 7 birds, four singles and a group of three, were seen near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (580-590 metres)  
 40 at Qi Shi San Tuan (73<sup>rd</sup> Corps.), Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. About five of these were near Wei Hu, the other 35 in the Yili Riverside scrub nearby. (720 metres)  
 40 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Most of these were near Hong Qi Reservoir, 64 Corps. (565-580 metres)  
 6 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)  
 6 in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)  
 92 (in parties of two, 12, 13, 30 & 35 birds) flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)  
 3 at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)  
 18 in the Kuitun-Shawan areas on the 2/11/2006 - 16 near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun & 2 over Anjihai Reservoir No. 1, Shawan. (375 & 435 metres)  
 35 with a large flock of European Goldfinches feeding in thistle heads on the eastern bank of Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)  
 9 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 4 at Jiahezi Reservoir, 2 besides route X155 about nine kilometres north of Manasi & 3 over Xinhuping Reservoir. (365-425 metres)  
 15 in Shawan on the 5/11/2006 - 13 at Liushugou Reservoir & 2 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu. (400 metres)

## EURASIAN SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*

### 2006

(9/25 30 48) (190-580 & 1050-2080 metres)

- 6 near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006 – at least two at Dongbaiyang Gou & others at Tian Wen Tai. (1050-2080 metres)
- 30 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1900-2020 metres)
- 2 at Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (430 metres)
- 3 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)
- 1 was heard over Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)
- 2 singles flew over Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)
- 1 flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)
- 1 flew south at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)
- 3 flew over the small wood near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)

## EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

### 2006

(19/25 230 727) (290-1275 metres)

- 4 flew over the Wulabo Wetland, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1020 metres)
- 40 (a flock of about 35 & another of five birds) near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. Again most of the birds were in & around the fairly large fields of ripe sunflower (365 metres)
- 105 near Shawan on the 17/10/2006 – 60 in the 'Xigebi fields', 40 about five kilometres south of Xigebi zhen & five near the 'bunting fields between there & Menggu Wenchuan. (975, 1190 & 1275 metres)
- 15 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)
- 72 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. All of these were counted as they flew south down the reservoir's eastern embankment in the early morning – probably a local movement, as if they were leaving a roost, rather than actual migration. Birds were noted in the following group sizes – 1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 4, 4, 4, 4, 5, 7, 7, 8, 10 & 10. (365 metres)
- 3 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)
- 110 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – a flock of 105 at Hebian Gongyuan & the other group of five birds at Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)
- 60 at Qi Shi San Tuan (73<sup>rd</sup> Corps.), Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. About 15 of these were near Wei Hu, the other 45 in the Yili Riverside scrub nearby. (720 metres)
- 30 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Most of these were near Hong Qi Reservoir, 64 Corps. (565-580 metres)
- 10 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)
- 8 in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)
- 7 flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)
- 3 flew over Kuitun Reservoir, Wusu on the 1/11/2006. (290 metres)
- 3 flew over the small wood near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)
- 230 feeding in thistle heads on the eastern bank of Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)
- 18 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)
- 2 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)
- 6 in the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)
- 1 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)

## TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*

### 2006

(11/25 40 95) (365-1030 metres)

- 1 flew over Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 16/10/2006. (365 metres)
- 35 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. There were two flocks – one of about 15 & the other of about 30 birds. (365 metres)
- 1 in Wucaiwan cun, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)
- 40 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)
- 10 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 24/10/2006. (470 metres)
- 1 was heard over Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)
- 1 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)
- 2 singles flew over Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)
- 1 was heard near the Yili He Da Qiao, Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540 metres)
- 1 flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)
- 2 singles were heard at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)

## EURASIAN LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*

### 2006

(19/25 250 809) (255-1050 & 2080 metres)

- 60 near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. All birds were only seen in flight - 5 over Wulabo Reservoir, & at total of 55 birds, in several flocks, flew over at Tian Wen Tai. All were heading the same direction, as if to roost. Flock sizes ranged from 5-15 birds. (1050 & 2080 metres)
- 15 flew over Qian Quan Hu, Shawan on the 16/10/2006. (385 metres)
- 250 near the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (950 metres)
- 50 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)

6 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)  
 20 at Qingedahu, Wujiayu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)  
 2 in Wucaiwan cun, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)  
 4 at Hebian Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)  
 5 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
 40 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. Most of these were near Hong Qi Reservoir, 64 Corps. (565-580 metres)  
 230 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. A flock containing about 170 birds was feeding on sun flower heads that had been cut and spread out on the road to dry near the Yili He Da Qiao. (540-600 metres)  
 80 in & around the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)  
 3 flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)  
 6 Anjihai Reservoir No. 1, Shawan on the 2/11/2006. (435 metres)  
 15 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)  
 7 at Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)  
 1 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)  
 11 in the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)  
 4 at Qingedahu, Wujiayu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)

## **DESERT FINCH *Rhodospiza obsoleta***

**2006**

(12/25 23 102) (190-1030 metres)

1 flew over the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (950 metres)  
 2 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)  
 1 was heard in Wucaiwan cun, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)  
 5 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)  
 19 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006 – 18 of these (a flock of three & the other of 15) at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.' & 1 was heard at No. 3 Reservoirs, 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)  
 1 was heard near the No. 2 Reservoir, '67 Corps.', Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (600 metres)  
 23 in Jinghe xian on the 30/10/2006 – 14 (a single & a flock of 13) in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, a flock of eight besides Bole Railway Station & one at the Aibihu Wetland NR. (190 & 255 metres)  
 13 flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)  
 22 (in flocks of three, four & 15 birds) flew north at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)  
 4 near Quangou Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)  
 3 near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)  
 8 flew south at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan on the 5/11/2006. (400 metres)

## **LONG-TAILED ROSEFINCH *Uragus sibiricus***

**2006**

(7/25 8 27) (190-975 metres)

3 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. All three were in the desert oasis between 16-20 kms north of Wucaiwan cun. (455 metres)  
 1 near Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)  
 2 in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)  
 5 (two in one of the reed beds) & three singles flew high to the west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)  
 6 flew south at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)  
 8 in the Shawan & Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006 - 7 at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan & the other in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi. (400-650 metres)  
 2 in the 'Xigebi fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)

## **RED-MANTLED ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus rhodochlamys***

**2006**

(4/25 3 10) (190, 435, 720 & 1800-1840 metres)

4 (two pairs) at Dongbaiyang Gou, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. Apparently a rare bird at this site. (1800-1840 metres)  
 2 males in the Yili Riverside scrub near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)  
 3, a grounded single & two others that flew south, at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)  
 1 female plumaged bird in Tielu Dujiacun, Shihezi on the 4/11/2006. (435 metres)

## **RED CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra***

**2006**

(3/25 40 49) (540 & 1900-2080 metres)

8 near Urumqi on the 15/10/2006 – at least five at Dongbaiyang Gou & the other three at Tian Wen Tai. (1950-2080 metres)  
 40 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1900-2020 metres)  
 1 flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. Clearly a migrant - there were undoubtedly no conifers for many miles from here! (540 metres)

## **WHITE-WINGED GROSBEAK** *Mycerobas carnipes*

### **2006**

(2/25 7 11) (1900-2060 metres)

7 at Tian Wen Tai, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1950-2060 metres)

4 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1900-2020 metres)

## **YELLOWHAMMER** *Emberiza citrinella*

### **2006**

(9/25 10 45) (400-1030 & 1965 metres)

8 at the 'bunting fields' between Xigebei & Menggu Wenchuan, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1965 metres)

1 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)

6 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. See Pine Bunting or Yellowhammer below. (580-590 metres)

6 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)

2 singles were seen at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)

10 in Chabuacha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)

3 flew west over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)

6 in the Shawan & Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006 - two at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan & the other four in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi. (400-650 metres).

3 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)

## **PINE BUNTING** *Emberiza leucocephala*

### **2006**

(7/25 37 57) (365-975 & 1830-1965 metres)

1 at Dongbaiyang Gou, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1830-1870 metres)

2 flew over Qian Quan Hu, Shawan on the 16/10/2006. (385 metres)

37 at the 'bunting fields' between Xigebei & Menggu Wenchuan, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1965 metres)

3 near the 'Black-throated Thrush roost' at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)

6 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)

6 in the Shawan & Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006 - five at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan & the other in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi. (400-650 metres).

2 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)

## **YELLOWHAMMER or PINE BUNTING** *E. citrinella* or *E. leucocephala*

### **2006**

(14/25 100 348) (190-1030 & 1965 metres)

100 at the 'bunting fields' between Xigebei & Menggu Wenchuan, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1965 metres)

5 near Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)

45 unidentified birds were seen, or heard, near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. All of those that were identified were Yellowhammers. (580-590 metres)

35 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)

40 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (565-580 metres)

70 in Chabuacha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)

3 flew east over the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)

20 flew west up the Boertala River Valley over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)

3 flew south at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)

4 flew south near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)

3 were heard flying high over Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)

12 in the Shawan & Manasi areas on the 5/11/2006 - eight at Liushugou Reservoir, Shawan & the other four in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi. (400-650 metres)

4 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)

4 flew over at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)

## **YELLOWHAMMER x PINE BUNTING apparent hybrid** *E. citrinella* x *E. leucocephala*

### **2006**

(1/25 1 2) (1965 metres)

Out of 40 birds seen sufficiently well at the 'bunting fields' between Xigebei & Menggu Wenchuan, Shawan on the 17/10/2006 there were 2 female plumaged birds – both were surprisingly similar and very like Pine Buntings but had obvious yellow fringes on at least three flight feathers. Equally surprising no male apparent hybrids were seen. (1965 metres)

## **GODLEWSKI'S BUNTING** *Emberiza godlewskii*

### **2006**

(2/25 8 12) (255 & 1830-1870 metres)

8 at Dongbaiyang Gou, Urumqi on the 15/10/2006. (1830-1870 metres)

4 (two singles that were seen perched & two birds that flew high to the east) in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)

## **MEADOW BUNTING** *Emberiza cioides*

**2006**

(3/25 6 9) (570-590, 975 & 1965 metres)

2 near Shawan on the 17/10/2006 – one in the 'Xigebei fields' & the other at the 'bunting fields' between Xigebei & Menggu Wenchuan. (975 & 1965 metres)

1 flew south over Hebians Gongyuan, Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006. (590 metres)

6 in the Manasi Valley Nature Reserve, Manasi on the 5/11/2006. (570 metres)

## **LITTLE BUNTING** *Emberiza pusilla*

**2006**

(1/25 1 1) (540 metres)

1 flew west up the Boertala River Valley over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)

## **REED BUNTING** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

**2006**

(18/25 40 230) (190-1030 metres)

20 near Qian Quan Hu, Shawan on the 16/10/2006. (385 metres)

1 near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)

5 at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 20/10/2006. (365 metres)

10 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)

7 in the desert oasis between 16-20 kms north of Wucaiwan cun in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)

2 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)

6 near Yining, Yili on the 25/10/2006 – with three at both Hebians Gongyuan & Fang Cou Hu. (580-590 metres)

25 at Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. In addition one was heard flying west over the Two Star (General) Hotel in central Yining at 06:55hrs. (720 metres)

40 in the 63 & 64 Corps. areas, Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. 25 at Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', 7 at No. 2 Reservoir, 63 Corps. & a similar number at No. 3 Reservoirs, also 63 Corps. (565-580 metres)

15 in Chabucha'er, Yili on the 28/10/2006. (540-600 metres)

26 in Jinghe xian on the 30/10/2006 – 21 in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt (most of which flew east over the woodland) & five in & around the Aibihu Wetland NR. (190 & 255 metres)

11 flew west up the Boertala River Valley over the Shengligongshe Shuguanerdui fishponds, west of Bole on the 31/10/2006. (540 metres)

10 flew south at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)

6 near Quanguo Reservoir, Kuitun on the 2/11/2006. (375 metres)

3 flew south near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)

20 in Manasi xian on the 4/11/2006 - 13 at Jiahezi Reservoir, 2 near Dahaizi Reservoir & 5 at Xinhuping Reservoir. (365-400 metres)

19 in Shawan on the 5/11/2006 - 9 at Liushugou Reservoir & 10 at Qian Quan Hu Fenjingqu. (400 metres)

4 at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)

## **CORN BUNTING** *Emberiza calandra*

**2006**

(5/25 8 18) (190-975 metres)

4 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (950 metres)

3 singles flew south over Hong Qi Reservoir, '64 Corps.', Huocheng, Yili on the 27/10/2006. (580 metres)

2 singles flew east over the 93<sup>rd</sup> Corps. Desert Nature Reserve shelter belt, Jinghe on the 30/10/2006. (255 metres)

1 flew north at the Aibihu Wetland NR, Jinghe on the 1/11/2006. (190 metres)

8 in the 'Xigebei fields', Shawan on the 6/11/2006. (975 metres)

## **LAPLAND BUNTING** *Emberiza lapponicus*

**2006**

(5/25 6 10) (365-470 metres)

1 with the Horned Lark flock at Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 19/10/2006. (365 metres)

1 fly-over at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on 21/10/2006. (470 metres)

1 was heard as it flew south near Mo Gu Hu, Shihezi on the 3/11/2006. (365 metres)

6 besides the eastern shore of Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 metres)

1 was heard at Qingedahu, Wujiaqu, Changji on the 7/11/2006. (470 metres)





## **MAMMALS**

### **KIANG**

#### **2006**

(2/25 3 4) (1030-1075 metres)

1 at Km 408 (28kms south of Kamuste) in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (1075 metres)

3 near Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)

### **GOITRED GAZELLE**

#### **2006**

(2/25 195 263) (455-1100 metres)

68 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji & Altai on the 22/10/2006. All sightings were between Km 458 (11 kms north of Wucaiwan chun) & near Kamuste.  
(1040-1075 metres)

195 in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. The majority (109) of these were in the desert immediately northeast of the guest house at Kamuste.  
(455-1100 metres)

### **LONG-TAILED GROUND-SQUIRREL (LONG-TAILED SOUSLIK)**

#### **2006**

(1/25 8 8) (1000-1020 metres)

8 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1000-1020 metres)

### **RED SQUIRREL**

#### **2006**

(2/25 1 2) (720 & 1940 metres)

1 at Shitougou NR, Shawan on the 17/10/2006. (1940 metres)

1 in the Yili Riverside scrub near Wei Hu, Gongliu, Yili on the 26/10/2006. (720 metres)

### **CAPE HARE**

#### **2006**

(3/25 1 3) (365, 455 & 1030 metres)

1 at the first Mongolian Ground Jay site at Km 436.4 in the Kalamaili Shan NR, Changji on the 22/10/2006. (455 metres)

1 at Lao Kamuste cun in the Kalamaili Shan NT, Aertai on the 23/10/2006. (1030 metres)

1 near Jiahezi Reservoir, Manasi on the 4/11/2006. (365 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 Dujiacun. ('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 Baluntai. (42°52.7'N., 86°20.7'E.). 2051 metres.  
2344 metres on NH 218 between Baluntai 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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